



Antigua and Barbuda



Significant Achievements 2023

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) forged new partnerships with several NGOs, such as Barbuda GO, and with the Seventh Day Adventist Church; and successfully negotiated external resources for technical cooperation through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (GEF/SPG), for the execution of community-based environmental projects. The projects, which were executed in the Old Road and Codrington communities, will support community outreach programs.
- The EbA project is a regional project focusing on community engagement and the implementation of nature-based solutions to reduce upland drivers of degradation and conserve ecosystems and their services; raise awareness of climate risks; provide additional nature-based livelihood opportunities; and facilitate monitoring of ecosystem health to ensure sustainability. IICA partnered with several local and governmental entities to execute the activities identified under the project. Over 100 persons in Antigua and Barbuda benefited from the initiative, which highlighted the use of vetiver grass to create a new niche market within the agro-product sector. Given the grass' properties, its use has been expanded as a solution for upland water erosion challenges on farms and for the protection of coastal marine resources. The Project is funded under the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF-EbA), which is supported by the Government of Germany, through the German Development Bank (KfW), and with resources from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of Germany's Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.
- IICA partnered with the local beekeeper's cooperative, with support from the GEF/SPG, to expand apiculture production in Antigua and Barbuda. Local beekeepers benefited from the "Implementing Innovative Strategies Towards Improving the Honeybee Population and Health Status to Control the Varroa Mite for Sustainable Beekeeping" project, in which the apiaries of 15 local beekeepers were tested to identify levels of varroa mite infestation. In addition to the testing, the Institute supported the cooperative by introducing a queen rearing program as a means of increasing honeybee production in A&B. Through the Institute's interventions, the incorporation of women and youth starting their beekeeping businesses increased the membership of the cooperative by 50%, while also increasing honey production in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Under the SPS Measures Project, and in partnership with the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), a regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Policy and Action Plan and National AHFS Policy Framework were developed, as a means of strengthening the SPS regulatory environment. Antigua and Barbuda was selected as the pilot country to develop a National AHFS Policy Framework. The European Union-funded 11th European Development Fund Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Project (11th EDF SPS Measures Project) is implemented by IICA with regional partners: the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and CARIFORUM.
- Through horizontal cooperation, IICA partnered with UN Women to develop and execute a training and

capacity development programme for cohorts across five beneficiary countries, aiming to strengthen gender responsive services for women and youth farmers and women and youth in agri-business. Beneficiaries received capacity building exercises, agro-processing tools and equipment to support their small businesses. Over 25 women and youth took part in this intervention, which is aligned with one of the country's agricultural and rural development priorities – to increase production output of the agro-processing sector for the local market.

- The Institute collaborated and partnered with new NGOs and CBOs, focusing on climate smart agriculture. With support from the GEF/SPG programme, IICA offered technical support to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (SDA) to establish a hydroponics system fuelled by green energy. The system will produce over 300 heads of lettuce and other leafy vegetables to benefit several communities. The SDA church received technical services, as well as capacity building sessions, in preparation for the launch of the system, which is slated to commence production in 2024.
- Under the Institute's technical cooperation program, farmers received assistance to re-establish production of Antigua Black Pineapple, through the introduction of tissue culture materials. This strategy seeks to foster agricultural competitiveness, ecosystem sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as coordination with and investment in public and private enterprises in rural areas. Over 2,000 plantlets were produced in 2023, through horizontal cooperation with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines delegation, with support from the Agriculture Biotechnology Centre in St. Vincent.
- IICA provided supported to local NGO, Barbuda GO, to execute activities under the 'Action for Habitat' project, by establishing a mangrove nursery. The nursery is equipped with a misting system, which will be used to irrigate the plantlets inside the facility. The long-term goal is to replant the mangroves into weak areas along the country's coastline and in the Codrington Lagoon. The Institute collaborated with the Sir McChesney George Secondary School and GroTech Farms to execute the activities.