

## GLOBAL SSDC PILOT PROPOSAL

Type of proposal:	GSSDC Pilot proposal
Title:	Building bridges of knowledge in LAC: South-South exchange of experiences to strengthen resilience and adaptation of food systems facing climate change
Implemented by:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
SDGs:	(1) No Poverty, (2) Zero Hunger, (12) Responsible Consumption and Production, (13) Climate Action, (17) Partnerships for the Goals.
Counterpart organizations:	The University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund-EBA Project, French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), Guadeloupe Central American Agricultural Council, FAO.
Sector:	Agriculture - Climate Change
Beneficiaries:	Farmers, environmental and civil society organizations in the Caribbean <sup>[1]</sup> , technical officers from Ministries of Agriculture and the private sector.
Duration of Proposal:	1 Year
Estimated Starting Date:	
Global SSDC Project inputs:	US\$ 100,000
Other inputs:	US\$ 50,000 in kind from IICA
Grand total:	US\$ 150,000

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<sup>[1]</sup>Environment Tobago: Trinidad and Tobago,

Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center: Antigua & Barbuda

Petit Soufriere, San Sauveur Village Council: Dominica

Canaries Community Improvement Foundation

### **Attachment 2**

#### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

#### **Brief Description of the Proposal Submitted (background, objectives, activities, etc.)**

##### **Background**

Climate change is the most pressing challenge of our time, and its impact on the agriculture sector is particularly significant. The shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns are affecting productivity, increasing losses, threatening the livelihoods of millions of farmers in the region, impeding national economic development, and putting food and nutrition security at greater risk. At the same time, global agrifood systems contribute approximately 34% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This provides an urgent imperative for the sector to enhance its climate resilience as well as a significant opportunity to enhance efficiency and lower emissions from the sector, thus serving as a fundamental part of the solution, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

As the largest food exporting region in the world (28% of all global agri-food exports) the Americas are particularly important for global food and nutrition security. Agri-food systems are a fundamental economic activity in the Americas; in some countries over 30% of the population is employed by the sector. Increasing droughts, floods and hurricanes, changes in water availability and alterations in pest and disease occurrence are threatening the sector.

As made abundantly clear in the most recent reports from the IPCC, the scale and increasing pace of climate change imply that collaboration, cooperation and learning from others' experiences is key for advancing effective adaptation and mitigation actions. Much greater institutional and operational capacities are needed to enable comprehensive climate risk management in LAC's agricultural sector. National governments have limited resources, both technical and financial, and must work together to enable greater efficacy. Institutional, technological and organizational innovation is necessary to address climate risks, and sharing ideas, advances, challenges and even failed efforts between sectors, actors and countries is fundamental. The rapidly closing window for avoiding the most catastrophic impacts of higher temperatures necessitates improved knowledge management to inform policy and project design and action.

Current cross-border sharing of knowledge on building climate resilience in the agriculture sector is insufficient and overcoming geographic silos of knowledge is key for enhancing impact. In the region there are many experiences in the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy measures, plans, programs, and actions that enhance sustainability, resilience and mitigation, which can be shared to accelerate progress. Stronger, continuous mechanisms are needed to facilitate this exchange, and allow for the cultivation of the relationships that enable effective knowledge sharing over time to remedy the gap that currently exists.

The Global South-South Development Centre (GSSDC) is a global project of UNOSSC with funding support from the Government of China. It focuses on promoting South-South cooperation in advancing SDGs through leveraging networks and expertise of centres of excellence (CoE) on SSTC. The GSSDC project works closely with the China SSC Network and engages southern CoEs through: 1) conducting and commissioning research and analysis on good practices of SSC; 2) co-financing small grant proposals to facilitate the transfer of technical know-how and capacity development; and 3) supporting sub-regional, regional and global network building.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of the 34 Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. By aligning its strategic objectives with the SDGs, IICA identifies itself as part of a global partnership committed to sustainable development in all its dimensions. Some of IICA's most valuable assets are its permanent presence in each of its member states and the resulting close relationship with multiple actors and partners at the national, regional and hemispheric levels. The Institute serves as a bridge between actors, sectors, scales, countries, science and decision-making and is able to identify and help share experiences from one place that could benefit others.

Given the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, IICA dedicates significant time to providing spaces to support capacity building, policy development and institutional strengthening in the region. The Institute supports ongoing dialogues between the agricultural negotiators to the UNFCCC from the region as well as facilitating connections between technicians from the climate change units of the ministries of agriculture on topics sectoral climate policy instruments such as National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions<sup>1</sup> (NDC).

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<sup>1</sup> The NDCs are the plans that each country committed, under the 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, to developing and that include mitigation goals, adaptation priorities, and support needs. They are the primary instrument countries use to share how they plan to contribute to the global climate response. The agriculture sector is included in almost all the NDC from the Americas, yet is a sector in which implementation has been a challenge.

Another multi-country initiative that IICA facilitates is the Caribbean Climate Responsive Agriculture Forum (CCRAF) for its 13 English speaking member states. The Forum was established in 2015 as a neutral space where all can share, learn, plan and promote policies, strategies and actions towards more productive, low emission, sustainable agricultural systems that are well adapted to the changing climate of the Caribbean. The CCRAF has four primary objectives: i) Raise awareness and share knowledge of climate smart agricultural practices, policies and options for the Caribbean region, ii) Build a community of interested and engaged actors at the regional and national levels that can support the integration of climate change considerations into policy, planning, research and implementation in the agricultural sector, iii) Promote enhanced coordination and collaboration among actors and institutions to achieve optimal results, and iv) Link practical action on the ground to the climate policy process. Through this project, we seek to build upon the success of the Forum to turn it into the “go-to” space for exchange between Caribbean countries on this topic that translates into action on the ground.

With additional support, these spaces can be enhanced and better capitalized upon for the benefit of multiple actors in the LAC region.

### **Project Objectives**

With the support of the Global South-South Development Center, the proposed project aims to use SouthSouth cooperation to accelerate climate action in LAC’s agricultural sector. This will be achieved by improving and consolidating the peer-to-peer-learning networks that IICA permanently facilitates to support the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and build stronger relationships among technical professionals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regarding the specific objectives, the project intends to achieve the following outcomes and associated outputs and activities:

*Outcome I: Climate action in LAC’s agricultural sector accelerated by the use of South-South cooperation and the support of the Global South-South Development Center.*

*Output 1: Capacities of more partners and technical networks from the Organization of American States system strengthened to enhance the agricultural sector's response to climate change through South-South*

and Triangular cooperation for knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences between Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Main activities:*

1. Enable IICA partners to benefit from joining GSSDC networks and having access to tools and resources provided by South-South Galaxy .
2. Co-develop a LAC plan of action for executing knowledge-to-action interventions to enhance the sector's response to climate change under the framework of the UNFCCC processes.
3. Generate knowledge products to share and promote the actions and interventions generated through the networks including the documentation of lessons learned, challenges and best practices in facilitating exchange between countries.

*Output 2:* In-person capacity building, exchange workshops and virtual dialogues executed to support stronger climate action in LAC's agriculture sector *Main activities:*

1. Execute two in-person workshops for 25 technicians from Latin America and the Caribbean's ministries of agriculture focused on:
  - a. implementing the agricultural elements of the NDC and
  - b. enhancing ambition for greater adaptation and mitigation action in the agricultural sector.
2. Hold one capacity-building and dialogue workshop for UNFCCC Koronivia Joint Work with agriculture negotiators and key officials from ministries of agriculture from the region, in anticipation of the COP 27.
3. Execute three hybrid knowledge-to-action exchanges in the Caribbean (virtual at the sub-regional level and in person at the national level) among technical officers, farmers, and other interested persons on successful case studies, models, projects, and lessons learned in building climate resilience across subregions and at the national level using the Caribbean Climate Responsive Agriculture Forum.
4. Execute three virtual country/sub-regional exchanges through the Latin American Community of Practice on advancing NDC implementation in the Agriculture Sector.
5. Hold two virtual dialogues to promote exchange between UNFCCC agricultural negotiators from governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Situation Analysis**

The agricultural sector has played a crucial protagonist achieving multiple accomplishments in the world food trade and contributes significantly to world food security. One of the opportunities

arising from global trends regarding agriculture are the potential benefits to be gained from its role in the economies of most countries in the Americas, as well as favorable conditions for increased growth and development through technological innovation and the relatively favorable international demand. Additionally, in some countries, the surpluses achieved by increased economic activity were used to expand the supply of public goods and, in particular, to strengthen and expand food security and social protection programs, including legislation that guarantees fundamental human rights, including access to food security.

Nevertheless, changes in climate conditions are already affecting many economic sectors and intensifying environmental and social problems. This makes it essential to achieve an effective transition away from current production systems toward others capable of simultaneously promoting food and nutrition security, increasing agricultural productivity, and ensuring prosperity for present and future generations. All this has to be done without degrading natural resources and ecosystems, and actually reversing current degradation conditions.

Studies establish that, without a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the average temperature of the planet could increase by 2.5 degrees Celsius by 2050. This change in climatic conditions is already having an impact on the sustainability of natural resources, in human and domestic animal diseases, and in the destruction of infrastructure and agricultural production.

Latin America and the Caribbean has a large endowment of natural resources, which makes it a fundamental guarantor of environmental sustainability and global food and nutrition security. However, there are still important productive gaps and technological and institutional lags that slow down progress in the aforementioned issues. Likewise, the effects previously mentioned have conditioned regional development, therefore, it is imperative to modify strategies and behaviors, establishing new institutional frameworks based on agriculture with greater total factor productivity, inclusive and resilient, but also with the participation, leadership and encouragement of youth and women. For this, climate-responsible production models are required to promote sustainable and intelligent agricultural development, starting from the broad base of natural resources that are possessed.

It is important to develop a greater degree of adaptation and resilience to the negative impacts of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. South-South Cooperation is fundamental to ensuring this is achieved at the pace and scale necessary.

## **Strategy**

IICA, established 80 years ago, has a permanent physical presence in its 34 member states, and therefore significant institutional knowledge on needs, priorities and context in each country. The Institute also has well-established partnerships at the sub-national, national and international level. As it is governed by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, composed of all the region's Ministers, IICA has a privileged position through which to work on policy, institutional strengthening, and capacity building.

South-South and Triangular cooperation is a key part of the Institute's technical cooperation model. IICA facilitates exchanges between its member countries to enable cooperation for the achievement of their strategic objectives and policy goals. IICA acts as a bridge that brings together countries, regions, sectors and scales to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

IICA's hemispheric Climate Change and Natural Resources Program has a broad mandate to promote a more resilient, sustainable and low emissions agriculture sector. It does this through action on the ground; strategies and mechanisms to guide the sector, incentivize change and scale successful approaches, and facilitating a more active and informed participation of the sector in

national and international climate processes. Building capacity over time implies not just punctual training of technical staff from the ministries of agriculture, but sustained engagement, guidance, and empowerment. Connections and exchanges with counterparts who share priorities and roles and have to confront similar challenges are key for accelerating the transformation to a more resilient sector in the face of increasing climate risks.

Given the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, IICA dedicates significant time to providing spaces to support capacity building, policy development and institutional strengthening in the region. The Institute supports ongoing dialogues between the agricultural negotiators to the UNFCCC from the region as well as connections between technicians from the climate change units of the ministries of agriculture on topics sectoral climate policy instruments such as National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions<sup>2</sup> (NDC). It currently facilitates a Community of Practice for Latin America on Implementing the NDCs in the agriculture sector, where representatives from both the environment and agriculture ministries participate, in addition to other agencies such as FAO, IUCN, the Central American Agricultural Council, and others.

Another multi-country initiative that IICA facilitates is the Caribbean Climate Responsive Agriculture Forum (CCRAF) for its 13 English speaking member states. The Forum was established in 2015 as a neutral space where all can share, learn, plan and promote policies, strategies and actions towards more productive, low emission, sustainable agricultural systems that are well adapted to the changing climate of the Caribbean. The CCRAF has four primary objectives: i) Raise awareness and share knowledge of climate smart agricultural practices, policies and options for the Caribbean region, ii) Build a community of interested and engaged actors at the regional and national levels that can support the integration of climate change considerations into policy, planning, research and implementation in the agricultural sector, iii) Promote enhanced coordination and collaboration among actors and institutions to achieve optimal results, and iv) Link practical action on the ground to the climate policy process. Through this project, we seek to build upon the success of the Forum to turn it into the “go-to” space for exchange between Caribbean countries on this topic that translates into action on the ground.

The primary beneficiaries of this work are technical staff from the Ministries of Agriculture. Indirect beneficiaries include farmers and others working in the sector who will benefit from increased capacity and implementation of climate resilient agriculture, as well as the Ministries of Environment for having stronger counterparts to help plan and implement climate action.

## **Results and Partnerships**

The recent synthesis of evidence on climate change (IPCC ARG WGII, 2022) presented a clear picture of increasing observed impacts, greater projected risks and higher vulnerabilities, leaving no doubt of the urgency of advancing more climate resilient development, especially in agriculture and agrifood systems. “As adaptation options often have long implementation times, long-term planning and accelerated implementation, particularly in the next decade, is important to close adaptation gaps, recognizing that constraints remain for some regions.”<sup>3</sup> As there is no time to lose,

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<sup>2</sup> The NDCs are the plans that each country committed, under the 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, to developing and that include mitigation goals, adaptation priorities, and support needs. They are the primary instrument countries use to share how they plan to contribute to the global climate response. The agriculture sector is included in almost all the NDC from the Americas, yet is a sector in which implementation has been a challenge.

<sup>3</sup> IPCC AR6 WGII Summary for Policy Makers. Page 31. Available at: [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf)

collaboration, exchanging experiences, and guiding others is key for success in the next several years.

The large majority of climate change units in the Ministries of Agriculture in the region are integrated by very few staff who must confront significant challenges to advance the institutional, organizational and technological innovations for addressing the climate crisis. Several have expressed a desire to learn and exchange with other countries who have advanced on certain processes, sectors or technologies to help inform their own work.

IICA is a well-established specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of 34 member states (which includes the LAC Region) to achieve agriculture development and rural well-being. With decades of experience, on the ground actions, technical expertise, and partners in both the public and private sector in the LAC regions, IICA's most valuable asset has been the relationship it maintains with the beneficiaries of its work which has allowed IICA to be well positioned for strengthening the South-South and triangular cooperation by leveraging its political and technical cooperation of excellence in the LAC region. Through this project, IICA will consolidate and strengthen three networks that seek to provide sustained opportunities for dialogue, learning, and exchange of experiences: i. among Caribbean States; ii. among Latin American States; and iii. between Caribbean and Latin American States by building off partnerships and previous work IICA has led to define needs and priorities in the LAC region.

An in-person workshop for each network will help with building the trust, rapport and collaboration amongst professionals that is needed for long term relationships. Coupled with virtual exchanges to ensure continuity and connection, these spaces will benefit the region and the South-South global platform and help to identify and build off of the successes and lessons learned with those who are leading in different aspects of the implementation process. IICA and GSSDC will also be able to gain greater clarity on needs and gaps as well as topics and types of South-South Cooperation that are desired in the region to help define a future agenda. The IPCC reports with high confidence that "Enhancing knowledge on risks, impacts, and their consequences, and available adaptation options promotes societal and policy responses."<sup>4</sup>

Therefore, this project will develop capacities of national and institutional climate change focal points and practitioners in the agricultural sector to enhance the sector's response to climate change under the framework of the UNFCCC processes. Increasing climate action in Latin America and Caribbean's agriculture through SSTC will in turn provide benefits for the numerous people that make a living from the sector.

The project aims to contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals and targets:

- (1) No Poverty: 1.5; (2) Zero Hunger: 2.1, 2.4; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production: 12.2;
- (13) Climate Action: 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b; (17) Partnerships for the Goals: 17.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.16, 17.17.

The project will also contribute to supporting the achievement of the objectives of the UNFCCC, and in particular the 2015 Paris Agreement under which each country has developed its Nationally Determined Contribution. The project will help support of regional agreements established to reduce the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable agriculture such as those stipulated in the Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy for the Central American Integration System (SICA)

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<sup>4</sup> IPCC AR6 WGII Summary for Policy Makers. Page 31. Available at: [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf) (pg. 31).

region, as well as the national climate and agriculture commitments in NDCs and National or Sectoral Adaptation plans.

**Expected Contribution to Global South-South Development Center Project**

- Research and analysis on good practices of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)
  - Needs assessment and identification of priority areas for SSTC at the national and regional levels
  - Demand-driven piloting, knowledge sharing, technology transferring and scaling-up strategy among developing countries.
  - Capacity development trainings.
  - Build and maintain partnerships.
  - Resource mobilization.
  - Mutual-learning.
  - Increase project visibility.
  - SDGs
  - Pursue synergy with UN specialized agencies/ global qualified entities/ authorities/ centers of excellence.
  - Strengthen exchanges and cooperation with UN system in China.
  - Involvement of UNOSSC regional offices (Africa/ Arab States, Eastern Europe and CIS/ AsiaPacific)
- Others:





<p>advance knowledge-to-action exchanges for addressing climate change in the agriculture sector</p>	<p>networks and having access to tools and resources provided by South-South Galaxy.                  2. Establish/bridge connections and/ or improve relationships among technical networks through strategic meetings and dialogues                  3. Co-develop a plan of action for executing knowledge-to-action interventions to enhance the sector's response to climate change under the framework of the UNFCCC processes                  4. Hold project team exchange session.                  5. Draft document on lessons learned, challenges and best practices                  6. Develop communication products (editing, layout, video).</p>															
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<p><b>Output 2:</b> In-person capacity building and exchange workshops and virtual dialogues executed to support stronger climate action in LAC's agriculture sector</p>	<p>1. Execute one in-person workshops for technicians from Latin America's ministries of agriculture focused on implementing the agricultural elements of the NDC and enhancing ambition for greater adaptation and mitigation action in the agricultural sector. Engaging relevant GSSDC institutions and experts.</p> <p>2. Execute one in-person workshop for technicians from the Caribbean's ministries of agriculture focused on implementing the agricultural elements of the NDC and enhancing ambition for greater adaptation and mitigation action in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>3. Execute one capacity-building and exchange workshop for UNFCCC Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture negotiators from the Americas.</p>	X	X	X		3 in person workshops (Travel costs, conference room, materials, food)	84,000	84,000			
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	4. Execute 3 virtual events in the Caribbean and 3 in Latin America on NDC implementation and for 2 dialogues on the UNFCCC agriculture negotiations	X	X	X	X	8 Virtual and hybrid events (interpretation, coffee, materials)	6,000	2,000	4,000		
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>							92,000	86,000	4,000	2,000	
IICA indirect costs (8.7%)							8,000	7,480	348	172	
<b>Total</b>							<b>100,000</b>	93,480	4,348	2,172	

- Expenditures for personnel services may be limited to salary, allowances and other entitlements, including the reimbursement of income taxes due and travel costs on appointment to the project, duty travel within the programme country or region and repatriation costs.
- UNDP shall be responsible for providing miscellaneous services such as secretarial assistance, postage and cable services and transportation as may be required by *[the Government ministry/institution/IGO]* in carrying out their assignment.
- Adjustments within each of the sections may be made in consultation between UNDP and *[the Government ministry/institution/IGO]*. Such adjustments may be made if they are in keeping with the provisions of the Programme Support/Project Document and if they are found to be in the best interest of the project.