



Saint Kitts and Nevis

Significant achievements in 2015

- Mango is one of the most prolific and productive fruits grown in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Unfortunately, a large amount of this natural resource remain underutilized and go to waste. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) implemented a project to enhance the profitability of the mango industry in Saint Kitts and Nevis through greater utilization of value-added products. As a result of this project, 31 small-scale mango producers have improved their income by developing capacities for producing and adding value to mango and its derivatives in hygienic conditions that can facilitate access to regional and international markets.
- The growth and development of agriculture in Saint Kitts and Nevis had been greatly impeded by the aging farmer population. The Saint Kitts and Nevis Agricultural Youth Forum was formed with 27 youths (including at-risk youths) in order to address this problem. Some of focus areas include greenhouse technology, successful youths in agriculture, agricultural opportunities and leadership. The Forum also received a GEF grant of EC\$105,000 to purchase greenhouses for six high schools and a grant of EC\$18000 from Christophe Harbour, another Cooperative entity, to procure agricultural tools for five schools.
- The Ministry of Agriculture in Nevis has been exploring various ways of increasing the yield of vegetable crops in order to meet the increasing demand brought on by the expanding tourism industry. Vegetable production is potentially a lucrative market, but yields are unpredictable and are often unable to keep pace with demand. To address this problem, the office formulated and submitted a project under the IICA/CARDI Arrangement and received USD30 000 to construct a greenhouse structure at the Ministry of Agriculture in Nevis. The greenhouse has been used as a training and demonstration centre and has been able to develop cost of production for two vegetable crops (tomatoes and sweet peppers).
- The agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable, and some impacts of climate change are already being felt by many farmers in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Consequently, IICA provided a number of training programs and discussions that were geared toward a) raising awareness and sharing knowledge of climate agricultural practices, policies and options for the Caribbean region, b) Climate Smart Agriculture in relation to good Agricultural Practices and integrated pest management, and c) rural awareness of the importance of adapting the agricultural sector



to climate change. It is expected that the deleterious effect could be mitigated.

- In response to the need for a national quality infrastructure to overcome the challenges faced by countries in meeting the requirements of export markets, and to determine how such an infrastructure could help not only producers, but also regulators and consumers, IICA assisted in

promoting dialogue through one-on-one discussion and national consultations between national infrastructure and the agricultural sectors. Some of the results include a) increased awareness of the importance of quality in enhancing competitiveness, and b) increased understanding of the role of quality infrastructure (QI) in enhancing the development of the agricultural sector.

