

## Significant Achievements 2021





## **Belize**

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) successfully signed a project with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC) to provide "Consultancy Services for the Development of an Online Training Platform for the Caribbean Climate Online Risk Assessment Tool (CCORAL) and Associated Translation Services-Belize". CCORAL (pronounced "sea coral") is a climateresilient online decision support system developed exclusively for use in the Caribbean. It enables users to take appropriate action in response to climate change by applying a risk management approach to decision making and ultimately delivering climate-resilient development. The CCORAL tool integrates climate risk into everyday Caribbean decisionmaking processes and activities and helps users prioritize their efforts in spite of limited time and resources.
- Through the IICA Unique Fund program, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprises received technical and financial support to launch the development of a germplasm collection center for non-traditional fruit trees (including pitahaya, coconut, passion fruit, avocado and soursop), as well as necessary resources to conduct research and development, hold capacity-building activities and facilitate field exchanges between partner institutions and public and private industry stakeholders,

- including visits to agricultural and scientific facilities in Merida, Mexico.
- In response to the outbreak of Newcastle disease reported by Belize, IICA provided support to the Newcastle Disease Prevention, Control and Eradication Program. Following confirmation and notification to the OIE, an Emergency Task Force<sup>1</sup> was activated to manage control measures. As part of its efforts to collaborate with and support the campaign, the Institute made a financial contribution for the purchase of 90,000 doses of vaccines, personal protective equipment (250 units), cryogenic vials for sampling (1000 units) as well as to support an awareness-raising program to encourage reporting of cases, strengthen biosecurity and prepare for declaration of freedom from the disease.
- The Institute collaborated with stakeholders and the Protected Area Conservation Trust in putting together a project concept note that was submitted through Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) to the Adaptation Fund and was endorsed by the Secretariat of the Adaptation Fund Board at the 37th Board Session. The main objective of the project is to restore, and enhance the protection of, vital ecosystems and the corresponding ecosystem services to improve the well-being and livelihoods of vulnerable communities that depend on natural resources for the provision of food,

1. Including government agencies and stakeholders such as IICA, the Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) and the Belize Poultry Association (BPA).

water, medicinal and construction materials. The objectives of this project are strategically aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Strategic Results Framework and, in combination with the individual project components, will enable key communities in Belize to adapt to challenges such as unavailability of water, more frequent wildfires caused by extended periods of drought, as well as decreased agricultural productivity due to climate change.

- The 11th European Development Fund Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Project implemented in 15 Caribbean CARIFORUM states (including Belize) allowed for strengthening the SPS regulatory environment, improving SPS compliance, and strengthening SPS capacity in the fisheries sector. In 2021, a local legal consultant was hired to upgrade the national poultry health regulations and provide advice on upgrading aquatic health regulations in ways that will support international trade.
- In collaboration with the CCCCC, the Institute has been working with the Government of Belize and four of Belize's leading forest protection NGOs to develop a project entitled "Guardians of the Forest – Green Climate Fund SAP Project" to increase climate

- change resilience through the establishment of sustainable regenerative agriculture communities and forest conservation systems integrated with sustainable business enterprises. In 2021, additional government input and support was secured, and the concept note was submitted to the GCF by the CCCCC through the NDA (National Designated Authority).
- A training session and a national awarenessraising campaign for teachers and the general Belizean population allowed for promoting healthy lifestyles and consumption of locally produced fruits and vegetables. This smallscale project is being funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and implemented in collaboration with ministries responsible for agriculture, education, and health. Under the motto "Healthy bodies - healthy minds", it will contribute to addressing these issues through a national awareness-raising campaign (including audio-visuals/videos, posters, teacher training, social media posts, and radio/T.V. talk show appearances), which will provide nutritional information targeted primarily towards women and children, encouraging the increased use of locally grown fruits and vegetables in their daily diets.