

Significant achievements in 2014



Bahamas

- With several training sessions conducted for more than 70 participants in construction and operation of aquaponic systems, technological innovations have been introduced in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government (MAMR), the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC), the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI), the Bahamas Agri-Business Cooperative (BABCO) and the Ministry of Education, among other partners. An aquaponics system was also built and research done by an IICA Bahamas intern from Earth University in Costa Rica.
- A low-cost greenhouse training course was conducted with 15 participants, during which local pine trees were used for the structure of the greenhouse and a local children's orphanage to encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce operational costs at the home. In addition to the low-cost greenhouse training held locally, two Bahamians from the public sector were sent to the Dominican Republic and Mexico for training in Protected Agriculture techniques.
- Technical capacity in the livestock value chain has improved and has benefited more than 50 farmers and technical staff, with the collaboration of Texas Tech University (TTU), SAGARPA (Mexico), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, MAMR, Bahamas Agriculture, BAMSI, BAIC and others. Activities include sourcing at least 400 sheep and goats for BAMSI through TTU, Livestock Forum and BAIC.
- More than 100 farmers, technical staff and public and private institutions received training and technical cooperation through international partnerships promoted by IICA, such as the partnership with TTU (livestock, abattoir, HACCP), collaboration with the GEF Small Grants programme for the South Andros Handicraft and Manufacturers Association, assistance with grant writing, and other initiatives; a sweet potato and cassava project with CARDI; climate smart agriculture with IFAD, and training for 10 public-private professionals in Mexico under the SAGARPA-IICA initiative.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, MAMR, BAIC and BAMSI, a Market Information System was established with the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS-USDA). Approximately 12 technical persons were trained in the use of the platform and data analysis.
- IICA successfully completed The Exuma Women's Project, funded by UN Women, resulting in improvement of the skills of more than a hundred women in the production and marketing of handicrafts. This project enabled them to introduce new quality products for local and international markets, thus increasing the income of communities in several islands of The Bahamas.
- The Farmers' Association and the Department of Cooperative partnered to hold an Agriculture forum on the rural Cat Island. Topics presented included Small Ruminant Production, Sweet Potato and Cassava Production, Marketing and Record Keeping, Agri-business Commercialization, Developing a Cooperative and Poultry Production.
- The Bahamas Chapter of CANROP and the Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers (BAHNROP) were legally created. Through facilitating the establishment of this group through The Exuma Women's Project, members of BAHNROP have been exposed to knowledge management platforms, public relations training in the UK, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Suriname and other capacity building exercises.