

Significant achievements in 2014



Canada

- Eight awards were made under IICA's Research Internship and Assistance Programme (RIAP), and were aligned with themes relating to the Institute's 2010–2014 Medium Term Plan to support joint research and internships between young persons in agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in Canada.
- IICA developed a checklist of information required for analysis, reviewed desk research material and prepared an initial draft business plan with options for establishing a turnkey dairy operation in Guyana. This was a direct follow-up to the inaugural participation of Canada in the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, 2013, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture. Interviews and meetings were held with stakeholders in Guyana as well as Canada to explore past experiences, interest and support available for the initiative.
- Under the project with the Conference Board of Canada (CBoC) "Building the capacity of Peruvian and Colombian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)":
 - 59 participants representing cacao, quinoa, aromaticas, panela and tilapia producer associations, as well as commodity management authorities, regulatory & policy making bodies from both countries were trained in Canada's SPS Regulatory Framework, as well as important information on the Canadian marketplace.
 - 12 Peruvian and Colombian industry & government representatives participated in a mission to Canada and held discussions with Canadian SPS regulators and importers to clarify market requirements, challenges, expectations and export potential.
- IICA's image and access to key regulatory bodies throughout Latin America and the Caribbean improved, as evidenced through two events successfully hosted with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Eleven countries participated, including Jamaica, Guatemala, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Peru, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Uruguay, with a total of close to 100 regulators, inspectors and representatives from the private sector. The platform proved useful for sharing information on the new Safe Food for Canadians Act, as well as for obtaining comments and recommendations prior to the tabling of the Regulation in the Canadian Parliament.
- Through PROCINORTE, IICA supported the training of scientists from research institutes and regulatory bodies in Canada, the United States, and Mexico in diagnostic techniques, molecular epidemiology, and tools for monitoring risks related to bovine tuberculosis. Through PROCINORTE, IICA also supported the updating of expertise in the use of the GRIN-Global, a system developed by the USDA for managing global plant gene bank information. Moreover, a US/Canada/Mexico network of specialists in biological control was established to share knowledge of regional interest on invasive insects and their interaction with climate change patterns.