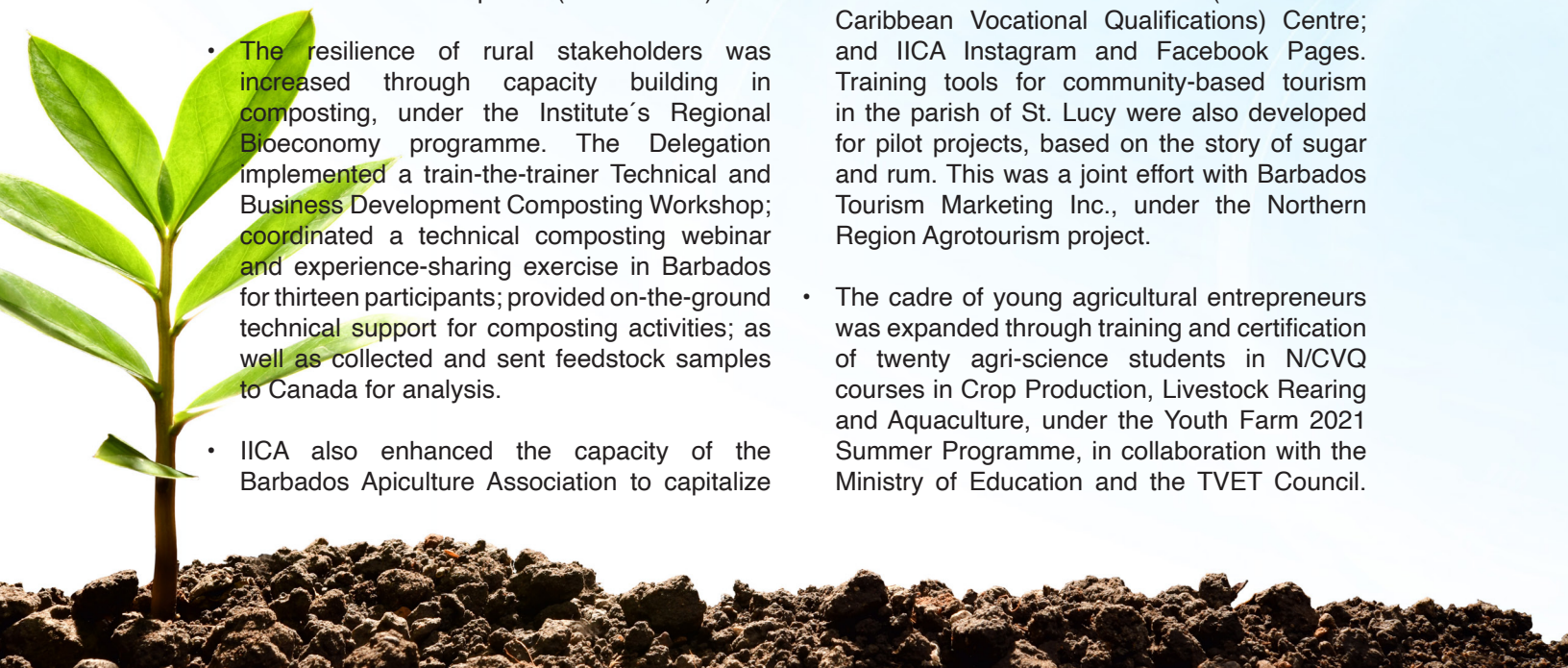


Significant Achievements 2021



Barbados

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security increased its engagement as a committed partner of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), through participation in the Regional Accountability Seminar; the IABA meeting; United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and IICA side events; and interviews on AgroMais, Brazil. Moreover, the Institute is represented on the National Taskforce and was instrumental in the establishment of the Barbados Innovation Center for Agriculture (BICA), the resuscitation of papaya production, and the provision of training under the FEED programme. IICA's influence as a leader in the agri-food sector was also recognized by the Government of Barbados in its invitation to participate in the Commodities Forum of the 15th quadrennial conference of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 15).
- The resilience of rural stakeholders was increased through capacity building in composting, under the Institute's Regional Bioeconomy programme. The Delegation implemented a train-the-trainer Technical and Business Development Composting Workshop; coordinated a technical composting webinar and experience-sharing exercise in Barbados for thirteen participants; provided on-the-ground technical support for composting activities; as well as collected and sent feedstock samples to Canada for analysis.
- IICA also enhanced the capacity of the Barbados Apiculture Association to capitalize on commercial opportunities, by providing reference materials for its website; delivering six presentations on "Commercial Opportunities from the Hive"; conceptualizing a "Spotlight on Bees" nine-part webinar series on topics relevant to the development of the local apiculture industry; and facilitating two focus group sessions towards the development of a National Policy for the Beekeeping Industry.
- Under a new initiative with the Ministry of Education and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (TVET), the Institute's Barbados office was approved as an entity in the National Give Back Programme. Thus, students from all tertiary level institutions, who are registered with the Ministry, can intern at IICA for academic credit. In addition, IICA now has an AgripointBB Website; a COVID-19 Protocol Manual for the N/ CVQ (National and Caribbean Vocational Qualifications) Centre; and IICA Instagram and Facebook Pages. Training tools for community-based tourism in the parish of St. Lucy were also developed for pilot projects, based on the story of sugar and rum. This was a joint effort with Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., under the Northern Region Agrotourism project.
- The cadre of young agricultural entrepreneurs was expanded through training and certification of twenty agri-science students in N/ CVQ courses in Crop Production, Livestock Rearing and Aquaculture, under the Youth Farm 2021 Summer Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the TVET Council.



Young agribusiness entrepreneurs are now also able to connect and to receive support from agricultural professionals, specialists, and experienced agribusiness owners, through a new AgriMentor professional development initiative. Work with the first cohort of partnerships was completed.

- Regional, hemispheric and international collaboration on agrotourism was strengthened through involvement in various initiatives. Most notable among these were the drafting of a four-year IICA-UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) Action Plan; the design and launch of the “Chefs for Development” and “Caribbean Agrotourism” websites; provision of funding support for rural tourism projects in ten countries; and the hosting of the IICA-COLECAP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee) Agribusiness Forum No.3 on SMEs and Tourism at Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA). The IICA Office also benefited from the presentation of two regional webinars on culinary tourism; presentations on local tourism in Nicaragua; and meetings with IICA Paraguay, the Paraguayan National Tourism Secretariat (SENATUR) and IICA bioeconomy specialists on national rural tourism and gastronomy plans for Paraguay.
- Public and private sector stakeholders in CARIFORUM States have been given the opportunity to increase compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, standards and procedures; to improve international and regional market access; and to respond to emergencies. This is thanks to the implementation of the expanded 11th European Development Fund (EDF) SPS Measures project (to include cadmium in cocoa in Trinidad and Tobago and African swine fever response in the Dominican Republic) and the launch of an agricultural

health and food safety information portal, funded under IICA’s Special Fund.

- The innovation and technology capacity of the local agri-food sector was increased with the establishment of a Strategic Plan for the Barbados Innovation Center for Agriculture (BICA). The Office provided support in rationalizing the BICA equipment list and budget, in consultation with IICA Headquarters, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and a consultant; identifying a suitable location and building for BICA, based on technical specifications (infrastructural and electronic); and procuring equipment and materials for BICA. The intervention was a component of the project entitled: “Institutional Support for the Enhancement of Service Delivery to the Agricultural Sector Post-Covid 19 in the Caribbean Region”.
- High-value strategic partnerships were consolidated with the European Union (EU), COLEACP, UNWTO, CARICOM and the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers’ Association WIRSPA, as a result of various initiatives: the implementation of the EU SPS project; the hosting of four sessions of the IICA-COLEACP AgriFood Forums, showcasing a total of 16 Caribbean MSMEs and experts from the EU, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and development agencies; participation on the UNWTO Advisory Board and evaluation of eighteen submissions for the UNWTO Best Tourism Villages competition; and the successful co-hosting of the first virtual Caribbean Week of Agriculture with CARICOM and regional partners. The Delegation also co-hosted a regional webinar with WIRSPA, featuring best practice models of tourism attractions, based on the history of sugar and rum, under the IICA Northern Region Agrotourism project.