

**2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

**IICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GUYANA**

**IICA Office in Guyana  
March, 2008**

## **FOREWORD**

*We are pleased to present the 2007 Annual Report of the IICA Office in Guyana.*

*The Annual Report forms an integral part of our technical cooperation agenda and fulfils the mandate of the administration of the Director General, Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite who promised: “A new relationship with our Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability.”*

*This report highlights the activities of our technical cooperation agenda aimed at assisting Guyana to unlock its agricultural potential while giving leadership to the Regional process of repositioning Agriculture within CARICOM through the Jagdeo Initiative. In addition, the Report gives a synopsis of the progress made in the country particularly in the agricultural and rural milieu.*

*During this reporting period, we have depended on numerous acts of support, guidance, tolerance and cooperation. This is a timely opportunity to express our thanks and to acknowledge the various contributions to our achievements.*

*We acknowledge the tremendous support and collaboration of the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Robert M. Persaud, the Permanent Secretary and “Team Agriculture” at the Ministry of Agriculture; the Staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce; Ministry of Amerindian Affairs; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport; Ministry of Health; the Director and Staff of NARI, the Management and Staff of the New Guyana Marketing Corporation; and partners in the Diplomatic Community. Our special thanks to the people and stakeholders in the agricultural and rural milieu whose cooperation contributed to the achievements documented in this report.*

*I wish to pay special tribute to the Staff in our Guyana Office for their spirited support, commitment and dedication to the efficient delivery of our National Technical Cooperation Agenda.*

*Ignatius Jean  
Representative*



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AED	Agricultural Export Diversification
AMF	Agricultural Modernization Fund
APHIS/USDA	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/United States Department of Agriculture
CABA	Caribbean AgriBusiness Association
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CFF	Caribbean Fruit Fly
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CWC	Cricket World Cup
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMD	Food and Mouth Disease
GABA	Guyana AgriBusiness Association
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GDDP	Guyana Dairy Development Project
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GFYA	Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture
GNBS	Guyana National Bureau of Standards
GoG	Government of Guyana
GO-Invest	Guyana Office for Investment
GRDB	Guyana Rice Development Board
GSA	Guyana School of Agriculture
GTIS	Guyana Trade and Investment Support
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
IAST	Institute of Applied Science and Technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPED	Institute of Private Enterprise Development
JI	Jagdeo Initiative
LEAP	Linden Economic Advancement Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas
MMA/ADA	Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary/Agricultural Development Authority
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture

MoCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
MoEd	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NCC	National Climate Committee
NCU	National Climate Unit
NDIA	National Drainage and Irrigation Authority
NGMC	New Guyana Marketing Corporation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OIE	International Organization of Epizooties
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PHMB	Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug
PoA	Partners of the Americas
PTCCB	Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board
PWSCA	Pomeroon Women Small Cottage Association
READ	Rural Enterprise Agricultural Development
RWN	Rural Women's Network
SSCF	St. Stanislaus College Farm
TLFA	Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association
UG	University of Guyana
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAT	Value Added Tax
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas
WTO/SPS	World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary

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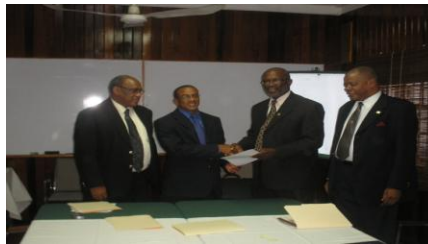
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## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Introduction*

The year in review, 2007, marked thirty-two (32) years of continuous operation of the IICA Office in Guyana, which coincided with the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Institute. It was also a period of transition at the Institute and in the Country which included the appointment of a new Representative at the Guyana Office; the appointment of Mr. Cromwell Crawford, Local Professional and Acting Representative in Guyana, as the new Representative in Suriname; the promotion of Mr. Trevor Murray from Representative in the Jamaica Office to Director of Operations and Integration for the Caribbean Region; and the retirement of Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney, former Director of Operations and Integration for the Caribbean Region.



*Dr. H.A.D. Chesney, Mr. Ignatius Jean,  
Mr. Cromwell Crawford and Mr. Trevor Murray  
during the Handing-Over (Traspaso)*

Notwithstanding this period of transition, the IICA Office in Guyana remained focused on fulfilling the mandate established in the National, Regional and Hemispheric Agendas. **One of the most important activities for the period under review was the Accountability Seminar.** It was the first Accountability Seminar since the appointment of the Honourable Robert M. Persaud as the new Minister of Agriculture in August, 2006. The occasion also presented an opportunity to introduce the new Director for the Caribbean Region and the new Representative to a cross-section of the partners in the agricultural and rural milieu of Guyana.



*Hon. Robert M. Persaud, Minister of  
Agriculture (second from left) at  
Accountability Seminar*

The Minister expressed the gratitude of the Government of Guyana for IICA's contribution to the development of agriculture and rural life in the country. The Minister urged the Office to expand its focus and redouble its efforts to address some of the key binding constraints outlined in the Jagdeo Initiative (JI), and to help realise the success of the agricultural diversification strategy.

### ***IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life***

In accordance with the mandate of the Institute, the Office reviewed the National Agenda following the contributions of stakeholders at the **Accountability Seminar**, and in collaboration with the main client, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The collaborative effort between the MoA and the Office has been enhanced by the designation of a liaison at the Ministry, which has resulted in the reconvening of the MoA/IICA Technical Committee.

### ***Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness***

The Office continued its support for enhancing trade and competitiveness in the agricultural sector through the support of public and private sector organizations.

- IICA partnered with the Guyana Dairy Development Project (GDDP), St. Stanislaus College Farm (SSCF), and Partners of the Americas (PoA) Guyana-Mississippi Chapter, in promoting the variety of dairy products manufactured locally and the benefits to be derived from the daily consumption of milk, thereby creating demand for local dairy products.
- A draft plan of action was formulated, in collaboration with the MoA, for the revitalization of the Swine Industry.
- The Pomeroon Women Small Cottage Association (PWSCA) was trained in organizational management and processing techniques in preparation for commissioning the operations at their new factory.
- Farmers of the Lake Communities benefited from the Loan Revolving Fund established under the W. K. Kellogg Project.
- Administrative support was provided for the second phase of the OAS/IICA Project: *Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*, which is expected to realize two (2) investment projects.

### ***Strengthening of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems***

- The emergency preparedness of the Countries was tested through Simulation Exercises on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) organized by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United States Agency for

International Development (USAID), MoA, Ministry of Health (MoH), and IICA, in Guyana and Saint Lucia. The Office was also instrumental in assisting with the finalization of the Avian Influenza Contingency Plan for Suriname.

- IICA supported the attendance and active participation of MoA and Ministry of Health (MoH) technicians at regional and international fora, including attendance at the World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO/SPS) Meetings in Geneva, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS/USDA) in Florida, Barbados and Jamaica.
- The Office continued to support surveillance efforts of the Country, particularly along its borders, for Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF), Giant African Snail, and Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug (PHMB).

### ***Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources***

- Pineapple farmers and residents of the Lake Communities, through the W. K. Kellogg Project, are more aware of alternative methods to improving the fertility of sandy soils, and biological pest control.

### ***Strengthening Rural Communities Based on the Territorial Approach***

- The Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association (TLFA) continued to benefit from training under the W.K. Kellogg Project in various aspects of management and finance.
- The PWSCA was prepared for large-scale agro-processing.
- Region 10 Farmers have been organized and received training in record-keeping and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) in preparation for trade in agri-products.

### ***Introducing Technology for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life***

- The promotion of Hydroponics and Organic Vegetable Production was intensified through displays of the technologies at National Exhibitions, the Secondary Schools' Hydroponics Competition and training at the SSCF.



The Office continued to support the agro-energy thrust in Guyana through:

- Logistical and administrative support to the *High Level Seminar on Expanding Bioenergy Opportunities*, held at the Guyana International Conference Centre, Georgetown, August, 6-7, 2007. The activity was hosted by the Government of Guyana (GoG), in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Organisation of American States (OAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IICA.



*OAS Assistant Secretary General, Amb. Albert Ramdin, CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Edwin Carrington, H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Republic of Guyana, IDB President, Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno and IICA's Director General, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite participate in Signing Ceremony at High Level Seminar on Expanding Bioenergy Opportunities. In background is Hon. Robert M. Persaud, Minister of Agriculture.*

- Re-introduction of a low-cost, plastic biogas digester to Guyana. This low-cost appropriate technology is expected to benefit small and medium dairy, pig, sheep and goat farmers in the reduction of their domestic fuel bills, particularly cooking gas.

### **3. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN GUYANA IN 2007**

#### **3.1 Factors in the National Context**

##### *The Economy*

The Guyana economy has maintained another year of strong economic growth, realizing real growth of 5.4 percent for 2007 over the 2006 growth of 5.1 percent. GDP per capita in 2007 was US\$1,111, compared to US\$992.4 in 2006. This sustained growth was achieved despite the inherent vulnerability to external shocks. Among those external shocks which have impacted the economy are the weaknesses of the USA economy arising from the crunch in the housing market; the historic surge in oil prices; and the hike in food prices.

The increased growth is attributed to the strong performances in the agriculture sector – sugar 2.7 percent, rice 19.5 percent, other crops 4.6 percent, livestock 2 percent; mining 22.7 percent; engineering and construction, and service sectors recorded 5.7 percent and 13 percent respectively, largely influenced by Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007. The performance of the services sector was further enhanced by the boom in the telecommunications sub-sector.

The inflation rate has spiked from 4.2 percent in 2006 to 14 percent in 2007. This was influenced by factors such as the price escalation of crude oil and imported food and increase in price of domestic food items consequent to flooding in food-producing areas.

Two of the most significant developments in the overall performance of the economy were the implementation of the Value Added Tax (VAT) and the reduction in the country's total external debt stock. The VAT was instituted on January 1, 2007 as part of the efforts of the Government of Guyana (GoG) to modernize its taxation systems and to strengthen the efficiency of revenue collection. The VAT attracts a rate of 16 percent on taxable items. Towards mitigating the impact of the VAT on domestic consumers, several items have been zero-rated, including: basic food items, medical services and supplies, fertilizers and pesticides, water and sewerage services and electricity.

Under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) of the World Bank and the IDB debt relief, Guyana's total external debt stock has been reduced by 46 percent from US\$1.2 billion at end of June 2006 to US\$655 million – MDRI US\$222, and IDB US\$412 million. This relief has now removed the country from Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) status. The situation

was further enhanced through debt cancellations by the People's Republic of China in July, 2007 of US\$15.3 million.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) [May, 2007] reports that Guyana has made progress with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) with the attainment of two indicators (*eradicate extreme hunger and achieve universal primary education*). The IMF predicts that the Country should attain another two by the year 2015 (*reduce child mortality rate and provide access to safe drinking water to more than half the population*).

### *Agriculture*

The President of Guyana, H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo is the Head of State in CARICOM with responsibility for Agriculture. The programme for the transformation of the Region's Agriculture is so named after the President – the Jagdeo Initiative. The President reported to the media following the CARICOM Summit in May, 2007 that he was encouraged by the new spirit among his colleagues in placing agriculture on the front-burner of the Regional Development Agenda. He reiterated the consequences of ignoring the development of agriculture in the Region and stressed the need for reducing the food import bill of the Region, estimated at US\$3 Billion annually.

Towards the end of 2007, when oil prices soared to a record high (near US\$100 per barrel), and with the consequent increase in the cost of living, the President's admonition resonated; consumers throughout the Caribbean called on their Governments to find a solution to the problem. CARICOM Heads met in December, 2007 in Guyana to formulate strategies to mitigate the high cost of living.

In leading the process, the GoG has offered CARICOM Member States access to land for the pursuit of agricultural production, including agro-processing. In addition, at the domestic level, the GoG embarked on a robust agricultural diversification programme to seize the opportunities to strengthen domestic food security and to realise the potential to be a major supplier of food to the Region.

The agricultural diversification programme will be financed through an approved US\$20.9 million loan from the IDB and a US\$6 million Rural Enterprise Agricultural Development (READ) Project from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Agricultural Export Diversification (AED) Programme comprises four main components: promotion of private sector entrepreneurship in agribusiness; improving agribusiness export and facilitation services; strengthening agricultural health and food safety services; and rehabilitation of drainage and irrigation systems.

It is expected that the AED will benefit 12,400 rural households, 1,600 farmers, 170 technicians, 10 agro-processors, 100 agricultural technology educators, 40 officers from research and transfer technology institutions, and domestic consumers of fruit, vegetable and meat products trained in GAPs.

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) is the principal agricultural research agency in the country. Its mission is to plan, develop and implement research designed to produce technologies and systems required to maintain national self-sufficiency and export capacity. In fulfilling its mandate to support the diversification programme, NARI is actively involved in extension and research activities pertaining to pasture development, animal breeding, quarantine and incubation facilities. In 2007, NARI doubled its production of breeding animals as well as its production of ducks and chicks hatched for farmers.

NARI continued working towards the successful technology transfer to farmers particularly through the implementation of a project that involved the training of farmers in drip irrigation systems. Additionally, over 500 farmers were trained in crop and livestock production, and another 200 were trained in agro-processing through the use of the Institute's mobile agro-processing facility. The Institute successfully introduced and developed production packages for butternut squash as an export commodity.

The Institute has also undertaken initiatives for the development of organic agriculture and agro-tourism. In December 2007, NARI launched an agro-tourism venture which invited the private sector to partner with the Institute to develop agro-tourism farms on prime farmland near its Headquarters at Mon Repos on the East Coast of Guyana. The proposed areas of development are expected to incorporate aquaculture, horticulture, livestock, the principles of agro-forestry, organic farming and sustainable tourism, particularly the use of indigenous materials and organic techniques.

Drainage and irrigation management continued to be a major challenge for the MoA. Over G\$2.2 billion was invested through the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary–Agricultural Development Authority (MMA-ADA) and various Regional Administrations to improve drainage and irrigation in several areas.

### **3.2 Changes in Legislation and Policies on Agriculture and Rural Life**

The Rice Factories Act 2007 was amended to give additional protection to rice farmers. This was strengthened by the signing of the Guyana Rice

Development Board - GRDB (Paddy and Rice Grading) Regulation of 2007.

On July 26, the National Assembly passed the Guyana Forestry Commission Bill 2007 which repealed the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) Act 1979 and re-established the GFC. The new Act seeks to regulate forest operations, other activities relating to forest produce and quality control of value-added forest produce. It provides for the Minister to adopt legally binding codes of practice that can be amended from time to time.

The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act (No. 13 of 2000) was amended in 2007 so as to provide the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) with the responsibility for making arrangements and providing facilities for controlling the import of pesticides and toxic chemicals. The amendment also makes provision for all pesticides and toxic chemicals imported to be certified by the Board. These amendments allowed for Guyana's accession to the Rotterdam Convention in 2007.

The Animal and Disease Prevention (Sale of Chicks) Regulation was approved.

### **3.3 Institutional Reforms in Agriculture and the Rural Milieu**

The MoA commenced the process of restructuring the GRDB so as to enhance its delivery of service and to improve efficiency and competitiveness.

Guyana has been making efforts to respond to the potential impact of the climate change phenomenon. The GoG has established the National Climate Committee (NCC) which serves to advise on developments and the need for policies and regulations in relation to activities responding to climate change. It also seeks to promote technical, scientific, technological and financial cooperation among organizations/agencies dealing with climate change issues. In support of the NCC a National Climate Unit (NCU) was established within the MoA in April, 2007. The NCU established an additional 35 monitoring stations in the country.

In its effort to strengthen the agricultural diversification thrust, the MoA commenced the process of restructuring and expansion of agricultural extension services. This process included the training of farmers and community residents as extension agents, production of a Farmers' Manual as a form of technical assistance, and the establishment of several information technology centres in the farming communities.

### **3.4 Agrifood Trade and the Development of Agribusinesses**

Despite the poor weather conditions and industrial relations problems, both the traditional export commodities of sugar and rice, and non-traditional commodities recorded increases in earnings. The volume of sugar exported increased by 3.1 percent, 246,013 tonnes and earned US\$150.1 million, being 9.6 percent over that earned in 2006. The volume of rice exported increased by 31.7 percent over 2006 to 269,436 tonnes, and earned US\$75.3 million, i.e. 37.9 percent above 2006 earnings.

There was a 37 percent increase in the volume of exports of non-traditional agricultural produce, i.e. 7,394 tonnes with a value of US\$9.2 million.

The significant increases in the non-traditional sector were well supported by the interventions of the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (New GMC). The New GMC invested G\$11 million to refurbish its Central Packaging Facility at Sophia, Georgetown, and G\$89 million in a Pack House at Parika on the East Bank of the Essequibo River. Those investments are part of a National Programme to establish modern packing facilities that meet the standards for international trade in the major production areas in the country.

The New GMC also established a Marketing Information Centre in March, 2007 which has serviced over 300 clients, including farmers and private sector exporters.

### **3.5 Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

The country intensified its surveillance activities for several crop and livestock diseases. Guyana has been able to maintain its status with the International Organisation of Epizooties (OIE) of being free of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) without vaccination. FMD surveillance is particularly important on its border with Brazil.

In August 2007, the MoA undertook a Simulation Exercise on HPAI in collaboration with PAHO and other agencies. The MoA also intensified its surveillance programmes for the CFF.

Under the supervision of the PTCCB, the MoA increased educational work on the safe use of pesticides. During the period under review, the construction of a Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Laboratory was completed.

### **3.6 Agricultural Innovation, Science and Technology**

The GoG and the MoA in particular have been very active in the agro-energy sector. The MoA, together with the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST), drafted an agro-energy strategy, looking at a broad portfolio of agro-energy options: ethanol, biodiesel, biomass pelletization, and gasification of biomass, etc. This strategy will guide the process for a balanced portfolio for investment and sustainable growth in this sector.

The policy of the GoG, however, is not to be directly involved in the production of agro-energy feedstock or marketing of biofuels. The GoG will act as a facilitator for agro-energy development in Guyana. A high-level Presidential Working Group, which was established to develop a national agro-energy strategy, has completed a Draft Agro-energy Policy.

The Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest) is currently the first point of contact for any investment proposal to the GoG, including agro-energy investment.

In August 2007, the GoG successfully hosted a High-Level Biofuels/Agro-Energy Seminar.

Biodiesel is currently being produced from oil palm at the Wauna Oil Palm Estate in Region 1. Approximately 1200 acres are under cultivation and this is expected to increase to 10,000 acres in 5 years. The IAST has also built a biodiesel plant at Wauna Oil Palm Estate for the investor, Agri-Solutions Technologies. The commercial plant at Wauna has the capacity to produce 300-600 barrels of diesel per month. Total investment in palm-oil biodiesel in Wauna is US\$4 M.

IAST currently has a fleet of 50 motor vehicles powered by Biodiesel (B100) manufactured by the IAST plant. It is estimated that in 2-3 years, Guyana would have replaced 10% of its diesel requirements with biodiesel.

Meanwhile, the evaluation of Jatropha for production of biodiesel is ongoing, as well as the evaluation by GO-Invest of eleven biofuel investment proposals.

The Skeldon Sugar Modernisation Project is ongoing and the co-generation plant is expected to be completed in 2008. It is expected that this modernised facility will facilitate the diversification of the product base of the sugar industry, including ethanol production and the co-generation of electricity using biomass. The co-generation plant will have a capacity to supply 10 MW of electrical power to the national grid.

The Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) is the main training institution for agricultural technicians in the country. The GSA has added a Fisheries programme to its curriculum in support of the aquaculture drive which forms part of the MoA's diversification programme. Plans are well underway for expansion of the GSA's programmes, which will include courses in agri-business and entrepreneurial training, as well as the establishment of a campus on the Essequibo Coast.

### **3.7 Sustainable Rural Development**

Agriculture continues to be the main economic activity for most of Guyana's rural population. The rural communities are inhabited by about 63 percent of the country's population. Over 50 percent of employment is within the agricultural sector, particularly in the coastal communities; the hinterland communities are mainly engaged in logging and mining.

The GoG has undertaken several initiatives aimed at sustaining rural livelihoods, poverty reduction and stemming rural-urban migration. The GoG has also partnered with several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and International Organizations in several rural development programmes. Among the GoG's programmes are:

- telecommunications - the advent of cellular telephone technology has improved communication with many remote rural communities;
- transportation infrastructure – construction of the Berbice River Bridge is well underway and this should enhance economic activity in this eastern agricultural community;
- the Takatu Bridge, now nearing completion, will link northern Brazil to the south of Guyana and it is expected that this should enhance trade between the countries, particularly stimulating growth and development in the hinterland regions;
- improvement in road networks, drainage and irrigation systems that have improved access to, and productivity of several thousands of acres of land;
- construction and rehabilitation of several schools in rural communities;
- over G\$221 million spent in a school-feeding programme in hinterland communities;
- extension of tertiary education facilities in Berbice – University of Guyana (UG) and GSA;
- improved health care facilities in several rural communities.



#### **4. RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA IN GUYANA DURING 2007**

##### **a. IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life**

In 2007, the Office made good progress towards repositioning itself to be the partner of choice for technical cooperation in the country. The relationship between the Office and the MoA and its other agencies was strengthened. This was achieved through intensified consultation and collaboration with the Ministry, the designation of the Deputy Permanent Secretary as the IICA liaison at the Ministry and the reconvening of the MoA/IICA Technical Committee.

The MoA/IICA Technical Committee has facilitated, among other things, the review of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda, sharing of information of mutual interest, and enabling greater awareness of, and developing implementation strategies for, the Jagdeo Initiative.

The Office continued its support for the enhancement of knowledge capacities and the ministerial agenda through facilitating the participation of the Country's delegates at national, regional and international fora, including the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) Meeting in Guatemala.

The Office was given the opportunity to participate in activities to commemorate Agriculture Month (October) in Guyana. The Representative was part of the Minister's delegation that visited the Amerindian Community of Orealla to launch Agriculture Month.

Support was given to the observance of World Food Day activities on October 16. The Office participated in the Youth Agricultural Fair on World Food Day, at the Guyana School of Agriculture. The highlight of the activity was the presentation of prizes to the winners of the IICA 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Painting Competition and the Secondary Schools Hydroponics Competition. The winning hydroponics gardens were displayed at the Fair.

The various chapters of the Alliance continue to endure many hurdles and mixed fortunes of infancy. The IDB-funded Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) Project, which was established to enhance the operations of the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA) members such as the Guyana AgriBusiness Association (GABA), is on the brink of collapse if the counterpart support does not come from the Governments of the participating countries. In support of the GABA, the Office has been in dialogue with the MoA.

The Office continued its support for the Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture (GFYA) by facilitating the secretariat and meetings of the Forum at the IICA premises, direct and indirect support for outreach programmes to youth in the rural communities, and participation at major exhibitions and conferences, including the High Level Biofuels Seminar. The initiation by the Office of a meeting between the Minister of Agriculture and GFYA resulted in the official recognition of the Forum as an agent for Youth Programmes in Agriculture and the appointment of a liaison at the MoA for the GFYA.



*(Left) GFYA at Guyana Nite Exhibition and (right) Bath Settlement Outreach.*

The Guyana Rural Women's Network (RWN) continues to experience administrative deficiencies which have resulted in a reduction of their activities. There is need to seek financial assistance for hiring a qualified coordinator to facilitate continued growth and development of the organization.

The Director General visited Guyana in August to participate in the High Level Biofuels Seminar, and the Regional Planning Meeting of IICA's Caribbean Region that was hosted by the Guyana Office in August, 2007. This meeting assembles the Representatives, Regional Specialists, Coordinators and other technical staff to plan the work programme for the Region.



*IICA Director General tours IAST Biodiesel Laboratory & Jatropha field trials.*

**b. Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness**

The Office continued its support for enhancing trade and competitiveness in the agricultural sector through support to public and private sector organizations. IICA partnered with the GDDP, SSCF and PoA Guyana-Mississippi Chapter, in hosting a Dairy Products Promotion. The activity highlighted the variety of dairy products manufactured locally and the benefits derived from the daily consumption of milk. It is anticipated that such promotions would facilitate increased demand for local dairy products.

The Office continued its collaboration with the MoA towards revitalizing the Swine Industry. A two (2) day Strategic Planning Workshop was held with 26 participants from 13 stakeholder institutions from the public and private sectors. Arising from this activity was the appointment of a new steering committee (which includes IICA) by the Minister of Agriculture, and the formulation of a draft Plan of Action.

The PWSCA received the support of IICA during a 4-day training workshop in organizational management and processing techniques in preparation for commissioning the operations at their new factory.

Support was given to the producers of organic pineapples in the Lake Communities in Region 2 to expand production and improve the quality of their products. A Loan Revolving Fund was established under the W. K. Kellogg Project.



*Amerindian Heritage Exhibition at Lake Mainstay,  
Essequibo*

The Office continued to promote agrotourism linkages and was responsible for implementing the second phase of the OAS-Funded Agritourism Project: *Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*. It is expected that two investment projects will be developed from this second phase and will be presented at the Agritourism Investment Forum in Barbados in February, 2008.

**c. Strengthening of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

The Office is perhaps better known in the country for its continued support to matters related to agricultural health and food safety. It continues to strengthen its relationship with Government and International Agencies in supporting the surveillance of important pests and diseases. The Office assisted in coordinating and participated in Simulation Exercises on HPAI organized by PAHO, FAO, USAID, MoA, MoH, and IICA, in Guyana and Saint Lucia, and assisted with the finalization of the Avian Influenza contingency Plan in Suriname. These exercises were aimed at testing the emergency preparedness of the countries.

In the quest to enhance the knowledge and technical capacities in the Country, the Office continued to support the attendance and active participation of MoA and MoH technicians at regional and international fora, including attendance at the WTO/SPS in Geneva and APHIS/USDA in Florida, Barbados, and Jamaica.

Training was provided in GAPs and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) to technicians and farmers. Additionally, training and support were provided in the management of Acoushi Ants, using botanicals and other organic inputs.

The Office continued to support surveillance efforts of the Country particularly along its borders, for CFF, Giant African Snails, and PHMB.

Ongoing collaboration with the EU's Linden Economic Advancement Programme (LEAP) has facilitated the identification of farmers who are included in the list of producers to be assisted to achieve standards for export trade.

The Office attends and actively participates in various committee meetings of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) and Guyana Trade and Investment Support (GTIS) aimed at formulating standards and assisting farmers to attain standards required by Regional and International markets.



**d. Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment**

The Office continued to promote sustainable natural resource management within the Kellogg Lake Communities Project. Compost trials continued in an effort to discourage the shifting patterns of cultivation (which involves slash and burn techniques) done on the sandy soils of the area. The W.K. Kellogg Project officially terminated on July 31, 2007. While the Office awaits the decision of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for an extension of the Project, the services of an agronomist have been retained to maintain the compost trials and to continue to provide technical support for biological pest management.



*Pineapple multiplication and preparation of material for composting at W.K. Kellogg Project, at Lake Mainstay*

**e. Strengthening Rural Communities Based on the Territorial Approach**

The Office supported several rural community organizations that seek to improve the quality of life of rural people. The TLFA continued to benefit from training under the W.K. Kellogg Project in various aspects of management and finance.

The PWSCA received training in preparation for large-scale agro-processing.



*PWSCA Training Workshop at Charity, Essequibo.*

Region 10 Farmers have been organized and received training in GAPs, which included the implementation of a Farmers' Diary in preparation for trade in agri-products.

**f. Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life**

Hydroponics and organic vegetable production techniques have been extended to groups in Regions 2, 4, 5 and 6 and farmers are producing and marketing quality vegetables. The Office has also assisted in transferring these technologies to the Bahamas and Saint Lucia.

The interest in these technologies in the country increased significantly following the participation of the Office at two major National Exhibitions, Guyana Night and GuyExpo, and the Secondary Schools' Hydroponics Competition. Thousands of visitors to the IICA booth at the exhibitions indicated interest in hydroponics gardening. They also purchased organic fertilizer produced by vermiculture at the SSCF.

The Schools Hydroponics Competition received overwhelming support from the Ministry of Education (MoEd) and the MoA. One hundred and sixty (160) students and 16 teachers from 16 secondary schools from the East & West Coasts of Demerara, Georgetown and Linden participated. This activity may be a way of rekindling the interest of youth in agriculture.



**Top Left:** Winner of IICA's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Painting Competition, Daraul Harris, receives his prize from Mrs. Persaud, wife of Minister of Agriculture.

**Top Right:** Minister within the Ministry of Education, Dr. Desrey Fox presenting trophy to the winning school in the Hydroponics Competition.

**Bottom:** Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Dindyal Permaul meets the winners, Fort Wellington Secondary School

The Office continued to support the agro-energy thrust in Guyana. Logistical and administrative support was given to the *High Level Seminar on Expanding Bioenergy Opportunities* held at the Guyana International Conference Centre, Georgetown, August 6–7, 2007. The activity was hosted by the Government of Guyana in collaboration with the IDB, CARICOM, CTA, OAS, UNDP and IICA.

The agro-energy thrust by the Office has been strengthened through Dr. Hector Muñoz, Associate International Professional, who has re-introduced a low-cost plastic biogas digester to Guyana. This low-cost appropriate technology is expected to benefit small and medium dairy, pig, sheep and goat farmers in the reduction of their domestic energy bills, particularly cooking gas. At least five (5) digesters have been established, including one at SSCF and another at Canals #1 Polder.

IICA's feature exhibit at the GuyExpo was a miniature low-cost plastic biogas digester which generated considerable interest from the public. Subsequently, the Office, in collaboration with the Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED), hosted a one-day workshop for 25 farmers who had indicated interest at the exhibition.



*Dr. Hector Muñoz (centre) at Biogas Workshop, St. Stanislaus College Farm*

## **5. RESULTS OF INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION**

### *a. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

The Office participated in World Food Day Observances.

### *b. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)*

The Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist participated in activities facilitated by PAHO, including the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Simulation Exercises in Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Guyana.

### *c. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

The new Representative renewed assurances with the local IDB Office and continued discussions on Guyana's Agricultural Diversification Programme. The Office collaborated with the IDB in its support for the High Level Biofuels Seminar held in Guyana.

### *d. Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat*

The Office maintains a good working relationship with the Secretariat. During the Director General's visit in August, 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by CARICOM's Secretary General and the Director General that IICA would intensify its support for the Regional Agricultural Agenda through the assignment of a senior IICA technical specialist to the Secretariat.

### *e. Organization of American States (OAS)*

As institutions of the OAS system, the two Offices maintain very good relations and share office space in a building provided by the GoG in agreement with IICA.

The Office implemented the second phase of the Guyana component of the OAS-Funded AgriTourism Linkages Project.

### *f. Partners of the Americas (PoA)*

IICA support for the PoA remains in effect through a Letter of Understanding which allows for collaboration on various initiatives, including the implementation of the Farmer-to-Farmer Programme in Guyana.



The invaluable contributions of the PoA Volunteers supported several IICA activities, including agritourism, integrated pest management, soil fertility, management, irrigation, animal health, and agro-processing.

*g. United States Peace Corps Volunteers*

The Representative has had discussions with the Director of the local Peace Corps Office on areas of potential collaboration.

*h. British Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)*

Contact was made with the Director of the local VSO Office which resulted in an introductory meeting and presentation to the GFYA.

## **6. NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

It has been recognised that the implementation of the JI is critical to managing food security challenges in the Caribbean. There is a critical need to effectively communicate the concept of the JI to the Community. IICA will continue providing support for dissemination of information, the design and implementation of interventions to alleviate the key binding constraints of the JI.

In 2008, the Office will intensify its support to the agricultural diversification thrust in the country, particularly in the areas of agricultural health and food safety, and the strengthening of the marketing and export capabilities in the public and private sectors. This will also include support to Guyana's membership and participation in the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA).

Further collaboration in the area of organic agriculture will continue with respect to the training and preparation of farmers for organic certification and strengthening of local technical organic certification capacity.

The second phase of the OAS/IICA Agritourism Project will be completed in the first quarter of 2008; it is anticipated that the third phase will commence shortly thereafter. The Office will continue to work closely with the OAS, the MoA, and other agriculture and tourism stakeholders to sustain the momentum of strengthening the linkages between the tourism and agricultural sectors.

Education and training form the centerpiece of virtually all of IICA's activities. In 2008, the Office will continue education, training and promotion programmes in areas such as hydroponics, vermiculture, and agro-energy development.

The Office intends to continue working closely with the MoEd to maintain the successful Secondary Schools' Hydroponics garden competition. Additional support for youth programmes will continue through collaborative ventures among IICA, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (MoCYS), and the GFYA.

## 7. MAIN ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY IICA

### Five Most Important Events Organized by the Office in Guyana in 2007

<b>Official Name of the Event</b>	<b>Date held</b>	<b>Site of the Event</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Place and Date of Publication of the Report or Proceedings of the Event</b>
1. Accountability Seminar	June 7	Cara Lodge Hotel, Georgetown	42	Report prepared July, 2007, Guyana.
2. Pomeroon Women Small Cottage Association Training Workshop	July 4 - 8	Charity Village, Pomeroon	35	Report prepared by AHFS, July, 2007, Guyana.
3. Avian Influenza Simulation Exercise	August 8 - 9	Linden-Soesdyke Highway	250+	Report prepared by AHFS August, 2007, Guyana.
4. High Level Seminar on Expanding Bioenergy Opportunities in the Caribbean	August 6-7	Guyana International Conference Centre, Liliendaal, Greater Georgetown	200	Report prepared.
5. Launch of Secondary Schools Hydroponics Competition	September 5	St. Stanislaus College Farm, Sophia, Georgetown	176	Report prepared September, 2007, Guyana.

## **8. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

- IICA. 2007. Guyana. 2006 Annual Report. IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of the Rural Communities in Guyana. 23p.
- IICA. 2007. The IICA National Agenda for Guyana - Revised August, 2007. 18p.
- IICA. 2007. IICA Kellogg Report, Supporting the Expansion of Income Generation Activities in the Lake Communities in Guyana, July, 2007. 32p.

## APPENDIX I – THE JAGDEO INITIATIVE

In an effort to enhance the positioning of agriculture in domestic and international markets, President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana, CARICOM Head with Lead Responsibility for Agriculture, is spearheading a process that seeks to achieve a resurgence of the regional agricultural potential. This process is titled the 'Jagdeo Initiative' (The Initiative). The Initiative will build on past efforts in a more coherent, comprehensive and long-term development framework that takes into consideration the changed global environment and creates an enabling economic and business environment for competitive and sustainable agriculture and rural development.

### **The Ten Key Major Binding Constraints and the Main Interventions Proposed**

The ten Key Binding Constraints are neither new nor novel and span the range from resource inputs necessary for increased agricultural production and productivity to the administrative and institutional framework needed to facilitate change. Institutional capacity, in particular, has become a critical determinant of competitiveness.

1. Limited Financing and Inadequate New Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an Agricultural Modernization Fund (AMF) within the CSME Regional Development Fund;</li> <li>- Conduct a 2005-2015 Regional Agricultural Potential and Food Needs Study to identify opportunities.</li> </ul>
2. Outdated and Inefficient Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Association (CAHFSA) and rationalise existing National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems infrastructure and services.</li> </ul>
3. Inadequate Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve coordination, integration, utilisation and strengthen the research and development capacity in the Region, including development of a Caribbean Regional Policy, Strategy and Programme on biotechnology and Bio-Safety and Inventory and Assessment of Research and Development projects to identify the gaps.</li> </ul>
4. Fragmented and Disorganised Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen private sector organisation and organisations;</li> <li>- Realign MoAs/related departments to better manage and facilitate the multifunctional/multidimensional nature of the 'new' Agriculture;</li> <li>- Continue the restructuring of the curricula of the university, tertiary, secondary and vocational institutions in order to foment entrepreneurial thinking and consciousness.</li> </ul>
5. Inefficient Land and Water Distribution and Management Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries should provide incentives for improved land and water management as a major mechanism to address inefficient land and water distribution and management.</li> </ul>
6. Deficient and Uncoordinated Risk Management Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an integrated and coordinated regional approach to mitigation and relief, including insurance schemes.</li> </ul>
7. Inadequate Transportation Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish and upgrade Freight and Port Infrastructure, establishing critical physical infrastructural requirements and services.</li> </ul>
8. Weak and Non-integrated Information and Intelligence Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidate and link various information systems;</li> <li>- Evaluate the role of overseas services and Embassies;</li> <li>- Strengthen and link industry information systems.</li> </ul>
9. Marketing: Weak Linkages and Participation of Producers in Growth Market Segments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate access to EXIM-type financing;</li> <li>- Establish Central Packing Houses;</li> <li>- Support national distribution channels and strengthen joint promotion and marketing.</li> </ul>
10. Lack of Skilled and quality Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver training at the secondary, vocational and tertiary levels and on-site specialised institutions.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX II - PICTORIAL – HIGHLIGHTS OF OFFICE ACTIVITIES 2007



*Contestants deep in concentration at the 65th Anniversary Painting Competition.*



*Representative, Mr. Ignatius Jean, with Toshaus at Amerindian Heritage Day Celebrations.*



*Minister of Education, Hon. Shaik Baksh and Minister in the Ministry of Education, Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, visit Hydroponics Garden at SSCF with Dr. Hector Muñoz.*



*Students at Hydroponics Training*



*Visitors to IICA booth at Guyana Nite.*



*Mr. Mansaram Panday of SSCF displays model Low-cost Biogas Digester at IICA booth, GuyExpo.*



*Participants at High Level Seminar on Expanding Bioenergy Opportunities*



*Mr. Tameshwar(Tomo) Hiralall preparing to install his Biogas Digester at Canal No. 2 Polder*



*Director General, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, makes presentation to Representative's Secretary, Aletha Isaacs. Director of Operations & Integration, Mr. Trevor Murray, looks on.*



*Winners of IICA's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Painting Competition*



*IICA Guyana Office participants at Regional Planning Meeting*



*Dr. Pat Francis (standing left) of GOAM and participants of Organic Workshop*

## WHAT IS IICA?

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American System, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations.

With more than six decades of institutional life, the Institute is responding to new mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the ministers of agriculture of the Americas, to reposition itself so that it can meet both the new challenges facing agriculture and the requests for support it receives from its member countries.

As it pursues its vision and carries out its mission, the Institute has competitive advantages it can draw on to carry out its new role. It has accumulated a wealth of knowledge regarding agriculture, rural territories, the diversity of peoples and cultures, and the agro-ecological diversity of the hemisphere, all of which are important for crafting creative solutions to a wide variety of problems and challenges.

Its presence in all of the Member States gives the Institute the flexibility it needs to move resources between countries and regions in order to promote and adapt cooperation initiatives intended to address national and regional priorities, facilitate the flow of information and improve the dissemination of best practices.

The Institute has its Headquarters in Costa Rica, and Offices in 34 countries of the Americas, an Office in Miami, which is responsible for the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, as well as an Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain. The Directorate for Strategic Partnerships works out of the IICA Office in Washington, D.C.

### **Vision**

To be the leading agricultural institution in the Americas and the partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides in response to the needs of Member States, and its contributions to sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.

### **Mission**

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture and the rural milieu of the Inter-American System, whose purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas.

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## Staff



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Sitting left to right: Fiona Mc Call, Youmattie Hookumchand, Rosetta Persaud-Caldeira and Barbara Garnath*

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