

JAMAICA

2005 Annual Report

The Contribution of IICA to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

In 2005, IICA celebrated 30 years of service to the agricultural sector of Jamaica, responding to the changing needs of the sector and the demands of the various actors within the community of agriculture and rural life. Using the mechanisms of dialogue, knowledge transfer and training, the Office has adopted a multidisciplinary approach to harness its resources and technical skills (inclusive of those within its hemispheric network as well as from among its collaborating partners in Jamaica), to deliver quality technical cooperation thereby enhancing the competitive advantage of the rural communities and agribusiness entrepreneurs in Jamaica.

In accordance with the overall mission of the Institute and the National Cooperation Agenda, the IICA Office in Jamaica has focused its activities under the broad thematic areas of Trade and Agribusiness Development; Sustainable Rural Development; Agricultural Health and Food Safety; Technological Innovation; Information and Communication; and Education and Training. The following is the summary of the initiatives undertaken during the year 2005.

Strengthening Rural Communities

The Office:

- Completed Social and Economic Surveys of two rural communities, namely Charles Town and Elim in the parishes of Portland and St. Elizabeth, respectively.
- Negotiated a grant of US\$4,816 from the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) to facilitate the establishment of a beekeeping project in Charles Town.
- Negotiated a grant of J\$600,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment a herbs/nutraceutical industry in Charles Town.
- Commencement of a literacy training programme in the Elim community.
- In collaboration with the Social Development Commission (SDC), conducted Governance training in both Charles Town and Elim.
- Assisted the Elim community in the re-establishment of the agricultural cooperative.
- Launched the project ***“Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean”*** which is aimed at the promotion of increased linkages between tourism and agriculture; creating economic opportunities; building resilience in rural communities; and enhancing the sustainable development of both the tourism and agriculture sectors.



Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade

The Office:

- Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of the Agricultural Development Strategy (2005-2008).
- Provided technical assistance to the Pig/Pork Industry Development Committee to enhance the competitiveness of the industry.
- In collaboration with the Jamaica Livestock Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, convened a three-day Conference on the Jamaica Cattle Industry wherein the CADIAC approach to competitive industry development was introduced.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, convened of a **'Clearing House Forum'** for over 50 private and public sector officials, under the theme "**CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Jamaica Agribusiness Sector**".
- Executed, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and USAID, a Farmer Relief Programme to assist 600 vegetable farmers and fisherfolks affected by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, to expeditiously reactivate their production/trading activities and income generating capacity. Under this programme, farmers were also trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP); Disaster Mitigation; and the management of an electronic Farmer Database developed for future use by the MOA/RADA.
- Provided financial assistance to members of the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association to assist with the purchasing of inputs needed in the rehabilitation of their production activities.
- Built the Capacity of over 80 hot pepper, cotton and pig farmers through training under the Partners of America's/IICA *Farmer-to-Farmer* Programme.
- Promoted agribusiness entrepreneurship and value-added initiatives through the IICA Jamaica Agribusiness Awards and the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association's, Most Improved Small Pig Farmer Award.

Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

The Office

- Facilitated the participation of Ministry officials in international fora pertaining to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- Participated in the deliberations of the National Food Safety Committee.

Hemispheric Integration

The Office

- Strengthened collaboration with the MOA, CARICOM Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) through the planning for and implementation of the



Forum of Ministers of Agriculture, Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, especially the hosting of the Private sector and Alliance Meetings in January to agree on the major interventions within the Jagdeo Initiative.

- Supported the Caribbean Agricultural Forum of Youth (CAFY) Workshop “**Priority Setting, Organisational Development and Introduction to Project Development and Management**”, held in St. Lucia.
- Commissioned a hemispheric team of IICA experts to conduct a study entitled: “**Strategy to Improve Disaster Management in the Agricultural Sector of Jamaica**”. This study reviewed the systems and processes of disaster management relative to the agriculture sector of Jamaica.
- Facilitated the attendance of national officials (public/private) to regional, hemispheric and international meetings/workshops, including the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

Developing Human Capital

The Office:

- Completed the CIDA/CPEC funded programme for “**Strengthening the Competitive Advantage of Primary Producers**” which focused on Rural Women.
- Facilitated training of members of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) and Commodity Associations, such as, the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association and the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association through structured training programmes aimed at capacity building.
- Facilitated the Training of IICA Staff in Spanish language at the Venezuela Training Institute

Institutional Modernization

The Office:

- Facilitated strengthening of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) through the provision of office facilities and administrative support.
- Supported to the local Chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) in the implementation of the IDB/MIF funded project.

Future Opportunities for Development

The following opportunities present themselves for action by the Office

- **Creation/Consolidation of New Strategic Alliances** with national and international agencies, such as, MOA, Jamaican Agricultural Society (JAS), Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA), Jamaican Agricultural Development Foundation (JADF),



JAMPRO, CARDI, FAO, OAS and USAID to undertake joint activities in areas such as policy implementation, agribusiness and trade, sustainable rural development, food safety and agricultural health, education and training, food security and disaster mitigation.

- **Support to Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Institute of Jamaica** in the area of Promotion of the Contribution of the Agricultural Sector to Economic Development as well as Policy and Agricultural Development Strategy Implementation (e.g. Sweet Potato Technology and Research Fund; the Sugar Industry).
- **Promotion of Technical Instruments for Capacity Building** in the areas of agribusiness development and trade through the CADIAC Approach, the ‘Clearing House’ Forum; and the Territorial Approach.
- **Facilitating Human Capital Development and Micro Enterprise Financing and Development** for farmers and rural women through the USAID funded Partners of America/IICA *Farmer-to-Farmer* Programme, as well as EDF/JAMPRO, Capacity Building Programme.



FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE IICA OFFICE IN JAMAICA IN 2005

Official name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants	Place and date of publications of the report or proceedings of the event
1. Forum of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean	January 13 -14, 2005	Jamaica Conference Centre	100	Report prepared by the Office of the Director of Operations of the Caribbean Region.
2. Caribtrees Workshop	June 28 - 30, 2005	Medallion Hall Hotel	65	Development of a project proposal entitled "Trees of the Caribbean – a manual for extentionists". Working Group lead by the Ministry of Agriculture's Forestry Department prepared.
3. Farmer to Farmer Workshop	May 2005	IICA Office in Jamaica	28	A strategic meeting to give direction to the programme. Resulted in the preparation of a report by Partners of America and included in the Farmer to Farmer Newsletter.
4. "Clearing House Forum" – CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Jamaica Agribusiness Sector	June 16, 2005	Jamaica Pegasus Hotel	55	Article published in the IICA Jamaica Diary, April – June 2005, Year 4, No. 2.
5. Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean	December 8, 2005	Terra Nova Hotel	60	Report in Preparation
6. Workshop for Industry/Production Leader of the Jamaica Cattle Industry	September 15 – 18, 2005	Breezes Runaway Bay Hotel	65	Draft proceeding report prepared and a Strategic Plan developed.



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS BY THE IICA OFFICE IN JAMAICA IN 2005

Berkeley, Errol; Munoz, Hector; Pinchant, Antonio; **“Jamaica’s Strategy to Improve Disaster Management in the Agricultural Sector”**, (2005). 25p.

Mitchell, Sylvia; Feasibility Study; **“Development of a Herb, Spice and Medicinal Plant Industry in the Charles Town Development Area (Portland)”**, (2005) 70p.

Boxhill, Ian; **“The Socio-Economic Survey of the Elim Community in St. Elizabeth”**. (2005) 55p.

IICA Office in Jamaica, **“Hurricane Ivan Farmer Relief Programme”**, (2005). 33p.