

Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



Jamaica



Country
UpDate



APP/PMU
The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



APP Country Update – Jamaica

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.



local youth given an opportunity for developing the enterprises and expanding their business networks

- Diandra Rowe of Abbey Garden Farms, a family farming business, and Duhaje Jenneings of DADA Bs, producing honey and other beekeeping products (such as bee pollen and beeso, were fully funded under the APP to participate the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18th – 22nd January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, the Jamaican youth were exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and they are now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’. Jennings, in particular, has indicated interest in reaching out to youth (in and out of his industry). Coming from local authorities, these types of follow-up action would be well received by the EU, assure that the intervention had value, in addition to satisfying the visibility aspects.

The Grenada YiA Forum also provided more opportunities to inform of and promote their business to their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in Grenada.

- Ms. Rowe received yet another opportunity to engage with regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture, held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 7 – 10, 2016. As part of the RPF, a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs, was introduced and tested. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016, and provided participants with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that building institutional capacity and fostering policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers in Jamaica. One of the three Facilitators of the CEBO training programme, and also a youth, Richard Berwick and also a national of Jamaica, got the opportunity, to meet, engage and network with planners, heads and senior professionals in agriculture programmes and agencies of IICA, CARDI and the CARICOM Secretariat and to expand the network of young entrepreneurs who have been exposed to the ‘CEBO way’.

Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS:
‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’
&
Component 2 – CARDI:
&
Component 3: *‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/ entrepreneurs’*

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1 local Family Farming Business ‘training and mentoring’ 1 youth from Barbados

Abbey Garden Farms Ltd. in Jamaica, run and managed by veteran practitioner, Jervis Rowe and his daughter, Diandra Rowe, will be home to one youth from Barbados for a twelve (12) week internship, which started in April (5) 2016. Nineteen (19) year old, Mikkel Rodgers will gain first hand, expert tutorship and practical experience in constructing, operating and managing a hydroponics greenhouse. This APP support is a direct outcome of the GIFT Saint Lucia workshop (December 2015) and the D4D Youth Forum (January 2016). The exposure will also include incorporating use of solar power for enhanced operational efficiency, comparison of responses and performance of crops grown in enclosed structures and crop grown in open field, as well as the importance of water management, use of organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI :
Demonstrate use of improved-sustainable production systems, including use of appropriate technology aids, to small producers/entrepreneurs

Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

- Shaun Baugh, Principal Director, Agricultural Planning and Policy in Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF), got the opportunity to participate in the 8th Regional Planners Forum on agriculture in Grenada, [18th – 22nd January 2016]. Mr. Baugh had the opportunity to network and dialogue with planners from the rest of the Region as well as heads and senior professionals from the key regional and international agricultural development institutions and private sector entities on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in Jamaica, including approaches for developing commodity-based industries, facilitation of intra-regional trade and critical areas for national and regional policy response. At that forum also, planners from the Region benefitted from the exchange of information and experiences on a comprehensive approach to integrated national and sectoral planning shared by Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) where she not only explained the process of arriving at the 2013 Vision, but also provided planners with a CD containing full copies of the policy for their reference, and use, as appropriate.
- Mr. Baugh as well as DSP Kevin Francis of the Praedial Larceny Prevention Co-ordination Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture were also supported to the 9th RPF from 7th to 9th June 2016, in Trinidad and Tobago, to engage and network with peers in the region and dialogue and exchange information of critical topics for agricultural policy response. Mr. Francis in particular, will share with his peers, the successful experiences of the judiciary in Jamaica in making serious and concentrated efforts towards tackling the scourge of praedial larceny, a major challenge to farmers in the region and an area of keen interest to planners. This also provided the opportunity for MOAF officials to be introduced to a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs.
- Stacy Rose, also a Jamaican national and policy Consultant, was also offered an opportunity to provide services to the APP, by undertaking the consultancy to develop the National Seed Policy and Plan and to provide technical support to the Dialogue for Development (D4D) Forum held in Grenada in January 2016.

Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS:
‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

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- Tracey-Ann M. Wright, Policy Analyst in the MoAF, was also afforded the opportunity, along with eight other planners from the Region, to participate in the 2016 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Outlook Forum in Arlington Virginia [25th – 26th February 2016]. Participants reported that the experience and exposure to the level of research, technical information, dialogue and networking was worth it and despite the economic differences between the US and other developed countries, and the Caribbean, there is need for a much greater level of investment and technical infusion into the development of agriculture.

Ministry gets direct support to complete national agriculture policy & plan

Stacy Rose, an APP contracted local consultant, completed a National Seed Policy and Plan for the MoAF. The consultant, working under the leadership of the Ministry, followed a consultative and participatory approach in line with the Public Sector Code of Consultation and the guidelines of the Cabinet Office for policy development. A Policy Steering Committee was established to guide deliberations towards the formulation of the first draft of the Seed Policy and Plan. A National Consultation Workshop was subsequently held to deliberate on the first draft of the policy and plan. Comments received from this workshop were used to produce the final draft of the Seed Policy and Plan. The Seed Policy & Plan is consistent with the National Agriculture Sector Plan, which recognizes the need to develop and maintain an appropriate legislative and regulatory framework for the agricultural sector through the development and promulgation of relevant policies, which for the Seed Policy, called for redeveloping uniform seed quality standards (including seed health) for locally produced and imported seed and improving availability of improved planting material including from tissue culture labs and nurseries for seedlings. In addition to the Seed Policy and Plan, Ms. Rose also provided a ‘Draft Cabinet Submission’ which contained background and justification notes to facilitate the submission and consideration for approval.

- **This activity, which started in May 2015, was completed in October 2015.** Ministry of Agriculture officials expressed satisfaction with the Policy and Plan, confirmed the adequacy of the stakeholder engagement process, and committed to continuing the process through to Cabinet approval.

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

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Local Ministry Agronomist gets specialist, intensive training in Fiji

Aldaine Gordon, an Agronomist with the Crop Research Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, benefitted from a short-term, 8-week training course in Fiji, facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Land Resources Division [5th April to 29th May 2015]. Over a period, Mr. Gordon was attached to different institutions observing and learning first hand, what the Pacific has been doing to mitigate the impact of climate change relevant to their home situations. Through the training, Mr. Gordon gained knowledge and insights of the effects of climate change with respect to small island developing states (SIDS) and the effect of climate change on food security the actions and ongoing work being done by SPC to combat climate change. This enhanced knowledge and capacity will enable Mr. Gordon to continue supporting the Caribbean root crop program in Jamaica and the Region.

Support provided under...

Component 2, CARDI :
'Develop the human & physical capacities to develop 'climate ready' varieties & map the vulnerability/adaptation profiles'

Local Expert leads the thrust to chart a development path for the Regional Herbs & Spices Industry

André Gordon, APP Consultant, is leading the regional dialogue and technical effort to develop a regional policy and coordinating mechanism for stakeholders in the Herbs and Spices industry. As part of this effort, which started in December 2015, Dr. Gordon facilitated a technical meeting [9th – 10th May 2016] in Trinidad and Tobago, which provided a forum to consult with and exhaling information with other herbs and spices entrepreneurs on the critical issues to be addressed and mechanism to facilitate greater industry collaboration, commercial activities and their interface with the public sector on matters of policy.

- **This activity will conclude in August 2016.**

Support provided under...

Component 1, CCS: 'Develop a Regional Policy Framework and a Business Plan for a Coordinating Mechanism for Herbs & Spices Industry'

Root crop farmers' access to and capacity to manage improved, climate-ready planting material enhanced

Farmers in Ebony Park, Clarendon and Bernard Lodge, St. Catherine are receiving direct benefits from the establishment of drought tolerance validation trials for Sweet Potato. In each location, two (2) 1/2 acre evaluation plots each were established in March 2016, divided into a total of eight plots. Four of the plots are based on rain-fed techniques and the other four will be based on drip irrigation. Five varieties (Clarendon, Ganja, Fire on Land, Uplifta and Yellow Belly) were randomly planted in each plot to determine their performance under both trials. During the period of growth, the plots will be monitored and data collected for analysis and dissemination of results. Harvesting will take place within eight (8) months of planting.

- **Field activities are ongoing and plots will continue to be maintained to the end of the APP in December 2016.**

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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Farmers' knowledge of traditional and natural vegetative material for nutrition and health of small ruminants improved

Sheep and goat farmers in Jamaica, specifically in the Sam Motta DTC in Manchester, Hounslow DTC in St Elizabeth, Savanna Farms in Westmoreland and Bodles Research Station in St Catherine areas are directly involved in evaluation trials using traditional remedies trial for natural de-wormers in small ruminants. Phase 1 of this trial, initiated on 3 March 2016 has been completed. On each site fifteen (15) weaner does were selected and treatments randomly assigned to groups. The remedies (herbs) being used are: aloe vera, moringa, neem and garlic with benvet the commercial dewormer used as the control. The trial will be repeated in June and results and recommendations from the research will be discussed with farmers and disseminated to small ruminant farmers in Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean.

- A selection of these farmers will also benefit from a study-training visit to the Dominican Republic, scheduled for July, being hosted in collaboration under the APP-C2 CARDI and IDIAF (the Dominican Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Research) agreement. The training which will focus on breed management and embryonic transfer, builds on a previous project implemented by CARDI, with the same target farmers.

Component 2, CARDI :
'National and Regional Workshops; Farmer Field Visit for training in management of improved germplasm and animal breeds (agencies & producers)'

Jamaica will host one regional workshop on Improving Productivity in Farming Enterprises to disseminate the results of the validation and evaluation trials for small ruminants and roots and tubers. This workshop is scheduled for September 21-22, 2016, and will involve key collaborators and beneficiaries of the field research undertaken under the APP.

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)'

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Government and Farmers have improved access to improved germplasm material for more productive farming operations

- Students, researchers, farmers and other stakeholders were exposed to the process, use and benefits of tissue culture in crop production during a C2 exhibition and training at the Science Experience Park, (February 17-19, 2016). The exhibition which was also open to the general public, generated much interest, especially from secondary and tertiary level students. Through direct support to the Scientific Research Council (SRC) of Jamaica will receive equipment (Reverse Osmosis System and Solution bottles and related accessories) to enhance its current capacity to produce improved roots and tubers planting material using Tissue Culture material. These items will be handed over in May of 2016.
- The MoAF also benefitted from the purchase (May-June 2016) of equipment to increase the current capacity of hot pepper seed unit. The MoAF will also benefit from the planned upgrades (to start in May) to the Sam Motta facilities for small ruminants. This improvement works will be informed by an audit, conducted in March 2016, which determined the needs for the improvement of the housing and forage delivery systems. The upgrades will be completed in June 2016.

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 be exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices

- Farmers will benefit from access to one (1) walk-behind tractor and implements will be made available through CARDI in the July-August 2016 period, to demonstrate the impact of cost-time efficiency of land preparation. The arrival of the walk-behind tractor, in the wet season will enable a 1 -day training for root and tubers farmers in the use, cost effectiveness and maintenance of walk behind tractors.
- The local CARDI Field Technician, who will conduct the farmer training sessions, will be trained in advance of the arrival of the equipment, in a one-day training of trainers' demonstration, in Tobago, in the use and maintenance of the tractor. The initial training of stakeholders will focus on farmers who do not use mechanised land preparation techniques.

Support provided under. . .

Component 2, CARDI :
'Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations '

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

Duhaje Jennings (honey producer) and Edna Edwards (roots & tubers processing) two local MSMEs, were given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's [21st – 24th March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. Both 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 be 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)'

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Producer groups and networks capacity for governance and value chain development supported

- Ms. Yvonne Elliot-Mattis has been contracted by IICA/APP C3 as a Business Development Officer (BDO) to provide development support to the roots and tubers industry. Ms. Elliot-Mattis has been assigned to the local CABA membership for a period of seven months, to support enterprises in areas related to group governance and access to finance. She will also contribute to the development and implementation of Enterprise Business Plans and Investment Profiles in support of financing and commercialization of composite baked products Ms. Elliot-Mattis has participated in initial consultations on the CABA Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop BDOs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups and business enterprises.
 - The BDO will be in-place until October 2016.**
- The CAFAN secretariat concluded a LoA with the APP (Component 2 and 3) which makes provision for the contracting of the services of one (1) National Value Chain Facilitator (NVCF), Mr. Devon Blake who has been assigned to provide direct assistance to the local CaFAN membership for a period of six months, to support sweet potato producer group enterprises in areas related to production, export marketing, group governance and development, and credit readiness and investment profiling. Mr. Blake has participated in initial consultations on the CAFAN Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop NVCFs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups.
 - The NVCF will be in-place until September 2016 and will work directly with national groups, including local CAFAN members.**

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Direct technical assistance to selected producer groups and commodity-based enterprises for value chain development through National Value Chain Facilitators'

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MSMEs exposed and trained in producer group governance

- Neville Graham of the Jamaica Goat and Sheep Farmers Association, including the NVCF and BDO, received expert training at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-27, 2016]. These groups will continue to be supported by the local NVCF, with a focus on members of the Dasheen and Sweet Potato Producer clusters, within defined areas of activity covered by the CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoA/CaFAN Execution Plan – including Producer Group Governance building activities and Buyer Networking.
 - **The regional-based training is completed.**
- Mr. Devon Blake (NVCF) and Ms. Yvonne Elliot-Mattis participated in the *Strengthening Producer-Buyer Relationships: Networking Platform Experiences and Strategy Meeting* held in St. Lucia during the period 27-28 June, 2016. It was designed to facilitate joint planning and sharing of information so as to improve the organizational capacity of producer, women and youth through their insertion into value chains. The aim of the dialogue platform is the removal of obstacles to the production, marketing and distribution of commodities and to build capacity and institutional frameworks and systems for value chain development. The meeting in St. Lucia benefited from the already established producer-buyer relationship which exists between Massy Stores Saint Lucia and several local producers and was the focus of discussions. Experiences of producer-buyer relationships in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were also highlighted.

Support provided under. . .

Component 2, CARDI

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Component 3, IICA: ‘Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities’

MSMEs will get the opportunity, exposure and training required to improve their investment and credit profiles

- Ms. Janneth Mornan-Green was contracted by IICA/APP C3 to produce specific case studies and short videos of the successful financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to for adoption in other countries in the region. The consultancy is 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.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA:

‘Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains’

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Jamaica to host Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum

A number of local stakeholders, including producer enterprises and 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. Producer enterprises selected to attend will include those that have undergone credit-readiness assessment and subsequently investment profiling (by NVCFs using tools provided by FAST (Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade)).

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: ‘Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries’

Directory of major enterprises in the small ruminants and sweet potato value chain published

Twenty Five (25) organizations within the small ruminant value chain and twenty six (26) organizations within the sweet potato 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 Jamaica 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’

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

| Action/Component | Brief Description |
|--|--|
| [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 | 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 th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website. |

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

| Action/Component | Brief Description |
|--|--|
| [C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project | The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9 th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & 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. Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database. |
| [C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications | 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, CRFM, FAO, 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 & Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs & Spices (CABA) 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. |
| [C1 - CCS - ongoing] Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4Thematic Groups (TGs) | 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS) 2 Business Development (IICA) 3 Climate Change & Natural Resource Management (FAO) 4 Human Resource, Research & Development (CARDI) Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified. |

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

| Action/Component | Brief Description |
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| <p>[C1 - CCS - completed]</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><i>The recommendations should be reviewed in the context of the recently completed national agriculture policy and plan.</i></p> |
| <p>[C1 - CCS - close to completion]</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><i>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.</i></p> |
| <p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</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><i>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.</i></p> |

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

| Action/Component | Brief Description |
|--|--|
| <p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies & 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 & spices).</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> |
| <p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</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>Activities continue in 2016.</p> |
| <p>[C2 – CARDI; close to completion]</p> <p>Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop & 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>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p> |

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Cariforum



Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

| Action/Component | Brief Description |
|---|--|
| <p>[C3 – IICA; close to completion]</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; ongoing]</p> <p>Prepare Financial & 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.</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the process through their in-country NVCF.</p> |
| <p>[C3 – IICA; plans ongoing for technical meeting]</p> <p>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> |

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