



Trinidad and Tobago

Significant achievements in 2010

- IICA organized and hosted a week of activities to strengthen the development of the organic sector in Trinidad and Tobago. This included a visit by an organic expert from the Dominican Republic and the hosting of an Agrifood Organic Stakeholders Workshop, held in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards. At least 40 participants benefited from guidance on developing the local organic industry, including the development of agro-tourism products associated with the cocoa industry. Another segment of the workshop focused on the code of practice for organically produced foods, which was prepared by the Regional Technical Committee for Organic Products and the Bureau of Standards. An organic stakeholder networking group emerged out of the workshop, where IICA serves as the technical secretariat.
- IICA, the Ministry of **Food** Production, Land and Marine Affairs (MOFPLMA) and the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA) held a workshop on Good Practices for Participation in SPS Forums, targeted at 30 technicians from Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The Institute also supported a regional meeting to review IPPC standards.
- IICA continued to provide a comprehensive package of support to the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) in establishing a dialogue platform for hot pepper exports. The Institute played a pivotal role in the Value Links Program of the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs (MOFPLMA), which strengthened the capacity of extension officers of the Ministry in value chain development. IICA participated in the planning of the event, as well as the delivery of training and sensitization sessions. This has resulted in the MOFPLMA adopting a policy approach to value chain development in Trinidad and Tobago.
- The Institute implemented a production cost model to be used in determining the profitability of a crop and in planning and making decisions regarding investments. The model is being used in several pilot projects, in collaboration with the

MOFPLMA and with the Department of Agriculture of the Tobago House of Assembly.

- The Institute embarked on a new strategy to engage rural community groups in improving their livelihoods through agribusiness development. Groups from diverse geographic locations across the country participated in training sessions in marketing, packaging and labelling for small agroprocessors. One of the groups (the Brasso Seco Tourism Action Committee) has used the training in moving their products further along the value chain and launching a new brand of community-based cocoa and coffee products. Additionally, under a joint short-term initiative with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), members of these groups participated in a series of food processing courses offered by CARIRI, with a view to introducing them to critical issues involved in food preparation, with an emphasis on food safety.
- IICA played a key role in organizing and managing the 2nd Annual Mango Festival, supporting the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago (TTNRWP), together with FAO, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Tourism Development Company (TDC).
- At the request of the MOFPLMA, IICA conducted an evaluation of the Agricultural Incentive Program. In the evaluation, 425 farmers were surveyed to obtain feedback on the effectiveness and relevance of the program and to solicit recommendations for its improvement. A report on the results of the survey was submitted to a special committee of the Ministry.
- The Institute launched the second annual IICA/CARDI Media Award for Excellence in Agricultural Journalism. The competition targets the work of media practitioners as it relates to agriculture and food security.