



### Trinidad and Tobago

## Significant achievements in 2015

- In partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society, a better structured and managed dairy goat sector, with the capacity to increase and commercialize production of value added products that meet the standards and requirements of the market, were developed. The major beneficiaries and drivers of this initiative are 60 members of the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society who were exposed, during two workshops, to a series of capacity building activities, including practical demonstrations on dairy goat management and sanitation and goat cheese making. A Small Ruminant Value Chain Committee comprising all the major stakeholders was also established, with guidance from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), to further develop the industry.
- Forty interns of the Agricultural Professional Development Programme (APDP) a unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and final year students in Agribusiness Management from the University of the West Indies have acquired, with the assistance of IICA, the requisite standards and best practices in food safety management systems and financial management, including project proposal design and using a tool (Cost of Production tool developed by the IICA Delegation) for analyzing the viability of agricultural production. The students of the Agribusiness management class also found the tool to be a great asset for analyzing part of their final year projects.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF), through the project “Exploratory Mission on Removal of Restriction on Importation of Honey into Trinidad and Tobago” are now guided by a framework for establishing a process for facilitating trade in honey and honey products which hitherto are stymied by a lack of inappropriate legislation, regulations and policies to support such trade.
- Through an Agricultural Communication Protocol project, all stakeholders involved in risk management have agreed to work collectively, with guidance from IICA, to provide timely and relevant information to farmers and other institutions involved in risk management in the agricultural sector so they can be more prepared for extreme environmental weather conditions. In addition, the capacity of representatives of institutions involved in risk management and related issues was enhanced through training in risk mapping. Participants of the communication protocol and risk mapping workshops included representatives from





the Disaster Preparedness and Management Agency; Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; the Meteorological Services of Trinidad and Tobago; the University of the West Indies; The Environmental Agency; The Water Resources Agency, and two farmer organizations.

- IICA and its collaborators (PAHO, WHO, FAO, OIE) have been instrumental in placing on the food safety agenda, for public discourse and action, the issue of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in food animal production, with implications for human health. Through this effort integrated surveillance of foodborne diseases and AMR has been strengthened in the country. Further, the technical and analytical capacities of veterinary officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; Ministry of Health, Department of Veterinary Public Health; and Tobago House of Assembly, Division of Agriculture were strengthened through advanced training courses at the Ohio State

University through resources from the 10th EDF SPS Project. The various Ministries now has the capacity to increase its in-house surveillance activities. The topic has generated keen interest and support at the highest political level, so much so that the Ministry of Health has initiated the process for a policy document on AMR.

- Thirty-five women and youth from farm families have acquired the capacity to produce and to market value-added products made from cocoa beans, through a workshop hosted by IICA in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. Participants acquired the capacity to produce, process and market chocolate bars from cocoa beans as well as a better understanding of the business aspects of operating in those markets. They have expressed an interest in investing in those activities to enhance their incomes from the farm.

