



Canada

2019
Annual Report

Significant Achievements

- IICA developed a new, exciting and innovative Canadian digital platform, which was introduced to dozens of Canadian industry, association and government stakeholders. The platform operates much like a knowledge broker, using big data, modelling, scenario development, artificial intelligence (AI) and other digital technologies to further the adoption of innovative products and processes, as well as organizational and environmental technologies for farmers; agri-food and forestry businesses; and manufacturers in Canada. Using Canada as a model, information on innovations will be collected and organized for numerous value chains. The platform will subsequently be extended to other IICA member countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, once it has been fully funded, established, tested and validated.
- Continuing the momentum of 2018—for example, the partnership forged with Fertilizer Canada—new agreements were signed in 2019, which will facilitate mutually beneficial collaboration for the institutions involved. An agreement signed in Quebec City with l'Union des producteurs agricoles - développement international (UPA DI) will focus on supporting projects in Haiti and the hemisphere. An agreement with 4H Canada in Costa Rica seeks to integrate youth in the agriculture sector and to provide leadership training. Furthermore, an MOU with the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT) aims to further advance AGFITT education.
- IICA established new relations with the deans of 14 Canadian faculties of agriculture, veterinary science and forestry, at the national level. The objective, first of all, is to explore the possibility of increasing knowledge transfer and exchange between international students from Latin America and the Caribbean and their Canadian counterparts, and secondly, to propose joint activities to support the development of the innovation platform for the agriculture, animal, agri-food and forestry sectors of Canada.
- A new relationship was established with Quebec's Minister of International Relations and L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). IICA is seeking support for the development of agri-food, forestry, environmental and rural projects in its member countries, mainly for those belonging to the La Francophonie group, such as (Haiti, Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico and the Dominican Republic). As a result of this relationship, the Quebec Minister facilitated two internships, one at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica and the other at the Tropical Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), for participants to learn more about IICA; exchange knowledge; support IICA's activities and participate in the organization.
- The IICA Canada Office developed various proposals regarding Haiti. These projects aim to support the governance and rehabilitation of three rural markets in Haiti, for the marketing of agricultural and food products in an environment



that is mindful of health and environmental standards for the health of the population. Another proposal was designed in collaboration with CATIE and the Faculty of Agronomic Science and Natural Resources at Quisqueya University to create agroforestry cooperatives that will assist in maximizing employment creation in forest farms. IICA also began to explore the possibility of a project focusing on the use of carbon credits in support of Haiti's agroforestry sector.

- IICA conducted a series of webinars involving the Société de Coopération pour le Développement International (SOCODEVI) and cooperatives in Paraguay and Uruguay that are interested in increasing their participation in the market.
- With the assistance of the Trade Facilitation Office (TFO Canada), the IICA Offices in Honduras, Panama and Canada were able to finalize and to begin presenting to donors a proposal valued at US\$8 million to foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, by enabling Honduran and Panamanian agri-food businesses to benefit from free trade

agreements with Canada. The project seeks to increase the capacity of these countries' trade support institutions, Ministries of Agriculture and other related organizations in the agri-food sector to provide tools, advice, and training to export companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from disadvantaged regions. This would assist the businesses to enter the Canadian market, by increasing production capacity and competitiveness in the areas of quality control and food safety, thereby facilitating future certification processes.

- In its final year, the Research and Internship Assistance Program (RIAP) facilitated knowledge transfer for five students to support researchers from Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay and Canada, in part, with the collaboration of Fertilizer Canada and partner organizations, including the University of Montreal, University of Guelph, University of Manitoba, and the Lethbridge Research and Development Centre at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada in Alberta. IICA conducted an internal evaluation of the program, showcasing the results achieved over the last decade.

