



Dominica

Significant Achievements 2020

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) improved the preparedness level of local prospective counterparts as well as government ministries and departments to participate in an ecosystem-based adaption project financed by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF). Participants are now better able to analyze the agricultural landscape, identify strategic partners, disseminate knowledge, identify gaps and define processes to incorporate the ecosystem-based concept into agricultural systems. The project is led by the Project Management Unit at the IICA Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago and is implemented together with IAMovement and the University of Florida in Antigua, St. Lucia, Tobago and Dominica.
- The ministries of Agriculture and Planning gained access to a new methodology and tool to assess the resilience of rural communities to climatic events. An improved, integrated and specialized knowledge management platform has facilitated the use of information, capacity building, the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned, as well as international networking. As part of its internship program, IICA recruited a post-graduate student to conduct research aimed at measuring and evaluating household resilience to hurricanes and its impact on food security levels in an agriculture-based community in Dominica. The Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA-II) tool, a new version of the index that contemplates household resilience and its associated characteristics, was utilized to conduct the study. This work proved to be both relevant and timely, given that it aligned with national strategic objectives related to agricultural resilience, added value to existing initiatives, and contributed to evidence-based decision making.
- Under IICA's Special COVID-19 Fund for the Caribbean Region, support was provided to the Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security to develop an agricultural policy framework that will drive the transformation of the agriculture sector in Dominica, with a focus on building climate resilience. The policy framework was drafted by an Institute specialist from Jamaica, following an extensive consultation process with local stakeholders, government officials, producers, and agricultural agencies.
- Through a series of webinars organized by IICA, government and private sector officials learned about the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, which establishes standards for the growing, harvesting, packaging and holding of produce for human consumption. Eight technical specialists from various institutions participated in four sessions which focused, among other topics, on biological soil amendments of animal origin and human waste; domesticated and wild animals; as well as growing, harvesting, packaging and holding activities. The sessions were facilitated by officials from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and IICA.
- A FAO-funded project entitled "Capacity-building for producer groups: Assessing the production and market capabilities of producers" enabled two producer groups, Toloma Women in Action and Dominica Beekeepers Cooperative, to improve their participation in domestic markets. The project provided 20 members of the groups with training in matters related to governance, entrepreneurship, marketing and packaging, and contributed to improving the overall quality and presentation of their products in markets, through improved packages and bee supplements.
- The Institute strengthened its strategic partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) through the implementation of two projects that are aligned with the technical cooperation areas and values of the various entities. IICA signed letters of agreement with UNDP and PISLM to implement components of two community-based projects that will enhance agricultural development and rural livelihoods, particularly for the benefit of women and vulnerable groups, by improving sustainable land management, AHFS systems, value chains and microfinance mechanisms.
- Within the framework of a UNDP-funded project, IICA recruited a consultant to conduct a situational



analysis of the level of access to microfinancing of small and medium-sized farmers, fishers and agricultural entrepreneurs. The results of the analysis will provide empirical evidence to support the development of a micro-finance mechanism that will benefit small-scale farmers, particularly women in selected communities.

- Through a letter of agreement with PISLM, a consultant was recruited to conduct an analysis aimed at generating the necessary evidence to guide the development and implementation of a comprehensive certification system in Dominica. The initiative allowed for advancing the National Farm Certification initiative led by the Dominica Bureau of Standards, which seeks to boost

market confidence as well as safety in the production and trade of fresh produce.

- Key stakeholders, namely UNDP, the Ministry of Agriculture, women farmers and agro-processors, gained greater understanding of the market situation of selected value chains and the opportunities they afford to businesses operating in the parishes of Saint Patrick, Saint David and Saint Paul in Dominica. As part of a UNDP project entitled “Strengthening the disaster management capacity of women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica”, IICA recruited a consultant to conduct a value chain analysis for key commodities in the selected parishes. The final report of the analysis was distributed among the stakeholders.