



Our  
Commitment:  
Results



Delegation in Canada

# Harvest Times

IICA Canada

Summary  
Annual Report  
2016

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture



# Mission

To encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence. The Institute provides technical cooperation in its 34 Member States, where it addresses priority needs expeditiously in order to achieve increasingly inclusive, competitive and sustainable agriculture. Without a doubt, IICA's most valuable asset is the close relationship it maintains with the beneficiaries of its work.

We offer technical support to help countries in the Americas to:

- Improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector
- Strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of rural areas and the well-being of the rural population
- Improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources
- Improve agriculture's contribution to food security

# What does IICA do?

The distinctive activities through which IICA fulfills its mandate include:

- Institutional strengthening
- Capacity building and development of human talent
- Development and strengthening of public policies
- Management and use of knowledge
- Project management
- Consensus building and coordination of stakeholders
- Horizontal cooperation
- Corporate management





# IICA's Delegation in Canada

## Significant Achievements in 2016

### Supporting Technical Cooperation in the Americas

IICA provided horizontal cooperation to several IICA member countries. The following are notable examples:

- The Government of Bahamas received support for its food and veterinary regulatory system by way of a workshop geared towards implementing international food safety standards related to veterinary drug residues using the Canadian system as a model. An action plan highlighting key priorities and areas of focus to advance future work was prepared by national representatives in the Bahamas.
- Jamaica strengthened ties with the Canadian Small Ruminant Sector through a fact-finding mission to Ontario, Canada. The Jamaican team comprised industry members who had the opportunity to meet and interact with representatives from the Canadian Provincial and Federal governments, academia, genetics providers, and other experts in the small ruminant sector.
- The Minister of Agriculture in Panama was sensitized to programs, services and research initiatives performed by Canadian Universities and Provincial and Federal organizations in the area of greenhouse production and technology. This initiative provided insights and considerations for enhancing and developing relevant training programs in Panama.

### Promoting Opportunities and Achievements

A video promoting compliance and encouraging implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) was developed for sharing with small scale producers in 5 commodity chains throughout Latin America. Following IICA's successful conclusion a project related to capacity building of Peruvian and Colombian small and medium sized enterprises to enhance export opportunities to Canada, additional funding was secured to share highlights of the advances made under the project. Focusing on the achievements in selected commodity chains in Peru & Colombia, the video production promoted compliance with sanitary measures and the potential value of export markets.

### Generating Results with Research and International Exchanges

IICA, through its Research and Internship Assistance Program (RIAP), provided invaluable opportunities to three Canadian participants to conduct investigative studies in Caribbean countries (Barbados & St Kitts and Nevis) while encouraging projects of mutual interest.

One project led to the development of a series of twenty- two tutorial style videos on key concepts in food processing, product development and general food science.

Topics were particularly relevant for small scale food processors, students and instructors in educational institutions. The instructional videos were developed by a professor at the University of Guelph following a series of workshops sponsored under IICA Canada's RIAP program and are available on the delegation's website.

### PROCINORTE .... Supporting Trilateral Agricultural Research in North America

The Secretariat for PROCINORTE, based in Canada, provided support to the activities of the Task Forces in Plant Health, Tree Fruits, Genetic Resources and Animal Health. Notable highlights included a new initiative of the NORGEN Task Force (in collaboration with University of Laval and AAFC) on Indigenous Plant Genetic Resources, as well as joint research projects supported by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA – ARS), where the thrust towards establishing strategic partnerships was particularly evident.

The Secretariat also implemented a robust Communication Plan, significantly increasing the visibility and image of PROCINORTE among other PROCIs, industry & technical groups, in social media and on the internet.

A notable "first" was the elaboration of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan appropriate to the nature and role of PROCINORTE.



### Spreading the word about an innovation — Affordable natural product to extend fruit shelf life

The susceptibility of foods to spoilage in Latin America and the Caribbean is compounded by inadequate cold storage facilities and marketing infrastructure. This reality motivated IICA, in coordination with the University of Guelph, Ontario, to share a recent innovation with more than 160 participants representing 17 countries through a webinar. Participants learned about an affordable innovation to extend fruit shelf life of a variety of fruits.

### Dialogue with Canadian Stakeholders on Resilient Food Systems

Increased knowledge on resilient food systems was gleaned for more than 80 counterparts through an interactive public exchange with officials of the International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Institute for Global Food Security, McGill University. Participants gained information on climate change impacts which can directly and indirectly impact food production and food systems.

### Enhancing value-added opportunities of small scale cacao producers in Peru and Dominican Republic

A project, launched in 2016, to enhance the value-added opportunities for small scale cacao producers from Peru and the Dominican Republic, captured a case study of a cacao cooperative managed and operated by women. The cooperative is demonstrating how to improve earnings locally by going up the value chain, producing certified, cacao products for both local and overseas markets. The case is to form the basis for the development of a generic business model to be used by other cooperatives seeking to add value to their operations. Supported by the Institute's funds for technical cooperation, the project has partners from both the private and public sectors.

#### Forging Strategic Partnerships

IICA relies heavily on partnerships to generate innovative and sustainable solutions to address the many challenges facing agriculture in the hemisphere. Consistent with its commitment in the Institute's Medium Term Plan, IICA Canada identified and connected with several new strategic partner organizations in 2016: Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC), Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC), and several during a successful consultation in Eastern Canada (Dalhousie University, Halifax & Thuro Campuses, Atlantic Council for International Cooperation (ACIC), Acadian Seaplants Limited, Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc., Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Fredericton Research and Development Centre and Charlottetown Research Centre, PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, PEI Federation of Agriculture, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of PEI, PEI Food Island Partnership & PEI BioAlliance, and PEI Potato Board).

In addition to forging new partnerships, maintaining strong and mutually beneficial relationships with our existing partners was also a key focus area for the team in 2016.

Thanks to the support of our Canadian stakeholders, the IICA Canada office was able to make significant progress in 2016 towards achieving the Institute's results.

#### **IICA Canada**

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