

IICA



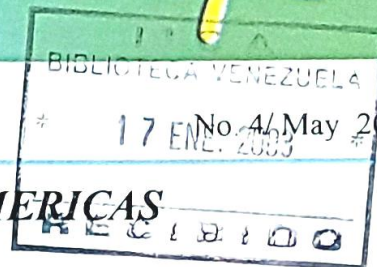
partnership



IICA Suriname Bulletin

115343

IICA - GATIE



IICA-2002: 60 YEARS SERVING THE AMERICAS AND 20 YEARS IN SURINAME

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was founded in 1942 to serve the Countries of the Americas to improve their agricultural development efforts and guarantee the well-being of the whole populations depending on the agribusiness sector.

IICA is proud to convey to each and everyone of its 34 Member States that this entire sixty years of its existence has been a successful period marked by challenging achievements. But, also since 1982 IICA had been directly providing Technical Cooperation to Suriname through its Office here.

With an especial dedication to the improvement of the scientific and technological trends of the agricultural sector and to the education and human resources promotion and development, IICA, during its

first thirty years has provided the technical resources in our Countries of the Americas for the establishment of institutional capacities for Research Centers and Education Facilities at University Level and Middle Level Education Centers. Within this effort the preparation of human resources in a most ample variety of areas of specialty such as Extension, Rural and Agricultural Economy, Agronomy, Livestock, Sociology of Development, Sectoral Planning, Project Preparation, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Rural Development, Trade and Commercialization, among the very many areas of knowledge in the whole Americas. Since the 80's, IICA has become more of a Technical Cooperation Agency covering those same areas mentioned above, but through its Office Structure in the various 34 Member Countries of the Americas.

ment in the Agri-business Sector. This will be the "Center for a Virtual Library and Distance Learning for the Agribusiness Sector of Suriname". IICA will be operating this Center in partnership with a variety of other private and public organizations in Suriname, to make possible that access and to build up the desired capacity of the National Organizations. This partnership is already in place for the area of virtual libraries on Agriculture (SIDALC-Suriname), facilitating to the agri-business sector of Suriname access to bibliographic information from all the Americas and from the world. Five National Organizations signed last April 22 an Operation Agreement with IICA to offer such capacitation. Elsewhere in this bulletin more news about this event and other achievements will be presented.

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Under same scope and commemorating these great anniversaries of 60 and 20 years, IICA Suriname will also be inaugurating new amplified facilities at the Letitia Vriesdelaan 11, incorporating the new Technologies of Communication and Information to provide, for the first time in the Country, for all the stakeholders in our agricultural sector, the possibility of accessing the very latest information and training materials available in this Hemisphere, and in fact, the World. This is our response to Suriname's needs for human and technological develop-

The IICA Representation in Suriname feels honored to commemorate these dates of our 60th and 20th anniversaries of presence in the Americas and in Suriname helping to achieve agricultural development and the well-being of our peoples. We thank all who contributed to this success during this time in partnership with IICA. We commemorate with all these partners, assuring our enthusiasm to continue being of relevant help in this beautiful Country of Suriname.

Ernani Fiori
IICA Representative

THE VISION OF THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA

In his inaugural address, as previously in his acceptance of the nomination some months before, Dr. Brathwaite outlined his personal vision of the future of agriculture in the Americas and IICA's role in shaping this future. The following summary is drawn from these two addresses.

"... the IICA of the twenty-first century must be:

- an agile, flexible and results-oriented institution;
- efficient and accountable;
- a hemispheric leader in its target thematic areas;
- service-oriented and managed in a business-like manner with less bureaucratic procedures; and
- a true network of hemispheric cooperation, where building national

capacities, a new international image, national accountability, private sector participation and technical excellence are the agenda.

Sustainable growth of the agricultural sector holds the most important promise for alleviating rural poverty in our countries. [Therefore] the Institute should pursue with the Member States, a single strategic goal in the future. That goal should be to support the Member States in the pursuit of progress and prosperity in the hemisphere by modernization of the rural sector, promoting food security, and developing an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed, and socially equitable for the peoples of the Americas."



Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General of IICA

DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE FOR AGRI-BUSINESS IN SURINAME

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Suriname is completing the construction of the first Center for Distance Learning for the Agribusiness Community in Suriname. This Center will be opened to the public in the second semester of the present year 2002.

This Center is being built as an extension to the existing IICA Office in Suriname and will provide modern equipment for the training of agricultural professionals and entrepreneurs in managerial and technical areas related to agriculture and rural industries using virtual instructional materials presented in the CD Format and on the internet through the various computers placed at the Center.

With the participation of specialized entities and other stakeholders in the Sector the Center will provide training in areas such as Extension Methods, Farm Management, Organic Farming, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Horticulture and many other courses which are available or in preparation in other countries.

These training courses will be accessible to all interested person for a reasonable fee for each course. But also scholarships will be available.



The Distance Learning Centre under construction, behind the IICA Office building at Letitia Vriesdelaan 11

Suriname, like other Caribbean Countries, has experienced great difficulty in transforming its traditional marketing structure and developing the production of quality exports at competitive world prices.

In this process of transformation, the development of human resources in agri-business is of tremendous importance, if there is a wish to develop solid cadres of professionals, technicians and agribusiness operators who can incorporate technological advances into production, and who will boost the productivity and competitiveness of Suriname agricul-

ture.

Using the Internet is an economical mode of delivery for distance learning, while the use of existing CD-ROM based courses has the advantage that these are portable and can easily be used for self-training or for group teaching.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is well-placed to deliver distance education and training. And this is what IICA in Suriname is doing in promoting and implementing this important endeavor.

MODERNIZATION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH LEGISLATION

- A Product of the Technical Cooperation among Countries (TCC) Project -

In meetings held in March 2001 coordinated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the various participants from the public and private sector agreed that it was essential to have as soon as possible, a strong National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System in place in Suriname.

Following these meetings and related workshops already mentioned in our previous issues of *Partnership*, PAHO drafted a proposal for Technical Cooperation among Countries (TCC), for the modernization of animal and plant health legislation in Suriname with a team of experts from Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados and the counterparts in Suriname. The Ministry of Health has approved the execution of this TCC project and also provided the coordinator for its execution. This TCC project is in operation since March 2002 and is expected to complete its activities and achieve its objectives in the course of year 2002.

The objective of this TCC project is the upgrading of the existing animal health and plant health legislation, with particular emphasis on veteri-



Mr. E. Fiori - IICA, Dr. C. Vlassoff - PAHO/WHO, Ms S. Chin and Ms M. Poepen - Ministry of Health

nary drugs, pesticides and other chemical residues. This will also improve the regulatory codes for the enforcement of inspection of meat agricultural products. Because this project involves aspects both of agriculture and of human health, the Ministry of Health is a major partner with the Ministry of Agriculture in the execution phase.

The formulated legislative framework with a modern Act and supporting Regulations will contribute to general food quality, good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices, and a process to stimulate the introduction of improved technology in Agricultural Health and Food Safety. These improvements in the productive regimes for agricultural

products will ensure that Suriname meets international standards and thereby substantially expand export opportunities.

The first phase of the project took place in March 2002 with the participation of three experts from Trinidad and Tobago, two experts from Barbados and twenty-five different professionals of the public and private sector of Suriname.

A plan was formulated for the second phase of the project and the Legal Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture was given the responsibility of reviewing and revising existing legislation relevant to Animal Health, Plant Health and the Use of Veterinary Drugs and Toxic Chemicals and Pesticides.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM LAUNCHED IN SURINAME

The Agricultural Development Forum (AGRIFORUM), a representative body comprising agrologists and decision-makers within the Agricultural Sector of Suriname, was launched on April 29 at the Krasnapolsky hotel.

The theme of this launching was: "There is a Future for Agriculture in Suriname".

This group of nine individuals - Ir. Iwan Poerschke, Arthur Zalmijn MSc., Ir. Djaienti Levens-Hindori, Dr. Ricardo van Ravenswaay, Ir. Kardi Kartoesewito, John King LCs., Ratan Kalka, Gerrit Breinburg MSc. And Ir. Winston Ramau-

tarsing - who are directly and indirectly related to the Agricultural Sector in Suriname, came together and took the initiative to establish and promote the Forum.

The main objective of the Forum is to unite all national efforts and capacities in order to halt the prevailing downturn and crisis within the Agricultural Sector - a Sector which has enormous potential to make a substantial contribution to economic growth, according to the organizers of the forum

The inaugural address presented by Ir. Iwan Poerschke highlighted the

flourishing state of the Agricultural Sector during the colonial era, and the declining post-colonial developments up to the present day. An analysis of the weak and strong points of Agriculture in Suriname today, as stated in the this address, reveals that the country could easily regain its former status by rebuilding a strong and well-organized Agricultural Sector.

What will be needed is not only the political willingness, but also the full commitment of all parties involved to make and implement strategic choices for the short, medium and long term.

IICA MADE AVAILABLE MODERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR IN SURINAME

With the guidance and presence of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Suriname, representatives of five national institutions of Suriname signed an agreement, on the 22 of April, to join the Inter-American Network System for Information and Documentation on Agriculture (SIDALC). These six (6) initial members are the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), the Anton de Kom University of Suriname Library and the Faculty of technology, the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS), the Anna van Dijk Rice Research Centre Nickerie (ADRON) and IICA Office in Suriname, that from now on share a common goal putting agricultural information to the best use of the agricultural sector, in order to aid the development of Suriname.

The Mission of this Inter-American Network System for Information and Documentation on Agriculture (SIDALC) is to facilitate to all its member nations and organizations the opportunity to access all agricultural related information produced and/or identi-



From left to right: Ms Tsai Mei Chong (ADEK), Mr. K. Kartosewito (ADRON), Ms C. Raham-Chin (Faculty of Technology), Mr E. Fiori (IICA), Mr. J. Sathoe (LVV) and Ms K. Burke (CELOS)

fied in the Region of the Americas by connecting all the agricultural libraries and documentation centers of the Region via Internet. The agricultural institutions, farmers' organizations, industry and the general public in Suriname are in the position now to access and use the latest agribusiness literature and information available from research developments or from all other means.

The IICA Office for Suriname played the important role in the planning this development together with the other five member institutions and purchasing the

necessary special computer equipment and peripherals for all the six members of that National Network. Training will be provided to operators and to the potential users of this Modern System of Electronic Information and Documentation in Agribusiness (virtual library in agriculture).

To support this development and also new trends in distance learning through the new Information and Communication Technology the IICA Office in Suriname will be inaugurating in the near future its Center for Virtual Libraries and Distance Learning in Agribusiness for Suriname.

IICA COORDINATING NATIONAL FRUIT PROGRAM FOR SURINAME

The Government of the Republic of Suriname, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) together with the Agri-business Sector, and within the framework of the policy to diversify the Agricultural Sector, have decided to give priority and a major stimulus to the development of the Fruit and Vegetable industry in the country. This important policy intention however calls for a well-structured and coherent approach, rather than an ad hoc development strategy, if the country is aiming at fully exploiting the op-

portunities that exist, particularly for the fruit sub-sector. Exotic non-traditional Tropical Fruits are internationally growing in demand and may therefore become of great economic importance for countries like Suriname which have the potential to produce them successfully.

In order to guide all the development actions within the sub-sector, the formulation of a National Fruit Program for Suriname is being undertaken with the cooperation of the IICA Suriname Fruit and Vege-

table Project in respect of its design and elaboration.

The program will be developed with an integral participatory focus, involving the various the various stakeholders, and ensuring that the market demand directs the production and agro-industrial decisions.

The participants in the program will be producer associations, individual producers, private investors, agribusinesses, cooperatives and agro-industries.

KWAMALASEMUTU AND TEPU IN SEARCH OF FOOD SECURITY EXPERIENCES

A group of farmers from the southern Suriname communities of Tepu and Kwamalasemutu visited the Integrated Rural Development Upper Suriname River Basin (IRD/USRB) Project from February 22 to March 2, 2002, where they saw new systems of cultivation and also the Agroforestry Demonstration Plot.

The purpose of the visit was to gather first hand information and experience regarding the alternative sustainable farming systems being employed by the project which were designed to replace the traditional slash-and-burn system. The farmers of Tepu and Kwamalasemutu are currently experiencing a disastrous failure of the slash-and-burn farming system - the land/man ration having been affected negatively during recent

years due, not only to increase population growth but also through the concentration of the population in certain geographical districts to take advantage of services as health care and education.

Low crop yields coupled with a wide spread incidence of parasol ants have resulted in a critical shortfall in domestic food supplies. After this visit they are of the opinion that the systems being used in the Upper Suriname River Basin may offer viable options for solving their food security problems and have made an informal request for training in alternative sustainable development farming systems and, eventually, the establishment of an Agro-Forestry Demonstration Plot in their area.

This experience and exchange may present a structural way to facilitate



A group of farmers from Kwamalasemutu and Tepu on visit to LVV/IRD Project

and accommodate the many requests from various village communities for assistance by visiting and exchanging experiences and information with the various successful interior development projects such as the IRD/USRB Project.

TRAINING FARMERS OF THE INTERIOR IN COMMERCIAL CROPS

Training in Commercial Cropping is being carried out by technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture with the cooperation and participation of IICA Suriname together with Peace Corps Suriname. This activity is part of the Rural Development Project of the Upper Suriname River Basin. There are, however, links with other activities and experiences in interior development in place in other areas of Suriname involving other organizations such as the Moravian Church and the National Women's Movement. These training visits are being used also to shape the future extension strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture and have themselves profited from experiences and activities of other projects and programmes for hinterland development.

This training programme has been organised to cover a six-month pe-



Women planting oerdi

riod with three to four days of activities each month. Two centers have been chosen for implementing the training - the village of Abenaston and the village of Pikienslee. These training courses began in November 2001 and was completed in Abenaston in April 2002 and will be in Pikienslee in June 2002.

Goals and Objectives

This programme has as its goal: to enable farmers in the interior to supplement their incomes by introducing a commercial aspect to their agricultural activities by means of a short, realistic, and focused agricultural training. The two main crops considered for this training are peanuts and oerdi. The methodology uses standard field extension practices. Together with this there are several objectives that supplement the primary goal and focus on community and group development. This includes such skills as the techniques of working together in groups, group organizational strategies, harvesting methods, post-harvest treatments and marketing strategies. Also included are simplified cost benefit analyses for decision making.



INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORS VISITED THE CARAMBOLA FRUIT FLY PROJECT IN SURINAME, FRENCH GUIANA AND BRAZIL

An international technical/scientific advisory team evaluates the Carambola Fruit Project annually, in order to ensure the maintenance of high standards of quality and efficiency in its implementation. This year, 2002, with the coordination and active participation of Dr Aldo Malavasi - the CFF Regional Project Coordinator, this evaluation took place from May 13 to May 23.

In Suriname, from 13 to 20 May, field visits were made to Saramacca, a rural area where a population of the Carambola Fruit

Fly still persists, and to the Para district, a more forested area. Methods used for control of the fly were discussed, and the results obtained from trapping and fruit rearing were evaluated.

From May 20 to May 23 the programs in French Guyana and Brazil (Amapa) were visited.

Their final report will be presented to the relevant authorities of the three currently participating countries, to facilitate decisions and follow-up actions during the coming years.



From left to right are: Serge Quilici, Cirad Reunion; Alies van Sauers-Muller, National Coordinator - Suriname; Eric Jang, ARS - Hawaii; Allan Allwood, Consultant-Australia; Mari Fleurkens, Operations Manager - Suriname; and Don McInnis, ARS - Hawaii.

IICA 20TH AND 60TH ANIVERSARY PAINTING COMPETITION

To commemorate two anniversaries: 60 years of IICA serving the Americas and 20 years of IICA in Suriname, IICA has launched an international (covering all of the Americas) and a national (Suriname only) painting competition. The painting was required to depict in realistic or abstract form the importance of agriculture and rural life.

The best painting in the international competition will become the commemorative poster for the 60th anniversary of IICA. At this level the prizes will be:

First prize US\$1 000.00

Second prize US\$500.00 and

Third prize US\$200.00,

and all participants at this level will receive US\$ 100.00

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of IICA in Suriname and at the same time select the best painting to enter the international

competition, a national competition is being held in which the following prizes will be awarded:

First prize sf 250 000.00

Second prize sf 200 000.00 and

Third prize sf 150 000.00

and the twelve best paintings will also be awarded certificates.

Forty-three (43) participants, including a few from Commewijne and Moengo, made their paintings during a six-hour period on the grounds of the IICA office on Saturday the 25th of May. At the same time eleven (11) participants from West Suriname made their paintings in Nickerie under separate supervision.

The national prizes will be presented on the 22nd of June in Paramaribo and the international prizes will be presented sometime after the 25th of July in San Jose - Costa Rica (Central America).



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