



Annual Report 2004

The Contribution of IICA

to the Development of Agriculture and
Rural Communities in Jamaica



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Introduction

The IICA Office in Jamaica is pleased to present to the Agricultural Sector, the 2004 Annual Report, in accordance with the Institute's policy of transparency and accountability to the country and more so to the actors of the Agricultural Sector who strive for its development and the overall wellbeing of the Rural Communities.

IICA's commitments come from the identification of the activities, projects and programmes that it promotes and participates in, based on the understanding and agreement of National Authorities of the Public and the Private Sector. We are committed to work with the social and economic actors of the agricultural sector on subjects identified as necessary and appropriate by the Government of Jamaica.

In this context we are now presenting the results of the 2004 activities. Their intentions are full of the individual commitment of the small staff of the IICA Office in Jamaica, striving to do the most, operating on a limited budget.

Notwithstanding this limitation, the Office has executed a total of \$US 2,305,532 since 2002 not including the budget for 2005. The four years will complete the present Medium Term Plan within the present administration of Dr. Chelston Brathwaite.

In terms of its operation, the Office completed the 18 month Project "Strengthening the Competitive Advantage of Primary Producers, focussing on Rural Women in Agriculture" financed by the CIDA-funded CPEC project for a total of \$US 250,198, through which some 150 women in agriculture and small producers were trained in ways to increase their competitiveness in the market place. The Office also advanced in the implementation of community oriented rural development projects, in the establishing of agricultural production with business orientation in the recuperated mined-out bauxite lands.

Summary of resources Managed by the IICA Office in Jamaica during the period 2002 - 2004				
Source of funding	Year			Total
	2002	2003	2004	
General Management and technical cooperation	393,189	440,202	465,478	1,298,869
External projects and activities	144,368	384,941	477,354	1,006,663
Total	539,559	827,146	944,836	2,305,532

At the same time the IICA Office was involved in the support to the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) in the preparation of the National Sustainable Rural Development Policy. In the promotion and defining of a “Good Agricultural Practice” – GAP strategy for Jamaica through the participation of IICA’s regional Agricultural Health Specialist.

The Institute also supports Jamaica in the active participation at the WTO SPS meetings to strengthen the countries position and development of a realistic and rational involvement in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary world system.

At the Regional level, Jamaica participated in a number of IICA promoted activities to strengthen regional public and private institutions, promote the development of the Rural Women and the Youth. One particular event that may have long term impact was the implementation of an international conference, in St. Lucia, on the availability (supply) and use of information in the agricultural sector.

The year of 2004 was a challenging one in terms of natural disasters. Hurricane Ivan partially impacted on our Office building but more so was its impact on the agricultural sector. The damages were so great that in agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture the technical cooperation activities of the Office were subsumed into one, namely: “Hurricane Ivan Relief Project”. In the implementation of the project IICA partnered with USAID’s Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to implement relief activities to the tune of \$J 9, 435,304. The relief activities will end in March 2005.

This year the Office in Jamaica hosted the IICA Caribbean Programming Meeting during November 9-12, 2004. The meeting included the participation of members of IICA's high management team from Headquarters and staff from the region. Some 50 plus participants shared together in the presentations and ensuing deliberations that resulted in the National and Regional Plans of Action for 2005.

The way forward

Challenges lie ahead for the present year, in which a number of changes are expected, with a new world economic and social scenario characterized by a new growth perspective, but with highlighted issues of employment and an increasing worldwide rural and urban poverty.

As indicated by its Government, Jamaica has achieved a considerable macroeconomic stability with the expectation of a substantial increase in local and foreign direct investment. Large investments, both public and private, are programmed or in the implementation phase for infrastructure, and development of the tourist industry. The agricultural sector will play a definite role in this economic expansion with increased supply of food and food stuff products for the local market, targeted for the expected increase

in the tourist flow to Jamaica and for export to the regional and extra regional markets.

IICA should certainly play a role in the support to the development of increased agricultural production of basic and processed products and of the overall wellbeing of the rural populations.

The experience in the implementation of the technical cooperation activities during the last few years has promoted the development of an expertise in the management and implementation of training activities and in community development projects, with an increasing and updated knowledge of agricultural sector issues.

To this end, part of our activities for 2005 will be that of setting up the bases of the new programming that will feed into the directions of the new Medium Term Plan of the Institute.

Finally, we could not have done our work without the support of all of the organizations, public and private of the agricultural sector, including the support of other International Organizations. We wish to express our gratitude to all of our collaborators for their support and all of our clients and project beneficiaries, for giving us the opportunity and incentive to continue to serve them.

Executive Summary

Technical cooperation activities executed by the IICA Office in Jamaica in 2004 have contributed towards promoting agricultural and rural development initiatives as well as enhancing the competitive advantage of the rural communities in Jamaica. The results of some of these actions are summarized as follows.

Strengthening Rural Communities

IICA continues to support the process of empowerment of rural women through support to the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP). The Office hosted the Annual General Meeting of the JNRWP, at which a new President and Executive were elected and a website for the network launched. The Network also completed a strategic plan for its development.

The Office continued to promote a multi-sectoral approach to community and farm development in the rural areas, to increase competitiveness, enhance social development and improve natural resource management.

Strengthening of rural communities through the development of income generating agricultural production activities continued with the implementation of the two projects funded by the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) viz. goat production in Mocho, Clarendon and the production of hot pepper and spices in Walkerswood, St. Ann. Advances were made in the development of the breeding programme and satellite farming system for the goat project as well as the system of contract farming for the provision of pepper and spices to Walkerswood Caribbean Foods. Both projects continue to illustrate potential for generating agribusiness in these farming communities, using reclaimed bauxite lands.

IICA partnered with local and international agencies: the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), the Social Development Commission (SDC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ridge to Reef Watershed Project in the implementation of community development projects using the territorial approach in Charles Town, Portland. This programme will impact on over 600 persons. A similar programme was initiated for the rural community of Elim, St. Elizabeth.

The Institute collaborated with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) in the development of the National Sustainable Rural Development Policy and is currently in dialogue with the PIOJ to explore the possibility of

providing support for developing an action plan for implementation of the policy.

IICA signed a teaming agreement with the Partners of the Americas, to act as the coordinating agency for the Farmer to Farmer Programme in Jamaica and in 2004 was able to facilitate one assignment by an expert technical volunteer. Programming meetings were also held with representatives from FAVACA which is collaborating in the recruitment of volunteers.

Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade

IICA assisted in advancing the effectiveness and modernization of the Pig Industry in Jamaica, by participating in the preparation of the Industry Development Plan, which was commissioned by the Jamaica Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). IICA also convened and hosted meetings of the Pig Industry Development Committee, which reviewed local production, the marketing situation and operations of the key players in the local pig industry. Under the CIDA-funded CPEC programme, members of the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association were trained in Good Agricultural Practices.

The Office has been recognized by the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association (JPFA) and the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association for its contribution to the development of their associations.

The Office continued to promote agribusiness entrepreneurship and value-added use of local commodities, through the award of two annual IICA Jamaica Agribusiness Awards. IICA provided both award winners with the opportunity to showcase their products at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show in August 2004.

The Office participated as a key member of the team that has now completed the National Agricultural Development Strategy which will guide the design and development of agricultural policy, agricultural development, the modernization of the Ministry of Agriculture and the advancement of the sector over the next five (5) year period.

Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

IICA organized a meeting of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and other key local agencies to present results of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) activities carried out by IICA in the Eastern Caribbean and facilitated a similar presentation to the National Agricultural Health and

Food Safety Coordinating Committee (NAHFSCC), raising awareness of GAP. These activities have resulted in actions by the MOA to coordinate activities in this area at the national level.

IICA continued its support in strengthening national capacity by facilitating attendance of national functionaries at meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Developing human capital

Numerous training activities were hosted, implemented and co-organized by the IICA Office in Jamaica in 2004. Among these, the most significant contribution of the Office was the successful management and implementation of the CIDA-funded CPEC project “Strengthening the Competitive Advantage of Primary Producers focusing on Rural Women”, which ended in September 2004, having trained over 150 women farmers, extension officers and small agro-entrepreneurs across the entire island.

Institutional modernization

IICA also facilitated institutional strengthening of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) and commodity associations i.e. the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association and the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association. This was achieved through structured training which was conducted by both local and Canadian experts, under the CPEC Project. The IICA Office in Jamaica continued to support the activities of CABA in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Hemispheric Integration

The Office fully supported programmes and activities under regional/hemispheric cover, among these: the CPEC “Regional Organic Farming Workshop” and the project, “Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean” (SAQS); facilitated a training mission for four Jamaican nationals to Costa Rica in “Implementation of EUREPGAP for Fresh Produce”; hosted a regional IICA technical meeting to develop initiatives to look at the real contribution of agriculture to the Caribbean;

organized and implemented a CTA/IICA-funded regional conference “Information Strategies for the Repositioning of Agriculture in the Caribbean” in collaboration with the IICA Office in St. Lucia; hosted the IICA Caribbean Programming Meeting 2004. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan, IICA commissioned a hemispheric team to develop a Disaster Mitigation Plan for the agricultural sector of Jamaica.

The Office participated in the preparation and further promotion of the Agro Plan 2003 – 2015 and in the identification of the set of indicators that will monitor its implementation. A workshop is being planned for the Caribbean that will set up the implementation of the indicators for the Region in 2005.

Other key activities

IICA provided hurricane relief funding to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for rehabilitation of the hot pepper seedling capacity at the Bodles Research Station and the fingerling capacity at the Aquaculture Division. The Institute also initiated discussions with and secured funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project, to facilitate a programme of disbursement of grant funds aimed at providing inputs to farmers that were affected by Hurricane Ivan. This has resulted in the design and commencement of the six-month R2RW/IICA/MOA Hurricane Relief Project. The activity will also yield the proposal of a long term strategy to deal with the prevention and mitigation of damages to the agricultural sector resulting from natural disasters.

The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Jamaica in 2004

Recent Performance in the expanded agricultural sector

During the first two quarters of 2004, extremely bad weather affected expansion in the performance of Jamaica's agricultural sector. During this period, drought conditions prevailed with rainfall in the second quarter reported at 30.3 per cent below the 30-year mean. While as a consequence overall domestic crop production declined there were noted increases in condiment, plantain and poultry production. Traditional exports however remained stable during this period, with crops such as coffee, citrus, banana and pimento registering increased exports. The output of the food processing sub-sector improved up to June 2004 by 3.2 per cent reflecting an increased demand for local poultry meat mainly as a consequence of the reduction in imports.

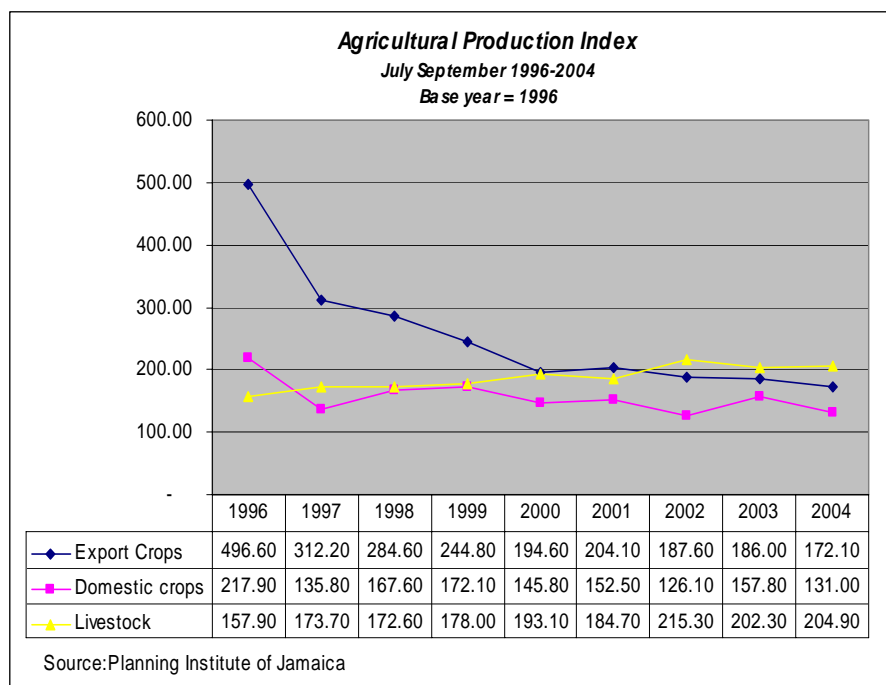
In the second half of 2004, two hurricanes heaped havoc on the sector with an estimated 117,600 farmers reporting damage to their crops due to strong winds and flooding. Losses due to Hurricanes Charley and Ivan were estimated at US\$90.4 million and US\$8,550 million respectively. Most of the damage (53%) was experienced by traditional crops (estimated at US\$ 4,559.7 million). Domestic crops; livestock and fisheries accounted for 30.5 per cent; 8.9 per cent and 4 per cent of the loss incurred.

As a consequence of these weather conditions, for the period January – September 2004, Real GDP in the country's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sectors declined by 8.5 per cent. Gross output in the Domestic Crop sector declined by 20.0 per cent, with the area of crops reaped declining by 11.5 per cent to 7,105 hectares. In terms of traditional crops the banana industry was totally devastated resulting in no banana exports in the last quarter of the year. Cocoa production also declined (by 77 per cent). It is anticipated that the banana industry will recover in six to nine months; cocoa by October 2005, and Domestic crops by June 2005.

The local food processing sub-sector which contributed 26.2 per cent of GDP in 2003, and which was experiencing positive growth in the first half of the year, was also affected by Hurricane Ivan and recorded an overall decline during the third quarter. Relative to the corresponding period in 2003, sugar production levels went down by 38.2 per cent, animal feeds down by 8.0 per cent and edible oils down by 5.5 per cent. There were however significant increases in the case of poultry meat (up 85.9 per cent) dairy products (up 3.4 per cent).

The trends

As the attached graph shows, the general trend for the decline in exports crops has continued but at a slower rate. The increase in the livestock sector and the indication of a more stable trend in the domestic crop sectors



appear to be a good indication of the structural changes happening in the use of land in Jamaica. The effect of the natural disasters and adverse weather conditions in 2004 seems to have offset the positive increase of 2003, however the trend, if viewed in this context, should have been one of increased production.

Critical issues in the international and national context that impact agriculture and rural life

The global situation and the regional insertion of the Jamaican Economy are centred around the following major concerns:

✓ **Focusing on achieving Global Competitiveness**

The Government of Jamaica remains committed to improving Jamaica's trade competitiveness through ensuring a stable macroeconomic environment to incentivate and promote foreign and local direct investment in the economy.

A recurring concern has been to ensure that Jamaican firms are not put at a disadvantage as a result of trading practices and that the special development needs of small island states are taken into account in the negotiation process and reflected in final agreements.

✓ **Full Implementation of the CSME**

Jamaica implemented the CSME as of the 1st of January 2005, along with Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados. All other member states are to implement the CSME by 2006.

✓ **The Cotonou Agreement, Second phase.**

“Negotiations under Phase 1 of the Cotonou Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU) and African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States were completed during 2003. This phase of the negotiations took place at an all-ACP-EC level and addressed common issues of interest to all parties. Negotiations under Phase II of the EPA, which is being conducted on a bilateral basis between Caricom and the EU, commenced in 2004”.

The EPA is reflective of a free trade area based on all-inclusiveness - meaning that all trade is included -, and reciprocity – meaning that ACP countries will have to grant market access concessions to the EU in agriculture, services and other areas. Of significance also, is that this new relationship will be forged by region, hence ending the 30-plus year history of a consolidated ACP group in terms of its relations with the EU.

✓ **The Summit of the Americas, FTAA and Agro 2003-2015 Plan Of Action**

In the words of the Heads of States of the Hemisphere:

“We commit to maintain a sustained effort to improve living conditions for inhabitants of rural areas, by promoting investment and creating a favourable environment to achieve sustainable improvements in agriculture that will contribute to social development, rural prosperity, and food security. In this context, we support the implementation of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, held in Panama in November 2003”¹.

✓ **Bilateral Relations**

The Government of Jamaica emphasizes the importance of bilateral relations in the understanding and appreciation of Jamaica’s efforts in the development processes in which it is engaged. The bilateral cooperation programmes are of tremendous assistance to the country’s development efforts.

¹Paragraph 43, Declaration of Nuevo Leon, Special Summit of the Americas, 2004

The status of living conditions in rural communities

Data from the Jamaica Survey of living conditions (JSLC) 2002 indicate that rural areas have continued to lag behind urban areas in both social and economic development. Concentration of economic activities as well as social services in urban areas has resulted in rural areas reflecting the highest incidence of poverty at 25.1% (JSLC 2002).

Rural areas, which are largely dependent on farming, have lower per capita incomes and farmers continue to struggle to compete successfully in commodity markets. The disparity in income between rural and urban areas is reflected in the per capita consumption expenditure of \$122,406.00 for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), \$84,614.00 for other towns and \$62,336.00 for rural areas (JSLC 2002). The Survey also reveals that persons in rural areas are more than twice as likely as their counterparts in the KMA to be poor, have lower levels of education, larger households and are more likely to share basic housing amenities.

Housing materials (block and steel, wood, wattle and daub) and amenities (electric lighting, toilet facilities and piped water), which are used by the JSLC as primary indicators of living conditions are on the whole poorest in rural areas. Infrastructure and social services are also generally inadequate due to the challenges of providing these facilities to highly dispersed rural populations.

Summary of the National Agenda

The process of defining a National Agenda for the period 2002-2006 was carried out in 2002 by the IICA Office in Jamaica in consultation with the national authorities and private sector agencies in the community of agriculture and rural life. The major areas of intervention were jointly identified: Trade and Agribusiness, Sustainable Rural Development, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Information and Communication. The process allowed for the definition of a more meaningful role for IICA in Jamaica in direct response to the identified needs of the sector and provided the basis for more effective collaboration with strategic partners in both the public and private sector.

The priorities of the IICA's National Agenda in Jamaica are as follows:

✓ Sustainable Rural Development

To promote farm and community development in the rural areas, promote a multi-sectoral approach, increase competitiveness, social development and to improve natural resource management at the national level.

✓ Policy, Trade and Integration

To strengthen the capacity of the sector to effectively participate in trade and respond to negotiations which will benefit the economy, minimize threats and maximize opportunities.

✓ Agribusiness Development

To promote agribusiness development with a view to increasing competitiveness of agri-products and highlight this development as an essential mechanism for sustained rural development.

✓ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

To facilitate and enhance trade by supporting the development of a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programme therein increase the availability of safe food, improved health, and more important, the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in regional and global trade.

Results of the Technical Cooperation for 2004

Facilitating competitiveness and global trade

During 2004, due to Hurricane Ivan, the Office was not able to execute its annual 'Clearing House', which is intended be a forum to keep local agribusiness sensitized to the status of negotiations across the major external trade negotiating theatres namely, the World Trade Organization (WTO); Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The Office through its electronic systems as well as periodic consultations with the Trade Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, was however able to keep abreast of these developments. The major issues of interest to Jamaica included :-

- ✓ impact of the impending European Union (EU) 'tariff-only regime';
- ✓ the proposed overhauling of the EU's controversial sugar subsidy regime and the cutting of the guaranteed sugar price by one-third between 2005 and 2007;
- ✓ EPAs and the necessity of WTO compatibility as well as the need for a stable and predictable framework for increased trade and investment;
- ✓ the FTAA and the lack of consensus on a framework for the proposed hemisphere-wide trade; and
- ✓ the strengthening of the Caribbean regional integration process and coherence with national and regional development policies.

At the industry level the Office continued to assist the local pig/pork industry to enhance its integration and competitiveness, acting as secretariat for the Pig Industry Development Committee which met twice for the year.

Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

IICA continued to participate as a member of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety and Coordinating Committee (NAHFSCC), participating in the deliberations on the creation of the National Food Safety Agency.

The Office organized a meeting of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and other key local agencies to present results of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) activities carried out by IICA in the Eastern Caribbean and facilitated a similar presentation to the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Coordinating Committee (NAHFSCC), raising

awareness of GAP. These activities have resulted in actions by the MOA to coordinate activities in this area at the national level.

IICA continued its support in strengthening national capacity by facilitating attendance of national functionaries at meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

The Office continued to play its role in the coordination of activities under the project Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean (SAQS). This project ended in April 2004. As part of the closing activities of the project, the Office presented state-of-the-art computer system and risk analysis management software to the Veterinary Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, for use in strengthening their activities in this area of work.

Strengthening rural communities

In the area of sustainable rural development, one of IICA's primary objectives is to provide assistance to member states for the formulation of rural development policies. In this regard the Office provided technical assistance for the development of the National Sustainable Rural Development Policy, an initiative which was coordinated by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). IICA is currently in dialogue with the PIOJ to explore the possibility of providing support for developing an action plan for implementation of the policy.

Other rural development initiatives included fostering sustainable development at the community level. Two rural development programmes were undertaken in 2004, one in Charles Town, Portland and the other in Elim, St. Elizabeth. The development framework that is being used for these programmes is the territorial approach. This approach seeks to create integrated, holistic programmes comprised of the social, economic, governance and environmental management components that interact to determine rural conditions.

In order to accurately determine the pre-intervention socio-economic conditions in these communities, IICA contracted a consultant from the University of the West Indies (UWI) to conduct socio-economic/household livelihoods surveys which presented information on the livelihoods/economic base as well as the social nature of the communities. The results of these surveys have been used to inform the development process and will provide baseline data against which improvements can be measured.

The components of both programmes were developed through community/stakeholder consultation workshops that sought to actively engage programme beneficiaries in the development process. Additionally, several community action planning workshops were held in Elim, during

which residents developed strategies, time frames and resource needs for implementing development activities in 2005.

Based on the decisions of the workshops, projects have focused on developing locally based governance systems to guide the development process, improving livelihoods through environmentally sustainable projects and providing guidance and support for human capital development projects.

Charles Town

At the request of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, IICA began the design of a development programme for Charles Town and its surrounding districts (Red Hills, Plum Valley, Cotton Tree and Rose Hill) in June 2003. The first phase of the programme was the development of a concept paper which mapped the various stakeholders, donor agencies and development programmes that existed in the area. This paper also sought to explore, through observations and interviews with community members, the history of the area, the nature of local resources and patterns of resource use. In December 2003 through 2004 various consultations were held with the community and development agencies working the area in order to further develop and implement the programme

Elements of the Charles Town Programme:

Local governance: IICA, in collaboration with the Social Development Commission (SDC), and the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW) assisted the community in forming a Community Development Committee (CDC), which has representation from various community based organizations (CBOs) in the development area. Capacity building training will be provided to the CDC in 2005.

Sustainable livelihoods: Ongoing training is being provided to existing and potential beekeepers in partnership with the Apiculture Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. IICA prepared and submitted a proposal for funding to the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) on behalf of the beekeepers in the development area. These funds will be used to assist trainees in setting up/expanding their operations.

Sustainable livelihoods: A feasibility study for establishing a herbs/nutraceuticals industry in Charles Town was commenced in December 2004. This component of the programme has its foundation in the Maroon heritage of the area, with its vast reservoir of traditional knowledge and use of medicinal herbs and functional foods. This component will also complement heritage tourism activities that are being implemented by the Charles Town Maroon Council. The feasibility study is expected to be completed in March 2005. Funding for the study is being provided by USAID.

Human capital development: IICA provided computer training for community members in July 2004 and prepared and submitted a funding proposal to the Embassy of Japan for constructing and equipping a computer centre for the community.

Elim

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture, to design and implement a community development programme in St. Elizabeth, IICA consulted with representatives of the SDC and RADA offices in the parish to determine the community that should be targeted for intervention. Elim was selected based on the low level of economic and social development in the community. The process of preparing a concept paper and having various consultations with community members and other stakeholders was applied. Implementation of the programme will begin in 2005. However, several components emerged out of the community consultation and action planning workshops that were held in the last quarter of 2004.

Elements of the Elim Development Programme

Governance: To strengthen and provide capacity development training for the Elim Citizens' Association so that the group may function as the Elim CDC

Sustainable livelihoods: To re-establish the Elim Cooperative to provide markets for farmers and employment for women in making value added products.

Sustainable livelihoods: To provide training for farmers in Elim in sustainable agricultural practices and small business management

Sustainable livelihoods: To seek to leverage funding for farmers in Elim in order to improve irrigation on farms.

Human capital development: To establish a literacy programme in Elim.

Hot pepper farmers in Elim also received assistance from the R2RW/IICA/MOA Hurricane Relief Programme for resuscitating their farms after the passage of hurricane Ivan.

Walkerswood Agricultural Support Project

The Office continued its implementation of the JBI-funded Walkerswood Agricultural Support Project. The project seeks to promote the development of agriculture and the rural communities in the reclaimed mined out bauxite areas, by increasing the production and business capacity of the small farming population, generating increased economic activity with increased technological level and minimizing the risk of market conditions.

The project is set up to achieve its developmental objective by generating agricultural earning opportunities with the farming population which are

sustainable and environmentally friendly, under supervised and supportive conditions, minimizing the risk of the agricultural business.

The interventions to promote development, implemented through the project activities, should be permanent in the sense that once the project is terminated the farming activities will continue operating at the new level of business activity.

The basic units of the project are the farmers organized in groups. These groups undertake the production/marketing programmes according to the needs of the market through a contract market arrangement. Technical assistance and input distribution is address to the individual farmers but coordinated through the groups.

In 2004 culminated the first phase of the project working with some 80 farmers in the cultivation of pepper (West Indian Red and Scotch Bonnet) thyme, ginger and escallion. All of these crops were marketed through a contract market arrangement with the Walkerswood factory. The crops suffer substantial damages as a result of the Hurricane Ivan and towards the end of the year all the project efforts were directed at the recuperation of the lost acreages.

The Walkerswood Agricultural Support Project, expansion of Phase 2, 2005, focuses its operations on the following components, in order to achieve the proposed objective.

- ◆ Management component; The administrative component; The production component (Farmers groups, Land and water assistance, Crop and tree crop production, Technical Assistance, Marketing Assistance, The nursery.)

Mocho Goat Development Project

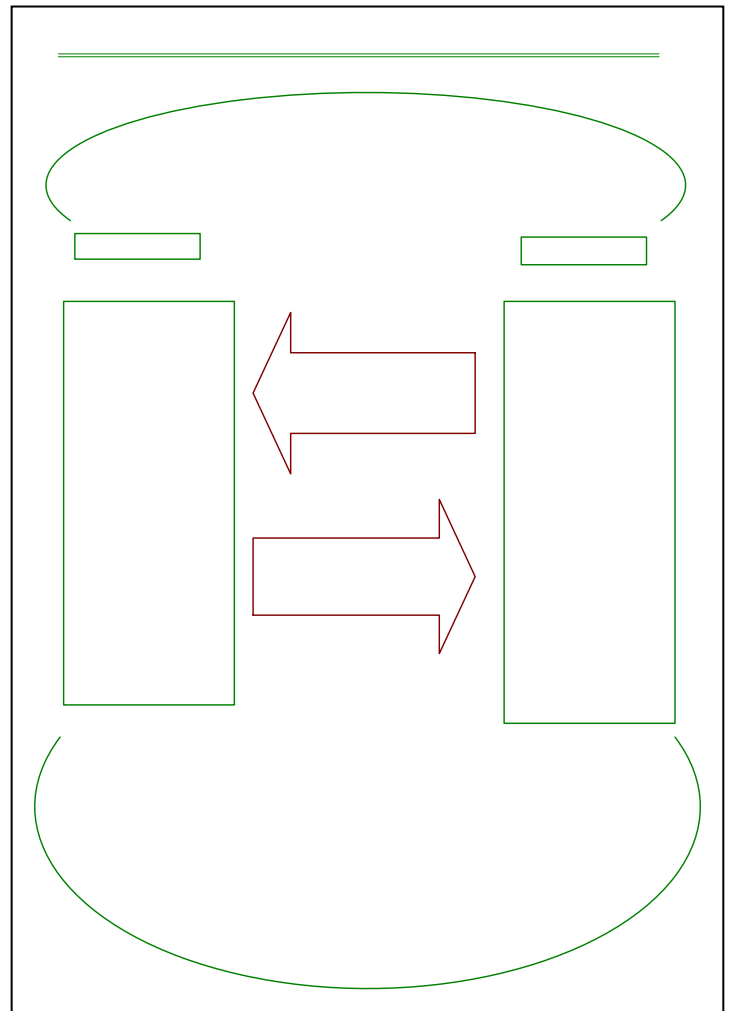
IICA's partnership with the JBI in the implementation of the project "Recovery of Mined-out Bauxite Soils for Goat Production in the Mocho Area of Clarendon, Jamaica" has four basic emphasis in the execution of the present phase of the project:

1. Emphasis on the system concept rather than on the individual units, as part of an integrated business setup. The total size of the business will be that of an integrated goat herd of approximately 800 + heads.
2. Emphasis on the design and implementation of the value added components of the project, namely milk/cheese, meat, by product of goat production, skin, craft, soaps, and others.
3. Emphasis on the economic sustainability of the Goat farm business as the project phases out.
4. Emphasis on the participation of the Mocho Community in the implementation of the project and in the setting up of the business part of it.

The system is targeting the integration of the 200 goat herd at the Mother Farm with the 15+ goat herd at each of the 40 satellite farms for a total herd of 800+ goats.

As concluded in the analysis presented in the evaluation report done by a consultant in 2004, the largest benefits for Goat business should include the production of fresh milk, other milk products and meat. Therefore it is proposed that the appropriate feasibility study be implemented to develop the investment in milk and meat production. The facility should be located at the Mother Farm and managed in the context of the entire Mother farm/Satellite farm system as well as in the larger regional goat community perspective. The Mother Farm will then be providing specialized services such as artificial insemination, selling of feeds made from agro industrial by-products, technical assistance, among others to the Satellite Farmers.

The project has integrated, through IICA, two technical assistance agreements with CARDI. Through the agreement, training is provide to farmers and farm labour in agricultural practices for goat production, in the production of the different



goat products that have been preliminary identified as potential income generating activities. Two more agreements should be developed to formalize the assistance that is already provided by RADA and the Bodles Research Station. They should cover pasture development, health issues, the introduction of forestry in the farm and the development and monitoring of the breeding programme.

In 2004, the project implementation advanced in the establishment of the mother herd at the main farm, partial completion of the infrastructure in 11 of the 45 satellite farms and delivery of training to selected farmers. In addition a project proposal is under way for the inclusion of the value added components for goat milk and meat.

The Mother Farm is being improved to accommodate additional acreages of pasture, the expansion of the goat house and the preparation of the milking parlour.

Hemispheric Integration

The Office organized and implemented an IICA/CTA-funded regional conference “Information Strategies for the Repositioning of Agriculture in the Caribbean” in collaboration with the IICA Office in St. Lucia on November 29-30, 2004 in Castries, St. Lucia. Planning for the conference was a collaborative effort among information personnel from IICA Offices in Washington and Trinidad & Tobago, as well as from the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) Headquarters in Trinidad.

More than forty participants from across the region: information professionals, agribusiness entrepreneurs and members of the media participated in the two-day conference, which gave light to the issues and challenges of information management for agriculture and rural development in the Caribbean and looked at interim measures to address these. Included in the group of participants were members of national chapters of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), the Caribbean Agricultural Youth Forum (CAFY), and the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) as well as members of the SIDALC and CAIS networks. Post-conference, a group comprising IICA, CARDI, FAO and CTA will seek to fine tune strategies that can be applied by individual countries at the national level with a view to redefining and promoting a new image for agriculture in the Caribbean as well as strengthening information management in these countries.

Developing Human Capital

In 2004, the Office successfully completed implementation of the CIDA-funded CPEC project aimed at improving the skill competence of over 482 persons in the areas of Food and Environmental Safety; Business and Financial Management; Basic Computer skills; Information Technology;

Good Agricultural Practices; Egg grading and Sanitation; Pig and Goat Husbandry; Project Preparation; Association Management and Strategic Planning; EUREPGAP, Communication and Leadership. 27 consultants/trainers were contracted to deliver 1,282.5 man hours of training to participants. Four participants (two female farmers and two RADA extension officers) also had the opportunity of participating in a training workshop in EUREPGAP, in Costa Rica.

The Information and Communication programme continued to strengthen its contribution to capacity building in the areas of information management and computer skills. Training activities and opportunities for dialogue were facilitated and implemented by the Information and Communication Unit, in collaboration with other agencies, to benefit groups of information professionals, other staff members and people in the rural communities. These included:

- ✓ Support to the Jamaica arm of the SIDALC, the Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information Network (JADIN), continued with a view to organizing seminars on topical issues in information management in an effort to update professionals and consolidate the network of agencies participating in this field of work:
 - Seminar on “Access to Information: Promotion and Use”, March 17, 2004
 - Seminar on “Agricultural and Rural Development in Jamaica: New Strategies for Effective Information Delivery” on June 3, 2004
 - Visit of Mrs. Olive-Sawyers-Watt, Library Assistant from the Forestry Department on a two-week internship at the Canadian Agricultural Library, during the period October 25 – November 5, 2004. The participant was a recipient of the IICA Canada Internship in Agricultural Science and Research, sponsored by the IICA Office in Canada.
- ✓ Participation in a CTA meeting of representatives of Agricultural Policy Networks to discuss the approaches, issues, services and resources used to support agricultural policy networking, in Netherlands, June 8-10, 2005.
- ✓ Design and delivery of training in “Basics of Webpage Design and an Introduction to Issues in Information and Communication Management” to five participants: members of staff of the IICA Office in the Bahamas; Ministry of Agriculture, Bahamas and the OAS Offices in the Bahamas and Jamaica.
- ✓ Delivery of training in basic computer skills (Microsoft Word and Internet) to fifteen members of the Charles Town community, from July 13 – 15, 2004, at the Primary school in Plum Valley, Charles Town.

The Administrative Unit of the Office provided technical support to the IICA Office in Barbados in updating their financial system.

Institutional Modernization

With funding under the CPEC project “Strengthening the Competitive Advantage of Primary Producers, focusing on Rural Women in Agriculture” the Office was able to assist the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) to craft a Strategic Plan for the Network; computerize its documentation system and its membership database; as well as to launch its webpage, which is hosted on the IICA Jamaica page: www.iica.int/jamaica. Also under that project, IICA was able to assist the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association to train its leaders in Association Management as well as development of a Strategic Plan for the Association.

The IICA Office in Jamaica continued to upgrade its own operational and technological platform to improve the efficiency of work within the office. ADSL high speed Internet service was installed to facilitate a dedicated and faster connection to the Internet, thus supporting the increased Internet and Email usage within the office. A heavy-duty, multi-purpose photocopying machine, that also includes scanning and printing features, was acquired. This greatly enhanced the document reproduction functions within the office and was also useful in supporting document reproduction for the training under the various programmes.

The office also participated in the exercise to develop IICA's new Purchasing Manual, which has been finalized and is now in use by the Institute. A draft Induction Manual was also developed by the Administrative Unit to facilitate a smooth orientation of the new members of staff. This will be finalized and circulated in 2005.

Other Activities

- ✓ In February 2004, the Office facilitated Pennsylvania State University in convening one-day workshop for agricultural extension officers and trainers on Computer software for Farm Financial Planning and Analysis.
- ✓ In April 2004, IICA received a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Youth in Agriculture Committee in recognition of support given to RADA's National Youth in Agriculture Programme.
- ✓ In May 2004, the Office collaborated with CARDI (and MOA's Rural Physical Department and Antilles Chemicals Ltd) to conduct a workshop for farmers under the Walkerswood/JBI/WINDALCO/IICA Agricultural Support Project in Fertilizer Treatment and Soil Management.
- ✓ The Office also collaborated with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to facilitate the preparation of Development plan

for an Integrated Pig/Pork Industry. This Plan was formally handed over to the Pig Industry Development committee in June 2004.

- ✓ In July 2004, the Office received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association in recognition of continued assistance given to its development.
- ✓ Two Agribusiness Awards were presented at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show held in August 2004.
- ✓ The Office signed an agreement with Partners of America to implement the USAID funded Farmer-to Farmer programme. The first Volunteer under the programme arrived in August 2004 and spent approximately ten days assisting the Project Manager for the Walkerswood/JBI/WINDALCO/IICA Agricultural Support Project in developing a computerized farmer data base. During November 2004, Dr. Harriett Paul, Director in the Office of International Agriculture and Center for International Agricultural Trade, Development Research and Training, Florida A&M University, visited Jamaica to assist in streamlining the programme.
- ✓ To assist farmers to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan, in November 2004, the Office crafted a programme and effected an agreement with USAID, its Ridge to Reef Watershed Project and the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide production inputs valued at US\$100,000 to six hundred (600) aquaculture, hot pepper, tomato, callaloo, sweet potato and melon farmers in the parishes of St. Catherine; Clarendon; Manchester; St. Elizabeth; Westmoreland and Hanover. The Programme is aimed at quickly re-establishing food supplies to agro-processors, exporters and domestic end users and at the same time ensuring that farmers adhere to Good Agricultural Practices.
- ✓ The Office also participated in USAID'S Jamaica Bilateral Annual Review Meetings held in August and November 2004.
- ✓ The Office continued to participate in exhibitions and agricultural shows, to promote the activities of the Office. One of the major events of the year, involving full participation of all members of staff, was IICA Jamaica's participation in the 52nd annual Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show at the Denbigh Showground in Clarendon, from July 31 – August 2, 2004. The IICA booth displayed the full scope of its projects and programmes, attracting many interested visitors. The JNRWP partnered IICA at Denbigh, highlighting member products in a neighbouring booth.

Inter-agency Cooperation

During 2004, the Office cooperated with national, regional and international agencies in the execution of its projects and programmes. Significant working relationships with the MOA, JBI, RADA, SDC, CARDI, CIDA, Partners of America, FAO and USAID/R2RW were the basis for successful interventions in the advancement of IICA Jamaica's programme in 2004.

Support Provided in the Development of National Plans and Strategies

During 2004, the Office's Project Specialist supported the Ministry of Agriculture (as a member of the Drafting and Coordinating Committee) in the development of the National Agricultural Development Strategy. The Strategy is to be finalized for presentation to Cabinet by the first quarter of 2005.

Future Opportunities for Cooperation

To facilitate competitiveness, the IICA Office in Jamaica will in the future seek to open opportunities for Inter-Agency Cooperation with USAID, CIDA (and the JNRWP) in creating an enabling environment that would see the beneficiaries of the recently concluded CPEC funded training programme moving to higher levels of entrepreneurship, productivity, better quality and competitive products. The developed "Entrepreneurial Incubator" Project will form part of the basis for such cooperation.

The Office will also seek to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in its efforts to implement the Agricultural Development Strategy by way of private and public sector forums to promote the use of the participatory CADIAC approach as well as guidelines provided by the Plan Agro 2003-2015.

Cooperation opportunities are also being crafted with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in mounting the bi-annual 'Clearing House' to focus on the CARICOM Single Market and Economies as well as the WTO trade negotiations.

Collaborators/Strategic Partners

- Agricultural Support Services Project
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Caribbean Community
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program for Economic Competitiveness
- Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
- Farmer to Farmer Program
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Forestry Department
- Jamaica Bauxite Institute
- Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Organization of American States
- Partners of the Americas
- Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority
- Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services
- Social Development Commission
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary
- Scientific Research Council
- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
- United States Agency for International Development
- West Indies Alumina Company

Acronyms

ADLTC	Agri-Distance Learning and Training Centre
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
ASSP	Agricultural Support Services Project
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Youth Forum
CAIS	Caribbean Agricultural Information Service
CANROP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDC	Community Development Committee
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CPEC	Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program for Economic Competitiveness
CRNM	Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
CSPS	Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FTAA	Free Trade Association of the Americas
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
JADIN	Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information Network
JAFY	Jamaica Agricultural Forum for Youth
JI	Jamaica Bauxite Institute
JNRWP	Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
JPFA	Jamaica Pig Farmers Association
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NAHFSCC	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Coordinating Committee
OAS	Organization of American States

PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
R2RW	Ridge to Reef Watershed Project
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
SAQS	Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services
SDC	Social Development Commission
SIDALC	Information and Documentation System for the Americas
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WINDALCO	West Indies Alumina Company
WTO	World Trade Organization