



Significant achievements in 2017

Agriculture Opportunity for development in the Americas

Bahamas



- Capacity building and institutional strengthening exercises were conducted for producer and rural women's groups. Through the in-house expertise of IICA in The Bahamas, these organizations were assisted in strategic planning and grant/proposal writing to facilitate access to funding from various national and international sources including a call from Compete Caribbean. Though funding was not always obtained, these groups were taught methodologies for applying for funding. Organizations are also encouraged to utilize the IICA facilities to host meetings, training and events. IICA Bahamas has hosted one grant writing workshop, training 15 people in 2017. Support was provided to six main groups including the Bahamas Agribusiness Cooperative (BABCO), Farmers United Cooperative (FUAC), Gold Stream Ltd (GSL), Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers (BAHNROP) and the Cat Island Farmers Association (CIFA) and the Bahamas Development Bank (BDB).
- Technical assistance¹ provided in rural development through the Sponge Revitalization Project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources (MAMR). Through this project IICA sits on the technical committee to provide guidance in the project implementation and built institutional capacity to the sponge fisherman association of the Bahamas in 2 communities of Red Bays Andros and Mangrove Cay, Andros. The Sponge Revitalization Project aids in empowering the sponge associations to gain direct access to the market through educational and financial empowerment of the association.
- Three workshops to create a National Climate Smart Agriculture Policy document and production of public service announcement (PSA) for climate smart agricultural practices; the IICA in The Bahamas also facilitated 4 Climate Smart Agriculture Forums which included stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, as well as academia. Through the forums and workshops, 55 persons were trained in the area of climate smart agriculture. One concept note was created to seek funding in the area of climate smart agriculture.
- IICA wrote a project proposal to improve the livelihood of young Bahamians between the ages of 17-35 years of age on the Grand Bahama island. The Grand Bahama Youth Apiculture Development Programme is a 14-week programme that seeks to train 30 entrepreneurs in beekeeping. This was a proposal written by the Institute and is funded by the Office of The Prime Minister in Grand Bahama and the Bahama Development Bank. Other partners include the Department of Cooperatives and the Bahamas National Trust and Garden of the Groves. IICA implemented one introductory workshop in Grand Bahama prior to the start of the 14 week programme. In addition to the work being done in Grand Bahama, IICA has partnered with another private sector, Gold Stream Ltd, to organize two training workshops in New Providence. In addition to the 300 people trained in the previous years, 50 more were trained in 2017.
- IICA trained 12 Bahamians from the five islands including New Providence, Eleuthera, Abaco, Cat Island and Andros in the area of agro-ecotourism through a regionally tailored six-week online course.

¹ Participating in the technical committee, reviewing documents, assistance in drafting terms of reference, travelling to the rural communities to oversee training for the project are executed properly by the consultants and that objectives are met, and liaising with the stakeholders on behalf of the technical committee.

Five agro-ecotourism proposals were presented to the region from The Bahamas.

- The Institute in The Bahamas continues to create linkages for the governmental and private sectors through national and international networking. IICA organized a mission to the Dominican Republic at the request of five self-funded private sector individuals seeking to find sources for input supplies and create new linkages for their businesses. Through IICA's assistance, the business persons visited the Agro-Alimentaria Trade Show and over 10 farms and packing houses over 2 days in various parts of the Dominican Republic.
- IICA continued the implementation of the Regional Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) project financed by the European Union with four (4) Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) seminars, through which 78 persons were trained on 4 islands. IICA also implemented four (4) "Introduction to HACCP" workshops, training 69 persons on 4 islands. The results of these workshops resulted in capacity building in agro-processing for producer groups. The exposure to food safety practices and methodologies will take producers one step forward in accessing better markets domestically and internationally.
- The Bahamas has benefited from technical training in the area of quarantine i.e. animal and

plant health at the borders and use of geo-spatial information and technology conducted by IICA Mexico, SENESICA, SAGARPA and SIAP in Mexico. One (1) officer from The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources (MAMR) was trained along with 1 IICA local staff member. IICA has also improved the Bahamian government's capacity to manage policies, plans and strategies, and has strengthened its institutional framework in keeping with international commitments, and including proposals for regulations in Agricultural Health and Food Safety as well as support for participation by The Bahamas and compliance with international organizations and agreements (*CODEX*, OIE, IPPC and WTO), through the attendance at 5 of these international meetings. Additionally, one (1) workshop was also held to train 10 public sector staff members in the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) Database systems.

- IICA in The Bahamas continues to provide assistance to the public through presentations, information sessions, and visits to three schools in New Providence to give presentations on careers in agriculture. Two information sessions were held: one for the Pharmacy Council of The Bahamas on the topic of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), and the other to introduce the public to new markets for turmeric production that the private sector is engaged in.



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