

# IICA



Inter-American Institute for  
Cooperation on Agriculture  
Technical Cooperation Agency in Guyana

## Annual Report 1998



Supporting the development of:

- Efficient Production and Marketing Systems
- Sustainable Community Actions
- Sector Strategies and Policies
- Agricultural Services

March 1999





# ANNUAL REPORT 1998

Guyana Technical Cooperation Agency (GuyTCA)

Annual Report

January - December, 1998

## INTRODUCTION

This year (1998) marked the 23rd year of activities of the Technical Cooperation Agency of IICA in Guyana (GuyTCA). Projects and support actions were executed jointly with staff from national institutions, including Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (MFCL), St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre (SSDTC), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), National Dairy Development Programme (NDDP), University of Guyana (UG), and diverse NGOs and farmers' organizations. To all those who made contributions to the many important events and achievements listed in this report, GuyTCA is grateful.

## IMPORTANT EVENTS IMPACTING GuyTCA ACTIVITIES:

- **January:** GuyTCA signed an agreement (US\$47,000) with the British High Commission for the second phase of the Liberica Coffee Rehabilitation Project.

- **February:** A review of the Operative Programme of the Multi-national Fruit Project was carried out by the new Regional Coordinator, Judith Francis, Food Technologist and Marketing Specialist;

- **March:** CIDA approved G\$1.5m (US\$10,000) grant to support the establishment of the Tapakuma cassava processing plant.

- **April:** IICA approved US\$10,000 for the project: *Improving Sustainable Agriculture in Hinterland Communities*, in response to El Nino drought emergency.

- **May:** GuyTCA, MOA and NDDP institutionalized process to hold bimonthly staff meetings to monitor progress of joint activities.

- **June:** CIDA contributed G\$5m (US\$33,000) to the project *Improving Sustainable Agriculture in Hinterland Communities*.

- **July:** A strategy for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) was launched in

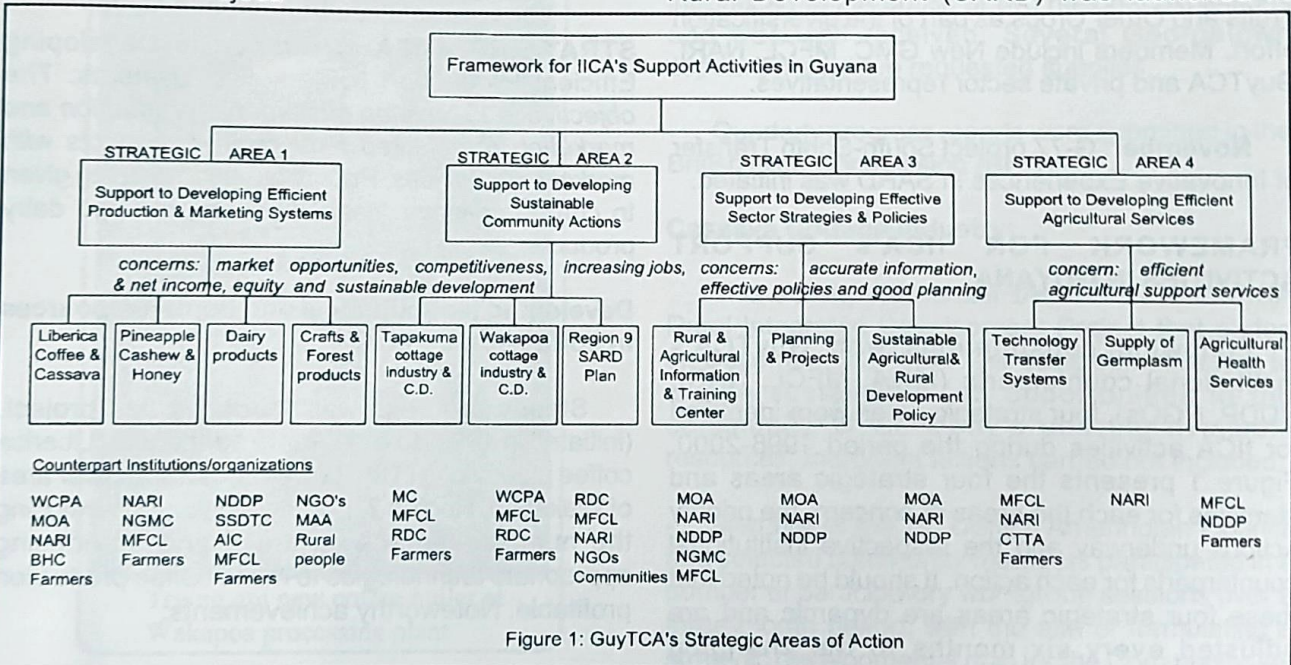
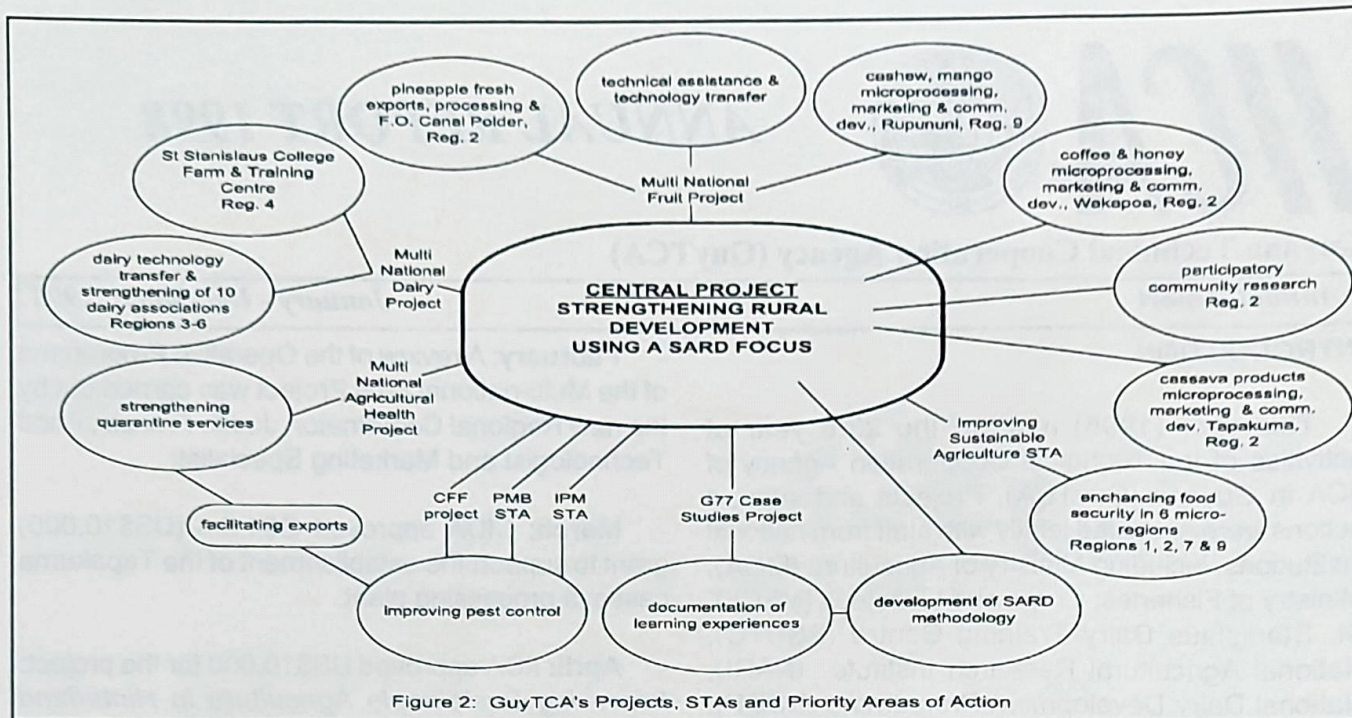


Figure 1: GuyTCA's Strategic Areas of Action





Paramakatoi - the first in a series of seven hinterland workshops forming part of the project *Improving Sustainable Agriculture in Hinterland Communities*.

- **August:** The Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) project successfully completed its first year of activities and USDA contributed an additional US\$47,970 for the second year activities to begin in September.
- **September:** Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, Sash Sawh, set up an Advisory/Facilitating Body for the National Development of Fruits and Other Crops as part of the diversification effort. Members include New GMC, MFCL, NARI, GuyTCA and private sector representatives.
- **November:** G-77 project South-South Transfer of Innovative Experiences in SARD was initiated.

### FRAMEWORK FOR IICA's SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN GUYANA

Following consultations with GuyTCA's institutional counterparts (MOA, MFCL, NARI, NDDP, NGOs), four strategic areas were identified for IICA activities during the period 1996-2000. Figure 1 presents the four strategic areas and identifies for each the areas of concern, the priority actions underway and the respective institutional counterparts for each action. It should be noted that these four strategic areas are dynamic and are adjusted every six months to the changing

environment and needs of GuyTCA's clients (farmers, rural people, NGOs and institutions). The following report presents the 1998 achievements under each of the four strategic areas.

Figure 2 presents IICA's activities and projects in Guyana in relation to its Central Project – Strengthening Rural Development using a Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) focus.

### PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS

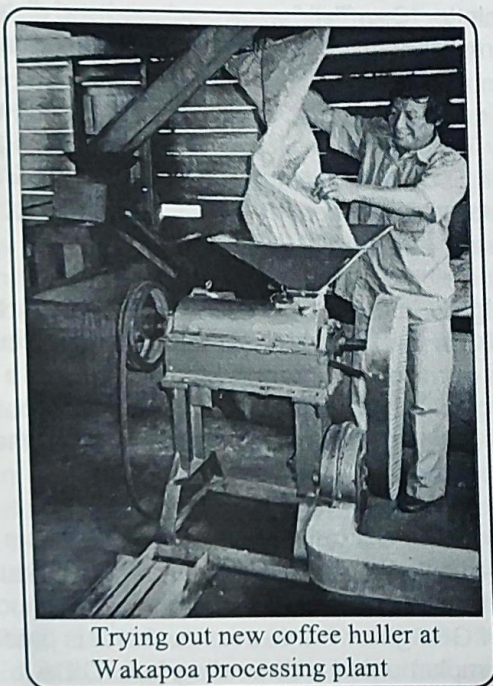
**STRATEGIC AREA 1:** Support to Developing Efficient Production & Marketing Systems. *The objective is to develop sustainable production and marketing of selected high priority products with market opportunities.* Priority attention is being given to coffee, cassava, cashew, pineapple and dairy products.

#### Developing technological and human resources in coffee sub-sector:

Steady progress was made on this project, (initiated in 1996) to rehabilitate abandoned Liberica coffee plantations in the Lower Pomeroon River area of Wakapoa, Region 2. Priority is given to developing the human resource potential and introducing appropriate technologies to make coffee production profitable. Noteworthy achievements:



- The 105 member Wakapoa Coffee Producers' Association (WCPA) was strengthened with continued training in farm management, accounting, production and processing technology and marketing.
- Monthly meetings of the WCPA Committee of Management were used to integrate more active participation of farmers and community leaders into the project.
- The third version of the constitution and rules of operation of WCPA were amply discussed at community meetings and approved by membership on August 29.
- Five local Community Technology Transfer Agents (CTTAs) were selected and trained as an innovative and low-cost mechanism to facilitate the transfer of technology to farmers.
- Coffee farms were visited and listed for rehabilitation; over 1,000 trees were pruned with guidance from the CTTAs and 50 farmers continued rehabilitation on 200 acres of coffee.
- The Project acquired an SN50 Moton Swingfog generator and trained several farmers in its use. The second phase of the Acoushi ant control programme was completed with a total of 571 nests on 175 farms successfully treated.
- Four new droogles (driers) were constructed at Katowro and Massarie processing plants, Wakapoa.
- Two new pulpers and a coffee huller were imported from the Dominican Republic and put in operation. A drum coal pot and roasting pan were constructed locally and are being used to roast coffee beans.
- The Village Council donated land to the Project and a new building to house the coffee roasting, grinding and packaging equipment was constructed next to the coffee pulper and put in operation.
- Eight women were trained in hygiene and appropriate methods of processing and handling coffee. The WCPA was assisted in meeting the requirements for licensing as a food manufacturer. Licensing is expected during the first half of 1999.
- A 30-foot coffee cargo boat was built locally and a 25 hp outboard engine was purchased and put in operation. The purchasing of coffee in neighboring communities is being planned for the 1998/99 harvest.
- For the first time, coffee beans were roasted, ground and packaged and sold in the local Pomeroun market. WCPA selected their label "Wakapoa Gold" with a logo prepared by students in a local competition. Wakapoa Gold was introduced to the public at two national exhibitions and was well received. Several Georgetown supermarkets have requested supplies.
- Quarterly progress reports were submitted to the British High Commission (BHC);



Trying out new coffee huller at Wakapoa processing plant

#### **Cassava Cottage Industry:**

This activity falls under the GOG/French/IICA Rural Integrated Development Project that ended on December 31, 1998. The basic objective was to create sustainable job opportunities in the community of St. Deny's utilizing available resources. Important actions carried out included:

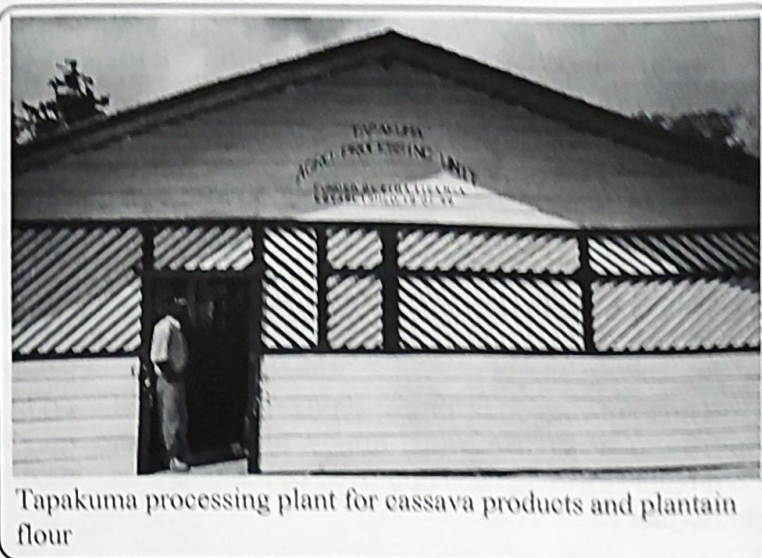
- Member of the St. Deny's Amerindian Council and selected community members participated in a number of participatory workgroup sessions over a three-month period, with the aim of formulating a strategic developmental plan for the Community. As



a result of these sessions four sub-committees were formed for detailing plans in the following areas: health and sanitation, economic development, education and training, infrastructure.

- Participatory methods were used to formulate a project to establish a prototype cassava processing industry using the Dominican Republic model.

- Aluminum tops for two 16 foot ovens to prepare cassava bread and a prototype mechanical cassava flour sifter were imported from the Dominican Republic and installed at the Tapakuma processing plant.



- The Tapakuma processing plant, constructed with funding from CIDA, IICA, MOA, and the Community, was completed and is to commence commercial operations in January 1999. Improved processing equipment includes washing tanks, grinders, press, mechanical sifter and ovens.

- 8 women to be employed in the plant received their Food Handling Certificate and training in hygiene and occupational safety.

- The project Management Committee held some 20 meetings during the year and continued to strengthen its managerial and planning capabilities. A new Management Committee was elected in November 1998.

- A 2-day workshop was conducted to provide training in strategic management planning.

### **Multi-national project: Dairy Sector Development in the Southern Caribbean**

During the period 1984 to 1992 IICA in Guyana carried out the project "Improving Dairy Production Systems" as a mean of supporting the efforts being made by small and medium size dairy farmers to improve their production and productivity. In an effort to continue the process of helping dairy farmers improve their production systems, a Multi-national Project centred in Guyana and covering Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago was initiated in 1997. Priority action is focused on the strengthening of Dairy Farmers' Associations and effective transfer of appropriate production and processing technology.

As part of a systematic programme aimed at the transfer of appropriate production technology a number of activities were carried-out:

- Brochures on three aspects of dairy production technology (silage making; Molasses Urea Bloc preparation; and treatment of rice straw as supplementary animal feed) were prepared and disseminated.

- The first draft of a training manual for dairy farmers was prepared.

- Three issues (500 copies each) of the quarterly newsletter "Cow Talk" were produced and distributed to farmers, technicians and decision-makers.

- Technical support was given the St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre (SSDTC) in conducting three training courses for farmers. Some 5 CTTA from selected dairy associations were sponsored at these courses.

- Significant technical support was given to the SSDTC in the formation of a new inter-disciplinary Management Committee, to provide the management required for ensuring that training centre programmes are planned and implemented with maximum effectiveness.

- As part of a programme to offer training in non-dairy areas of agriculture, a vegetable production project for a group of 20 women in a low-income area of Georgetown was prepared and is presently being implemented with funding from CIDA.





Management Training/Planning Workshop for Region 5-6 dairy farmers & NDDP Technicians

- A project proposal was prepared to facilitate SSDTC playing a leading role in the resuscitation of 4H clubs in Guyana. This project will be implemented in collaboration with Partners of the Americas.

- The high protein (20%) Mulberry shrub from Costa Rica was successfully introduced, on an experimental basis, to a number of locations in Guyana, including NARI, Versailles, Ebini Research Centre, and the St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre. In 1999, plants will be made available to a larger number of dairy farmers.

- Technical assistance was given to three Dairy Farmers Associations in the preparation of project proposals to improve their production systems: Leonora and Windsor Forest for forage plot developments and #52-66 and #67-74 communities for the Manarabisi Cattle Pasture development.

- The preparation of a project proposal for the establishment of demonstration farms at the St. John's community High school and the Zeeburg Secondary School, Region 3, was completed and submitted for funding as part of the IFAD/GoG project to be implemented in 1999.

- Market opportunities for fresh cow's milk were determined by conducting a marketing survey in the Urban Georgetown area. Initial survey results indicated that there was a significant demand for fresh milk, providing that good quality and hygienic condition can be maintained.

- GuyTCA collaborated with NDDP, MFCL, MOEd, and the private sector, as part of an inter-

institutional team, in the formulation of a project aimed at improving milk marketing opportunities for dairy farmers and providing quality milk for a school feeding programme. This project was reviewed by Cabinet for consideration as part of the 1999 Budget.

- IICA, NDDP and MFCL spearheaded the preparation of projects for the establishment of milk collection and micro-processing facilities managed by farmers associations in Regions 3 and 5 and funded by FAO and the Mexican

Government.

- IICA technicians participated in several demonstrations aimed at providing coastal farmers with the know-how for making cottage cheese out of surplus milk.

#### **Strengthening the Fruit Sub-sector**

This area of work is directed towards the strengthening of planning and operational capabilities of national institutions supporting the development of the fruit sub-sector. Priority is given to pineapple and cashew development. Principal achievements in 1998 included:

- The orchard plot, passion fruit trellises and the seedling nursery shed at the Genesis Complex for Abused Women, Region 3, was completed under GuyTCA supervision.

- An inventory of fruit processing enterprises in Guyana was actualised in August 1998.

- The first meeting of the Advisory/Facilitating Body for the National Development of Fruits and Other Crops was held (September) and the first Technical Working Group (for Pineapple) was formed, with V. Ho-A-Shu, NARI, as Coordinator.

- GuyTCA organised a visit of five Guyanese professionals and farmers to Fortaleza, Brasil (EMBRAPA/CNPAT) to study the cashew industry. During one week, December 12-19, visits were made to cashew research stations, nurseries, farms and processing and manufacturing facilities. Seeds from four dwarf cashew clones were obtained as





Guyana Team at Fortaleza, Brazil market during study of cashew industry.

were over 30 technical documents and four videos on cashew production. A detailed trip report was prepared.

- In response to a request from pineapple farmers in Canal Polder, a project for defining ingredient composition and processing parameters for production of pineapple chunks was finalized and research commenced in December.

- GuyTCA's Fruit Specialist participated in monthly meetings of the NARI Fruit Action Research Group.

- Multiple meetings were held with entrepreneurs, international consultants, university students, farmers and other professionals to provide technical information on horticulture and related areas.

**STRATEGIC AREA 2:** Support to Developing Sustainable Community Actions. *The goal is to improve the capabilities of leaders of selected communities to plan, execute and monitor sustainable development activities and projects.* Emphasis is given to developing managerial skills using participatory methodologies that respond to real need of selected communities and micro-regions.

The actions targeted for specific communities are complementary to the product-specific actions described above. In keeping with Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) criteria, attention is given to the improvement of community organization and human resource capability, strategic planning, efficient support services and effective management of natural resources. Some important actions carried out during 1998 in the specific communities are summarized below:

**Tapakuma:**

- Ongoing technical assistance was provided in planning, management, processing and marketing.

- A UG student completed a research project and presented a detailed report that includes a socio-economic survey, a detailed inventory of 7 ha of forest and other information for planning sustainable use of forest resources.

- Losses on the community farm from the El Niño drought were quantified at G\$3.million. Technical assistance was provided in the

formulation of a project to rehabilitate the affected area and to develop more sustainable activities.

- Assistance was provided in formulating a G\$1.5m (US\$10,000) project, funded by CIDA, for a prototype cassava processing unit.

- Eight women were trained in hygiene and home economics as a first step in having the processing unit registered with the Food and Drug Department.

- A new Project Management Committee was elected and trained.

- A project proposal (G\$2.8m) for the



Processing of cassava at Tapakuma (St. Deny's)



improvement of water supply system for the Processing Unit and the St. Deny Mission in general was prepared with the assistance of Volunteer students from the University of Queens. This project, which also included an agricultural component for the expansion of agricultural production in the Community, was submitted to SIMAP for funding. It will benefit 20 farmers and 50 families.

#### **Mocha/Arcadia Integrated Rural Development (IRD), Region 4:**

- Assistance was provided in the election of a new Committee of Management for agricultural development.
- An engineer from the D & I Board diagnosed costs of resolving basic infrastructure problems at G\$40 million.
- A socio-economic survey of selected farmers involved in the IRD project was carried out and documented.
- A final report was prepared on the IRD project that ended on December 31, 1998. The report includes socio-economic information and recommendations for future development.

#### **Wakapoa, Region 2:**

- Ongoing assistance was provided to community leaders and members of the WCPA Management Committee.
- GuyTCA Specialists participated in monthly WCPA meetings.
- Training was given on business management in respect to coffee processing and marketing and functions of the Community Technology Transfer Agents.
- The project facilitated inter-community training of 10 handicraft producers in the use of nibbi for craft making. Training was provided by Jackie Lewis from the community of St. Monica's.
- The technology developed for the control of Acoushi ants, using "swing-fog" technology, was transferred to Morakobai in Region 5.

#### **Other actions:**

- A team of persons trained in control of Acoushi ants at Wakapoa, Region 2, transferred their experiences to Moraikobai, Region 5. Assistance was provided in the repair of the Swing fog generator and local persons became proficient in its use during a nine-day in-service training exercise.
- Support was given in the operation and maintenance of 4 micro-weather stations located at **Massarie, Tapakuma, Kabakaburi and Anna Regina**, Region 2, in collaboration with the MOA Hydrometeorological Department.
- In response to a request from the Rupununi Weavers Society, P.Ramsammy provided technical assistance in establishing a plot of one acre of indigenous cotton at Potarinau, Rupununi. Over 45 participants received training in cropping systems, IPM, biodiversity and community organisation.
- The Cattle Farmers Association Coordination Committee (CFACC) continued to produce positive results in the coordination of activities related to the development of the cattle industry in Regions 3 to 6. In 11 monthly meetings, technicians from NDDP, IICA, SSDTC and MFCL, together with representatives from some 10 Dairy Farmers Associations, discussed problems and together designed and implemented programmes and plans for the systematic resolution of identified problems.



Volunteer at Paramakatoi training workshop acoushi ant fogging



- Some 12 training sessions in participatory organizational/management and planning were conducted for three dairy farmers associations over a six-month period. As a result, these groups now have more effective Executive Management Committees and have been instrumental in the preparation of strategic plans and projects to resolve specific problems affecting their Associations.

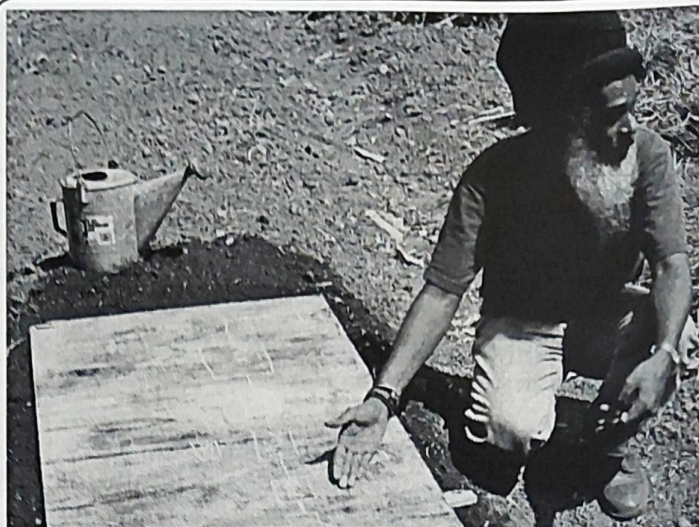
- A G\$7.9m project for *Improving Sustainable Agriculture in Hinterland Communities* (post El Niño) was formulated, funded by CIDA, IICA and MFCL, and implemented during July-December. Six three-day workshops were carried out in the communities of: **Mabaruma** and **Moruca**, Region 1; **Waramadan**, Region 7; **Paramakatoi**, Region 8; and, and **Surama** and **Aishalton**, Region 9. In each workshop, planting and pest control materials and equipment were distributed and persons were trained in their use, in IPM and other agricultural practices. Some 219 farmers from 92 communities participated.

- The two communities of **Kamarang-Warawata** and **Jawalla**, Region 7, were each assisted with 50% of the cost of Swing Fog generators for the control of Acoushi ants. These communities each sent representatives to the sustainable agriculture workshops and decided to purchase their own equipment. Each community raised G\$100,000 towards the cost of the Swing Fog generators.

- **Lethem, Region 9:** Discussions were held with RDC administration regarding their request for assistance in formulating a comprehensive agricultural development plan for the Region. An activity was planned for February 1999.

**STRATEGIC AREA 3:** Support to developing effective sector strategies & policies. *The goal is to strengthen the capacity of the agriculture sector to diagnose problems and design effective solutions that will facilitate the efficient use of Guyana's human and natural resources.* Emphasis is given to the collection and transfer of reliable information and technologies, training of human resources, identification and formulation of effective projects, and contributing to the design of supportive policies. Some important actions implemented in 1998 were:

- Four project profiles were prepared for funding



Peter Ramsammy explaining planting technology to farmers.

- under the FAO Telefood Special Fund and channeled to the FAO through the MOA.

- Assistance was provided to University of West England Guyana Cocoa Research initiative in locating farms with cocoa germplasm in Region 2.

- GuyTCA accepted membership on the Technical Committee of the Intermediate Savannahs development project and supported a problem identification and solution brainstorming workshop and the preparation of the proceedings.

- GuyTCA took the lead in the design of a strategy for the development of the cashew industry in the Rupununi.

- Assistance was provided to MFCL in the creation of the Advisory/Facilitating Body for the National Development of Fruits and Other Crops, chaired by the Chairman of NGMC.

- Significant progress was made in the documentation and validation of a practical methodological approach for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) in hinterland communities.

- Seven groups of farmers were assisted in the formulation of development project documents of which three were submitted to donors.

- P. Ramsammy represented GuyTCA in the review of the "Other Agriculture" section of Guyana's National Development Strategy.



- GuyTCA collaborated with IDCE in the execution of a survey of institutions interested and/or involved in distance education.

Assistance was provided to the national Emergency El Niño Response Programme:

- arrangements were made to import and distribute 5,000 lbs of white and yellow certified corn seed from Venezuela. Farmers planted the seed and were very pleased with the results;
  - cassava sticks for planting were located in Region 2 and in Brasil and arrangements were made for distribution to hinterland communities. Farmers were very satisfied with the plants;
  - a proposal for emergency IICA funding was prepared and G\$7.m was made available by CIDA, IICA and the MOA.
- Four bimonthly meetings were held with MOA, IICA and NDDP technical staff to review ongoing activities and improve project communication and coordination.
  - Numerous meetings were held with agricultural sector representatives to review and analyse ongoing projects and explore new project ideas.

Assistance was given to the MFCL in the formulation of proposals for:

- The control and eradication of foot and mouth disease in Region 9 (should an outbreak occur);
- A project to facilitate FMD-Free certification through the OIE;

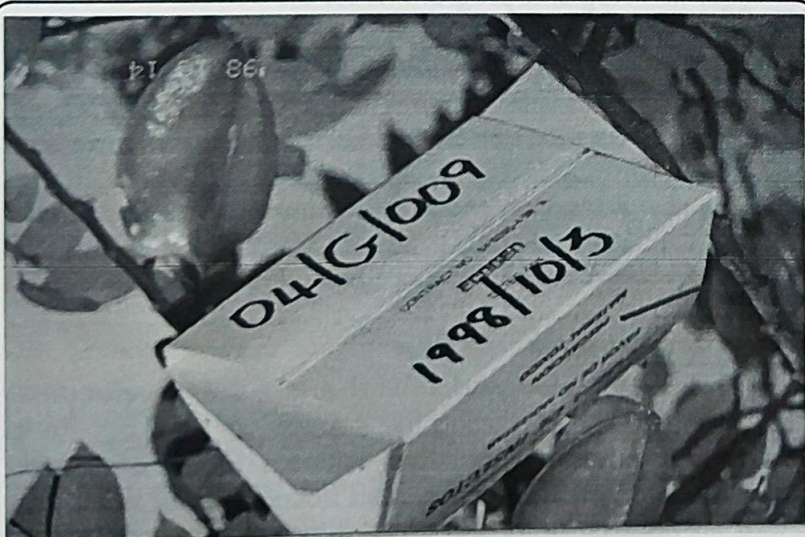
- The finalisation of the Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan-Manual for Guyana.

**STRATEGIC AREA 4:** Developing efficient agricultural support services. *The goal is to improve the capacity of public sector professionals and consequently the quality of the support services offered by MOA, NARI, NDDP, NGMC and others.* Emphasis is given to strengthening agricultural health services, accessing good quality genetic materials and improving technology transfer systems.

#### **Improving Agricultural Health Services to Facilitate Trade**

Actions involved four distinct GuyTCA projects, i.e. Improving Agricultural Health Services; Pink Mealy Bug Control; Carambola Fruit Fly Control and Developing Natural Pesticides.

- The joint (IICA/MOA/USDA) Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) Surveillance Programme completed a very successful first year of operations in September. It was fully operational since November 1997 and its staff of nine persons was able to effectively cover all 10 Regions of Guyana in 1998, with the support of MOA regional personnel. A total of 1,000 traps were dispersed of which 840 were serviced as needed. Only 8 CFF were trapped and these all along the Corentyne river where the control programme executed has been effective as shown in a detailed annual report. The USDA contributed an additional US\$47,970 for the continuation of the CFF project in its second year, beginning in September, 1998.



Jackson trap in carambola tree showing number and date

- The MOA/IICA held two workshops to examine the Plant Protection and Animal Health services and to diagnose the priority problems and best solutions. The results of both workshops were integrated into a diagnosis of the agricultural health services with corresponding plans of action. The second draft is being worked on.

- Financial support was given the MOA in the publication of education leaflets on major pests and diseases of vegetables.

- A few members of MOA staff were trained in the use of CORRAL software for





Amerindian women from Region 7 showing off corn produced from seeds imported from Venezuela during 1998 post El Niño drought.

the compiling and analyzing of plant and animal health data.

- Financial support was provided for one Plant Quarantine technician and one final year Cyril Potter College of Education student to attend NARI's one-week National Plant Protection Workshop dealing with pest and disease identification and control, with emphasis on integrated pest management.

- Financial support was provided to the Pink Mealy Bug (PMB) Unit for the purchase of laboratory equipment (remnants from a 1997 grant).

- Final editing was completed on a book on biopesticides that was submitted to publishing house for completion in early 1999.

- The first draft of the National Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan – Manual for Guyana, was completed.

### Other Activities

- Virus-free Citrus budwood (13 cultivars) and seeds (6 cultivars) of improved rootstock varieties were delivered to NARI from USDA repository in Riverside, California.

GuyTCA staff supported multiple training activities and meetings, some of the more important ones were:

- Commonwealth Youth training on *Your Business and the Environment*;
- MOA annual programme planning workshop;
- TROPENBOS brainstorming session to design new phase of forest research;
- CARICOM workshop on WTO agreement and SPS measures;
- Third meeting of the SPS Working Group;
- Conservation International workshop on sustainable utilisation of nibbi;
- UG/IDCE conference on distance education;
- Training course for plant quarantine inspectors;
- Lecture given on agroforestry at Tapakuma to UG Department of Forestry and Environmental Studies unit;
- CIDA/CBR conference on gender equity;
- UG/TROPENBOS seminar on Ethnobotanical/ Biological and Land Use;
- Conference on Future of Micro-enterprise Development in the Region;
- Workshop on propagation techniques and nursery management, Nevis;
- Workshop on the production, processing and marketing of passion fruit, St. Lucia;
- Plant and Animal Health Workshops, Paramaribo, Suriname;
- Sustainable Rural Development meetings, Costa Rica and Trinidad;
- Global Market Integration & Agri-Food Workshop, Paramaribo, Suriname.

Sector personnel from MOA and NARI were provided financial assistance in attending the following meetings:

- Regional programme for the control of CFF, Sao Paulo, Brazil;
- Meeting of coordinating group of Pesticides Control Boards in the OECS, St. Lucia;
- Meeting of Board of Directors of PROCITROPICOS, Brasilia, Brasil;
- X Meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Group of Coordination in Plant Protection, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

### Thought for the year

Sustainable agricultural and rural development involves improving the capacity of rural people to clearly define their own values, priorities and needs and then facilitating their access to the resources necessary for the development of productive and sustainable actions.



## TCA STAFF IN GUYANA

### Technical Staff:

#### **Jerry La Gra - Representative**

**Jerry** holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees (Washington State University) in Agricultural Economics, with a minor in Rural Sociology. He has worked for over 30 years in developing countries in project formulation, marketing, planning and sustainable rural development. He has been IICA Representative in Guyana since January, 1993 and has been actively involved in designing sustainable agricultural and rural development projects.

#### **Cromwell Crawford - Rural Development Specialist**

**Cromwell** possesses a Master of Science degree in Agricultural & Extension Education, with a minor in Rural Development (University of Illinois), as well as a Graduate Diploma in Development Studies (University of Guyana). He worked for over thirty years in Guyana in the formal education system as a secondary school teacher and teacher educator in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development. Since 1989, he has coordinated IICA's Rural Development Projects in Guyana, facilitating technical assistance and training to farmer organisations and Amerindian communities across Guyana.

#### **Maxine Parris-Aaron - Agricultural Health Specialist**

**Maxine** holds a Diploma in Plant & Animal Science (Guyana School of Agriculture), Bachelor of Science (Animal & Poultry Science) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from Tuskegee University and a Master of Science degree (Tropical Veterinary Medicine) from the University of Edinburgh. Having served the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana as Veterinarian for 10 years, she has been employed with GUYTCA for the past 3 years as Agricultural Health Specialist.

#### **Charles Carmichael - Consultant Agricultural Economist, Dairy Project**

**Charles** possesses Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Novi Sad and University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, with specialisation in Planning of Agricultural Development. He has worked as consultant with FAO, OAS and IFAD projects. For the past five years he has been employed as consultant with IICA in Guyana, providing technical guidance in project formulation and evaluation and micro-enterprise development and training.

#### **Victorine Kellman - CFF National Project Coordinator**

**Victorine** holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture (University of Guyana) and Master of Science degree in Seed Technology, majoring in Plant Quarantine (University of Edinburgh). She has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture for 25 years in the area of Plant Quarantine, rising to the position of Head of Plant Quarantine Unit. Since 1997, she has been National Coordinator for the IICA/MOA Carambola Fruit Fly Programme Unit.



### **Veronica Broomes – G-77 SARD Project Coordinator**

**Veronica** possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Science (University of Guyana) and a Ph.D. in Plant Science (University of Sheffield). She has had 17 years' working experience as a research scientist, biotechnologist, lecturer in Botany, editor of agricultural journals, workshop and meeting organiser and consultant on project planning and development, environmental and biodiversity issues. Additionally, she has coordinated and served as resource person for training programmes on report preparation and presentation for technical personnel. She has spent the past six months with GUYTCA, coordinating the project "South-South Transfer of Innovative Experiences in Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development" under the G-77/MOA/IICA Agreement.

### **Maurice Bennett**

**Maurice** holds a Diploma in Agriculture from the Guyana School of Agriculture and a Trained In-Service Teacher's Certificate (Georgetown Teachers' Training College). He was employed as a teacher for 25 years, and spent 5 years in the Public Service as Technical Assistant to the Hinterland Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, with responsibility for local and community development. For the past 5 years, he has served as Field Assistant to IICA's Rural Development Project in the hinterland of Guyana. Maurice is based at Kabakaburi, Region 2.

### **Administrative Staff:**

#### **Lajpatroy Samaroo – Administrator**

**Lajpatroy** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Spanish), Post-Graduate Diplomas in Education and Translation from the University of Guyana, and certificates in Accounting (AAT Intermediate - Level 3), Computer Studies and Automobile Mechanics. He was previously employed as a teacher in Guyana (11 years) and has spent the last 17 years at IICA – 13 years as Bilingual Secretary and 6 years as Administrator of GUYTCA.

#### **Aletha Isaacs - Executive Secretary**

**Aletha** possesses a Bachelor of Arts degree (University of Guyana) in French, with minor subjects Spanish and Portuguese, as well as certificates in teaching, secretarial and computing studies. She has worked as a teacher in Guyana for 11 years, served as Administrative Officer of the Guyana Metrication Board for 2 years and has been Executive Secretary of GUYTCA for the past 19 years.

#### **Atma Shivbarran – Assistant in Information Systems & Documentation**

**Atma** is an experienced Computer Technician who possesses Certificates and Diplomas in Computer Studies (Programming and Operations) from leading computer institutions in Guyana. He has worked in the computer environment for the past 14 years and taught



computer courses for 5 years on a part-time basis. He has spent the last 5 years at GUYTCA as Assistant in Information Systems & Documentation.

Other Support Staff:

Mohini Ramrattan, Assistant to the Administrator

Eslyn Hardeen, Secretary

Anita Singh, Receptionist/Secretary

Anthony Harris, Driver/Messenger/Machine Operator



