

Significant achievements in 2014



Barbados

- IICA increased the capacity of 31 young persons in agriculture for applying innovative methods to food production (including greenhouse production, drip irrigation, “grow bags”) and to ensure compliance with agricultural health and food safety in production operations (particularly in the areas of pest identification and management), through a training programme that resulted in the award of certification at the level of the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) for competency in Amenity Horticulture.
- Institutional innovations were implemented for improving competency and skills in the agricultural workforce, through the successful creation of a public-private sector network of partners, which included the Technical and Vocational (TVET) Council under the Ministry of Labour, nine secondary schools under the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture, and through collaboration with five leading private sector companies (in sheep, poultry, organic and horticultural production).
- IICA assisted in increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, the St. George Farmers’ Cooperative, the Organic Growers and Consumers Association and private entrepreneurs to promote and implement measures for adapting to climate change and building resilience through initiatives in organic production, water management, protected agriculture, and permaculture. This included the conduct of baseline studies and sensitization of small rural stakeholders with respect to adaptation to climate change, and the carrying out of Vulnerability Risk Assessments.
- The capability of stakeholders in the public and private sectors has been strengthened with respect to standards, legislation, protocols and guidelines in agricultural health and food safety, through the provision of funding and logistical support for their participation in national, regional and international meetings and training programmes, and through collaboration with key partners under the EU-SPS project. Sixty-two participants took part in training and forums covering ISPM, Plant Health, Rabies Diagnostics, Plant Quarantine, Risk Assessment and One-Health Leadership.
- The efficacy and efficiency of food and nutrition security programmes has been strengthened through the promotion of healthy eating among school children, collaboration with food service professionals and promotion of indigenous Caribbean foods. IICA sensitized 200 school children to healthy snacking, and 25 small entrepreneurs to health and wellness. IICA also partnered with the Hospitality Institute to link cuisine with local agriculture and foods through the hosting of the annual Plantation Breakfast at Agrofest, which catered to 300 patrons.
- The capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture in sheep production has been enhanced through the provision of training for senior technicians in Blackbelly sheep rearing through the SAGARPA programme. Innovation in breeding and management among sheep farmers was also promoted through a visit by professors from Chapingo University in Mexico.