



Annual Report **2008**

Antigua and Barbuda

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

**IICA's contribution to the development of
agriculture and rural communities in
Antigua and Barbuda**

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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IICA's Contribution to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in Antigua and Barbuda in 2008

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1. Introduction

The global increases in the price of fuel and food saw a rise in cost of living in Antigua and Barbuda, and the overall consumer price index rose by 1.5% in the first half of 2008. The food sub-index increased by 1.6% due to higher prices for bakery goods, cereals, dairy products, especially milk and eggs.¹ This situation challenged the local food production system and national food security.

In the agricultural sector, livestock producers, especially poultry were faced with high prices for animal feed which increased their costs of production. The fisheries sub-sector, also had setbacks due to the high fuel prices. In the crops sub-sector, the cost of fertilizer and pesticides coupled with the high cost of fuel raised concerns about food security issues. Added to this, during the peak of production in mid October, hurricane Omar passed through the region causing significant damage to the sector.

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the sector, the IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other related ministries, departments and agencies continued to provide technical cooperation to meet the needs of the sector. The work of the national office was supported by an able team of specialists from the region and headquarters.



National Agricultural Symposium display of local foods

¹ Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

2. Executive Summary

IICA's contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life:

- Senior personnel in the Ministry of Agriculture have improved their leadership skills through participation of the Minister of Agriculture and the Permanent Secretary in the Forum for Leaders at the Institute's Leadership Center.
- One youth has improved her leadership skills through participation in the Forum of Young Leaders in Agriculture of the Americas held at the Institute's Leadership Center.
- CABA members have increased their understanding of the issues affecting their livelihoods through technical assistance provided in conducting forums on various topics of interest to sector stakeholders.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has enhanced its ability to respond to issues affecting the agriculture sector through a National Agricultural Symposium, with support from the Institute.

Promotion of Trade and the Competitiveness of Agri-business:

- Agro-processors have increased the market share for their products and networked with potential clients and partners through the Third IICA Most-outstanding Agro-processors Award competition held during the Christian Valley Mango Festival.
- Agro-processors have improved their capacity to increase their income stream through technical assistance provided to the agro-processors group.

Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems:

- In an effort to improve food safety standards, IICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, conducted training sessions for food service providers in safe food handling practices.
- One public service officer in the Ministry of Health has improved his capacity to understand the requirements of the international agreements through participation in the WTO SPSC meeting in held in June. Technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture to

- The Ministry of Agriculture have increased its capacity to improve the surveillance of targeted animal health diseases, through the regional Veterinary Epidemiology Project (VEP), which seeks to improve the surveillance of animal health diseases in the Caribbean. One veterinarian has been trained and will coordinate the programme nationally.
- CODEX stakeholders have increased their understanding of the Codex Alimentarius Standard Setting Process at a workshop implemented in collaboration with FAO and the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards.

Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment:

- Targeted stakeholders have improved their understanding of the process to access funding for the Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Programme through technical assistance provided to the National Focal Group of the Global Environmental Facility.

Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach:

- The Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum is now better able to develop projects and seek funding, through attendance of one of its members at the Caribbean Agricultural Youth Forum Workshop on Project Development and Resource Mobilisation held in St. Vincent, during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture.
- The Agro-processors group has increased their networking through attendance of one member to the CANROP meeting held in St. Vincent.
- Provided technical assistance to the Antigua and Barbuda Bee-keepers Cooperative to assist its members to increase their income earning capacity that had been reduced because of the collapse of the bee keeping industry by bee pests.

3. The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Antigua and Barbuda in 2008

a. The context for agriculture and rural life

In 2008 there was a rapid rise in the price of grains and staples along with the price of crude oil, the later reaching as high as US\$147 per barrel. This presented great challenges to the food security and food production systems of Antigua and Barbuda. In addition, the price of fertilizer, pesticides and seeds doubled during the year. Other inputs such as animal feed also increased, and the poultry producers were the hardest hit. The high cost of fuel negatively impacted on the fishing industry, as fishers tried to cope with the high prices and were inclined to fish shorter distances from shore.

In response to these challenges the government of Antigua and Barbuda hosted the Prime Minister's Inaugural National Agricultural Symposium. The symposium was a broad based national consultation to critically examine issues which negatively impacted the sector and to develop actions which would avert the threats to food security. One recommendation from the symposium was the need to develop a comprehensive plan for the sector that would support increased production and improve food security in the country.

b. Changes in agri-food production

The Ministry of Agriculture developed a National Food Plan, one of the recommendations from the National Agriculture Symposium, to address the issues of food insecurity that was threatening the sector due to the increases in fuel prices, grain and staples. Some components of the plan included the restoration and upgrade of the five agricultural stations, expansion and modernization of the Central Marketing Corporation, the strengthening of operation and facilities of the Agricultural Development Corporation and improving the national capacity to produce safe food. The following crops were targeted under the plan: onion, carrot, tomato, sweet pepper, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, cucumber, butternut, pumpkin, melons, sweet potato, yam, cassava, herbs and spices, corn, hot pepper and sorrel. Two of these crops were targeted for export namely, onion and carrots. Estimated production outputs of these crops are placed conservatively at 8 million pounds/3.6 million kilos.

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture was the recipient of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Initiative on Soaring Food Prices. This project provided agricultural inputs to farmers and supported backyard gardeners/home based producers in an effort to improve food security at the household and national levels.

In the later part of the year, the country was hit by hurricane Omar which brought 9 inches/229 mm of rain in one day. The hurricane caused losses of over

US\$4million in damage to the sector. This resulted in a tremendous set back to the livelihood of persons in the sector, along with loss of top soil and a large amounts of sediments going into the sea.



Thousand of birds killed by the storm on this farm



Many crops were washed away in the storm

c. Changes in the institutional framework for agriculture and rural life

The process of passing new legislation has been slow but nevertheless, the draft Plant Health Act, Animal Health Act and Food Safety Act received their first reading in 2008 and are expected to be passed into law in 2009. The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Act was passed, with regulations to be developed shortly. The passing of these four acts will create the necessary legislative framework for the improvement of the agricultural health and food safety system in the country.

The fisheries sub-sector has been the leading sub-sector in the contribution of agriculture to the GDP of the country. The new Fisheries legislation allows for greater implementation of measures to ensure the safety and sustainability of the fish industry, thus ensuring future livelihood. The Fisheries Act was passed in 2006 will soon be complemented with the Fisheries Regulations which were developed in 2008 and will be gazetted shortly.

d. Major developments in the thematic areas that affect the performance of agriculture and rural life

In the area of Agriculture health and food safety: new and emerging pests continue to be the main challenge faced by the Plant Protection Unit. The Giant African Snail eradication programme continued and surveys conducted show that the snail has not been reported in new areas. The Mango Seed Weevil detection survey continued and there was no report of the pest on island. However, there was a new pest introduction, identified as the Red Palm Mite and public awareness and education programmes on this pest, as well as Giant African Snail and Fruit Flies have been aired on the mass media. Two workshops, facilitated by USDA, were conducted on Giant African Snail and Red Palm Mite, both workshops served to build the capacity of the public and private sectors to manage these pests.

In an effort to improve the safety of food, the fish processing plant at the Point wharf is being upgraded to meet EU requirements for export, including a HACCP plan. Uurlings, Parham and Antigua Fisheries Ltd are targeted for improvements

thereafter. The fish processing plant has a small satellite laboratory operated by the Department of Analytical Services, where the fish for export can be tested for certain parameters. The Department of Analytical Services increased its general services in the identification of various microbiological agents and chemical substances resulting in increased consumer confidence in local foods.

In the area of Trade and Agri-business: in an effort to maintain and increase Barbuda fish exports, the process of providing proper fish handling and distribution facilities for Barbuda was initiated and plans are expected to come to fruition in 2009 for construction of facilities for Barbuda. Antigua and Barbuda has been delisted from a CITES list of countries from which conch export was prohibited. Queen conch is now added to the list of products that the sub-sector can export. This will increase earnings from this sub-sector. To further expand the local catch of fish, a boat was donated by an OECS Protected Areas and Livelihood Project (OPAL) to the Fisheries Division and has been used in the training of fishers in the harvesting of under exploited fisheries in areas further off shore.

To be better able to provide support to the livestock sub-sector, the Veterinary and Livestock Division introduced two new cattle breeds: Jersey (dairy) and Black Angus (beef) to the national herd. The breeds were introduced through artificial insemination, and the technical capability of staff to use this technique is being improved through training. Following the training, artificial insemination services will be available to cattle farmers. Also procured were two Barbados Black Belly rams, which will also be used to upgrade local stock. The Black Belly breed is hardy and tolerant to many pest and diseases.

In the area of natural resources and the environment: there are at present four marine protected areas managed by the Fisheries Division and the focus for this reporting period has been the enforcement of a management plan for the “North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA)”. This is part of OPAL Project funded by the World Bank and administered through the OECS. The Fisheries Division continued monitoring of beaches, sea grass beds, coral reefs and mangrove areas around Antigua and Barbuda. They also monitored fishing activities, fishing gear and equipment used by fishers, to ensure the protection of future fish stocks and provided training in sustainable fishing methods.

Proper maintenance of the water ways is critical to reduce soil erosion and to avoid serious flooding of farm lands; at the end of 2008, the government had invested US\$1.4 million in the upgrade of farm access roads, ponds, dams and stream ways in the agricultural districts. This is part of US\$1.8 million Public Sector Investment Programme. It is estimated that a total of US\$6 million is needed to repair and build the necessary farm access roads and to construct mini dams.

4. Results of the Implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in Antigua and Barbuda in 2008

a. IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

Mr. Bernardo Badani, the Institute's Director of Follow-up to the Summit of Americas Process, visited Antigua for the meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) in October 2008. While here, he met with the Minister of Agriculture and some senior technical officers in the Ministry and brought them up to date on the progress of the SIRG. As a result, senior officials in the Ministry of Agriculture are knowledgeable of the Summit process and how they can input into the process. The Fifth Summit of the Americas meeting will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad in April 2009. In the months leading up to the Summit, the SIRG has been meeting to develop and negotiate on the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

The new Minister of Agriculture and the new Permanent Secretary participated in the Forum for Leaders at the Institute's Leadership Center and have improved their leadership skills through the training in July. Additionally, Ms. Denise Hodge, an Agriculture Science teacher at the Pares Secondary School, improved her leadership skills through training at the Forum for Young Leaders in the Agriculture in March. She further enhanced those skills learnt through a four months internship in Venezuela. The Institute launched its *Center for Leadership in Agriculture*, located in San Jose, Costa Rica, in response to the challenges facing leaders in the 21st century. Its mission is to be a specialised center which promotes a new generation of leaders with a global vision who can create a modern agricultural sector that contributes to integral sustainable development, food security and rural prosperity in the Americas. The target group of this center is the new ministers of agriculture, senior executives in the sector, as well as, young leaders in IICA member countries. The main components of the programme for the center : 1) the Forum for Leaders in Agriculture, 2) the Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture, 3) the Inter-American Network for Young Leaders in Agriculture, 4) internships in a foreign country, 5) a magazine and a website.



Minister of Agriculture at Leadership Forum



Denise Hodge attends 1st Young Leaders Forum

More than 100 stakeholders are knowledgeable of the Agru-Matrix as a tool for development of policy actions as presented by Ms. Diane Francis, IICA Regional Specialist for Trade Policy Negotiations. The Agro-Matrix was presented at the Prime Minister's Inaugural National Agricultural Symposium, with support from the Institute. As a result of the Symposium, the technical officers of the Ministry of Agriculture have enhanced their capability to respond to issues affecting the agriculture sector. The symposium was a two-day event which drew a wide cross section of persons from the sector and related ministries, agencies, organisations and departments. The ECS Representative presented remarks at the official opening ceremony and the Technical Specialist was part of the Planning Committee for the event.

Agriculture sector stakeholders have increased their capability to get back into production after suffering damage caused by floods during the passage of hurricane Omar. The Institute donated a considerable sum for rehabilitation of the sector following losses of over US\$4 million due to the hurricane and other storms following closely after the hurricane, the funds were used to purchase agricultural inputs. The Institute also provided technical assistance through its Regional Specialists in Projects and Agri-business and Trade who worked along with the ministry shortly after the hurricane, to prepare a comprehensive report of the damage caused by the storms.

CABA members have increased their understanding of the issues affecting their livelihoods through technical assistance provided to coordinate meetings to discuss various issues affecting the sector such as the impact of hurricane Omar, and also a presentation from the Director of Enterprise Development of the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) on the Small Business Act. Through networking, the members have shared experiences and information to the benefit of their various enterprises. The membership has been growing slowly but steadily as agri-business entrepreneurs have come to realise the benefit of working together. The organisation was formally registered as at January 2008.



Some of hurricane damage assessment team



CABA members met to discuss impact of Omar

b. Promotion of trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

Agro-processors participated in the Third IICA Most-outstanding Agro-processors Award competition held during the Christian Valley Mango Festival, and have increased the market share for their products and networked with potential clients and partners through this event. The interaction between the agro-processors and their clients as well as each other was very useful. The competition judges provided feedback on the agro-processed products and areas for improvement which will be addressed in future training events. The Office in Antigua and Barbuda wishes to express its appreciation to the judging team.

To increase the utilisation of local mangoes a Food Processing workshop was held prior to the Mango Festival, organised by the Festival Committee. Workshop participants, which included agro-processors, were taught a variety of processed products which could be made from mangoes. The facilitator was drawn from the Ministry of Education. The workshop was very interactive and participants followed up by trying some of the products afterwards. A similar training is being planned for 2009 focusing on a different fruit.

The Antigua and Barbuda Agro-processors Association has begun the process to become registered as a Friendly Society with a draft constitution being considered. The association had been trying for some time to get registered as a legally constituted group. Several meetings were held with members of the group, CABA, IICA and the NDF to discuss the best approach to registration. With input from CABA, which had recently gone through the process, an attorney was invited to speak with the group on various options for registration under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda and the pros and cons of each option.

Agro-processors have improved their capacity to increase their income stream through one-on-one technical advice provided to them for the following: concept for a central processing unit, accessing suppliers of processing equipment, product development, product enhancement, entering new markets and improving labels.

One agro-processor has further improved her capacity to increase her income stream through the IICA-FAO project: *Strengthening and Expanding Rural Income Streams*. The processor received one-on-one technical assistance, equipment to facilitate the expansion of her enterprise and training to improve her ability to manage the same more efficiently. The processor also attended a workshop in Grenada in November as part of the project; there the agro-processor was able to share lessons learnt and establish a network with other participants who are involved in the agro-processing industry in the OECS.

Three local agri-business entrepreneurs attended a sub-regional workshop and have increased their involvement in planning and development of rural spaces

through this workshop. They have also enhanced their capacity to develop innovative ways to handle the finances of their enterprise. The participants were a livestock producer, an agro-processor and a plant nursery manager. The sub-regional workshop on Stimulating Entrepreneurship in Agriculture was held in St. Lucia 3-6 March 2008.



IICA Technical Specialist and wining processors



Creative display at Agro-processors Competition

c. Strengthening agriculture health and food safety systems

Training to improve food safety standards in the food service industry in Antigua and Barbuda was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Central Board of Health. Over one thousand food service providers were trained in safe food handling practices. This training series was started in 2007 and has since its inception, trained more than four thousand persons over all.

One senior technical officer in the Ministry of Health has improved his capacity to understand the requirements of the international agreements through participation in the WTO SPS Committee meeting in held in Geneva in June 2008. The *Sanitary and PhytoSanitary (SPS) Initiative of the Americas* came to an end in 2007 after five years of operation. The Initiative provided support for public sector persons to attend the SPS Committee meetings in Geneva three times per year.

To enhance the capability of the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant partners in the Ministry of Health, and the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards to respond to SPS issues, technical assistance was given for the development of a National SPS committee. It is expected that this committee would become operational in 2009.

Nationally, the Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary and Livestock Division have increased its capacity to improve the surveillance of targeted animal health diseases, namely Avian Influenza and Heartwater Disease. One veterinarian has been trained in veterinary epidemiology and surveillance techniques and will coordinate the programme in Antigua and Barbuda. This has been possible through the regional Veterinary Epidemiology Project (VEP), which has as its general objective to establish an early detection and rapid response system in the Caribbean region through the implementation and reinforcement of

harmonised and sustainable epidemiological surveillance systems for the Tropical Bont Tick, Borne Diseases and Transboundary Animal Diseases and other emerging diseases. This project is a collaborative effort of the Caribbean Amblyomma Programme (CAP) countries, USDA/APHIS, CIRAD/French Ministry of Food and Agriculture and IICA. The project was launched early in 2008.

CODEX stakeholders have increased their understanding of the Codex Alimentarius Standard Setting Process. In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization the Institute conducted a Training Workshop on CODEX Alimentarius Standard Setting Process from June 18-19, 2008. The main aim of the training was to create awareness among stakeholders affected by codex norms, standards and guidelines, and educate them of the need to actively participate in the process that originates such norms, standards and guidelines. Participants included Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and agro-processors - a total of 15 persons were trained. The Manager Information Services at the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards made a presentation during the workshop on the operation of the local CODEX process. This was very well received by the participants and wider audience. The two-day workshop was conducted via teleconference throughout the IICA Caribbean member countries. This was the first workshop of its kind for the IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda.

The priority interventions required to improve the services of the national Agriculture Health and Food Safety (AHFS) systems of the countries of the Eastern Caribbean States and SPS in particular, were assessed using the Performance Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool. Targeted stakeholders now have a better understanding of the services provided by the national agriculture health system and have identified weaknesses in the system and made recommendations for their improvement. One of the main areas of weakness was the lack of adequate human resource to implement the services. The PVS assessment was done in October and a national consultation held in November to present the findings. The IICA Regional Specialist in AHFS and the National AHFS specialist in St. Lucia, as well as the Deputy Director of International Policy Directorate in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were the facilitators for the national consultation.



PVS National Consultation at Heritage Hotel



Local poultry to benefit from the VEP Project

d. Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

Targeted stakeholders have improved their understanding of the process to access funding for the Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF) through technical assistance provided to the National Focal Group (NFG). The National Focal Group evaluated project proposals for funding by GEF. The NFG also monitored the progress of approved projects, namely the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative project and the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) project. The Beekeepers project seeks to restore incomes lost due to the destruction of bees by Varroa mites, by rearing up the remaining tolerant hives. The EAG project seeks to conserve the biodiversity of the Body Ponds watershed area, one of the major watershed areas in Antigua.

e. Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

The Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum is now better able to develop projects and seek funding, through training of one of its members in the Resource Mobilisation, Project Development and Management workshop held in St. Vincent, during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in October. The participants were trained in preparing concept notes and proposals, approaching donor agencies and management of projects. As a result of the training, members of the youth forum in the participating countries are better equipped to develop projects, obtain funding and to manage these successfully. The workshop was organised by the Caribbean Agricultural Youth Forum and supported by IICA. The main facilitator was IICA Regional Specialist on Projects. Following the workshop, there was a meeting of the CAFY membership to conduct elections and develop a work plan for the organisation. This event further enhanced the skills of the youth involved to manage their groups and affairs of the same.

Through the participation of one member of the Agro-processor Association, the group increased its network through linkages with other CANROP chapters and will benefit from the rich exchange of experiences, ideas and information. A member of the Antigua Agro-processors Association was supported to attend the CANROP meeting held in St. Vincent.

Other Cooperation Activities:



Representatives Week 2008-Caribbean team

IICA Booth at ABIB career Affair

Celebration of IICA Office 20th Anniversary

- The Technical Specialist participated in the Regional Institutional Programming Meeting in Barbados and Representatives week in Costa Rica, September and October respectively.
- The Office participated in Antigua and Barbuda Investment Bank (ABI) Career Fair, a career fair held for high school students. The booth displayed IICA's publications, as well as information on career areas of IICA's technical staff.
- The Office celebrated its 20th Anniversary on January 14, 2008 (1987-2007). This was attended by the clients and partners who made the journey possible and we acknowledged their cooperation over the years.
- The Technical Specialist participated in a national consultation organised by the Directorate of Gender Affairs, Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership and sponsored by the Organization of American States in December. The workshop participants represented women groups, non-governmental organisations, and other civil society organisations from around the country who shared their ideas and views on the critical issues of concern to women in Antigua and Barbuda and how these could be brought to the attention of policy makers. Follow-up activities were planned for 2009.
- The Technical Specialist participated and presented remarks at the Pesticide Awareness Week workshop on Rodent Control, coordinated by the Pesticides Control Board in September.
- The Office participated in CARDI Open Day held at the CARDI Field Station at Betty's Hope in December. Viewed there were various research experiments being conducted on target crops, as well as the seed laboratory where the process of seed extraction was demonstrated.
- The Office was represented at the Department of Youth Barbuda National Youth Policy.
- The Office was represented at the National Consultation Workshop on Trade and Business Facilitation in May where the Technical Specialist presented on the WTO Agreement SPS Measures. The Technical Specialist also participated in the National Self-Assessment of Trade Facilitation Negotiation Needs and Priorities for Antigua and Barbuda held in June. Both events were organised by the Department of International Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with assistance from the OECS Hub and Spoke Project and the WTO respectively.

5. Results of inter-agency cooperation

Implementing the IICA-FAO project: one agro-processor in Antigua improved her capacity to increase her revenue stream while improving the food safety and quality of her products. The *Strengthening and Expanding Rural Income Streams* project lasted for 11 months from January to November and the main beneficiary was agro-processors in the ECS countries that have the potential to become commercialised or had the potential to significantly expand their operations.

The OECS Consortium: the countries of the OECS will benefit from a coordinated structure for information management among the countries and organizations in the same. This was achieved by an IICA-CIRAD workshop held in St. Lucia in May 27-29 on “*Towards the Development of an Information Observatory for Agriculture and Rural Territories*”. The workshop was preceded by two meetings to look at information needs of the OECS. At the end of the workshop was signed an “Agreement to form a Consortium for Cooperation in Agri-business, Agricultural Science and Technology in the OECS Member Countries”, by OECS, CARDI, CIRAD, CEMAGREF, French Embassy to the OECS, IICA, IRD, INRA, UNDP, UAG, and UWI. Four persons from Antigua attended the workshop: two from the Ministry of Agriculture, including the Permanent Secretary, one from Ministry of Finance and Economy and one other person from the private sector.

Three post workshop meeting were held in Antigua to determine the way forward and it was decided that there was need for a sensitization session for the Ministry of Agriculture technical officers on the concept of the Information Observatory and then to be followed by a stakeholder sensitization session.

Implementing the VEP project: the Veterinary and Livestock Division now has enhanced capability to respond to emerging diseases of livestock and to conduct early detection programmes. The regional Veterinary Epidemiology Project (VEP) had as its main beneficiary the countries of the Caribbean Ambylomma Programme (CAP) and was launched early in 2008. The main aim of the project is to set up an early detection and rapid response mechanism for Tropical Bont Tick, tick borne diseases and transboundary animal diseases and other emerging diseases, including Avian Influenza. This project is a collaborative effort of the Caribbean Ambylomma Programme (CAP) countries, USDA/APHIS, CIRAD/French Ministry of Food and Agriculture and IICA. In Antigua, one veterinarian has been trained in veterinary epidemiology and surveillance techniques in the Dominican Republic and will coordinate the programme in Antigua and Barbuda.

The CODEX workshop: CODEX stakeholders have increased their understanding of the Codex Alimentarius Standard Setting Process and the importance of their participation in the same. In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Institute conducted a Training Workshop on CODEX Alimentarius Standard Setting Process from June 18-19, 2008. The main aim of the training was to create awareness among stakeholders affected by codex norms, standards and guidelines, and educate them of the need to actively participate in the standard setting process. The two-day workshop was conducted via teleconference through out the IICA Caribbean member countries, with the main facilitators being Mary Kenny of FAO and Ricardo Molins of IICA situated at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica.

6. New opportunities for technical cooperation

- Continued the work of supporting the sector groups: CABA, ABAFY, CANROP, Agro-processors, Beekeepers and other to develop and implement their work plans.
- Provide technical support to the VEP project and the Veterinary and Livestock Division by extension.
- Assist the Ministry of Agriculture to refine its National Food Plan and to implement the same, in particular provide training in cost of production analysis and integrated pest management. Provide technical support to the technical committees of the Ministry of Agriculture and related ministries, and organisations of the sector.
- Support to the Ministry of Agriculture and the ministerial delegates in preparation for the Fifth Ministerial Meeting.
- Provide opportunities for young persons to be trained in the IICA Young Leaders Forum.
- Training of agro-processors and producers in value addition as a means of increasing their revenue stream.

7. Main activities organized by IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda in 2008

Official name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants	Place and date of the report
Third Annual IICA Most-outstanding Agro-processors Award Competition	August 17 2008	Christian Valley	6	IICA Office Antigua and Barbuda
National Agricultural Symposium	April 30 th to 1 st May 2008	Royal Antigua Resort	200	IICA Office Antigua and Barbuda
Codex Alimentarius Standard Setting Process Workshop	June 18 th & 19 th 2008	Heritage Hotel	15	IICA Office Antigua and Barbuda
Food Preservation workshop	June 17 th 2008	Cades Bay	20	IICA Office Antigua and Barbuda
IICA 20 th Anniversary Celebration	January 14 th 2008	Heritage Hotel	35	IICA Office Antigua and Barbuda

8. List of publications

- The Contribution of IICA to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities 2008 Annual Report, IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda
- IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda: Our first 20 years 1987-2007

9. List of acronyms

ABAFY	Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum for Youth
ABST	Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax
AHFS	Agriculture Health and Food Safety
ABIA	Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority
ABIB	Antigua and Barbuda Investment Bank
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth
CANROP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CEMAGREF	Centre National du Machinisme Agricole, du Genie Rural, Des Eaux et de la Foret
CIRAD	Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
CITES	Convention of International Trade on Endangered Species
CODEX	Codex Alimentarius Commission
ECS	Eastern Caribbean States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HACCP	Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INRA	L'institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
IRD	L'institut de Recherche Pour Le Developement
NDF	National Development Foundation
NEMMA	North East Marine Management Area
NFG	National Focal Group
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OPAL	OECS Protected Areas and Livelihood
PVS	Performance, Vision and Strategy
SIRG	Summit Implementation Review Group
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SPSC	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee
UAG	University of amtoes Guyane
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UWI	University of the West Indies
VEP	Veterinary Epidemiologist/Para-Epidemiologist Project
WTO	World Trade Organization