



**Guyana**

### Significant achievements in 2015

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) facilitated the re-opening of the Tapakuma cassava processing factory, which serves as a model for income generation in rural communities. The facility will directly serve sixty cassava producers from Tapakuma, and one hundred and twenty cassava producers from the surrounding communities. It will provide income for fourteen agro-processors and will produce five different products initially, with scope for five additional cassava-based products by December 2017. IICA also provided technical expertise for redesigning the factory layout, training the residents in food safety, organizational management, water harvesting for their farms and record keeping. IICA also prepared the business plan used to access funds for the renovation of the facility and supervised the actual renovation. The READ project of the Ministry of Agriculture and two private entities assisted with funding and donations.
- In partnership with CARDI and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), a shade house was established at the University of Guyana Tain campus and at NAREI, to serve as research and demonstration facilities for students and potential producers. The two 30 ft. X 90 ft. high tunnel shade house structures established serve
- to evaluate protected agricultural systems in Guyana, with a focus on cost of production and productivity. IICA provided training for the students and staff of the Tain Campus and supervised the construction of the facility.
- Through horizontal cooperation with IICA in Suriname, a policy makers/ heads of department workshop was conducted on Risk Identification, Communication and Mitigation in Agriculture. Forty Technicians from Guyana (several units within the Ministry of Agriculture, Civil Defense Commission), and from Suriname (private sector, UNDP, Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Risk Unit), participated in the workshop which highlighted best practices in climate change mitigation and underscored the need for further discussions on agricultural insurance in the region.
- Through horizontal cooperation with IICA in Suriname focusing on Rural and Economic Transformation through Strategic Visioning, six technicians from the IICA in Guyana and Suriname, along with forty producers and processors from Charity, Sirikie, Tapakuma and Mainstay, shared experiences on water-harvesting as well as business and strategic planning. As a result, recommendations were made regarding methodologies





for including community-based organizations in the decision making processes within their geographical regions. There was collaboration from the Village Council and from the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute.

- Research carried out by IICA among 265 cassava and small ruminant farmers from Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 facilitated the identification of GAPS in the small ruminant and cassava value chain. The findings of the survey, discussed with key value chain stakeholders, led to the setting-up of the cassava and small ruminant value chain platforms to provide continuity in future interventions.
- Through horizontal cooperation with IICA and UNDP for the establishment of biogas units as an affordable alternative energy source, three low cost bio-digesters were established in Suriname, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, as an alternative source of energy and a system for waste management on farms. Technical support for training was provided by the IICA Field Technician from the Guyana Delegation.
- The Perone Improved Hive was introduced to the Guyana Apiculture Society (GAS) through a series of workshops and field visits. Thirty beekeepers from Alik, East and West

Coast Demerara and Georgetown benefited from a seminar and demonstration session in the use of the Perone hive as a new intervention in apiary management in Guyana.

- A regional workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management brought together twenty technicians from the Caribbean region to discuss best practices in water harvesting and management, climate change and family agriculture. Participants shared experiences and visited the Demerara Conservancy and the Hope Canal, both of which are excellent examples of rainwater harvesting and drainage techniques used in Guyana for both urban areas and agriculture.
- Under the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), along with the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), rural women, including eleven participants from the Women Agro-Processing Development Network (WADN) in Guyana, participated in an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) workshop to enhance their skills and to establish communication platforms for the sharing of information and data across the Caribbean. They received training in the establishment of website management and product promotion.

