

Important achievements in 2016

- Five forums held by IICA and other partners of the Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture (CCSA) Forum provided a neutral platform where 20 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, technicians, farmers, strategic partners and other personnel from national authorities shared and learnt policies on adaptation to climate change. Additionally, a competition for farmers in the Eastern Caribbean States highlighted some of the programmes and innovations that can be used as coping mechanisms to build resilience and increase agricultural productivity in drought and unfavourable conditions brought on by climate change.
- The New Zealand High Commission provided USD10, 000 for the construction of a greenhouse for the school feeding programme at the Charlestown Primary School. The project which was formulated, submitted and executed by IICA, generated considerable interest among the students who have shown a willingness to care for the vegetable plants. The green house not only provided vegetables for 300 students on a daily basis, but has also seen the development of a new generation of children who care about what they eat, understanding nutrition and consider agriculture as a profession they can make a career out of.
- Approximately 31 mango agro-processors, teachers and farmers benefitted from a training programme, where 7 mango products and a number of mango based juices were developed. This effort has improved food safety handling; food handling, sanitation and food quality, value added products; sustainability of the business and food security through reduction in food spoilage.
- The Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Environmental Health, farmers and the private sector are now benefitting from an updated list of regulated pests. An experienced entomologist contracted through the 10th EDF SPS Project financed by the European Union (EU), generated the list of regulated pests to assist the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis in protecting its plant and animal resources from the spread of pest and diseases. In addition, procedures, regulation and treatment to manage pest risks have been developed.
- The Ministries of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Cooperative, the National Bureau of Standards, Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Trade, the private sector, agro-processors and farmers benefited from an assessment of key critical areas within the food safety and plant and animal health sub-sectors. The assessment conducted by IICA utilizing the PVS, gauged the current level of performance and improved the response mechanisms and capacity for agricultural risk and disaster management
- Through the 10th EDF SPS Project financed by the EU, funds were provided for three animal health officers to pursue a two-year Diploma course at the Guyana School of Agriculture, and for two officers to pursue a Certificate course in Laboratory Diagnostic at Ross University. As a result, the human resource capacity within the livestock sector has been strengthened to address food security concerns through the development of an effective national agricultural health and food safety system in order to avoid the rejection of shipments of goods and the importation of foreign animal diseases.

- A study conducted by the Ministry of Trade revealed that the products marketed by local agri-entrepreneurs were of high quality, the price was competitive but the labels and packaging were substandard compared to similar products in the supermarkets. Consequently, two agro-processors were sponsored under the 10th EDF APP Project to attend a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago, which was hosted by IICA. 25 agro-processors and other entrepreneurs were able to benefit from a local IICA workshop in St.Kitts and Nevis on product labelling. As a result, the products now have labels that specify their contents, help to avoid health risks, and allow traceability to be done, while increasing sales and income for agro-processors.
- Agro-processors, teachers and students are now benefitting from a series of 21 instructional videos, produced under an IICA project. The use of brief, highly focused video presentations has been able to fill the void of limited training personnel in agro-processing. Consequently, key concepts in food processing were identified and the videos have been able to clarify concepts, demonstrate scientific techniques and provide insights into actual food processing methodologies.
- The Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Standards, agro-processors and manufacturers

are the main beneficiaries of an extensive training programme on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) hosted by IICA. Four nationals were highly trained in this area of specialization in the United States and Barbados. On their return, 4 training workshops were organized in this area and over 120 persons have been trained. These persons are now very conversant with HACCP and are able to identify various hazards, critical limits, corrective actions and verification procedures.

- Agro-processors and other manufacturers have been able to benefit immensely from a training programme on affected lots in order to keep the volume of recalled produce as limited as possible. The training which was conducted by IICA was done off-island where 5 persons from the private and public sectors were trained intensely. They have returned to the Federation and have conducted workshops that trained approximately one hundred agro-processors and manufacturers. This was done through lot trading, individual serial tracking market and data recording. As a result, all products are clearly labelled, product storage facilities, such as, bin and shelves are marked in such a way that contents are easily identified; and materials and produce purchased for a single purpose contract delivery to a customer are tagged.

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