

# Significant achievements 2018



## Suriname

- With funding support from the Australian Direct Aid Programme, and technical support from the Ministry of Regional Development to mitigate the negative impacts of mercury contaminated water sources from gold mining activities, timber extraction and extended drought events brought about by climate change, the installation of thirty low-cost rainwater harvesting systems provided access to potable water for two rural maroon villages located in the hinterland of Suriname, with a total population of two hundred inhabitants.
- Funded by the European Union through the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus facility managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, two fully automated Protected Agriculture Structures were established and are in operation to strengthen local knowledge and skills in the hydroponic production of vegetable crops (area of 810 m<sup>2</sup> and 16KW capacity Solar Energy Supply System and rainwater harvesting system).
- Also with funding from the EU, the knowledge capacities of nine vegetable farmers, youth and agricultural technicians were strengthened in the production of vegetables under protected agriculture systems, through a training course conducted at the Centre for Regional Integral Protected Agriculture Services (CRESIAP) located in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.
- Fifteen representatives from indigenous maroon villages in the Upper Suriname River region were trained in perm-apiculture utilizing Perone Hive Technology with a view to promoting alternative economic options and diversification of maroon agriculture for food and nutrition security, adaptation to climate change and local development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Development.
- IICA strengthened the knowledge capacities of fifty university and tertiary level agriculture and natural resources management students, as well as twenty agricultural extension officers through a series of field visits and demonstration training workshops in climate change impacts and climate smart agriculture technologies (protected agriculture, micro-irrigation and rain water harvesting system management for vegetable crops) for building resilience in the agriculture sector to climate change.
- Participation and engagement of schools in agricultural activities were strengthened and increased through the establishment of organic vegetable gardens in three orphanages facing security challenges. This was done through an active programme for the promotion of agriculture in schools that was developed and managed by the Suriname Forum for Youth in Agriculture (SURAFY).
- Increased market promotion and opportunities for the agri-businesses of rural women producers from the seven cluster organizations comprising the Suriname Network of Rural Women Producers (SUNRWP), through their participation in commercial exhibitions during the 2018 Caribbean



Week of Agriculture held in Barbados, the United Business Forum Fair and the Annual Commercial Fair, which were both held at the Suriname Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

- The knowledge capacities of twenty agriculture and natural resources management students were strengthened through theoretical and practical training in Agriculture Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation, with funding support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and in collaboration with the “Anton de Kom” University of Suriname and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

- Jointly with the University of Cornell, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Regional Development and the local NGO Ecosystem 2000, IICA promoted the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in at least six Indigenous Maroon Communities in the Upper-Suriname River region. This effort is aimed at productivity enhancement, facilitating the transition of indigenous farmers from traditional shifting cultivation systems to sustainable sedentary agriculture production systems, identifying the ancestry of the Suriname *Oryza Glaberrima* (OG) population to trace it back to its African OG ancestors, and applying the understanding gained to improving OG in-situ conservation strategies of the Saramaka communities in Suriname.

