

## Significant achievements in 2014



### Belize

- With the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, and with funding from the EU, 30 technical staff of the different institutions of the sugar industry received training in the area of research and development related to sugar cane production, 1200 sugar cane farmers were trained in best practices through the Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Field Days, and the capacity of SIRDI to manage, analyze and provide vital information to decision makers improved through the development of a data base system.
- In coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA) the capacity of family farming in the rural economy was developed via a forum on “The Role of family farms in food security; Challenges and Opportunities”.
- The MNRA, FAO, IICA and others members of a dedicated Task Force, developed a draft National Agriculture and Food Policy that will provide a clear direction for the government to reform the sector in the next 15 years, by consulting a group of over 250 stakeholders.
- The Institute and the Belize Livestock Producers Association have strengthened critical linkages and networks and have produced a conceptual document that will help guide development of the livestock sector.
- Belize increased its effectiveness to link community leaders, community groups and government officials in support of climate change and rural development in the framework of ECADERT projects in the Belize River Valley involving fowl and small ruminants. The groups included are the National Kriol Council, Ladies Involving Nature and Knowledge, and the Belize Fowl Association.
- Under the CONACYT-IICA 100 scholarships program supported by the Government of Mexico, two professionals from Belize are doing their master’s and doctoral studies in Mexican Universities.