

SURINAME

2005 Annual Report

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



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD		
1. INTRODUCTION		02
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		04
3. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE		10
3.1	Recent performance in the expanded agricultural sector	10
3.2	Critical issues in the international and national context that impact agriculture and rural life	10
3.3	The status of living conditions in rural communities	13
4. SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA		14
5. RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR 2005		16
5.1	Facilitating competitiveness and global trade	16
5.2	Promoting food safety and agricultural health	19
5.3	Strengthening rural communities	22
5.4	Hemispheric integration	30
5.5	Developing human capital	31
5.6	Institutional modernization	38
5.7	Other activities	39
6. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION		40
7. SUPPORT PROVIDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIED		43
	(Implementation of Plan Agro 2003-2015)	
8. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION		45
 ANNEX I: MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED		
ANNEX II: PUBLICATIONS IN 2005		

FOREWORD

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) through its office in Suriname is pleased to present the report to stakeholders, collaborators, partners, clients and all the actors for the agricultural sectors. This document is presented to disseminate information on initiatives aimed at the development of agriculture and rural of community in Suriname.



*Michelet Mascary
IICA Representative in Suriname*

The most important results obtain during the year 2005 is shared in this document. The achievements were accomplished with the support and assistance of the public and private sector in Suriname. It is important to mention the collaboration developed with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, the producers association in the rural area where the institute had been working.

This opportunity is also to acknowledge the staff of the institute in the office in Suriname, the Caribbean and the entire hemisphere for their efforts to satisfy the clients.

The report is presented as a reflection of the work realized and the contribution to the agricultural sector and the development of the rural community.

Michelet Mascary
IICA Representative in Suriname

INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) established an office in Paramaribo in 1982, completing in 2005 its 23rd year of collaboration with the agricultural sector in Suriname. Since then, agricultural production had seen many phases of evolution. Under the administration of Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, elected for the first time in 2000 as Director General of the Institute, the IICA started the preparation and the implementation of the National Agenda of Technical Cooperation. The National Agenda of Cooperation is a document in which the most important aspects and needs of agriculture are described and is used as the main guide to develop the yearly Plan of Action regarding the agricultural and rural community in the Member State.

The IICA Office in Suriname prepared a Plan of Operation based on the National Agenda of Cooperation. The Suriname office prepared a National Agenda of Technical Cooperation in 2002. This plan facilitated the realization of action to improve the agricultural sector and the life quality in the rural communities. Special attention paid in the preparation of the agricultural sector to face challenges of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). The office achieved significant results in creating an enabling environment for agriculture and rural communities through consolidating operations. A major focus was actions to increase the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of producers, importers, exporters and processors.

The concept of agriculture has changed markedly overtime. Today it is a broader subject than agricultural production with a spatial effect. Agriculture also includes the nonagricultural activities - those that add value to agricultural products and facilitate the integration between primary productions and the most recent technologies to ensure food security and food safety.

A major part of the agricultural production is located in rural communities, which has resulted in a close relationship between

agriculture and the rural milieu. Several other challenges have contributed to link agriculture and development of rural communities. The main reason is that poverty is evident in the rural areas both in terms of incidence and prevalence. This situation makes agriculture a powerful tool to reduce poverty in rural communities.

To realize this difficult task and contribute to reduce poverty in the rural communities, the Institute worked in inter-thematic areas such as:

- Strengthening rural communities
- Promoting food safety and agricultural health
- Hemispheric integration
- Facilitating competitiveness and global trade
- Development of human capital
- Institutional modernization

The IICA office in Suriname in 2005 achieved interesting results with the collaboration of actors from the public and private sectors. Among the most important partners worth mentioning are:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Regional Development
- Ministry of Physical Planning, Land Use and Forestry Management
- Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism
- Research Institutions
- Private Sector Organizations
- Farmers Organizations
- NGOs
- International Organizations

This strategy resulted in permitted proactive participation of stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries to address urgent issues related to agriculture and development in the rural communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2005 was very special in Suriname because on May 25 the country's general election took place. It was not until Sept. 1, that the new Government started its administration. As a result, development of the agricultural sector was divided in two parts: the pre- and the post-election periods.

The model introduced four years ago by the Director General of the IICA, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, to work with the National Agenda, ongoing implementation of policies set forth from one government to the other. Based on the National Agenda, the Plan of Operation 2005 was prepared and implemented. The IICA Office in Suriname continued the process of repositioning agriculture and improving the quality of life and prosperity in the rural communities.

The work of the Office is also based on recommendations made by stakeholders, clients, partners, and national authorities of the agricultural and community development sectors. In this context, the IICA Office in Suriname maintained a close dialogue with:

The Public Sector: Ministries of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Regional Development; Natural Resources; Physical Planning, Land and Forestry Management; Transport, Communication and Tourism; Education and Community Development; and Planning and Development Cooperation.

Research and Academic Institutions: Centre for Agriculture Research Suriname (CELOS), Anton de Kom University Suriname (ADEKUS)

The Private Sector: Farmers Associations, NGOs, Producers, Exporters, etc.

National Technical Cooperation Agenda

The National Technical Cooperation Agenda was prepared in 2002 as the main guide for the IICA actions in Suriname. The Agenda included activities ensuring the establishment of an adequate national health and food-safety system and strengthening farmer's organizations as a tool to improve life quality. It is a guide to create opportunities in the rural community, an environment among the agricultural actors to attract new clients. The Plan promotes agribusiness development and investment in the agricultural sector. It facilitates the sector to improve the understanding of changes in the trading environment, responding to opportunities in the market at local, regional and global levels. It creates awareness among the agro-sector about the requirements to access the international market by improving technology, packaging, etc. It is the challenge of repositioning agriculture through diversification, and offering alternatives to reduce poverty in rural communities.

Results of the Technical Cooperation for 2005

Developing Human Training Capital: Some actions were taken by this Office to support and/or organize trainings at different levels, mainly in the field of biotechnology, investment in the agricultural sector and agricultural health, among others.

Two CD-ROMs were produced in collaboration with EDUCONS and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries to promote vegetable production among primary-school students. The IICA Suriname Office started the process of establishing school gardens by implementing the methodologies demonstrated in the CD. To share this important experience all over the hemisphere the CDs were translated from Dutch to English.

To facilitate the communication with the Latin-American countries the IICA office in Suriname provided opportunities to improve the language capacity of the personnel. Spanish classes were organized for the staff. One teacher contracted to give 3 hours classes a week to the staff.

This Office also participated in the Caribbean Team Building Exercise in Antigua and the materials shared with the Staff. This activity contribute to create confident and solidarity among staff members.

Training for Fruit and Vegetable growers association established in Powakka. Improved seeds and other agricultural inputs were provided to the producers to allow them to increase their production and productivity. Close input provided to the farmers as a loan. The loan shall be paid at the harvest period.

Strengthening Rural Communities: During 2005, the IICA Office in Suriname realized important activities on sustainable rural development. Two farmers associations were established in the villages of Powakka and Abenaston. Through these associations, trainings were provided to processors and producers in different topics, such as farmer's organization and loan management. The process to establish a Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) local chapter started in 2004. At least five preparatory meetings were organized to reach the official launching of the Suriname chapter on November 29, 2005.

Facilitating competitiveness and global trade: The technical cooperation in this area targeted the members of the producers associations. The office worked to establish or strengthen farmers' activities. A Fruit and Vegetable Association was established in the village of Powakka to facilitate access to new technology and input to improve production and productivity. The farmers could increase their income by the establishment of a marketing system.

The Dairy Sector collaborated with the IICA Suriname Office to improve production and productivity. Two training were organized for the two Dairy Associations in Suriname with the support of the IICA Guyana Office and the University of Guyana. As a final product of those training activities, a business plan will be prepared for the sector.

The agro-processing group in the village of Abenaston continued the production of cassava crackers and crystallized ginger. Some initiatives need to be taken to improve packaging and extend the market opportunities.

The IICA Suriname Office also supported and collaborated with the Poultry Association and other actors from the Agribusiness Sector to establish the local chapter of CABA.

Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety: Agricultural Health and Food Safety is another area in which the IICA Suriname Office carried out activities. The proposal of the Third Phase of the Inter-American Development Bank AHFS Project was prepared with the Ministry of Agriculture and submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for funding.

This project will allow Suriname to put in place the SPS/WTO requirements. Support was also provided to the Ministry of Agriculture to participate in WTO meetings in Switzerland. In collaboration with the Ministry, public-awareness brochures were prepared on animal and plant health. In direct collaboration, the Ministry's monitoring activities were realized on the Carambola Fruit Fly. Other actions are scheduled to improve support in this area and reach a better control of the pest in Suriname.

Hemispheric Integration: The IICA Suriname Office worked with partners and stakeholders to ensure the integration of the country at the hemispheric level. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries participated in the 5th Caribbean Week of Agriculture and the Alliance Meeting held in St. Kitts and Nevis, which opened the door for new cooperation.

The Suriname Agricultural Sector Plan harmonized with the region and hemisphere through the Jadgeo Initiative and the AGRO Plan of Action 2003-2015. The IICA Office in Suriname is one of seven Caribbean countries to implement the Agro-tourism project funded by the OAS General Secretariat. The Ministers of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Physical Planning, Land and Forestry Management; and Transport, Communication and Tourism, attended the project launching on Dec. 1, 2005.

Institutional Modernization: The IICA Suriname Office implemented the institutional policy to strengthen relations with public and private sectors in Member States. In 2004, clients and partners participated in the preparation and presentation of the annual report. Particular efforts

were made this year to improve the management system of the office focusing on results by investment. These activities included an Operational Planning Form and an Individual Work Plan to share responsibilities among staff. To facilitate the work of users, the office installed new computers in the Training Center.

Inter-Agency Cooperation: A Concept Paper was prepared with other partner institutions in a "brainstorming group" on the rehabilitation of the Moengo mined-out bauxite areas for submission to the Suriname Aluminum Company, Suralco.

This Office also supported CELOS to attend PROCITROPICOS meetings held in different countries. Maintenance was realized in the validation plot of cashews implemented in Powakka, in collaboration with the CELOS. Different varieties of cashews were tested in this savanna area. Some work was realized on the organic production with the NGO EcoSystem 2000. Organic production was promoted to vegetable growers and among international institutions.

Support provided in development of national plan and strategies: The new Government adopted the Agricultural Sector Plan prepared by the previous Government. The IICA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture to translate this document to English to make it more accessible for non-Dutch speaking funding agencies. This Institute will also support the process of implementation.

Future opportunities for cooperation: The IICA Suriname Office will continue working with the public and private sectors to implement activities.

The brainstorming group will guide the rehabilitation of the bauxite mined-out areas. Contact was established with ministries, which are involved in the agriculture and well being in rural areas to implement joint activities.

This Office will also work with dairy and the rice sectors and continue providing support to the fruit and vegetable associations to increase their incomes.

This Office will also collaborate with the tourism sector in the implementation of the activities from the Agro tourism Project.

The collaboration with funding institutions, such as the IDB and the European Union will continue. IICA in Suriname will also work with some technical institutions, such as World Wildlife Fund (WWF), United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and others.

THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN SURINAME IN 2005

4.1. Recent performance in the expanded Agricultural Sector

The expanded agricultural sector includes basic agricultural production (field) as well as directly linked activities throughout the agricultural chain, such as animal feed production, rice, fruit, and cassava processing, and services related to agriculture (transport, storage, trade, credit, research and extension).

Rice, banana, and shrimp production show tendency to decline. Export prices were lower for rice and bananas, and continued to suffer from reduced preferential treatment in European Union markets, while shrimp prices were down as a consequence of increased supply without substantial increases in demand. These are predominantly produced for export, whereas other products (e.g. cassava and other root crops and tubers, vegetables, and other food besides bananas, milk, eggs, meat, and fish) are mainly produced for the domestic market, where growth in population determines demand. Local demand also suffered from import competition in fruits and broiler meat. Milk production increased substantially. Other domestic sales, except for citrus, remained low. Altogether agriculture production continued to decline compared to major growth sectors (mining; tourism; construction; trade).

4.2. Critical issues that impact agricultural development and rural life

The following issues are of critical importance to agricultural development in Suriname, and need to be addressed. These are part of the actions presented in the Agricultural Sector Plan, which the government recently approved and already started to implement. IICA's National Agenda includes participation and cooperation with regard to these efforts.

a. Market:

The size and the accessibility to market at national and international levels continue to be one of the critical issues for the development of Surinamese agriculture. The local market is less than half-million persons, which makes the local demand very low. In this context the international market is crucial for the agricultural sector in Suriname. Among the factors that affect the market of Suriname agricultural products the most relevant are:

- International trade liberalization, i.e. loss of preferential markets for traditional products (rice, bananas);
- Market information, market research, and related support services;
- Market and product development towards the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (rice, fruits, vegetables);
- Market and product development towards Latin American markets (Brazil, Venezuela: rice);
- New trade regime, including product quality requirements (plant and animal diseases; food safety);
- Diversification of agriculture (innovative and non-traditional products), together with increased specialization on smallholder farms;

b. Utilization of Resources:

Agricultural production depends on resources available but also on the capacity of the sector for its efficient use. The local and international contexts put the agricultural sector in position to adjust the use of material, human, financial and natural resources. The authorities initiated a process to reach:

- Privatization of several state-owned agricultural enterprises (rice, bananas, sugarcane, oil palm, cattle, citrus). State-owned agricultural enterprises occupy 21,000 ha, of which less than 4,000 ha is cultivated;
- Modernization of agriculture in the hinterland, with a switch from shifting cultivation to environmental-friendly commercial farming (human resource development) to prevent environmental degradation;
- Women in agriculture (horticulture): flowers and ornamental plants, vegetables, spices, green houses;

- Availability and quality of critical inputs: planting materials, fertilizers, pesticides, packing materials;

c. Cost control:

The cost of production is one of the major constraints that affect agricultural production. Income for farmers decreases because of factors out of the control of those who are directly involved in agriculture. Those factors are:

- Agricultural Credit is too expensive, and there is a need for higher volume, lower interest rates, longer term, more flexible collateral;
- High international transport costs and access to export markets: marine and air transport to CSME, EU, Brazil;
- Poor drainage, irrigation and agricultural roads infrastructure;
- Increased fuel and fertilizer prices: rice, fisheries;
- Complex taxation policies: land tax, income tax, indirect taxes (fuel, turnover tax)

d. Improved conditions for rural life:

Life conditions for farmers and in the rural community in general are very low. The populations working in agriculture continue to decrease and it is not attractive for others to take over. To make the rural milieu more attractive some intervention are necessary such as:

- Increased income opportunities: In agriculture, especially to combat sluggish growth in rice and bananas (Nickerie, Coronie, Saramacca). Non-agricultural: tourism, manufacturing, forestry, and mining, especially in the hinterland.
- Health and educational facilities;
- Utilities: electricity, potable water.

e. Decrease and graying of the rural population.

The recent population shows alarming decreases with high levels of urbanization. Agricultural production could increase substantially, at a rate above 5% per annum, if the abovementioned constraints to agricultural development can be removed. This is especially true for the constraints under a, b, and c.

4.3. The Status of Living Conditions in Rural Communities

Living conditions are poor in remote and sparsely populated areas, especially in the southern hinterland with tribal societies, where poverty incidence is highest and transport infrastructure is very bad. Transport and Drainage and Irrigation (D&I) infrastructure is also not adequate in some rural coastal areas, where farmers have great difficulties in getting their produce to the market.

However, financing of projects with already-allocated government grant funding through the FOB (Fund for the Development of the Interior) program will substantially improve living conditions in the hinterland areas. The recent increase in fuel prices has worsened the situation. Furthermore, the government plans to improve road infrastructure and water transport in the hinterland areas, as well as health and educational facilities, housing, and utilities.

SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA

The National Technical Cooperation Agenda was prepared in 2002 as the main guide for the IICA actions in Suriname. The National Technical Agenda Cooperation document included activities to ensure the establishment of an adequate national health and food safety system, strengthening farmer's organizations as a tool to improve life quality. It is a guideline to create opportunities in the rural community, build an environment among the agricultural actors to attract new clients, promoting the development of agribusiness and investment in the agricultural sector.

The National Agenda presented a framework to facilitate the sector to improve the understanding of changes in the trading environment and respond to opportunities in the market at local, regional and global levels. It created awareness among the agro-sector about the requirements to access the international market by improving their technology, packaging, etc. and repositioning agriculture through diversification and offering alternatives to reduce poverty in the rural communities.

The National Agenda shows the state of agriculture and its potential. The agricultural sector is placed in the context where mining gold, oil and bauxite dominate Suriname's small and relatively open economy.

Other major exports include shrimp, rice, bananas are important for national economy. In general, agriculture sector remains relatively important in the economy in which rice had been the largest contribution followed by the banana.

The agricultural sector provides employment to a good part of the population, even foreigners (Brazilians, Haitians, Guyanese and Chinese) are very active.

The National Agenda focused on four major lines of actions. Priority is given to four strategic areas to support the agricultural in Suriname;

- a) Sustainable Rural Development
- b) Training and Education
- c) Technology and Innovation
- d) Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The office for the last four years executed activities with partners aiming to meet various commitment and challenges the agricultural sector is facing.

RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR 2005

6.1 Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade

A high level of poverty characterizes the rural communities. The investment in the rural communities to develop small business is a good tool to reduce poverty in those areas. The IICA Office in Suriname collaborated with producers to promote investment in the agricultural sector and improve life quality. The community organization is very important to train, invest and produce in the rural area.



Participants at the establishment of the Powakka farmers' organization "Aborowang" at Powakka (April 2005)

The Office worked during the year in the village of Powakka to establish a farmer's organization, Abarowang. The members received training on

loan management. After the training, the association received a loan consisting in agricultural improved seeds, fertilizer, tools and pesticides to improve their production and productivity.

The pineapple and watermelon producers in the community of Powakka are facing many problems regarding production, market and processing. Some farmers of Abarowang could increase their production, but the market system is still one of the major problems for small farmers in Powakka and elsewhere. Producers receive very often less than 50% of the price of the product. The IICA office worked and established with the Powakka producers a market system, UNIQUE PRICE, during the harvesting period. This system allowed the producers to have only one price in the community when they are negotiating and to receive a better price from the Middlemen. The association also established contact with some marketplaces in the capital, Paramaribo, to supply them directly with fresh products.



Mr. Sampai – Sustainable Rural Development Coordinator from the Ministry of Agriculture at the Agro fair 2005. Visitors showed interest in the pineapples and watermelon of the Powakka organization “Abarowang” (April 2005)

Most of the contacts were established during the participation of Abarowang in the National Agricultural Fair in early May. Many marketplaces were interested in receiving watermelons and pineapple from Abarowang. The system still needs to be improved to obtain better income for the producers.

Initiatives were taken also in the village community of Abenaston, mainly with the women's group. The AbenaSwiti group is the rural women's association established in Abenaston. The group received training on topics such as community organization and loan management.



Members of the Abenaswitie group at Abenaston - USRB preparing cassava crackers (February 2005)

The group received a loan consisting of equipments and revolving funds to improve the production of cassava crackers, crystallized ginger and peanut butter. Those products are now promoted in the local market. Some support was provided to the group to market their products in the international market. The buyers asked to improve the packaging to access to those products in the Holland market.

Support to the dairy sector

The animal producers in Suriname are organized in two independent associations. The IICA Office in Suriname provided some support to both associations to improve their production and productivity. A plan was prepared in collaboration with the Animal Production sector of the Ministry of Agriculture. The IICA Office in Suriname implemented a training program for the two dairy sectors in collaboration of the IICA office in Guyana and the University of the Guyana.



Dr. Edmund Rozenblad (L) Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in Suriname and Dr. Nicholas Waldron (R), Acting Director of the National Dairy Development Program in Guyana training the dairy farmers (August 2005)

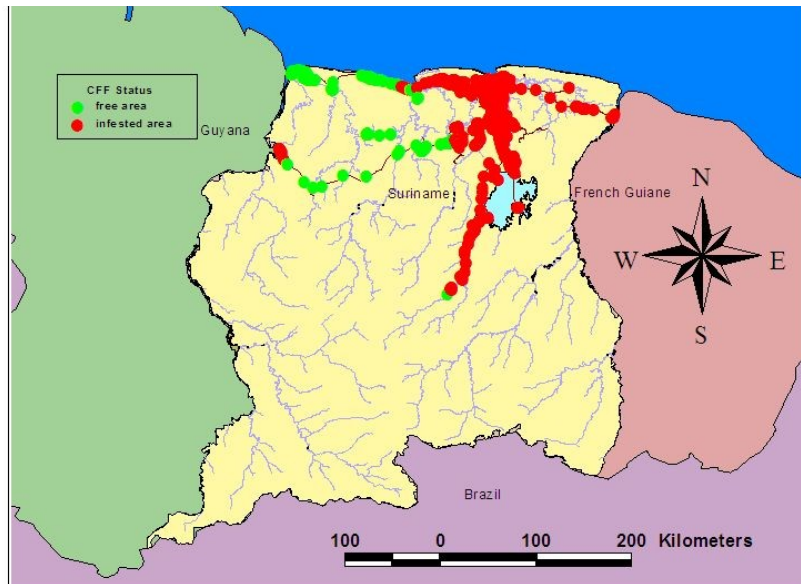
The trainings were used to receive information from the dairy producers to prepare a business plan. Producers and processors of the dairy sector from all over Suriname participated in the training program. A follow-up program will be put in place to assist the producers in formulating a plan to increase their production and productivity.

6.2 Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

IICA Office in Suriname collaborated this year to improve agricultural health and food safety. Support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture to participate in technical meetings related to SPS/WTO requirements and other topics. Suriname was represented in two meetings in Switzerland. At the national level, a Committee was established to facilitate and share information with the agricultural sector on SPS/WTO requirements.

Carambola Fruit Fly

One of the major problems the agricultural sector is facing in the area is the Carambola Fruit Fly. The office in Suriname worked in the last decade to solve this problem in the Guyanas and Brazil. Unfortunately, the Fruit Fly project finished its intervention in 2004 and could not eradicate the pest.



Status of the Carambola Fruit Fly in Suriname in 2004

The IICA Office in Suriname continued to provide some support to the Agricultural Health Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture to follow up the tendency of the fly. Part of the area declared CFF-free in 2004 was invaded again.

The office continues to work with concerning authorities at national, regional and extra-regional levels to motivate the agricultural sector on the need to control the fruit fly.

IDB Agricultural Health and Food Safety Project

The second Phase of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Project ended early in 2005. The project document prepared for the third Phase since November 2004 had not been submitted to IDB up to the end of 2005, although the Ministry of Agriculture accepted it. This delay has led to great difficulties in the execution of daily, routine activities of the Agricultural Health Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

A draft National Emergency Plant and Animal Disease Preparedness Plans have not been finalized to date although several attempts were made by IICA. The work on both documents began in 2000 after a sensitization workshop held in 1999. The draft Animal Disease Emergency Manuals were submitted for examination by IICA during 2004 and were corrected and returned to the relevant Officers in the Ministry of Agriculture before the end of the same year.

Avian Influenza

The Hemisphere was alerted during the year on some emergency issues. The main problem, which raises a concern, is the Avian Influenza that affects the continent. In collaboration with other partners from Human and Agricultural Health, a meeting was organized at ministerial level to coordinate and take the necessary measures to prevent or control an eventual detection of the disease in the hemisphere. Based on information a plan could be prepared to face any presence of the disease in the country.

Documents published

The office worked with the Agricultural Health Unit of the Ministry on preparing and publishing pamphlets on animal and plant diseases and controls. The documents were shared with different actors from public and private sectors. The three documents published facilitated producers on techniques to identify and solve some of the most important diseases of animals and plants.



Pamphlets on animal and plant diseases and controls prepared by the Agricultural Health Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

In spite of the limited resources available during 2005, colleagues from the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with IICA, did their best to advance Agricultural Health and Food Safety matters in Suriname.

The Office in Suriname facilitated the participation of staff of the Ministry of Agriculture at various levels in regional and hemispheric Meetings aimed at repositioning and modernizing the delivery of the agriculture support services in Suriname

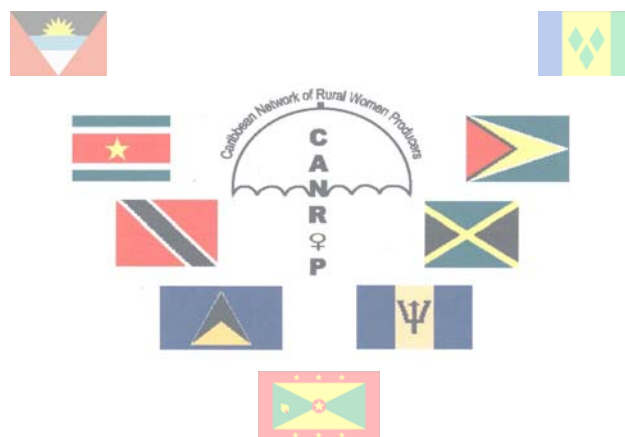
6.3 Strengthening Rural Communities

The IICA Office in Suriname worked in the rural communities of Abenaston, Powakka and Moengo. To reach the objectives to improve life quality in the rural communities (hinterland) two main aspects are important: organization and capacity building. The strategy was to support the policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Regional Development to strengthen the rural communities.

The focus was on supporting the national initiatives related to enhancing the participation of women, youth and farmers associations in the rural development process.

Establishment of SUNROP (*Suriname Network of Rural Women Producers*)

The Caribbean Rural Women Producers (CANROP) is a regional network in the Caribbean with chapters established in: **Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.**



This year Suriname officially launched a chapter called: "SUNROP" Suriname Rural Women Network. It started in November 2004 with a motivation workshop organized in the Hotel Torarica with the participation of delegates from all over the country of the most active women's organizations.



*L/R: Michelet Mascary, Representative IICA Suriname; Kermechend Raghoebarsing, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Liesbeth Venetiaan-Vanenburg, First Lady of the Republic of Suriname; Michel Felisi, Minister of Regional Development and Joseph Peltier, Sustainable Rural Development Specialist IICA Barbados
November 2005*

At a very early stage, this initiative received the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Office of the First Lady of the Republic of Suriname. The establishment of a working group with a specific mandate to structure and to launch the local chapter of CANROP (SUNROP) was the result of those two working days.



Michelet Mascary, the First lady Liesbeth Venetiaan-Vanenburg and SUNROP members at the disclosing of the nameplate of SUNROP

The working group organized preparatory meetings for the official launching of the chapter. An agreement signed to join the CANROP and a logo designed by the group was officially presented during the launching workshop held in the Hotel Torarica. On November 29 2005, the SUNROP became an official member of the CANROP.



Admiring the SUNROP logo

At this event the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, the Minister of Regional Development, the First Lady of the Republic of Suriname and the IICA Suriname Representative, all

addressed the SUNROP members on the importance of joining the CANROP. The provisional board was presented to the public, and the IICA Representative, the President of SUNROP and General Secretary of the CANROP Board signed the "SUNROP - CANROP" agreement.



Joseph Peltier, Fedelia Graand-Galon – President of the Maroon Women Network and Michelet. Mascary signing the “SUNROP – CANROP” OF agreement

The legal registration of the SUNROP as a non-profit organization will start in 2006. This network will become the vehicle for facilitating the process of transformation of the rural societies where a voice needs to be considered to enhance opportunities for human development.



Members of the SUNROP board. L/R: Cornelly Olivieira – President of the Women Business Group; Fedelia Graand-Galon – President of the Maroon Women Network; Luanda Landveld - Project Coordinator of the National Women Movement and Betty Cederboom, member of the Projekta Foundation

The SUNROP will promote production, processing and marketing initiatives among its members. A comprehensive training program, including business management, gender, food preservation and handicrafts will be implemented.

Support to Abenaston

On request of the Ministry of Regional Development in 1995, a sustainable rural development project was implemented in Abenaston. The main components of this project are:

- Motivation
- Community organization
- Training for Producers and Processors
- Investment

The IICA office has been working to facilitate the maximum participation of the community members in the activities. One monthly motivational meeting was organized to explain the importance of organization. Particular efforts were made in agricultural production and organizing the community to build capacity in different aspects. A draft document was prepared to structure the community organization. Two workshops were organized to determine the community needs with the support of the captain. Three groups were identified to realize different activities: youth, women and producers. A project document was prepared and submitted to Fund for Interior Development (FOB).

The women's group in Abenaston group had training in processing. They are producing cassava crackers with flavors, crystallized ginger and peanut. To improve their production the office trained the group on resources management and provided them with a loan consisting of a cassava mill and a revolving fund to buy cassava, ginger and peanut. Special attention was put in improving the packaging. A better packaging is requested by a seller to access the market in Holland. The AbenaSwiti group is now in position to generate better income for the members. A processing building, which started years ago, was completed. The working conditions are better since the women have a new building, better equipment and funds to work.



Leo Sampai, Sustainable Rural Development Coordinator giving demonstration on Cassava mills to a member of the Abenaswitie group (December 2005)

Agricultural Production: The IICA office in Suriname collaborated with the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) to implement an agro-forestry plot. This space was used to train producers in agricultural production. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries placed an extension agent to work in the plot and provide technical assistance to the producers. Structures were put in place to start organic production. Investments were made in tools and other inputs to train producers in the agro forestry system.

Support to Powakka

Abarawang received also a small loan consisting in agricultural input. The products included in the loan were improved seeds, pesticides, chicken manure, and fertilizer. The captain of the village, who participated in meeting for 2005, gave his support to Abarawang and announced that the group will manage the community loan. This captain's support strengthened Abarawang and made more resources available to improve production and the productivity.



Hesdy Ormskerk, Fruit and Vegetable Specialist instructing members of the Powakka Farmers' organization "Abarowang" (May 2005)

The cashew plot established in Powakka had the first important harvest this year. The selection of seed from the best fruits and trees will start in 2006. The best seed will be distributed to cashew producers in other communities with potential for fruit.

The IICA office did some work in the Moengo area or the district of Marowijne. A study was conducted and a document was prepared by a consultant on "Participatory Rural Appraisal study of the Food Security, Family Nutrition and Income Generation Situation of the Cottica Region" and submitted to the Ministry by this office.



Participants at a workshop in the Moengo Area regarding a study done on Food Security and Family Nutrition

This document was used as a reference in a needs-assessment study realized in the same area. The document was very important in the preparation of the project document on Rehabilitation of Bauxite Mined-out Area, a project requested by the aluminum company, Suralco.

Support to youth

The IICA Office in Suriname collaborated with partners to promote agriculture among the youth. The office developed close relations with the Surinamese Youth Parliament. The main purpose is to include agriculture into the program of the Youth Parliament. The principal issues of the youth Parliament are education and recreation.

The Suriname population is relatively young, with a good part living in the rural area and involved in agriculture or a related field. The office promoted and supported the participation of Youth Parliament members at an international meeting.



*Participants at the CAFY workshop held in St. Lucia
(February 2005)*

Ms. Tina Dulam, one of the Parliament members, participated in the Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth (CAFY) General Assembly held in San Lucia in January 2005. Another Youth Parliament member assisted to participate in the CAFY Annual Meeting during the 5th Caribbean Week of Agriculture. The expectation is to continue involving youth more

in agriculture and rural activities development and implement in Suriname a CAFY local chapter.

6.4 Hemispheric integration

Given the global imperatives, the need for response that strengthens, rationalizes, builds upon and reorients is urgent. The Caribbean Single Market and Economy is effective in January 2006, which puts countries in the region in necessity of a closer collaboration.



L/R: DR. A. Chesney, Dr. Ch. Brathwaite and M. Mascary IICA/SR Representative at the Sixteen Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government. 16-17 February 2005

The IICA had an active participation in the meeting of Heads of State and Government of CARICOM held in Paramaribo in February 2005. The Director General, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, made a presentation on the Real Contribution of Agriculture in the Economy.

The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries participated in the Alliance Meeting held in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Minister had an opportunity to meet and share with the colleagues of the region information on agriculture in the region.

The office promoted the presence of Suriname in a meeting in Brazil where important issues were discussed, such as biotechnology, bio-fuel using agricultural products. The Agricultural Health Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries participate in the hemispheric meeting on Avian Influenza held in BRASIL. Most of the

hemispheric human and animal health authorities attended this meeting to develop commune effort to prevent or prepare to fight against the disease until now unknown in the Americas.

6.5 Developing Human Capital

Agriculture is considered a social science today where actors are working with and for humans. To increase agricultural production and productivity the development of human capital is critical. To allow the actors to be updated in the globalized world the office promoted the information and communication and training program for the sector.

IICA Suriname made progress in 2005 in the area of Information and Communication, specifically as it relates to increasing knowledge about agriculture for partners, stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

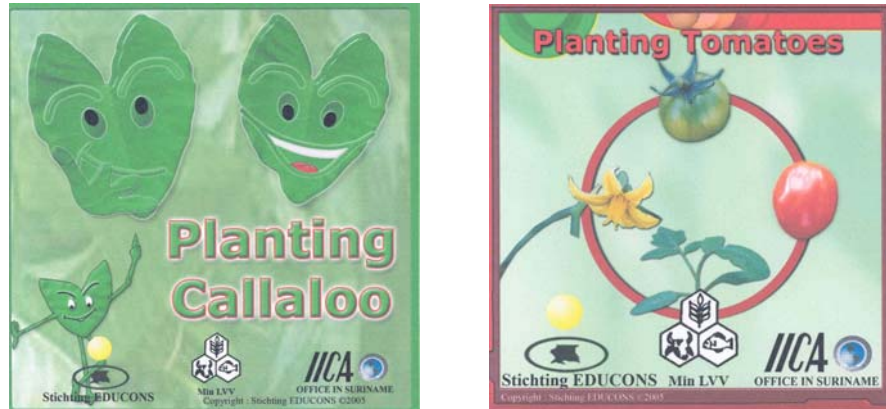


Mrs. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons (EDUCONS) introducing the Tomato CD-ROM at the presentation of the IICA Suriname Annual Report 2004 (June 2005)

Agriculture for Primary Schools:

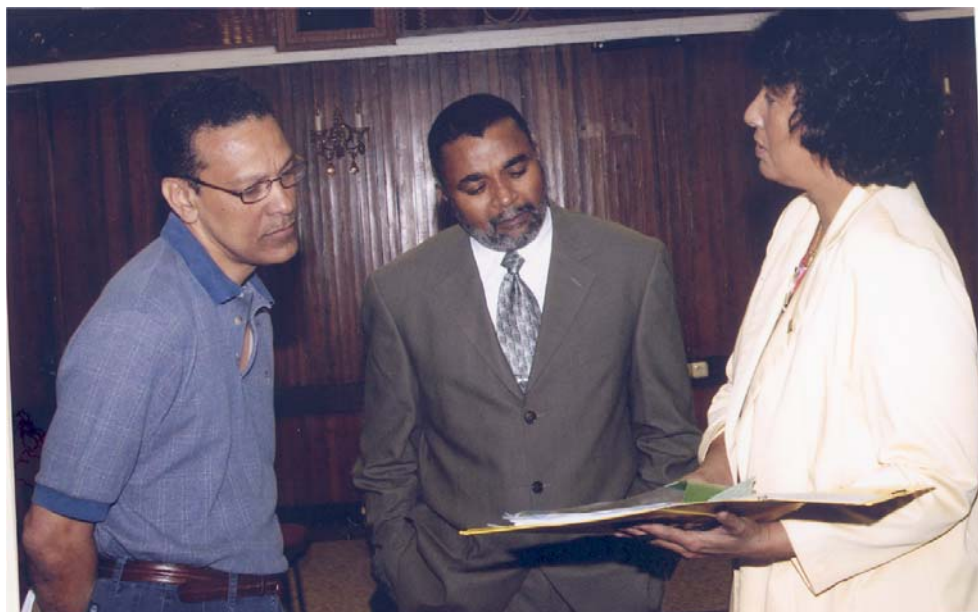
IICA Suriname supported the production of interactive CD-ROMs about growing vegetables in collaboration with the Foundation for Education and Communication Network Suriname (EDUCONS) and the Ministry of Agriculture. The CD, which was initially made in Dutch, was also created into English so it could be marketed to children in other Caribbean nations. The CD was designed for use for primary school students so it could enhance their interest in agriculture.

The set of two CDs was presented in June to stakeholders and partners. The CDs featured lessons in growing tomatoes and callaloo. The interactive CDs are the first in a series of six crops and include short video-clips and animation to help enhance students' interest in agriculture in Suriname, and subsequently, improve their quality of life.



CD-ROM of callaloo and Tomato. Developed by Educons, IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture

The CD project will be promoted in 2006 at schools throughout Suriname, including Nieuw Nickerie and the interior Maroon village at Abenaston, Upper Suriname River Basin.



L/R: Warren Pederson, Director of the Suriname Aluminum Company; Michelet Mascary, IICA Suriname Representative and Jennifer Geerlings-Simons (EDUCONS)

IICA Suriname Bulletins:

IICA produced two editions of its newsletter, *Partnership*, in 2005. The first issue came out in June and featured a visit by IICA Director General Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite. The second issue, which came out in October, featured the presentation of IICA's Annual Report to stakeholders. The bulletins were both posted on IICA Web site, www.iica.int/suriname.



2 issues of Partnership produced and distributed in 2005

Office in Suriname recognized two of its staff:

Two of Suriname Staff members received in 2005 recognition from Headquarters. Hesdy Ormskerk, Fruit and Vegetable Specialist completed 10 years serving the Institute.



Hesdy Ormskerk, Fruit & Vegetable Specialist receiving a certificate and a pin from Michelet Mascary, IICA/SR Representative for 10 years of service to IICA/SR

Human Resources sent the 10-year service pin and a certificate of accomplishment signed by the Director General Chelston Brathwaite.

Mavis Sabajo, Technical Secretary completed 5 years of service. She received a 5-year of service pin and a certificate of accomplishment signed by the Director General.

Mavis Sabajo, Technical Secretary receiving a certificate and a pin from Michelet Mascary, IICA/SR Representative for 5 years of Service to IICA/SR



Brahma Ramsoedit, IICA/SR Driver, 3rd place winner of the Director General Award of Excellency for General Services 2005



For the Director General Award of Excellency for General Services, the office presented Brahma Ramsoedit, the office driver as candidate. Brahma won the 3rd place of Excellency for general services. The award is a testimony for a hard and loyalty worker.

The agricultural national fair

IICA Suriname also participated in the agricultural national fair in May 2005, which occurs once a year.



Agro Made in Suriname Fair 2005

The IICA booth at the fair included a presentation of the tomato CD-ROM, as well as pineapples and watermelons grown in the village of Powakka.

IICA Suriname's participation in the event was able to give the office exposure to thousands who attended the fair over the course of five days.



*Visitors showing interest at IICA boots at the
Agro Made in Suriname Fair 2005*

IICA Suriname, in an attempt to increase awareness and education about the agency to the public, was successful in getting information published in the local Dutch newspaper. Quarterly press releases were sent to the local media, which included newspapers, television and radio. The dissemination of information through the media about IICA resulted in more positive exposure for the agency in 2005.



Agro made in Suriname Fair 2005



IICA Suriname trained more than 30 dairy farmers in August 2005. IICA held a two-day training, part of which was held in IICA Suriname's Training Center, in the areas of livestock management, calf care, bull care, preventative health care of livestock and livestock housing, among other areas.



Dairy Farmers receiving training from Guyana experts

The farmers, members of the Suriname Dairy Association or the Suriname Livestock Association, received trainings from two dairy experts from Guyana. The participants also accompanied Dr. Maxine Parris-Aaron, IICA's Agricultural Health Specialist, on field visits and took part in discussions.

When Dr. Chelston Brathwaite started administration in 2002 as Director General of the Institute, he institutionalized the Friday foreign language. During the year 2005, the office in Suriname hired a teacher to train the staff in Spanish. Starting 2006 the official language for staff will be Spanish on Friday.

6.6 Institutional Modernization

When Dr .Chelton Brathwaite started his administration of IICA in 2002, he introduced at the same time a process of modernization. The most important initiative was a permanent dialogue with stakeholders, clients, partners, funding agencies, and national and international institutions. The process of modernization also includes the presentation of the results to the actors as transparency of the management. In this context, each office, as the office in Suriname did, presented its annual report to the agricultural sector.

The modernization is also the material aspect to be able to serve the agricultural sector. This office acquired and installed new equipment to facilitate access to technology. The training center is equipped with new computers with higher capacity to facilitate access by users. The new equipment will allow for a starting Distance Training course for Ministries, NGO's staff and farmers.



Users in the Training center

6.7 Other Activities

About 70 people, including government officials, ambassadors, clients and stakeholders, attended the presentation of the IICA Suriname 2004 Annual Report in June 2004. Members of the media were also present at the event.



L/R M. Mascary- IICA/SR Representative, J. Geerlings-Simons (EDUCONS), P. Milton (Min. of Agriculture), G. Breinburg (Min. of Agriculture), Dr. A. Chesney (IICA/Headquarters) and H. Ormskerk (IICA/SR) at the presentation of IICA's Annual Report 2005 (June 2005)

The presentation was preceded by remarks from Dr. Arlington Chesney, Director of Operations in IICA's Caribbean region the IICA Suriname Representative, Michelet Mascary and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION



L/R: Warren Pederson, Director of the Suriname Aluminum Company; Michelet Mascary, IICA Suriname Representative, Arlington Chesney, IICA Regional Director, Fedelia Graand-Galon, Maroon Women Network

WORKING TOGETHER is promoted by the Director General of the Institute when he assumed the administration in 2002. Improving the agricultural sector and the development of the rural community are long-term and complicated tasks. The office in Suriname developed and strengthened relationships with partners from the public and private sectors, as well as with local and international organizations.

The office developed partnership with public sector institutions to organize training for farmers' organizations. The Ministry of Agriculture joint efforts to train farmers in Abenaston through the Extension Service.

The IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture realized a study on animal production in the hinterland. The office worked with the Agricultural Health of the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the farmer's capacity on pesticide use and other fields related to fruit production.

The office in Suriname initiated the Agro-Tourism Project, funded by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 14 Caribbean countries. The main objective of this project is to add value to the agricultural production and create an alternative source of income for the rural milieu.



L/R: Joseph Peltier, IICA Barbados; Dwight F. Bramble, Suriname OAS Director; Kermechend Raghoebarsing, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Alice Amafo, Minister of Transport, Communication and Tourism; Michael Jong Tjien Fa, Minister of Physical Planning, Land- and Forestry Management; Michelet Mascary, IICA Suriname Representative and Hesdy Ormskerk, IICA Suriname staff member



Participants from the public and private sectors at the initiating of the Agro-Tourism project in Suriname.

The office is also member of the International Development Group, which includes most of the embassies and international organizations working in Suriname. The main objective is to meet at least once a month to share information and requests or provide support to one other.

The IICA office in Suriname also collaborated with some local organizations. A project document to improve life quality in Abenaston was prepared and submitted to FOB for funding. The most important needs of the community were collected through workshops organized.

SUPPORT PROVIDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries prepared in 2003 an Agricultural Sector Plan, with the technical support of organizations such as FAO and other national and international organizations. The National Assembly approved the Agricultural Sector Plan presented by the Ministry of agriculture.

During the year 2005, the IICA office in Suriname worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to harmonize the Agricultural Sector Plan with the Jagdeo Initiative. Both documents are similar in preparation process. A consultative process was realized, aimed to identify and definite the constraints that the agricultural sector and rural communities are facing. Most of the constraints and probable solutions are almost the same in Suriname as well as the other CARICOM countries.

The office collaborates with the Ministry on adjusting the Agricultural Sector Plan with the Jagdeo initiative. The task identified a range of initiatives that could constitute key actions, which would strengthen the private sector community, consolidate and improve efficiencies along the entire production value-chain. The IICA collaboration with LVV had been re-aligned and it is easy to manage and facilitate the multifunctional/multidimensional nature of the new agriculture.

The Agriculture Sector Plan prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture Sector is written in Dutch, which is the official language of the Republic of Suriname. The Dutch marked the document restrictive for many partners of the agriculture sector. To facilitate and give a wider access of the agricultural sector plan the IICA office in Suriname hired the service of a translator to put the document into English, which will allow the access of the document to the not Dutch-speaking actors.

The national agenda is updated based on the Agricultural Sector Plan. The actions implemented by this office will be a contribution to national policy considering the Agricultural Sector Plan and Regional Agenda

taking in consideration the Jagdeo initiative to prepare the new National Agenda of Technical Cooperation, the IICA office in Suriname prepare a questionnaire, which was sent to actors of the agricultural sectors to collect information. Meetings were organized with the participation of the public and private sector in Suriname to receive input from different partners. The new National Agenda will base on the Agricultural Sector Plan and the Jagdeo Initiative. It will consider as the main guideline for the IICA's action in Suriname for the next four years.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

The IICA office in Suriname will collaborate with a large number of regional and national institutions in improving agricultural production and productivity and life quality in the rural communities.

- ❖ Continue to collaborate with the Organization of American States (OAS) in Suriname in implementing the Agro-Tourism Project, funded by the OAS for 14 countries in the Caribbean. A study will be realized on the potential of Suriname for the tourism sector as tools to improve agricultural production and life quality in the rural communities.
- ❖ Continue to collaborate with the Suralco Brainstorming group, which includes ministries, national and international organization to prepare a plan of rehabilitation of Bauxite mining. To comply with environmental policy the Suriname Aluminum Company (Suralco) asked IICA to lead the rehabilitation plan and income generation activities for surrounding communities.
- ❖ Work with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the protection of the Brownsberg Nature Reserve. Income generation activities mainly in art, processing, agro tourism, agricultural production will be implemented to generate income for population and reduce gold mining activity in the Brownsberg Park
- ❖ Implement, in collaboration with CELOS, a research plot in the community of Powakka. This area is well known for its production of fruit such as pineapple, watermelon and cashew among others. The CELOS, the ministry of Agriculture and IICA shall implement a demonstration plot with integrate crops to diversify income for the farmers.
- ❖ Sign an agreement with the Lions Club to implement school garden. The office produced in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and EDUCONS interactive CDs for primary school. Some of these schools will be selected to implement the school garden.

FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE OFFICE IN SURINAME IN 2005

#	Office name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of Participants	Place and date of publication of the report or proceeding of the event
1	Launching of "Growing Tomato and Kallaloo" CD-Rom for Primary Schools	June 21, 2005	Hotel Torarica	85	
2	Launching of the Suriname Chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) in Suriname.	Nov. 29, 2005	Hotel Torarica	76	
3	Launching of the Agro-Tourism Project "Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean"	Dec. 1, 2005	Hotel Torarica	75	
4	Animal Health Training provided to the Suriname Cattle Association	Aug. 25, 2005	Leydorp	11	
5	Animal Health Training provided to the Dairy Association	Aug. 29, 2005	IICA Suriname Training Center	20	
6	Co-sponsored the CABA Workshop, organized by the Suriname Poultry Association (APSS)	July 4, 2005	Torarica	35	

PUBLICATIONS IN 2005

Bulletins

- **IICA Suriname Bulletin “PARTNERSHIP”**
 1. Issue # 9
 2. Issue # 10

Audio-Visual

- **Compact Discs:**

Agricultural Program for Primary Schools:

1. Planting Tomatoes
2. Planting Callaloo



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