



Belize

Significant achievements in 2010

- IICA, with support from CARDI, Help for Progress, the United States Embassy in Belize, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Peace Corps, implemented the Red SICTA project: Innovations to improve post harvest technology and the income of small maize and black bean producers in Jalacte and San Vicente Villages, Toledo District. Yields have been increased by 50 %, new acreage by 40 % and overall farmer income increased by 40%. Adoption of the new technology has expanded to other communities and there is interest on the part of the government to replicate the project in the west and north of the country.
- The Institute developed and presented an organic certification scheme modeled from the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) as a means for local organic crop certification.
- With the assistance of IICA, the National Bio-safety Council prepared draft legislation to complement the approved biosafety policy. The Institute also provided support that made it possible for Belize to participate in the Regional Caribbean Biosafety Project intended to assist countries in implementing the National Biosafety Framework. The new biosafety legislation also served as a management tool for the use of GMO's in the country.
- IICA launched the Hopkins Master Tourism Plan (Agro-eco-cultural-tourism) and identified resources to fund specific activities. The Master Plan was accepted by the government and the Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA), and was widely circulated among ministries, stakeholders in the tourism industry, donor agencies and potential investors.
- The Institute supported the development of the Draft Belize National Rural Development Strategy, which was harmonized with the ECADERT.

- A network of young dynamic youths in agriculture is operational as result of the First Young Leaders Forum, organized by IICA in Belize to highlight youth participation and reinforce leadership skills in agriculture.
- IICA supported the development of integrated farming system models through the introduction of low-cost bio-digesters for farm waste recycling and as an alternative source of energy in rural areas. IICA also developed a manual on the use of bio-digesters and held two train-the-trainer workshops in Belize and in Dominica.