



Annual Report **2008**

Guyana

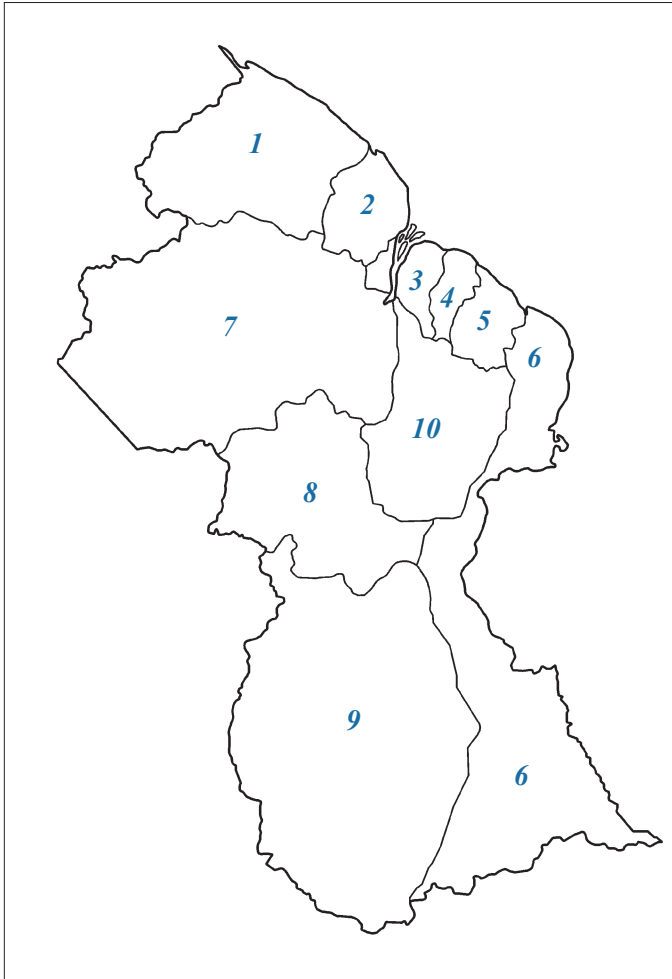
IICA's Contribution to
the Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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

**IICA OFFICE IN GUYANA
FEBRUARY, 2009**

SNAPSHOT OF GUYANA



Population	751,223 (Census 2002)
Size	214,970 square km
Location	Between 1° & 9° North Latitude and 57° & 61° West Longitude
Time Zone	GMT - 04:00
Currency	Guyana Dollar (G\$)
Per capita GDP (2008)	US\$1,233.60
Nominal GDP (2008)	G\$190,728 million
Real GDP (2008)	G\$6,253 million
Inflation Rate	Dec '07-Dec '08: 6.4 Dec '07-Sep '08: 7.8
Average Exchange Rate (Mid Rate)	Mar 08: G\$ 202.47 to US \$1 Jun 08: G\$ 201.74 to US \$1 Sept 08: G \$ 201.33 to US \$1

Source: Bureau of Statistics - Guyana 2009

FOREWORD

Our Office is pleased to present the results of the Technical Cooperation Agenda for 2008. The presentation of the Annual Report is in partial fulfillment of our mandate of participation, transparency and accountability. During the past year, we have sought to strengthen relationships with our partners and heighten the visibility of the work of the Office in the country.

The results of the Technical Cooperation Agenda were achieved through the continued cooperation and collaboration of our strategic partners. We are grateful for the support of the Government of Guyana, particularly through the Ministry of Agriculture. We also acknowledge the contributions of all the other partners, particularly the farming community and the wider rural milieu.

The Annual Report captures the major activities in Agriculture in 2008, and it is hoped that it will serve as a useful source of information on the status of Agriculture and Rural Development in Guyana. It should also assist in soliciting even further guidance from our strategic partners in the planning and implementation of our work programme for the ensuing period, in the context of the challenging global financial and economic climate.

I acknowledge the contributions of our dedicated Team at the Office in attaining the results reflected in the document.

***Ignatius Jean
Representative***



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADP	Agricultural Diversification Programme
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AMCAR	Amazon Caribbean
APHIS/USDA	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/United States Department of Agriculture
ASDU	Agricultural Sector Diversification Unit
CACHE	Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CASRI	Caribbean and African Self Reliance International
CECADI	Centre for Distance Education and Training
CESO	Canadian Executive Service Organization
CET	Common External Tariff
CFF	Caribbean Fruit Fly
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COP14	14 th Conference of Parties
D&I	Drainage & Irrigation
ECOCERT	Certifying Authority for the European Union
EMPRETEC	Entrepreneurship for Technology
EU	European Union
FAC	Fisheries Advisory Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFYA	Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture
GoG	Government of Guyana
GPL	Guyana Power & Light
GSA	Guyana School of Agriculture
GTA	Guyana Tourism Authority
GTIS	Guyana Trade and Investment Support
GWI	Guyana Water Incorporated
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
KKTC	Kuru Kuru Training Centre
LEAP	Linden Economic Advancement Programme

LIST OF ACRONYMS

MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
MoEd	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoTIC	Ministry of Tourism, Industry & Commerce
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NGMC	New Guyana Marketing Corporation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWG	National Working Group
OAS	Organization of American States
OIE	World Animal Health Organization
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PoA	Partners of the Americas
PWAPA	Pomeroon Women Agro-Processors Association
READ	Rural Enterprise Agricultural Development
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RLF	Revolving Loan Fund
RWN	Rural Women's Network
SSCF	St. Stanislaus College Association Farm
STDF	Standards & Trade Development Facilitation
TLFA	Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association
UG	University of Guyana
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas
WTO/SPS	World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary

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1. INTRODUCTION

The year 2008 may be regarded as one of the most turbulent periods in recent history. The challenges of rising food prices and high oil prices were carried forward from 2007 into 2008; oil prices spiraled to record highs and the global economies eventually capitulated to the worst-ever crash, of modern history, of the international financial systems.

The situation caused global leaders to seek urgent strategies to remedy those crises. An extraordinary Summit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States resulted in the waiver of the Common External Tariff (CET) on several items of food and a decision on Food Security as a priority area for attention. In addition to the agreements at the Regional level, the Government of Guyana (GoG) implemented fiscal initiatives targeting vulnerable groups along with the 'Grow More Food Campaign' initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

The Office was in a good position to support the MoA in that regard, having filled longstanding vacancies by the start of the second quarter of the year with the recruitment of a Sustainable Rural Development Specialist, a Field Assistant, an Information Systems/Documentation Assistant, and the with the assignment of a Coordinator for the Regional Agenda at the CARICOM Secretariat.

The implementation of the **extension of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Project in the Tri-Lakes Communities was most challenging for our new Team, but it was brought to closure on schedule, within budget and with significant impact on the beneficiaries.**

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

An analysis of the food security situation in Guyana and other CARICOM Member States was presented at the Annual Accountability Seminar;

The Office facilitated the participation of two young leaders from the country in the Young Leaders Forum, at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica;

With support from the Office, the Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture (GFYA) has improved its organizational capacities and in the process has established a credit union.

Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

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

Hosted two (2) workshops and trained twenty-four (24) technicians and over seventy-five (75) producers/exporters on Export Trade Requirements for the USA and Managing Market Information in collaboration with the IICA Office in Miami, the MoA, and the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC);

Facilitated the MoA's membership in the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) and participation in its meetings in Jamaica and Panama;

The final phase of the Organisation of American States (OAS)/IICA Agro-tourism Project delivered a Strategy Document to guide the MoA and the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (MoTIC) in developing linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors; the training of 30 participants (farmers, vendors, chefs, MoA technicians, and other Tourism workers) in Best Practices in Food & Beverage Handling and creative use of local produce in promoting Caribbean cuisine;

Implementation of an agro-tourism component in the Tri-Lakes Communities under the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Project, which resulted in the Office receiving the "Agro-Tourism Development Initiative Award" from MoTIC/Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) in recognition of the Office's contribution to the development of the sectors;

Continuation of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), procurement of equipment and improvement to organic pineapple and cassava processing facilities at Mainstay and Tapakuma respectively, in support of product diversification;

Facilitated the training of the Pomeroon Women Agro-Processors Association (PWAPA) in best practices in agro-processing, which assisted in raising the profile of their brand.

Strengthening of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the Directorate of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) at IICA Headquarters, CODEX Alimentarius, Standards and Trade Development Facilitation (STDF) training seminars and Common Visioning Sessions for AHFS were hosted by the Office, training 30 persons from the public and private sectors;

Supported the attendance and active participation of the MoA and Ministry of Health (MoH) technicians at regional and international forums, including the World Trade Organisation - Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (WTO/SPS) Agreement in Geneva, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS/USDA) in Florida;

The Office, in collaboration with the IICA Office in Suriname, supported the surveillance efforts of the country, particularly along its borders, for Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF);

Continued support to selected Farmers in Region 10 in record-keeping and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to facilitate trade in agri-products.

Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

As part of the second phase of the W. K. Kellogg Project, an extensive Environmental Awareness campaign was undertaken in the Tri-Lakes Communities.

Strengthening Rural Communities

Hosted community visioning exercises and best practices in agro-processing in the Tri-Lakes Communities geared towards the diversification of income-generating activities, emphasizing the synergies among agriculture, heritage and the natural environment.

Introducing Technology for the Modernisation of Agriculture and Rural Life

The Office continued the promotion of Hydroponics technologies in the country, through:

The training of three (3) community farmers' groups;

The Secondary Schools' Hydroponics Competition which included the participation of 27 Secondary Schools, 270 students and 27 teachers; and

The opening of the largest hydroponics garden in the country at the Kuru Kuru Training Centre (KKTC).

3. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN GUYANA IN 2008

3.1 The Context for Agriculture and Rural Life

World economic conditions and the performance of Guyana's leading industry were the main factors that impacted the growth performance of Guyana's economy in 2008.

Guyana's economy recorded real growth of 3.1% in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year 2008 as compared to 5.4% in 2007. The sugar industry, traditionally the most important in terms of contribution to GDP, registered production totaling 226,267 tonnes for 2008, which represented a decline of 15.1% from 2007. Among the factors attributed to this situation were excessive rainfall and industrial relations challenges. In addition, export receipts from sugar suffered an 11.2% decline to US\$133.4 million, on account of the lower volume shipped and the impact of the second set of European price cuts. Given the importance of sugar to Guyana's economy, the performance of the sugar to industry would have impacted heavily on its overall performance.

The global food situation, which spilled over from 2007, continued to pose hardships for consumers in the form of high food prices, particularly in the earlier part of the year. By the latter part of the year, however, food prices began to show a downward trend as reflected by the 2008 end-of-year inflation rate of 6.4%, down from 14% at the end of 2007. During the year in review, the GoG implemented a number of interventions aimed at cushioning the impact of the global food situation and the spiraling fuel prices. Some of these measures included salary increase, cost of living adjustment allowance, increase in the income tax threshold, increase in old age pension and flour and rice distribution to vulnerable groups. Further measures involved a G\$200M investment to minimize price rise, support to the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Company and Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), zero-rating of excise tax on diesel and reduction of excise tax on gas, zero tax or duty on kerosene and cooking gas, and removal of restrictions on the importation of flour.

The global food situation presented an unique opportunity for expansion of Guyana's agricultural sector, which forms the bedrock of its economy. The burgeoning food demand globally and the subsequent higher prices proved a powerful stimulus for overall intensification of productive activities in the agricultural sub-sectors, in order to exploit the increased global demand for food. It was against this backdrop, therefore, that the market-led Grow More Food Campaign was launched. The campaign involved an integrated five-step plan. A summarized outline of the plan is as follows:

- Implementation of the Agricultural Diversification Programme (ADP);
- Implementation of the Rural Enterprise and Agriculture Development (READ) Programme;
- Increased investment in Drainage and Irrigation (D&I) focused on restoring drainage to areas abandoned by farmers, and training of farmers in managing of rehabilitated structures;
- Enhancement of extension services;
- Increasing the availability of seed and planting materials.

In the short run, the initiative served to heighten activities in the crops and livestock sectors. This did not only assure adequate supply of food for the domestic market, but it also allowed for increased exports. Overall export earnings increased by 14.4% to US\$798.4 million, reflecting primarily the favourable conditions that obtained in the world market for primary commodities for much of the year, the majority of which came from the agricultural sector. The Grow More Food Campaign was led by the GoG through its MoA and particularly the NGMC.

3.2 Changes in Agrifood Production

In 2008, strong performances in the paddy and the non-traditional agricultural sub-sectors were recorded. These performances were helped greatly by the global food situation, which resulted in elevated price levels throughout 2008.

The domestic rice industry responded well to favourable price conditions with expanded acreages and upgraded equipment capacity. Even with adverse weather and untimely payment by some large millers to farmers, output was increased by 10.5% to 329,574 tonnes, the highest annual production in five years.

The other agriculture sub-sectors also recorded growth. The livestock and other crops sectors grew by 7.4% and 7.7%, respectively. The non-traditional crops sector recorded approximately US\$7 million in exports for the year 2008. In the process, several new crops were exported throughout the Caribbean and North America to both traditional and new markets.

The fishing industry contracted by two percentage points in the sector's output. This was the result of the effects of high fuel prices, and the heightened incidence of piracy.

3.3 Changes in Policies that Affect Agriculture and Rural Life

Among the main achievements in the fisheries sub-sector were the completion of the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) that outlines strategies to develop the various sub-sectors, and the re-activation of the Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) that advises on the sector's continued growth.

As part of its efforts to cushion the impact of rising food prices, a number of initiatives were implemented by the GoG. Some of these initiatives included the monitoring of exports, placement of a ban on the export of rice bran, and imposing restrictions on the export of broken rice.

3.4 Changes in the Institutional Framework for Agriculture and Rural Life

The FAO opened an Office in Guyana in October 2008. This initiative is expected to further strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the country.

The Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), in its continued focus in transforming agriculture across the country, established a campus at Anna Regina, Essequibo, in Region Two. The School offers programmes including the two-year Diploma in General Agriculture and a one-year Certificate in Forestry.

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) during 2008 designated an officer with specific responsibilities for agro-tourism development.

3.5 Major Developments in the Thematic Areas that Affected the Performance of Agriculture and Rural Life

Trade

A G\$89 million state-of-the-art agro-packaging facility was commissioned in October at Parika, East Bank Essequibo, which will serve to facilitate the continued growth of the non-traditional sector. Considering the Sophia Pack House which was refurbished early in 2008, these two facilities are seen as providing an invaluable service to farmers in enhancing their export opportunities.

Guyana received recertification for the export of shrimp to the United States of America (USA). As the USA is a major market for Guyana's shrimp export, this development augurs well for the industry. Increased monitoring efforts of the Fisheries Department of the MoA, and the Guyana Association of Private Trawler Owners and Seafood Processors, led to Guyana being recertified to export shrimp to the USA without an inspection team revisiting Guyana.

Agribusiness

A new aquaculture hatchery was commissioned at Mon Repos with a production capacity in excess of 20,000 fingerlings per year. This facility is expected to stimulate growth in the aquaculture sector. The hatchery was named after the late Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Satyadeow Sawh.

In the mobilization of the country in the Grow More Food Campaign, the GoG held a grand national agricultural exhibition in July, 2008.

As part of the diversification process and in an effort to revitalize apiculture in the country, the GoG hosted the 5th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress. This congress attracted participants from across the Caribbean, South America, North America, Europe and Africa.

A month of activities was observed to recognize the centenary of rice exports from Guyana, the contribution of rice farmers, and the contribution of rice to food security and national development. These activities included the hosting of an international rice conference and a rice festival.

In response to the rising cost of feed for livestock, Public Sector-Private Sector consultations were held and strategies were devised for coping with these challenges. Among the strategies included was the proposal for the allocation of land for the specific purpose of producing rice, soya bean and corn for stock feed; the removal of excise tax on diesel for agricultural purposes; and the rehabilitation and expansion of the edible oil industry.

As part of the process of the revitalization of the pig industry, the GoG launched the National Pig Breeding Programme. This programme involved an investment of over G\$27 million, and the introduction of over 200 purebred boars imported for development of breeding stock for ultimate distribution to over 2000 pig farmers over a three-year period.

A further livestock development initiative was the introduction of Texel sheep to Guyana through the embryo transplant technology. The embryos were imported from the United Kingdom and implanted in the local black belly sheep. The initiative seeks to commercially develop the Texel sheep, which is well-known in Europe and in the continents of Africa and South America as a high-quality meat producer. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the GoG and the British Government.

The much anticipated completion of the modernized Skeldon Sugar Factory experienced some setbacks and is now expected to be fully operational by the middle of 2009. The facility is expected to reach production levels of 110,000 tons of sugar within three years and to supply 10 megawatts of electricity to the national grid through co-generation using bagasse. At present the plant is supplying 4.5 megawatts of electricity to the national grid.

Natural Resources and Environment

The MoA, through its National Climate Change Unit, spearheaded a series of national stakeholders' consultations to review the 'Draft Agriculture Sector Adaptation Strategy and Sectoral Assessments'. It is expected that the final strategy document should be approved and published in the near future.

His Excellency, President Bharrat Jagdeo has been a lead advocate for the proposal to trade carbon credits for standing forests in developing countries in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

The Head of State made presentations at several international fora including the 14th Conference of Parties (COP 14) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Poznań, Poland in December 2008. The Office of the President has released a publication titled "Creating Incentives to Avoid Deforestation".

Guyana was named as one of the first 14 beneficiaries of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). In addition to the US\$200,000 from the FCPF, the GoG also received funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for Guyana to measure its potential to benefit from carbon trading initiatives. Such studies have already been commissioned.

Investments and Financing

Further to approval of US\$6.7 million and US\$20.9 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the IDB respectively, for the Agricultural Diversification Programme (ADP), the READ Programme, the GoG established the Agricultural Sector Diversification Unit (ASDU) within the MoA for execution of the ADP. By the end of the last quarter of 2008, the ASDU had already initiated the procurement process for consulting services for some components of the ADP.

The GoG invested some G\$3.8 billion in flood mitigation works for several flood-prone farming communities on the coast.

Sustainable Rural Development

As part of the Grow More Campaign and in keeping with a programme to encourage youth in agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture hosted a one-day youth symposium which attracted over 200 youth from across the country. During this activity, the Minister of Agriculture distributed farm implements and other agricultural inputs and committed G\$2 million to assist youth in agri-business ventures.

The Grow More Food Campaign placed special emphasis on the production of food by households. Towards this end, numerous locations across rural communities were visited by the MoA and encouraged to establish kitchen gardens through the provision of farm tools, planting material and training in small-scale agriculture.

The Berbice River Bridge was officially opened in December of 2008. This investment is expected to expand market opportunities for farmers in Region 6, particularly through easier access to markets in Regions 5 and 4. The bridge is also expected to promote increased commerce in the adjoining rural communities.

The GoG has collaborated with several international organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society in the area of human development. One such public-private sector collaborative effort takes the form of the National Working Group (NWG) on public-private partnership for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During the year in review, the NWG continued to promote the private sector as a key development partner with the government in the attainment of the MDGs.

Technology and Innovation

NARI continued its thrust in the promotion of appropriate technology in farming and agricultural-related enterprises. Towards this end, a number of training and demonstration activities were pursued. Some of these activities involved drip irrigation and shaded cultivation.

Agro-energy and Biofuels

In April, 2008, the IDB announced the approval of technical cooperation grants totaling US\$925,500 to support Guyana's bio-energy development plans. The funds will be used by the GoG to promote the development of its nascent bioenergy sector through policy development, training, feasibility studies and incentives for private investment. The technical cooperation grants will be administered by Guyana's MoA.

Agro-tourism

The MoTIC continued to play a critical role in the promotion of agro-tourism in Guyana. The Ministry and its principal agency, the GTA, collaborated with several agencies in the private sector and international organizations, including Guyana Trade and Investment Support/United States Agency for International Development (GTIS/USAID) and IICA, in giving more prominence to the concept of agro-ecotourism.

4. RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA IN GUYANA DURING 2008

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

In support of the GoG's priority of promoting food security, a segment of the Annual Accountability Seminar was devoted to a special presentation: "Perspectives on the Regional Food Situation and the Jagdeo Initiative." This included an analysis of the food supply and demand situation particularly with regard to nutritional needs and an overview of the interventions of the GoG and other CARCIOM Member States to ameliorate the situation.

The Office facilitated the participation of two young leaders from the country, Mr. Selwyn Anthony and Dr. Devon Dublin, in the Young Leaders Forum, an initiative of the Director General, at the IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, March 24-29, 2008. Ninety (90) outstanding young professionals from 34 countries of the Americas were given an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and were exposed to the global challenges in agriculture and invited to share their vision for agriculture and rural prosperity.

The young leaders were selected from among 15 applicants by a panel comprising representatives of the MoA, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (MoCYS), the GSA and IICA. An additional component of the Young Leaders Initiative is an internship at an IICA Office other than the home country of the young leader. Mr. Selwyn Anthony was selected by the IICA Centre for Leadership in Agriculture for an internship at the IICA Office in Ecuador, commencing February, 2009.



Selwyn Anthony



Devon Dublin

The GFYA has improved its organizational capacities with support from the Office. Recognizing the challenges of the membership to access funding for their projects, the GFYA has formed a Credit Union which is registered under the Co-operative Societies Act of Guyana.

Other assistance from the Office to the GFYA included support for their participation in several Office and national activities, including the Training Workshop for Export Trade to the USA in February 2008, the CARICOM Regional Agricultural Investment Forum in Guyana in June 2008, the participation of its President at an Organic Farming Symposium in Jamaica, Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Vincent, IICA/FAO/OIE Workshops, Entrepreneurship for Technology (EMPRETEC) Guyana workshops for agro-processors, and their community outreach programmes.



GFYA Secretary at the Alliance Meeting CWA 2008, St. Vincent

b. Promotion of Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

In response to a request from the MoA at the 2007 Accountability Seminar, for IICA's support in the promotion of export trade in non-traditional agricultural commodities, the Office hosted two workshops in February 2008, in collaboration with the NGMC and the MoA. Two Agribusiness Specialists from the Miami Office conducted the training of 24 technicians and over 75 producers/exporters on Export Trade Requirements for the USA and Managing Marketing Information.



Additional support was given to strengthen the MoA's export trade thrust by facilitating the MoA's membership in the MIOA and its participation in MIOA meetings in Jamaica and Panama.

The Office implemented the final phase of the OAS/IICA Agro-Tourism Project “Strengthening the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean.” This involved the hosting of two consultative workshops with key stakeholders which resulted in the delivery of an Agro-Tourism Strategy Document to guide the MoA and the MoTIC in developing the linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors; participation of two representatives of potential enterprises and a consultant to present investment proposals at an Agro-tourism Investment Forum in Barbados; the training of 30 participants (farmers, vendors, chefs, MoA technicians, and other tourism workers) in Best Practices in Food and Beverage Handling and the creative use of local produce to promote local cuisine.



The implementation of an agro-tourism component in the Tri-Lakes Communities under the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Project resulted in the IICA Office in Guyana receiving the “Agro-Tourism Development Initiative Award” from the MoTIC and the GTA.



In support of product diversification, IICA, through the W.K. Kellogg Project, continued the Loan Revolving Fund, facilitated the procurement of equipment and improvement to the organic pineapple processing facilities at Mainstay and Tapakuma Villages respectively.

The Office continued its support to the PWAPA through the delivery of training sessions at the factory in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), which assisted in raising the profile of their brand.

In an effort to revitalize the beekeeping industry in Guyana, and as part of its agricultural diversification thrust, the GoG hosted the Fifth Caribbean Beekeeping Congress in November 2008. The Office provided technical, administrative and logistical support to the MoA in successfully hosting the Congress. The forum, themed, “Promoting Organic Beekeeping in Guyana and the Caribbean through Strategic Investment” was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Guyana, the Honourable Samuel Hinds and attended by the Minister of Agriculture and other Government Ministers. In addition to the Caribbean delegates, there were representatives of scientific research institutes and beekeeping associations from the United States, Canada, Denmark, Costa Rica, Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania.



Solar Dryer at Tapakauma

c. Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

The WTO-SPS addresses the necessity for Member States to participate, within the limits of their resources, in the relevant international organizations, such as the OIE, CODEX Alimentarius and the International Plant Health Organization (IPPC). Their active participation facilitates the preparation, development and adoption of international standards, guidelines and recommendations which should impact significantly on their trade in agri-food products.



The STDF Project is the sequel to the Initiative of the Americas, which seeks to provide support to the Member States in strengthening their agricultural health and food safety systems through follow-up on the above actions. In that regard, the Office collaborated with the USDA in facilitating the implementation of phases 1-4 of the STDF Project, along with the hosting of a common visioning session in Guyana, in December 2008.



In collaboration with the OIE and FAO, the OIE and CODEX Alimentarius, virtual training seminars were hosted for thirty public and private sector technicians. In addition, the Office supported the participation of technicians of the MoA and the MoH in Regional and International forums, including the WTO/SPS in Geneva, APHIS/USDA in Florida, and the CaribVET Network meeting in Antigua.

IICA continued its support for the CFF surveillance programme along the country's borders. A joint surveillance exercise was undertaken by the IICA Offices in Guyana and Suriname in collaboration with the counterpart MoAs on the border of the two countries.

In the effort to enhance the prospects in agri-trade for small farmers in Region 10, the Office continued its support to selected farmers in record-keeping and GAPs.



The Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association (TLFA) was assisted with its preparation for organic certification. This process involved training in record-keeping, implementation of the recommendations of the previous year's inspection by ECOCERT – a certifying authority from the European Union (EU), and a mock inspection of all the pineapple fields by a local consulting team. The TLFA farms and products were certified by ECOCERT for export to the EU for the period 2008-2009.

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

As part of the second phase of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Project, an extensive Environmental Awareness campaign was undertaken in the Tri-Lakes Communities. This included the hosting of three workshops, one in each Community, along with the distribution of educational materials such as posters and brochures. Special sessions were held for the school children in the Communities.



e. Strengthening Rural Communities Based on the Territorial Approach

The implementation of the W. K. Kellogg Project in the Tri-Lakes Communities captured some of the key elements of the paradigm of the territorial approach to rural development. The linking of the objectives of production growth with the improvement of well-being in the communities reflected the territorial paradigm through a series of Project activities which involved the participation of public and private sector institutions, strong participation of the members of the community and their local authorities. The main activities included the facilitation of community visioning exercises, seminars in best practices for agro-processing, and good agricultural and environmental practices.



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

The Office made good progress in the promotion of hydroponics, biogas and vermiculture technologies, notwithstanding temporary setbacks owing to the passing of the key exponent, Dr. Héctor Muñoz, IICA Emeritus Professional. In the light of his passing, the proposed Caribbean Schools' Hydroponics activities and the promotion of biogas technologies were suspended. However, the promotion of hydroponics technologies in the country continued and the Office recorded significant achievements. The highlight activity was the hosting of the Secondary Schools' Hydroponics Competition in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and MoA, which included the participation of 27 Secondary Schools, 270 students and 27 teachers. The other beneficiaries of the competition were two members of the GFYA and three undergraduates of the University of Guyana (UG) who participated as interns during the course of the competition.



In continuation of the Office's programme in promoting appropriate technologies, training and support were provided to three community groups to establish hydroponics gardens.

The Office made good on a promise to the MoCYS to assist the KKTC (a national technical vocational institute) in contributing to its food needs. The Office assisted the KKTC with establishing the largest hydroponics facility in the country, which has made the KKTC self-sufficient in most of its vegetable needs. The hydroponics facility was officially opened on July 18, 2008 by the Honourable Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport during the College's graduation ceremony. IICA awarded certificates to all participating students for having undertaken the training course in hydroponics.



IICA Field Assistant with KKTC students at the opening of the Hydroponics Facility



5. RESULTS OF INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

The implementation of the Technical Cooperation Agenda was enhanced through collaboration with several partners in development, including local, regional and international agencies.

The main public sector agencies were the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, as well as public sector corporations such as NGMC, NARI, GSA, and UG.

a. *Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO and other UN Agencies*

The Office maintained contact with the Resident Coordinator of the UN Country Team and participated in the Mid-Term Review consultations of the Guyana UNDAF, including review and accountability sessions of the PAHO/WHO, UNDP and UNICEF.

A specialist from the PAHO Office in Guyana presented a seminar on 'Ergonomics in the Workplace' to the staff at the IICA Office as part of IICA's observance of Occupational Health and Safety Month in November.



Occupational Health Day at IICA

In collaboration with the FAO, the Office trained technicians from the public and private sectors in aspects of the CODEX Alimentarius in two virtual workshops.

Our Office participated in the World Food Day activities organized by the GoG. The feature event was the official opening of the FAO Office in Guyana, which included an agricultural exhibition.



President Jagdeo at the opening of the FAO Office

b. *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

Assurances were renewed with the new IDB Representative in the country and regular contact was maintained with the local IDB Office to foster strategic partnerships.

c. *Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat*

The presence of the IICA Coordinator for the Caribbean Regional Agenda at the Secretariat has enhanced the relationship between the Office and the CARICOM Secretariat. Owing to our location in the host country of the Secretariat, the IICA Office serves as the focal point for coordination between the IICA Headquarters and the Secretariat. The Office also gave support to the Secretariat in hosting the Regional Agricultural Investment Forum in June 2008.

d. Organization of American States (OAS)

The OAS Office in Guyana gave invaluable support to the IICA Office in the implementation of the OAS-Funded Project: “Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean.”

e. 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 PoA Volunteers continued their regular visits to the country and supported several IICA activities, including agro-tourism, integrated pest management, soil fertility, agribusiness management, irrigation, animal health, and agro-processing.

f. GTIS/USAID

The Guyana Trade and Investment Support (GTIS) Project is established by the GoG and the US Government. This USAID-funded project provides support to public and private sector organizations and enterprises to increase competitiveness and to exploit emerging export marketing opportunities arising from international trade agreements. Both IICA and USAID/GTIS have been supporting the NGMC with developing its market information systems. However, we have been exploring possibilities for convergence of our efforts with the NGMC under the agricultural diversification programmes, particularly in areas of promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness.

g. British Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

IICA support to the Rural Women's Network (RWN), was complemented by two VSO volunteers. The VSO provided marketing consultants who collaborated with the Office, and gave outstanding support in training and advice to the PWAPA with marketing their products.

h. Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

The Office renewed assurances with the CIDA Office. Information was exchanged between the Offices which resulted in mutual understanding of the work of the organisations in Guyana. The Office also participated in conferences to promote future CIDA interventions.

i. Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)

Preliminary contact was made with the Office by a visiting delegation of CESO Officials during a trip to establish an Office and to appoint a representative in the country. There are good prospects for future collaboration.

j. EMPRETEC Guyana

The Office collaborated with EMPRETEC in its training programmes for agro-processors and agribusiness entrepreneurs in the country. This included the facilitation of a seminar by the Representative, participation of IICA technicians and representatives of the GFYA and the RWN in EMPRETEC activities.

k. National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)

Our relations with NARI have been strengthened through collaboration in several areas, including the construction of the solar dryer at the Tapakuma Cassava Processing Facility, support to and participation in the NARI Research Conference, training of NARI librarians via IICA's distance education programme (CECADI), and facilitating the participation of NARI technicians in a Workshop on Sweet Potato in Trinidad.

l. University of Guyana (UG)

The Office hosted three UG undergraduates on a three-month internship programme. Three UG librarians received training via the IICA Centre for Distance Education (CECADI) programme and one of the participants was selected by the CECADI at IICA Headquarters to participate in a follow-up programme in Trinidad.

The Dean of the Department of Agriculture, the Head of Department and the students gave invaluable support to the successful hosting of the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE) Annual Student Exchange 2008.

m. Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA)

Students of the GSA and lecturers participated in the Agri-trade workshop hosted by the Office, which was held at the GSA. The students had an opportunity to meet with agribusiness entrepreneurs and IICA agribusiness specialists and benefited from the workshop documents circulated.

The GSA served as the secretariat for the CACHE Annual Student Exchange 2008 and gave outstanding support to the successful hosting of the event.

n. St. Stanislaus College Association Farm (SSCF)

The SSCF is a longstanding partner of the Institute in the country. We continue to share technical expertise and other resources for the training of farmers, students and technicians. In June 2008, both institutions were deeply affected by the passing of Dr. Héctor Muñoz, IICA Emeritus Professional, who had initiated and forged strong linkages between our Institute and the SSCF.



Among the cooperation activities he had initiated with the SSCF, were the development of the training centre, establishment of pastures and modernizing of dairy farming, and the introduction of plastic biogas digesters, vermiculture and hydroponics systems.

The Institute collaborated with the SSCF and the agricultural and rural community in hosting an event to pay tribute to Dr. Muñoz's memory. During this activity, the training centre was renamed in his memory.

o. Amazon Caribbean (AMCAR) Limited

Amazon Caribbean Limited has been a valuable private sector partner particularly during the implementation of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Project. The organic pineapple export trade was initiated by the company. In addition to being the sole purchaser and exporter of the products of the TLFA, AMCAR supplies packaging materials and provides managerial and operational support services to the TLFA.

6. NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

It is anticipated that 2009 will be a dynamic period for agriculture in the country which will present many opportunities for IICA technical cooperation when the Government launches the ADP funded by an IDB Loan (US\$20.9 million) and the IFAD READ Programme (US\$6.7 million).

Although the OAS/IICA Agro-tourism Project ends in the first quarter of 2009, the Office will continue its support to the Agro-tourism drive in collaboration with the MoTIC, the GTA, MoA and NARI. The development of the linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors can greatly benefit the farmers and rural communities.

The Office will continue building on the experiences gained in promoting technology and innovation particularly the promotion of adapted hydroponics systems, including shaded vegetable production systems with NARI in schools and among rural farming groups.

We intend to continue our Youth in Agriculture Programme through the schools' hydroponics programmes and the young leaders in agriculture internship programmes, through cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the GFYA, the University of Guyana and the Guyana School of Agriculture.

The promotion of rural entrepreneurship programmes will be supported through strengthening of partnerships with agencies such as the SSCF, Caribbean and African Self Reliance International (CASRI), CESO, EMPRETEC Guyana and Linden Economic Enhancement Programme (LEAP).

7. MAIN ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY IICA

FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE IICA OFFICE IN GUYANA IN 2008

Official name of Event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants	Place and date of publication of the report of proceedings of the event
1. OAS/IICA Agritourism Workshop	31/01/08	Tower Hotel, Georgetown	40	Georgetown, Guyana, Consultant Report of Proceedings dated February 25, 2008
2. MIOA Strengthening capacity for Trade with the US	5-7/02/08	Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), Mon Repos, East Coast, Demerara and University of Guyana (UG), Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown	100	IICA Office in Miami, F. Lam & D. Rodriguez Trip Reports dated February 8 and 11, 2008 respectively.
3. Accountability Seminar	12/05/08	Tower Hotel, Georgetown	52	Georgetown, Guyana. Report dated September 22, 2008
4. W. K. Kellogg Foundation – Tri-Lakes Agro-Tourism/ Environmental Awareness Workshops	12–18/06/08	Lake Mainstay Resort, Essequibo	103	Georgetown, Guyana, Agro-Tourism and Environmental Consultant Reports dated June 20, 2008 and July, 2008 respectively; and End-of-Project Report to W.K. Kellogg and IICA dated July, 2008 and July 31, 2008 respectively.
5. CODEX Training (simultaneous webcast from HQ to Caribbean).	18–19/06/08	IICA Office, Georgetown	17	Georgetown, Guyana, AH&FS Specialist Report to Representative dated June 20, 2008.

8. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR 2008

- IICA 2008. Guyana 2007 Annual Report: *“IICA’s Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of Rural Communities in Guyana.”* 34p
- IICA 2008. IICA’s Kellogg End-of-Project Report: *“Supporting the Expansion of Income Generation Activities in the Lake Communities of Guyana.”* 27p
- IICA 2008. IICA Agro-tourism Strategy Document: *“Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector of the Caribbean.”* 21p

THE TRI-LAKES EXPERIENCE: AGRICULTURE-TOURISM LINKAGES



ORGANIC PINEAPPLE PRODUCTION



Mainstay Women's Group



Organic Pineapple Farm

Heritage Trail



Reception Benab on the Trail





SCENIC LAKE CAPOEY



IICA Office in Guyana

THE IICA OFFICE IN GUYANA TEAM



Ignatius Jean
Representative



Maxine Parris-Aaron
Agricultural Health
and Food Specialist



Richard Blair
Sustainable Rural
Development Specialist



Jermaine Joseph
Field Assistant



Aletha Isaacs
Secretary to the Representative



Fiona McCall
Accounting Technician



Barbara Garnath
Secretary



Michael Sears
Information Systems/Documentation Assistant



Siana Jerome
Receptionist



Remmington Taitt
Office Assistant/Driver



Pamela Murray
Office Assistant



Rosetta Caldeira
Security Guard

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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