



# Barbados



## Significant Achievements 2020

- The apiculture sector has emerged as a new area for investment in Barbados, as a result of support provided by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The Institute increased the knowledge and skills of existing and potential beekeepers, through training conducted under a triangular cooperation project with Argentina, the University of Florida Bee College and the Ministry of Agriculture's Farmers' Empowerment and Enfranchisement Drive (FEED). The national beekeeping association has also been strengthened through increased membership, networking with the Beekeeping Cooperative of Argentina, as well as preparation of an Apiculture Manual.
  - The productivity of the Barbados Blackbelly (BBB) sheep sector and the potential for trade of BBB semen have been enhanced through the establishment of an Artificial Insemination (AI) Laboratory at the Greenland Livestock Research Station and training of laboratory technicians, under a New Zealand-funded project implemented by IICA Barbados, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.
  - Public and private sector stakeholders in CARIFORUM States have been given the opportunity to increase compliance with international SPS measures, standards and procedures to increase international and regional market access, through the implementation of Component I of the 11th EDF SPS Measures project, by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of IICA Barbados. Actions being taken include upgrading of the national regulatory framework of select countries using model bills, improving AHFS coordination, and developing a regional AHFS policy framework.
  - Regional and international collaboration on agrotourism has been strengthened through the co-hosting of an international webinar with UNWTO, as well as participation in an Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States' (OACPS) webinar, an IICA Guyana agrotourism webinar and the Foro Iberoamericano Panama webinar of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).
- External resources were also accessed from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) to prepare two agrotourism proposals (for Barbados and the Caribbean). Other initiatives included the submission of five Caribbean proposals to the OACPS for funding consideration under the 11th EDF; lecturing of more than seventy regional hospitality students about agrotourism linkages; preparation of a concept paper and work programme for the CTA Legacy Asset Handover of Chefs for Development Platform and the IICA Agrotourism Regional Work Programme; and collaboration with the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) on a public awareness campaign on existing best practices in Caribbean agrotourism.
- The capacity of urban youth and members of the deaf community to develop and maintain sustainable, small-scale food production systems and build resilience to the impact of COVID-19 was increased through the establishment of two demonstration gardens in Haynesville and at the Irving Wilson School; application of a ten-module training curriculum; and the distribution of Backyard Garden Starter-Kits. The project was funded under the Special COVID-19 Fund for the Caribbean Region.
  - More young agricultural entrepreneurs are selecting careers in the agri-food sector as a result of National and Caribbean Vocational Qualification (N/CVQ) training by IICA. The launch of the Future Farmers' website, Instagram and Facebook pages, and Think Tank, has allowed youth in agriculture to articulate their views; network; promote their businesses; tell their stories; share knowledge on technology and innovations, while also influencing policy. Five videos and eleven photo stories have been uploaded to the Future Farmers' website.
  - New knowledge and training resources developed by IICA are now available, including a microsite on backyard gardening; an IICA in the Community microsite on IICA's technical work in Barbados; a manual for the establishment of N/CVQ Centres for training and assessment of national



and Caribbean vocational qualifications; and a backyard gardening short course curriculum with lesson plans.

- The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security is now fully engaged as a committed partner of IICA, having participated in three IICA ministerial and donor meetings at the hemispheric and regional levels, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) webinar, and International Rural Women's Day. IICA is represented on the National Taskforce and is responsible for the resuscitation of local papaya production and the establishment of a Barbados Innovation Centre. The Institute has been appointed by Cabinet as the Chair of the National Parliamentary Front Against Hunger.
- Partnerships have been consolidated with the Embassy of Argentina, the Barbados Environmental Conservation

Trust (BECT) and COMPETE Caribbean; and two new partnerships have been established with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP).

- IICA's image has been enhanced with the production of the Barbados "Farmers Anthem" by Mistah Dale and a group of 18 artistes, as part of IICA's COVID 19-related campaign to highlight the important role of farmers during the pandemic. IICA Barbados actively participated in IICA regional and hemispheric initiatives on rural women and rural youth; on Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) Planning Committees; and in the development of regional project proposals on water management and fruit production.