



Barbados

Significant achievements in 2010

- The Institute collaborated with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) to train twelve farmers in rain water harvesting technology, thereby increasing water availability on their farms while at the same time reducing the cost of irrigating fields and feeding animals.
- IICA held a workshop entitled “Good Practices for Participating in SPS Forums” for 60 policy makers. The discussion revolved around the nature of the SPS Agreement, as follow-up to the Standard Trade Development Facility-IICA SPS project. As a result, Barbados is better placed to participate in these fora and to address issues related to increasing agricultural trade.
- The Institute provided assistance for a staff member of the entomology department of the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados to receive training in the identification of heteropteran pests at a regional pest identification workshop held in Grenada. This workshop was organized by IICA in collaboration with the USDA-APHIS, the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas, St. George’s University and the University of Florida, and has strengthened Barbados’ technical capabilities in the identification of these pests.
- Personnel from Barbados’ Veterinary Epidemiology Program participated in three activities, including simulation exercises and training courses, organized by IICA, which led to improved surveillance work in Barbados. In the courses, the topic of **Tuberculosis**/Brucellosis in cows was addressed and a surveillance plan for pigs in response to the threat of Pandemic H1N1/2009 influenza and a surveillance plan for *Salmonella Enteritidis* were developed.
- IICA prepared and presented three agro-tourism projects for funding to the Public Investment Unit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

- The Institute provided technical and financial support for the documentation of indigenous culinary heritage in the book “Barbados B’un B’un”.
- IICA provided technical guidance for the development of health and wellness tourism under a joint initiative of the Ministry of Health, Caribbean Export, the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and Invest Barbados; supported the drafting of an agro-tourism policy paper with the Ministry of Agriculture; and supported the visit of four technical staff from St. Vincent & the Grenadines to study Barbados’ approach to designing and implementing agro-tourism projects, as an input for similar projects in their country.
- IICA provided technical and budgetary support for the development of a community heritage tourism project using the territorial approach in the St. George “Sugar Basket” parish. This project will generate a baseline study that will enable the St. George Parish Independence Committee to launch an income and employment generating project in the area.
- Thanks to IICA actions, including training, the creation of a GAPs manual for backyard gardeners and the provision of basic inputs, two community-based organizations implemented backyard gardening and small farm projects that produce a variety of fruits and vegetables for household consumption. This is a continuing program, initiated by IICA and supported by the MAFF, FAO, the Diabetic Association of Barbados and the Young Women’s’ Christian Association (YWCA).
- IICA promoted healthy snacking for school children by hosting a healthy eating workshop at the annual Agro-fest Exhibition. As a result, there is a growing awareness in the country of the importance of eating healthy foods and controlling non-contagious diseases and of the need for households to grow their own food. At least eight households have implemented peri-urban food production systems.
- With IICA’s technical assistance, a plan for vegetable production has been prepared with the participatory involvement of farmers and other stakeholders. Twenty farmers were trained in GAPs in the management of protected agriculture technology, focusing on plant nutrition, pest and disease management and post-harvest techniques. Interventions of this nature have led to sustained import substitution drives, as production, particularly in the area of root and tuber crops, has grown significantly.