

# Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



## Dominican Republic



## Country Update



**APP In-Country Actions – Dominican Republic**

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



**Ministry gets direct support to complete national organic policy**

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 a policy document was delivered to the Ministry which provides guidelines to establish the Division of Inspection and Certification (DICERT) for certification of organic products manufactured or sold in the Dominican Republic from Dominican Republic. The APP Component 1 contracted Ms. Ana Maria Calafat to assist the Ministry in development of the policy. The policy addressed a range of issues to include options for financing mechanisms for the policy and for meeting its human, technical and transportation requirements. The document also included proposals for the institutional arrangements required to support organic certification for National Regulation and the complete operational structure and all the protocols for each function of DICERT, including the required resources. While the MoA would need to make an initial investment, it is envisaged that DICERT should be able to become self-sustainable once the services offered meet the quality of the Manual and Protocols. Since DICERT will be a public entity, basic expenses would already be covered. Part of this investment is already covered through national budgets and international project funds. This would enable DICERT to provide affordable services to small farmers and manufacturers.

**Support provided under . . .**

Component 1 – CCS:  
*‘Provide direct Technical Assistance to CARIFORUM countries to develop/ strengthen National Agricultural Policies / Plans’*

**This activity started on April 27th and ended on September 10th 2015.**

**Validation trial established for organic production of tomato**

IDIAF is currently conducting validation of varieties for organic tomato production in protected agriculture systems in Constanza, Dominican Republic. This activity is being done under the CARDI-IDIAF technical cooperation agreement which was re-scaled in last quarter in keeping with the requirements of the APP SDWP. During the last quarter, repairs to existing Protected Agriculture (PA) structures was completed to include installation of irrigation equipment and establishing of organic material for the trail. The nursery establishment phase of the trial was also completed. Originally 2 varieties of tomatoes were used in the trial. However, a seed company in the DR (Risk 1 company) heard of the experiment through word of mouth with farmers and wanted one of its varieties to be included in the evaluation trial (majetto variety) and provided additional seeds for evaluation at no cost. The transplanting of the seedlings will take place in mid-August. The experiment will last for 5 months and data collection will start in September 2016. IDAF intends to continue the research after the close of the APP in December 2016. The results of research will guide production of organic tomatoes particularly in the area of Constanza which currently produces approximately 80% of the vegetables in the Dominican Republic. This activity contributes to the current thrust of reduction in the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in keeping with rising demand for organic products in the local and export market.

**Support provided under . . .**

Component 2, CARDI :  
*‘Establish crop/animal validation & evaluation trials for commercial & food value and adaptability to extreme weather conditions’*

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### APP In-Country Actions – Dominican Republic

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#### **The Dominican Republic hosts regional workshop on breed Management for Small Ruminants**

- The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Dominican Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF) will partner to present a comprehensive regional training workshop on Improved Breed Management and Techniques for Small Ruminants in the Dominican Republic from July 25th to 29th, 2016. The workshop is designed to help small ruminant farmers and institutional technicians build practical knowledge and skills in the hopes of meeting more of the Regional demand for their products. On their return, institutional technicians will conduct similar training workshop for farmer and farmer groups in their country.
- During the period July – August 2016 IDIAF will conduct local training sessions on breeding and breed improvement and training in meat production in small ruminants for farmers groups in three high production areas.

**Support provided under . . .**  
Component 2, CARDI :  
*‘National and Regional Workshops; Farmer Field Visit for training in management of improved germplasm and animal breeds (agencies & producers)’*

#### **Farmers have improved access to improved germplasm material for more productive farming operations**

IDIAF has undertaken upgrades at its breeding facility in order to increase the availability of small ruminant breeding stock to farmers. To date IDIAF has completed fencing, installation of feeding racks among other improvements. It has also procured relevant equipment and completed the purchase of new stock (males) for small ruminants (sheep and goats) during the July 2016. Following completion of all upgrades the capacity of the breeding facility will be increased by 14% (350 – 400 animals).

**Support provided under . . .**  
Component 2, CARDI :  
*‘Develop the capacity of selected stakeholders to access, multiply and manage improved germplasm and animal breeds’*

#### **Small farmers will exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices**

IDIAF will demonstrate the use of irrigation systems in forage production (seasonal problems during the dry seasons) as well as demonstration of hay equipment (to be received in July) and hay silage making using 50 gal drums to farmers. These demonstrations will take place in August 2016. Farmers will also receive training in making of nutritional blocks for small ruminants (farmers to build mineral blocks on farm).

**Support provided under . . .**  
Component 2, CARDI :  
*‘Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations ‘*

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#### **Small-scale food processor MSMEs exposed to enterprise building and product development training**

Three participants from the Dominican Republic (Rosiris López Pérez and Yalenny López Pérez – Asociación "La Cabrita" and Efren del Rosario Rodríguez – Cooperativa de Productores/as de Cafés de Calidad de la Sierra de Neyba Inc, were given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's (21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>) March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. The participants agreed that they did require and did benefit from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design, use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in their enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation.

#### **Support provided under . . .**

Component 3, IICA:  
'Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)'

#### **MSMEs exposed and trained in producer group governance**

A participant a from the Dominican Republic (Fernando Alfredo Heud Frometa – President, Cluster Ovino y Caprino Dominicano) received expert training in producer group governance building at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, April 25-28, 2016.

- **The regional-based training is completed.**

#### **Support provided under . . .**

Component 2, CARDI &  
Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'

#### **Directory of major enterprises in the small ruminants and organic tomato value chain published**

Thirteen (13) organizations within the small ruminant value chain and twelve (12) organizations within the organic tomato value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Forty (40) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in Dominican Republic and the Directory will also be made available online on APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

#### **Support provided under . . .**

Component 3, IICA: 'APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers'

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## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website www.agricarib.org) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information</p>	<p>An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad &amp; Tobago</p> <p><b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project</p>	<p>The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad &amp; Tobago. The Platform targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what's happening and foster greater institutional coordination.</p> <p><b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots &amp; Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs &amp; Spices (CABA)</p> <p><b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat and their local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</b></p>

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## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>]</p> <p>Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4Thematic Groups (TGs)</p>	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS)</li> <li>2 Business Development (IICA)</li> <li>3 Climate Change &amp; Natural Resource Management (FAO)</li> <li>4 Human Resource, Research &amp; Development (CARDI)</li> </ol> <p><b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>completed</b>]</p> <p>Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers</p>	<p>This study was grounded in five (5) countries - Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St, Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. It sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers.</p> <p><b>The recommendations should be reviewed in the context of the recently completed national agriculture policy and plan.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>close to completion</b>]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry</p>	<p>Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be ‘case studied’. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity.</p> <p><b>The recommendations and approach to commodity-based industry development should be reviewed in the context of the recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</b></p>

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Cariforum



## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>close to completion</b>]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Herbs &amp; Spices Industry</p>	<p>The countries to be ‘sampled’ as the basis for generating the body of information for analysis and recommendations will be specified on the submission of the Consultant’s Inception report. Given the regional thrust to develop links to the hotel and hospitality industry and the prominence of this industry in several countries of the region, while not all countries will be ‘sampled’ in the effort to develop of a regional industry development plan and coordinating mechanism, the results of this activity will have direct benefits for further enhancement of existing agri-tourism linkages throughout countries of the region.</p> <p><b>The initial findings should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>]</p> <p>Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems</p>	<p>Given the longstanding priority placed on ‘alleviating’ these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries’ efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products.</p> <p><b>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>]</p> <p>Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies &amp; programs</p>	<p>While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs &amp; spices).</p> <p><b>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>]</p> <p>Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum</p>	<p>More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities</p> <p><b>Activities continue in 2016.</b></p>

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## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C2 – CARDI; <b>close to completion</b>]</p> <p>Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop &amp; animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (to be convened on 7 December 2015) will explore the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p><b>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</b></p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; <b>close to completion</b>]</p> <p>Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains’</p>	<p>CARIFORUM countries will benefit from specific case studies and short videos of the successful value chain financing mechanisms. These experiences will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to other countries in the region. Among these are the financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica and the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. The two consultancies are intended to contribute to the enhancing of understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs, the pivotal role of supportive government policy and engagement and successful collaboration with financial institutions, in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new interventions that are evidence-based.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; <b>planning in progress</b>]</p> <p>‘Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries’</p>	<p>A number of local stakeholders, including producer enterprises and one Development Finance Institutions, will get the opportunity to engage with their peers and colleagues from the region as well as international experts, when Jamaica hosts the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum in September 2016. The forum, hosted in collaboration with FAST, and the IICA Flagship Project on Competitiveness and the CTA, will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries.</p>

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## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C3 – IICA; <b>plans ongoing for technical meeting</b>] Working Capital Fund study for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>A two-day regional workshop, involving representatives of selected producer groups and enterprises involved in Roots and Tuber production, transformation and marketing initiatives (spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations along with selected NVCFs, BDOs and IICA National Specialists who are supporting producer groups and value-adding enterprises) is earmarked for Barbados in August. This workshop is linked closely with the work on credit worthiness assessments being undertaken under the APP-FAST LoA. Enterprises being cleared as credit worthy' is an essential step in being deemed eligible for the financing.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; <b>ongoing</b>] Prepare Financial &amp; Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>IICA in collaboration with FAST, CaFAN and CABA will identify and select a strategic commodity sector to promote investment and produce an investment guide to be launched during the Regional agri-Value Chain Finance Forum. <b>Local stakeholders will benefit from sharing of information results and experiences of work undertaken in targeted countries.</b></p>

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