



Agriculture

Opportunity for development
in the Americas



- A study related to the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program of Canada, commissioned by IICA, highlighted the improvement of socio-economic conditions for workers and their families, and points to the potential for knowledge transfer from Canadian farm businesses to the home countries of the participants. Support from home country local agencies and agricultural extension services could assist in the transfer of knowledge, skills, technologies and best practices, which would benefit the development of the agricultural sector in participating countries. IICA in Canada and in Jamaica undertook a survey of workers, employers, and affiliated agencies to identify opportunities to acquire and transfer knowledge and skills in Jamaica.
 - IICA in Canada, Peru and the Dominican Republic, jointly with Canadian partners, completed a project to support income generating opportunities for women cacao producers through value added processing. A generic business model was produced for the successful operation of a cocoa processing business, by identifying institutional structures, marketing approaches, revenue sources, customer base, products, processing steps, equipment, certifications, and financing options. Customized training and a business plan prepared for a Peruvian cooperative provided product options and means to access financing and new trade prospects for higher valued products. A virtual financial fair connected the cooperative with investors.
 - “Cacao production in the Americas– a rewarding path to trade and development” was the theme of an event hosted by IICA and the Embassy of Peru in Canada to showcase investment, trade and development opportunities in Peru’s cacao sector.
- The event raised awareness of the role of cacao production and processing in rural livelihoods, income opportunities for women and accessing Canadian niche markets (“Bean to Bar”, organic, direct-sourced and sustainable). Six Peruvian companies connected with Canadian companies and organizations such as the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), Trade Facilitation Org. of Cda., World University Service of Canada and the Centre d’étude et de coopération internationale (CECI).
- An inter-regional *Codex* colloquium and a regional meeting with the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) served to improve coordination and communication between food safety regulators in CARICOM countries, as well as enhance regional regulatory effectiveness and efficiency to leverage international standards and address global food safety issues.
 - A Research and Internship Assistance Program (RIAP) provided funding for six research projects and internships. The projects covered subject areas across agriculture in the Americas, from biological control of invasive insect pests to the perception of food security among indigenous women in Mexico. Colombia, Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico, Canada, and Argentina, were represented as either home or host institutions for awardees.
 - IICA provided information to connect key players in the organic industry in Canada, Jamaica, and Argentina. New potential partnerships, focused on cocoa value chains were identified in several cocoa-producing countries in the hemisphere. Experts in the field of soil water management were identified in Canada to aid in a possible future project on soil desalination in low-lying Caribbean islands.

- Through the Embassy of Uruguay in Canada, a request was made for assistance to access Canadian knowledge & expertise on measurement methodology for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from animal production. Knowledge transfer related to new technologies for GHG emission monitoring, and reduction of GHG emissions from livestock production was coordinated with the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry, the Uruguayan Embassy and several representatives from the Government of Uruguay working in the areas of agriculture and environment.
- A series of knowledge sharing webinars was undertaken to contribute to improved technical capacity in the hemisphere, including the use of microbial biofertilizers for regenerative farming practices designed to provide benefits for both agricultural producers and the world's climate and "borderless financing", with an international non-profit organization that partners with financial service providers to facilitate access to finance for agriculture.
- Through support provided to PROCINORTE's Task Forces in Plant Health, Tree Fruits, Genetic Resources and Animal health, notable results were achieved. As an outcome from zebra chip (a potato pathogen) diagnostic training in Mexico, correct identification of the pathogen and insect vectors ensured that effective management strategies with economic and environmental implications are now employed. Hands-on training of Mexican scientists resulted in implementation of the Animal-GRIN (Genetic Resource Information Network) software at the national genebank in Mexico. Information on Mexico's animal genetics is now publicly accessible. This enriched the cooperation on Animal-GRIN which includes Brazil, USA and Canada.
- The Institute relies on partnerships to generate innovative and sustainable solutions to address the many challenges facing agriculture in the hemisphere. IICA engaged with new partners such as the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), Canadian Coalition on Climate Change & Development (C4D), and PLAN Canada.



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