



Jamaica

Significant achievements in 2011

- **Expansion of the greenhouse subsector along the entire value chain resulting in:** (a) an increase in the area under greenhouse production through the addition of 40 greenhouses; (b) establishment of marketing infrastructure through the creation of post harvest facilities that now provides guaranteed market for farmers' produce and steady income for 300 farmers; (c) increased productivity as a result of the training of over 90% of all greenhouse farmers and extension officers (d) 2 farmer clusters established and formally registered as corporate societies; (e) greater public/ private sector partnership and; (f) implementation of ongoing research, at the four new research greenhouse facilities, to enhance the technical knowledge within the sub sector.

IICA Jamaica also contributed to the enhancement of the technical and operational competencies among local greenhouse farmers who benefitted from horizontal cooperation efforts, including: (a) A fact finding mission to the Dominican Republic where there has been exponential growth in PA in recent years and; (b) Training of 24 farmers in Crop Fertility and Management under Protected Environment conducted in partnership with Partners of the Americas.

- **Strengthening of the sustainability of the apiculture sector reflected in the:** (a) provision of training to improve the competency of 141 bee farmers, aspiring bee farmers and extension officers to provide assistance with start up and improvement of bee keeping operations; (b) completion of an island-wide inspection of all apiaries across 13 of 14 parishes for the American Foulbrood disease. The infected hives - representing 1.16% - were destroyed in an effort to control the disease and minimize the risk of further AFB infection; (c) provision of capital inputs (hive boxes, wire frames, wax foundation) to assist the two main producer associations with the expansion of commercial apiary activities to ensure their sustainability after the project and (d) refurbishing of the national apiculture lab to enhance their research and operational activities.

- **Strengthening of the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to respond to market conditions and policy imperatives:** IICA Jamaica facilitated the conduct of three major studies by IICA hemispheric specialists which resulted in reports to the Government of Jamaica on a “*Commodity Glut Management Strategy*”, “*The Impact of Farm Roads on Agriculture and Rural Development*”, and a “*Policy Brief*” on “*Policy Instruments to support Agricultural Development in Jamaica*”.
- **Reconvening of the IICA/CARDI Project Steering committee, previously inactive for two years:** The PSC has since proposed 3 research projects under the joint programme covering, herbs, small ruminants and cassava characterization. These projects have been finalized and submitted to commence in 2012.

The Buff Bay Valley Agro-tourism programme won 2nd prize at a Regional Contest for Rural Innovative Projects: The award funds will be used to upgrade a travel halt facility, which is a major component of the BBV agro-tourism programme.