

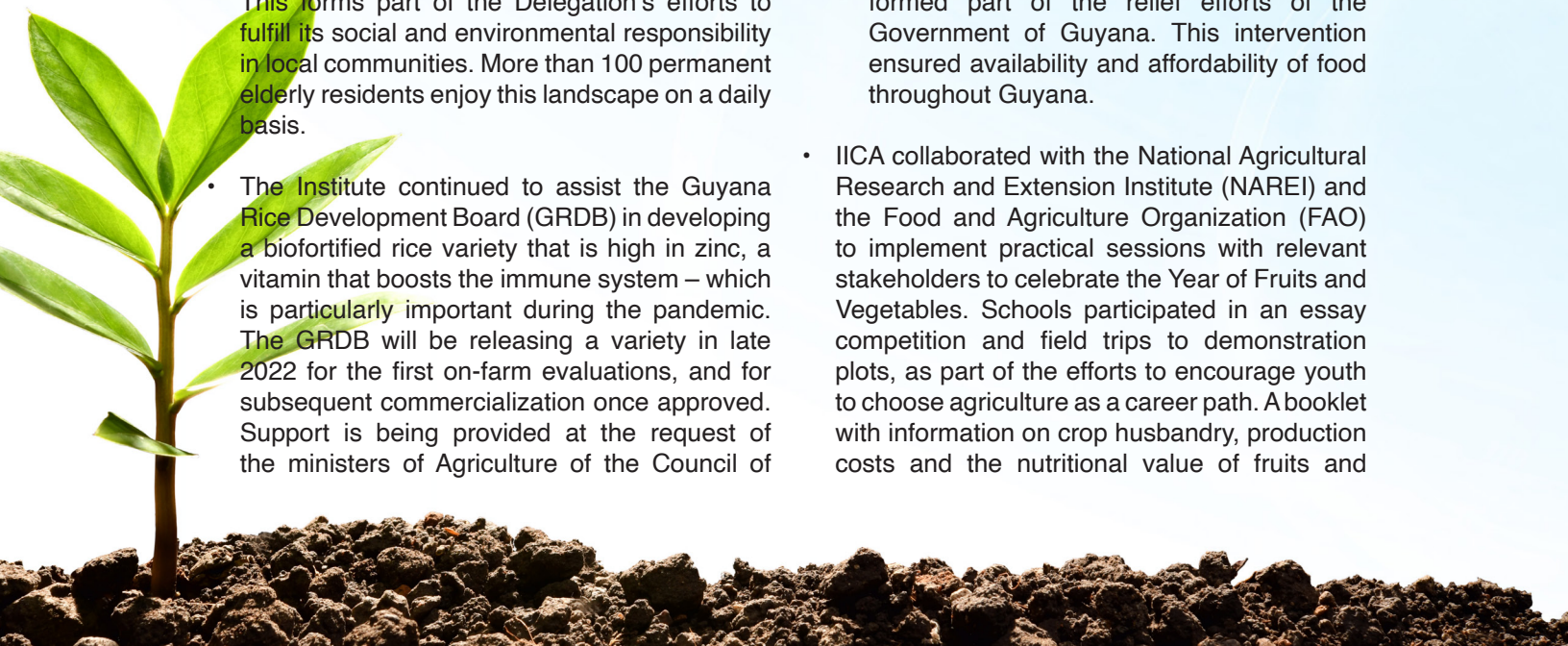


Significant Achievements 2021



Guyana

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) continued to support the modernization of the livestock industry through the completion of a diagnostic study of the dairy value chain in Guyana (mapping, analysis and design), in collaboration with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and with funds from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The country, via its Ministry of Agriculture, will utilize this tool to justify investments in the dairy sector as it seeks to diversify its agriculture base and reduce its food import bill.
- IICA entered a new partnership with the Rotary Club of Georgetown (RCGT) and worked together with the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) to complete a beautification and wellness project at the Palms Geriatric Home for the Elderly in Georgetown. This forms part of the Delegation's efforts to fulfill its social and environmental responsibility in local communities. More than 100 permanent elderly residents enjoy this landscape on a daily basis.
- The Institute continued to assist the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) in developing a biofortified rice variety that is high in zinc, a vitamin that boosts the immune system – which is particularly important during the pandemic. The GRDB will be releasing a variety in late 2022 for the first on-farm evaluations, and for subsequent commercialization once approved. Support is being provided at the request of the ministers of Agriculture of the Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and with funding from the project entitled “Institutional Support for the Enhancement of Service Delivery to the Agricultural Sector Post-COVID-19 in the Caribbean Region”.
- Guyana experienced unprecedented flooding in May that severely affected all regions and devastated the agriculture sector. Two initiatives were deployed:
 - IICA provided emergency assistance to affected farmers, by distributing vegetable seeds, seedling trays and seedlings to enable them to resume production and to supply Guyana with food.
 - In coordination with private-sector stakeholders in Brazil, IICA obtained over 11,000 packs of different types of vegetable seeds that were donated to Guyana and formed part of the relief efforts of the Government of Guyana. This intervention ensured availability and affordability of food throughout Guyana.
- IICA collaborated with the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to implement practical sessions with relevant stakeholders to celebrate the Year of Fruits and Vegetables. Schools participated in an essay competition and field trips to demonstration plots, as part of the efforts to encourage youth to choose agriculture as a career path. A booklet with information on crop husbandry, production costs and the nutritional value of fruits and



- vegetables was widely distributed and will serve as a study guide for agricultural students and as reference material for farmers. The prizes for the winners of the competition were made available through IICA funds allocated to the Caribbean in 2021.
- Through the General Technical Cooperation Agreement (GTCA) between CARICOM and IICA, and with funding from the project entitled “Institutional Support for the Enhancement of Service Delivery to the Agricultural Sector Post-COVID-19 in the Caribbean Region”, a regional e-agriculture policy and roadmap was developed. Member States are expected to approve this regional policy in October 2022. The policy will guide investments to modernize the agriculture sector using proven technologies and best practices. In addition, a virtual training session for regional extension officers was carried out with 167 participants from fifteen Caribbean countries. Topics addressed included climate-smart agriculture, drone and satellite technology in agriculture, data set knowledge management and agribusiness.
 - IICA partnered with Guyana Power and Light Inc. and the Organization of American States to implement an energy-efficient demonstration project through the Integrated Utility Service pilot program supported by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The 20kW Grid Tied Solar PV System has been designed to fully power the IICA Office with excess generated power returned to the national grid. IICA is pleased to support the Government of Guyana’s energy matrix, as well as the promotion and use of renewable energy.
 - The Institute partnered with the Guyana CODEX Committee to implement the project entitled “Enhancing Food Safety for a Healthier Guyana”. The two-year project is funded by the CODEX Trust Fund and will focus on public awareness/education, capacity building for technicians, consumer awareness, updating of relevant legislation, as well as the organization of national and international forums.
 - IICA signed an agreement with the Economic Development Facility (EDF) to provide mentoring, coaching and specialized training to agri-entrepreneurs to scale up their operations and, in turn, enter international markets. Clients will develop business plans, ensuring the supply chain and market availability for their respective products. Approximately fifteen small and medium-sized enterprises will benefit from this initiative. The IICA Agribusiness Incubator Program will complement existing efforts undertaken by national stakeholders at the farm level to make improvements in the agro-industry that would foster an investment climate.
 - Under the Technical Cooperation Agreement with CARICOM and IICA, the first virtual Caribbean Week of Agriculture was hosted. More than eighteen countries actively participated and technical forums included: i) the work undertaken by IICA and the USDA to support Member States in increasing surveillance of African Swine Fever; ii) a virtual Buyers’ Forum, which will be instrumental in enabling several businesses to formalize trade agreements, and iii) a prize for the first Caribbean Farmer of the Year Award, which was won by a farmer from the Commonwealth of Dominica.