



Achievements 2022

Dominica



- Under Output II of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) project, “Strengthening the Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica”, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in collaboration with the UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, launched and operationalized a microfinance mechanism/scheme at a formal ceremony. In terms of results:
 - The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, officials from the UNDP and the National Development Foundation of Dominica (NDFD), farmers, processors, service providers and support agencies attended the launch. The scheme was established at the NDFD to support small and micro businesses in accessing financing to build climate and livelihood resilience in their businesses. The NDFD staff were trained to manage the disbursement of the loans.
 - Women clusters from three parishes in Dominica benefitted from four training workshops hosted by the Institute under such project. The training focused on different areas identified in a capacity needs assessment conducted prior to the workshops. They included Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and the optimum utilization of resources such as water, chemical use, pesticides, fertilizers, eco-friendly agriculture and protection of the health and safety of agricultural workers; management of finances and business development using the Business Model Canvas (BMC); e-commerce and digital marketing; and governance and brand development. Each of the sessions had well in excess of thirty participants. The Bureau of Standards led the workshop on GAP training, NDFD led the business training and an IICA technician delivered the governance and brand development training workshop.
- The Institute facilitated the participation of women business clusters and individuals from three parishes at three domestic market events and one regional trade and investment event in Trinidad and Tobago. The local events—Ti Villaj Creole, Creole in the Street and WATO—enabled at least ten groups and over 25 individuals to increase sales during the independence festival and to create linkages with visiting tourists and diaspora members, even as it built awareness of the high quality products available locally. The mission to the Trade and Investment Convention in Trinidad provided women producers and support personnel the opportunity to experience first-hand the activities of exhibitors, as well as to engage directly with buyers, service providers and distributors through business-to-business meetings. The group undertook a number of market study tours, visiting multiple supermarkets to assess market competitors and compare these products to their own.
- Collaborating with the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), under a project funded by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), entitled “Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica; Strengthening Resilience of Agricultural Lands and Forests in Dominica”, IICA procured material and items to enable at least 25 farmers



to satisfy the DOM-GAP certification criteria. The items facilitated the improvement of signage, record keeping, hygiene facilities, personal protective equipment (PPE), and pesticide storage. Additionally, technical support was provided to the Bureau of Standards to enhance the farm certification programme, developing eight codes of practice (COP) for the production of selected commodities. IICA, in collaboration with PISLM, recruited four resource persons to formulate the codes of practice and to facilitate national consultations and technical committee meetings to validate the COPs.

- The IICA-CBF Ecosystem-based Adaption (Eba) Project, in collaboration with the University of Florida, enabled 10 persons from the communities of Petite Soufriere and San Sauveur to gain a better understanding of drone technology, use and maintenance. A one-day community drone workshop and a half-day session on mission planning and scheduling were facilitated by the University of Florida, including training on drone use to support data capture.
- In support of the green business initiative under the CBF EbA project, the Institute in collaboration with IAMovement, developed the soap making skills of seven persons from the Petite Soufriere Community. Ms. Dafrica Thomas of Nature's Caress, presented a two-day workshop that provided hands-on training in the use of soap equipment and tools, while providing an understanding of soap moulding; the use of scents and essential oils, with a particular focus on vetiver oil and bay oil; addition of herbal additives and curing; and the unmoulding and cutting of soaps. The participants were all given a detailed handbook with a recipe for soap making, which can be used as a guide to transform local ingredients into luxurious bath and body products.
- Two farmers received direct support to reduce their vulnerabilities to climate events, under the CSA component of the CBF EbA Green Solutions/ Vetiver project. The farmers were selected based on their main

on-farm climatic risks (common and differential) and the type of action or investment that would best assist in addressing the negative impacts of climate change. One of the farmers was given a brush cutter and a knapsack to assist in managing weeds and ground cover on a 2.5-acre farm on a hillslope. The second recipient, an operator of a 7.6-acre farm, was assisted in establishing 17 storm drains throughout his farm, covering a length of over 1800 ft. The drains will reduce flooding and manage the rapid run-off he was experiencing.

- Through the CBF-funded project on "Strengthening Coastal and Marine Climate Resilience through Upland and Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Community Engagement", 20 persons including farmers, agricultural technicians and community members from Petite Soufriere catchment, benefitted from an IICA-facilitated two-day workshop on "Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)", using a soil-centric approach. The workshop improved participants' understanding of climate risks, EbA, CSA and soil health, to inform evidence-based decision-making and the implementation of interventions at the farm, community and national levels. It further enhanced the skills of trainees to diagnose, measure and respond to climate-, soil-, and water-related stresses on-farm and in vulnerable landscapes.
- The Institute, through the CARICOM AgReady - GCF Readiness Project, was able to undertake a series of analyses to prepare the agriculture sector to become more climate smart, while sharing information among stakeholders to increase understanding within the country. The analyses included a stakeholder engagement assessment study; a nationally determined contribution (NDC) analysis; greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories; as well as trade-off and barrier analyses. Recommendations were provided, based on the gaps found during the assessments, and discussed with all stakeholders in a series of national consultations held by the Institute.