

ANNUAL REPORT *2009*

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

Belize



IICA





OFFICE IN BELIZE

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

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

March 2010

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This publication is also available in electronic (PDF) format from IICA's Web site at <http://www.iica.int>.

Editorial coordination: IICA Office in Belize
Cover design: Public Information Unit, IICA
Printed: IICA Headquarters

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
2009 annual report: IICA's contribution to the
development of agriculture and rural communities in
Belize / IICA – San Jose, C.R.: IICA, 2010.
22 p ; 22,5 x 28 cm.

ISBN13: 978-92-9248-209-1

1. IICA – Annual report I. IICA II. Title

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San Jose, Costa Rica

2010

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MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Office in Belize is pleased to present the National Annual Report 2009 to our stakeholders, collaborators/partners and clients throughout Belize and beyond. This report forms a part of our accountability process and summarizes the activities executed throughout the year.

During 2009, Belize signed an agreement with Mexico to open the

market for live cattle, the aquaculture shrimp reached France, one of the most important markets in the world, commodities such as corn is being exported and the horticulture sector started using high technology (greenhouses, irrigation and good agriculture practice). Under the panorama mentioned above, the opportunities for the agriculture sector appear to be bigger than expected. Agriculture will create economic opportunities, build resilience in rural communities and enhance the sustainable development of the agro-industry.

For the IICA team the results achieved during 2009 was a joint effort together with the public and private sectors of Belize to support the agricultural and natural resource sectors that forms the base of our mission.

We look forward to 2010, to expand on some of the programs that we have embarked on in 2009 as well as implement new ones with new partners.

On behalf of the staff of the IICA Office in Belize and myself, I thank you all.

Dr. Gabriel Rodríguez Marqués
Country Representative

1 INTRODUCTION

The 2009 Annual Report presents the contributions that the Institution has made towards the development of the agriculture sector and rural prosperity in Belize during 2009. This annual report was developed with stakeholder's participation and compliments IICA's hemispheric and regional work plans. This report is also in compliance with IICA accountability to its stakeholders to inform of our interventions, partnerships and future actions to ensure consistent advances in the agriculture sector.

The 2009 cooperation agenda was prepared using the Institute's model of consultation, dialogue and consensus building with stakeholders. In pursuit of its vision and mission, IICA focuses its actions in six strategic areas:

- Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life and to a new institutional framework
- Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses
- Promoting the development of rural communities based on a territorial approach
- Promoting agricultural health and food safety
- Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment
- Promoting the introduction of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural development

We once again take this opportunity to acknowledge our many partners in development, both in the public and private sectors, who were involved in the implementation of IICA Belize's technical cooperation activities.

Special acknowledgement goes to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA), Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), Regional Organization on Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE), Citrus Growers Association (CGA), Citrus Research and Education Institute (CREI), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Regional Unit for Technical Assistance (RUTA), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA), Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI), Belize Organic Producers Association (BOPA), Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Belize Poultry Association (BPA), Belize Livestock Producers Association (BLPA) and the Belize Audubon Society (BAS). Special thank you to all our colleagues from headquarters and other national offices, whose invaluable support helped to strengthen the level of technical services provided by our Office.

The Representative and the staff of the IICA Office in Belize are pleased to present the document "The Contribution of IICA to Agriculture and Development of Rural Communities in Belize", which highlights the results of our technical cooperation in 2009.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The IICA Office in Belize interventions are focused on the priorities agreed to by the agriculture sector through timely responses and active involvement to demands for technical assistance from both the public and private sectors. The priorities for 2009 continued to emphasize on the capacity to ensure competitiveness and sustainability for the production of agricultural products, entry into new markets, increased capacity to effectively implement national agricultural projects, and encourage dialogue and coordination among partners of development.

The Office continues to be recognized as a major partner in the delivery of technical assistance to both the private and public sectors. Also the Office, has demonstrated the ability to be flexible and adjust to the dynamics of our agriculture sector through our national, regional and hemispheric agendas to effectively ensure rural prosperity in Belize.

IICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE REPOSITIONING OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

The 2003-2015 Plan of Action continues as a priority in the country with IICA providing support through participation on technical committees, policy and strategy exercises, institutional capacity building and monitoring and evaluation of the Agricultural sector and its impact on rural communities.

PROMOTING TRADE AND THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AGRIBUSINESS

The Office continues to partner with BELTRAIDE to implement the Belize Export Platform, ensuring competitiveness of small and medium size agribusiness. Ten companies completed the export readiness capacity training modules and six companies participated in the 12th Food and Beverage Show in Miami to showcase their products and engage buyers. The implementation of the export platform was supported by the IICA Office in Miami and the PROCOM project executed by the CAC secretariat with funds provided by the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

IICA continued providing technical assistance to the sugar cane sector through missions of international professional staff from Headquarters.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS

As part of IICA's contribution in the implementation of the agreement signed on June 5th, 2009 between Belize and Mexico for the exportation of cattle, a national consultant was contracted by this Office for six weeks to elaborate the database for the creation of the National Registry for Livestock. The Registry gives to Belize the possibility to start their traceability program for livestock at a national level. Also under the framework of the agreement mentioned before, the Office is providing technical assistance to BAHA and the BLPA.

A Canadian consultant from the CFIA carried out an extensive assessment of the poultry industry in Belize with respect to Newcastle disease and made recommendations to the Belize Poultry Association (BPA) as to how best to develop a policy and strategy for the effective control of this disease. The IICA Canada Office, the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Directorate at Headquarters, BAHA and the BPA provided invaluable support to this activity.

PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Our Office continues to provide technical assistance to the Belize Organic Producers Association (BOPA) in the preparation of legislation for organic production and certification to take advantage of agro-eco-cultural-tourism in Belize.

STRENGTHENING OF RURAL COMMUNITIES BASED ON THE TERRITORIAL APPROACH

An agro-eco-cultural-tourism workshop was conducted to involve and inform stakeholders on the potential of this unexplored sector in Belize. A master plan was developed for the village of Hopkins and will serve as a model bringing new experiences to the tourism sector.

The launch of the Regional Rural Development Strategy through the Regional Rural Development Project (ECADERT) was first held in Belize and stakeholders agreed to develop a national Rural Development Strategy to compliment the regional efforts. A task force was established to coordinate this effort.

The RedSICTA project was also implemented in the border communities of Jalacte and San Vicente near the Belize-Guatemala border. The aim of the project is to improve the agronomic practices of both corn and beans, improve harvesting and post harvest practices to ensure food security, access to markets and increase farm income.

INTRODUCING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

In a joint effort with MAF and the BAS, a Biodigester program was established to produce alternative fuel and bio-fertilizers in rural communities. IICA also participated in introducing the Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach to technicians and farmers as a means of ensuring food security, increase farm income and generate rural employment.

OTHER TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

The IICA Office in Belize supported the MAF in hosting the SICTA Board of Directors meeting held in Belize, and as a result the Board agreed to support Belize in a bean evaluation project to ensure technology adoption and transfer, food security and increase our competitive edge in the export markets.

Other technical committees IICA is represented on are: the National Research and Development Committee, the Citrus Research and Education Committee, Belize Organic Producers Association and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Project which is designed to develop a National Implementation Plan to develop national technical capacity and strategies to better use and reduce the use of these pollutants.

3 THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN BELIZE IN 2009

3.1 Factors in the National Context

As of September 2009 Belize's total domestic exports experienced a 22.9% decrease from BZ\$ 494.01 million to BZ\$ 380.63 million when compared to the same period of 2008. The agriculture sector including fisheries accounted for approximately 31.7% (BZ\$ 259.86 million) of the total exports earnings. This is a decrease when compared to September 2008 when agriculture and fisheries accounted for 44.7% of the total domestic export. However, sugar was up the third quarter and showed a 24.7% increase in comparison to the same time period last year.

Table 1: Major Domestic Exports 2004-2009 (BZ\$ million)

Commodity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	September (YTD)	
						2008	2009
Banana							
Tonne	79.43	76.08	72.50	58.93	77.93	60.35	65.43
Value	52.99	51.08	50.59	41.46	65.65	52.83	51.79
Garments							
Tonne	1.77	1.57	1.62	0.76	-	-	-
Value	37.10	34.56	36.59	18.79	-	-	-
Grapefruit Concentrate							
Mil. Gals	1.81	1.24	1.25	0.79	0.81	0.56	0.81
Value	23.82	19.31	22.81	16.27	12.67	7.98	11.47
Marine Products							
Tonne	8.34	9.25	7.98	3.08	3.99	3.03	3.53
Value	107.33	85.74	86.02	42.16	44.28	34.05	29.96
Orange Concentrate							
Mil. Gals	6.45	8.40	6.42	4.67	5.68	5.11	4.50
Value	55.49	87.81	86.17	101.17	99.93	89.73	60.63
Papaya							
Tonne	17.14	34.59	34.47	25.24	28.9	22.14	19.06
Value	26.87	31.01	31.01	26.07	22.44	16.77	17.02
Sugar							
Tonne	113.93	79.47	97.85	84.47	67.34	67.32	78.68
Value	81.53	69.90	100.07	88.14	71.38	71.36	89.02
Other Value	29.04	39.20	29.14	31.20	37.88	29.86	38.82
Petroleum							
Mil. Gals	N/A	N/A	29.98	40.14	48.04	35.04	40.6
Value			88.54	142.62	230.93	191.43	81.91
Total	410.13	413.27	536.40	507.90	585.17	494.01	380.63

Source: CSO; Belize.

Citrus Concentrate showed a general decline as world prices for orange concentrate remained low. Orange concentrate up to September 2009 showed a sharp decline with 32.4% less export earnings than at the same time last year largely due to a decrease in orange production. In the third quarter of 2009 orange concentrate export value was BZ\$60.63 million while for the same quarter in 2008 it was BZ\$89.73 million. Grapefruit concentrate on the other hand had a 43.7% increase mainly due to an increase in production and a slight increase in grapefruit concentrate prices.

There was a small increase(16.6%) in marine products exported but due to low market prices, this commodity had a 12% decrease in total export earning with BZ\$29.96 million up to September 2009 in comparison to September 2008 which had a total value of BZ\$34.05 million. Papaya in the third quarter of 2009 showed a slight increase (1.49%) but mainly due to an increase in prices as the overall exported volume decreased by 13.9% when compared to the third quarter in 2008. This shows a steady decline in total export volume since Hurricane Dean struck the production area in 2007.

In the third quarter of 2009 petroleum experienced a sharp decline of 57.2% from BZ\$191.43 million to BZ\$81.91 million as compared to the same quarter in 2008, largely due to a fall in world oil prices. Other exports up to the third quarter of 2009 experienced a 30% increase as compared to the third quarter of 2008. As demonstrated in table 1, Crude petroleum is the second highest export earner with sugar being the number one export earner with a total of BZ\$89.02 million up the third quarter for 2009.

3.2 Changes in Legislation and Policies on Agriculture and the Rural Life

The vision of the MAF is: a transformed/modern sector that is fully competitive, diversified and sustainable.

The mission of the MAF is: to continue as the economic pillar of Belize, ensuring food security, generating income and foreign exchange, creating employment, and conserving natural resources, in order to grow the economy, reduce poverty and empower the local population for sustainable development.

The MAF completed and presented its Medium Term Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the period 2009-2014. After extensive consultation the following priority areas were identified:

- Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)
- Livestock exports to Mexico
- Tilapia Production
- Adaption of new Technology (Irrigation Units & Covered Structures)
- Pineapple production, processing and marketing in Stann Creek
- Production of corn, rice and beans for export

An action plan to implement the priorities will be prepared to secure the necessary financial and technical resources from the Government and partners in development.

3.3 Institutional Reforms in Agriculture and the Rural Milieu

Traditionally the MAF developed and executed its work plans in isolation of other line ministries, but that approach has been changed and better coordination is now being emphasized. The Ministries of Rural Development, Natural Resources, Economic Development and Foreign Trade are very much involved in providing valuable assistance to the MAF for more efficient and effective delivery of its services.

The MAF have also benefited from numerous projects including the Belize Rural Development Project (BRDP), the Agriculture Enterprise Development Project (AED) and the Regional IICA Technology and Innovation Project (RedSICTA) that focused on rural development through income generation, food security, innovation and technology, and entrepreneurship.

3.4 Agri-food Trade and the Development of Agribusiness

BELTRAIDE and IICA prepared company profiles and export inventories for ten selected small and medium size businesses to participate in the National Export Platform. The companies actively participated in a series of training modules focusing on export requirements for new products into the United States markets. This regional project was funded by the ROC/Taiwan technical mission to Belize, BELTRAIDE and IICA through joint funding and expertise.

3.5 Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The BAHA is a statutory body that was established by the Government in 2000 and provides services through its four departments, Plant Health, Quarantine, Animal Health, and Food Safety. BAHA is managed by a Board of Directors and an Executive Director tasked with maintaining international recognition for BAHA as the competent authority for Belize. BAHA team consists of highly trained and experienced personnel who receive annual trainings to be current in their respective fields. BAHA facilitates trade through direct dialogue with clients and ensures both current import and export requirements are maintained.

BAHA maintains the focal point for SPS, who provides leadership at the meetings of the WTO/SPS held in Geneva. BAHA professional staff also holds executive positions in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Codex and Biosafety.

3.6 Agricultural Innovation and Technology

The MAF has promoted the establishment and use of IFS throughout the country to encourage rural development. IICA, BAS and the MAF assisted by providing funding and training in the installation and management of Low Cost Biodigester. The IFS approach is a priority of the MAF in its effort to develop the rural communities, increasing income generation, food security and biodiversity.

4 RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA IN BELIZE DURING 2009

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

The 2003-2015 Plan of Action continues as a priority in the country with IICA providing support through participation on technical committees, policy and strategy exercises, institutional capacity building and monitoring and evaluation of the Agricultural sector and its impact on rural communities.

4.1 Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness



IICA along with the BLPA and the MAF have developed a National Livestock Registry to serve as a management tool for the expansion of the livestock industry in Belize with the potential of beef export to Mexico. The Governments of Mexico and Belize this year signed a Cooperation Agreement to start the negotiations for exportation of cattle from Belize to Mexico. The electronic database was developed to harmonize with the Mexican National Livestock Registry and is the first step of the traceability program and will serve to identify livestock type, population, industry patterns and good agricultural practice so as to improve production, productivity and market access.



The Belize Export Platform, which begun with the identification of ten small and medium size business with export potential, was executed this year with training modules in export requirements, validation of potential products for export and participation in the 12th Annual Food and Beverage

Show held in Miami, Florida. This project will allow selected import/export businesses in the United States to develop links and networks to facilitate imports of new products from Belize. This project is being funded through the ROC/Taiwan Mission to Belize, BELTRAIDE and IICA.

4.2 Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

IICA continued to provide support to the National SPS Focal Point through participation in meetings and the development of priorities for SPS in Belize through consensus building. The National SPS Focal Point also serves as the National Focal Point for the regional IICA project - development of sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries of the Americas to consolidate their active participation in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) and promote implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO-SPS Agreement).

The IICA Office in Canada, BAHA, BPA and this Office supported the work of a Canadian consultant from the CFIA to carry out an extensive assessment of the poultry industry in Belize with respect to the outbreak of Newcastle disease and Belize's response to this outbreak, and to make recommendations to BPA on the best way to develop a policy and strategy for the effective control of this disease.

IICA Miami and this Office conducted HACCP preparedness site visits to selected meat and poultry processing plants interested in exporting. The recommendations highlighted corrective measures needed to comply with international standards, and proposes continued technical assistance to the private sector and BAHA as the regulatory authority.



4.3 Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

IICA facilitated the execution of the Second Cacao Symposium “Cacao Quality: Inputs for a National Strategy” through the regional cacao project aimed at modernizing cacao farming in Central America. Partners in this initiative include TCGA, Green & Blacks, CATIE and IICA. This regional initiative is specifically aimed at strengthening the TCGA in organic cacao production, post harvest management, local industrialization, and production of other ingredients (especially those used in the production of chocolate, e.g. ginger and sugar) and increase export earnings.

4.4 Strengthening Rural Communities Based on the Territorial Approach

The Regional Specialist in Agro tourism and the IICA Belize office initiated a National consultancy for the development of this sector in Belize. Stakeholders were consulted and gave their opinions to help chart the way forward.

The Regional Rural Development Project (ECADERT) was officially launched in Belize and proved to be timely and a priority for the country. The ECADERT and the Ministry of Rural Development, Labour, Governance and Local Government are presently preparing a National Rural Development Strategy for Belize. A series of public consultations and a symposium to gather baseline information is being supported by IICA.





IICA participated in the execution of a RedSICTA project in the villages of Jalacte and San Vicente in southern Belize. The goal is to improve the competitiveness and the income of small white maize and black bean producers in these villages. Ten demonstration plots were established in both villages to compare and monitor local and improved varieties of white corn using improved agronomic practices.

The project also included a postharvest component which will ensure efficient harvesting, grain drying and storage. Each community has received a small mobile grain dryer and a mechanical thresher to improve threshing and drying methods. Improved storage facilities and integrated management practices were also introduced into these villages to further reduce post harvest losses especially due to pest infestation and improper drying techniques.

4.5 Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

The National Bio-safety committee officially handed over the National Biosafety Policy to the new National Biosafety Council which will ensure its implementation. The new Biosafety Council is chaired by the MAF and consists of representatives from the private and public sectors, farmer organizations and NGOs.

The MAF focal point for the regional network SICTA continues to represent Belize and lobby for Belize's inclusion into both regional and national project. RedSICTA continues to provide technical assistance through trainings in project monitoring and evaluation.

The BOPA presented its draft policy to stakeholders for revision and comments. This policy highlights international standards to serve as a guide for organic production in Belize. With financial assistance from IDB, the BOPA implemented several on farm demonstration plots to educate farmers and promote organic production in rural communities. The harvested produce

is sold on the local market. After the draft organic policy has been enacted by Cabinet, legislation will follow to ensure implementation. The BOPA is developing a certification program that will be recognized by the international standards and will be able to provide inspection and certification services for locally produced organic products for the local and export markets.

A low cost Biodigester program has also been initiated through the support of MAF, IICA and the BAS, for the training of technicians and farmers in “***The establishment of a low cost polyethylene Biodigester***”. As a result eight Biodigesters were established in three districts of Belize to serve as pilots projects. These Biodigester units were established on pre-selected livestock farms mainly dual purpose cattle and swine farms. The various units established have been given different uses. One is currently being used for roasting soy bean to be used as feed for swine, and another is being used to bake clay pots for an indigenous Maya women group in western Belize.



5 RESULTS OF INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION



IDB continues to fund the establishment of additional organic plots to serve as farm demonstration. The main purpose of these plots is to validate agronomic practices, promote organic farming and provide the produce to local markets. In this year two more plots were started in the villages of Maskall and the Belize River Valley, in the Belize District. These pilot projects are being executed by the BOPA with technical support from IICA and MAF.

IICA participated in a project to improve the livelihood and food security status of two communities in the Toledo District. This Project was carried out in collaboration with RedSICTA, MAF, CARDI, and FAO and focused on improving the agronomic and post harvest practices carried out by the farmers.





IICA in collaboration with MAF and the BAS carried out a “Training for Trainers” workshop in the construction of low cost Biodigester as a means of waste management and as an alternative energy source for low income rural families. Technical staff from MAF and BAS as well as key farmers participated in this event and received training in the establishment and maintenance of the biogas units. Students from nearby primary schools were also invited to see firsthand the construction of this inexpensive technology readily available to rural farmers.

6 RESULTS OF HORIZONTAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The IICA Canada and Belize Offices, the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Directorate at IICA Headquarters, BPA, and BAHA coordinated efforts to assist the local poultry industry by providing a consultant from the CFIA to share the Canadian experiences with the Newcastle Disease. Belize's response to this disease outbreak in Spanish Lookout was evaluated and recommendations were given for inclusion in the development of an Avian Health Policy and strategy to serve as a management tool for BAHA.



7 NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

IICA continues to serve the country by being proactive and responsible in the execution of the Medium Term and Annual Action Plan. New possible interventions for 2010 include the following:

- The Governments of Mexico and Belize are coordinating efforts to establish formal exports of Belizean beef and beef products to Mexico. Historically, both countries share cultural, economic and social ties, and now possible reciprocal trade for agricultural products. IICA assisted the MAF and BLPA in the establishment and use of a National Livestock Registry which will serve as a management tool for livestock exports. IICA continue to provide technical support to the BLPA in Institutional Strengthening to ensure management capabilities for the expansion in both the local and export markets.
- IICA was requested by MAF to develop the Agricultural policy and Work plan for 2010-2013.
- IICA along with the BELTRAIDE and MAF will execute a second National Export Platform, which will focus on training for local trainers to provide current export requirements courses to potential export companies.
- IICA and the Hopkins Village community will continue to coordinate the execution of the pilot village plan along with other partners in development. This detailed village operational plan will be used as a model for the rest of the country. The concept of agro-eco-cultural-tourism has gained momentum and both the private and public sectors have taken interest and ownership.
- The IICA-ECADERT was timely for Belize and the Ministry of Rural Development, Local Government and Labor has embraced this initiative. A project steering committee has been formed to guide the development of a National Rural Development Strategy for Belize to manage and maximize the allocation and use of limited resources.
- The last Belize Agricultural Sector Study done by IICA was in 1995, and has served well to planners. The MAF has agreed that IICA will conduct an updated version to reflect the changes over the years.
- The IICA Miami office will continue to assist us in supporting HACCP trainings and inspection along with BAHA to build local capacity.
- The Office will continue to support the BOPA in developing local standards and certification to promote and expand the organic industry in Belize.
-

- The RedSICTA project will expand to include addition acreages of corn and beans so as to maintain sustainability of food security and income generation in the communities of Jalacte and San Vicente.
- The Office will continue to actively participate in national agricultural forums to present and promote IICA activities, strengthen partnerships and serve as the lead agricultural agency in Belize.
- IICA will coordinate and support the National BioSafety Council to implement the National Biosafety Policy.
- The Office will support the establishment of model integrated farms throughout the country to highlight farm integration, sustainability, biodiversity and income generation.
- IICA will support and coordinate the meeting of Belizean youth in July 2010 under the Youth Leadership Program.

8 ANNEXES

8.1 List of Acronyms

AED	Agriculture Enterprise Development Project
BAHA	Belize Agricultural Health Authority
BAS	Belize Audubon Society
BELTRAIDE	Belize Trade and Investment Development Services
BLPA	Belize Livestock Producers Association
BOPA	Belize Organic Producers Association
BPA	Belize Poultry Association
BRDP	Belize Rural Development Project
BSCFA	Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association
BSI	Belize Sugar Industries
CAC/CORECA	Central American Agriculture Council/ Regional Council for Agriculture Cooperation
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Common Market
CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center
CFIA	Canadian food Inspection Agency
CGA	Citrus Growers Association
CREI	Citrus Research and Education Institute
ECADERT	Regional Rural Development Project
EU	European Union
FAO	Food Agricultural Organization
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFS	Integrated Farming System
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
NCCARD	National Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Research and Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
OAS	Organization of American States
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIRSA	Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PROCOM	Regional Program for the Promotion of Competitiveness, Integration and Development of the Central American Agriculture Sector
PVS	Performance, Vision and Strategy
RedSICTA	The Agricultural Innovation Network Project
ROC	Republic of China
RUTA	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance
SICA	Central American Integration System
SICB	Sugar Industry Control Board
SICTA	Central American System for Integration of Agricultural Technology
SIF	Social Investment Found
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TCGA	Toledo Cacao Growers Association
UB	University of Belize
WTO	World Trade Organization

8.2 Publication List 2009 – IICA Office Belize

- Maximiliano Ortega. 2009. Installation of a Low Cost Polyethylene Biodigester. Belmopan, Belize.

8.3 Five Most Important Events Organized by the IICA Office in Belize in 2009

Official name of the Event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants	Place and date of the publication of the report of proceedings of the event
Training in the Construction of Low cost Biodigester Construction	9 th - 14 th of March.	University of Belize, Central Farm	31	IICA Office, Belize. 14 th April, 2009
Ecadert Workshop	8 th July	The George Price Centre for Peace and Development	35	IICA Office, Belize. 8 th August, 2009
National Agro-eco-cultural Tourism Workshop	9 th July	The George Price Centre for Peace and Development	40	IICA Office, Belize. 7 th August, 2009
Launching of the Export Platform	13 – 14 th August	The George Price Centre for Peace and Development	60	IICA office, Belize. 10 th September, 2009
Launching of the RedSICTA Project	24 th November, 2009	Jalacte Village, Toledo	50	IICA Office, Belize. 5 th December, 2009

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (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 Governments 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. 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.



IICA Belize Staff (from left to right)

Maximiliano Ortega - Specialist in Technology and Innovation
 Elisa Harrison - Secretary/Administrative Assistant
 Dr. Gabriel Rodríguez Marques - IICA Belize Representative
 Giselle Espot – Office Assistant
 Wilmot Garnett – Specialist in Competitiveness

Printed in IICA, Headquarters
Run: 75 copies