



# The Bahamas



## Significant Achievements 2020

- By means of a rapid response action, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) provided support to the Backyard Farming program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources. Starter farming kits were distributed to 10,000 farmers on the islands of Grand Bahama, Abaco and New Providence.
- IICA delivered several training workshops and webinars entitled “Agro-tourism opportunities in the time of Covid-19”, “Composting as a business”, “Good agricultural practices for producers” and “Introduction to beekeeping”. Together with the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA), the Institute organized the celebration of Global One Health Day, during which the Under Secretary of Food Safety at the USDA was one of the main speakers. The webinars and online training sessions, which were made available to participants in The Bahamas and the Caribbean region on social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube, were instrumental in providing information to farmers, agro-processors, public sector administrators and private sector businesspeople during the COVID-19 lockdowns and emergency orders.
- IICA provided technical assistance and inputs to the Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers (BAHNROP) and the Grand Bahama Beekeepers Cooperative (GBBC) with regional project funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The producer groups participated in governance assessments to help them identify gaps in their organizational structure and areas where capacity building would be needed. Both groups were provided with assistance to improve labels for their products. The women’s producer group received support to create a promotional video highlighting its work, which will assist the group in attracting new members, showcasing the women’s skills to attract donors and establishing linkages with buyers throughout the country. IICA also assisted BAHNROP in hosting a regional webinar entitled “Women helping women economically”, with a special guest from the Office of the Spouse of the Prime Minister. The webinar provided women leaders from five Caribbean countries with an opportunity to highlight the work being carried out in the Caribbean and identify opportunities for collaboration. The webinar was broadcast on IICA’s social media platforms and watched by viewers throughout the region.
- The Institute provided support to advance the development of the regional “Green Climate Fund Readiness Proposal: Strengthening the foundation for a climate-responsive agriculture sector in the Caribbean”, which includes 9 countries—The Bahamas (lead), Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. With The Bahamas playing the lead role in this project, the IICA Office in The Bahamas is providing on-site logistical support and will continue to support the Ministry of the Environment and Housing with the implementation of the project.
- IICA provided significant technical support to the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) of the Ministry of the Environment to complete the GEF-7 Project Identification Form (PIF) for the project entitled “Integrated landscape management for addressing land degradation, food security and climate resilience challenges in The Bahamas”. The PIF was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in December of 2020. IICA will continue to play a major role in developing the grant proposal for the project in 2021 and implementing the project following its approval.
- Through a project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, IICA implemented Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 - Climate Action. The project focused on providing farmers with training in organic waste management and composting. In strict compliance with COVID-19 measures, more than 80 farmers received face-to-face training on the islands of New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Eleuthera and Cat Island, to learn how to correctly develop compost formulas. Additionally,





five compost demonstration sites were established, one for each island, to be managed by the participants. Within the framework of the Climate Action Project, a webinar entitled “SDG 13: How can agriculture tackle climate change effects in The Bahamas and the Caribbean?”, during which an agricultural engineer and co-founder of AKIS International in Spain was one of the speakers. The webinar described SDG 13, which urges immediate

action to combat climate change and its impacts. It also addressed ways to strengthen resilience and the capacity to adapt to climate-related hazards and natural disasters; how to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and how to participate in high-level decisions by providing a local and regional perspective. The webinar was broadcast throughout the hemisphere via IICA’s social media platforms.