

Significant achievements 2018



Antigua and Barbuda

- The Inter American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) supported the speedy recovery of national producers during the rehabilitation and revitalization of the agriculture sector following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The actions focused on apiculture, alternative feed for small ruminants and climate smart agriculture in greenhouses. More than sixty persons benefited from the project, with one of the key benefits being the contribution of sixteen purebred sheep distributed to livestock farmers in Barbuda, thanks to collaboration between IICA, CARDI and the private sector.
- Under the new IICA Programmes defined in the 2018-2022 Medium-Term Plan, the citrus and coconut production sector established two demonstration coconut plots, utilizing local seedlings derived from F1 plants. This effort increased the knowledge of more than twenty-five participants regarding the importance of coconut and citrus production, and the challenges facing the commodities within the agriculture sector in areas related to pest and diseases, productivity, financing of agricultural value chains and competitiveness, through a fact-finding forum organized in collaboration with strategic partners CARDI, the Barbuda Council and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- In collaboration with the public and private sectors, twenty persons, including teachers, agro-processors and bakers, benefited from an introductory bread baking workshop utilizing local starch commodities (sweet potato and cassava). The activity is a continuation of the Agriculture Policy Programme project aimed at spreading awareness of the importance of sweet potato and cassava by reducing the flour ratio for bread baking from 100% to 40% and substituting the mixture with 60% local starch (mash). Over one thousand loaves of bread were baked and distributed to the public for feedback and recommendations.
- IICA continued its technical collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Rural Women Network of Producers/Agro-Processors (ANBNROP) in executing activities under the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Solar Energy as an Innovation for Agro-Processing Project, under which a series of workshops on food safety standards was conducted for group members. Ten women benefited from the workshops as the group begins to transition to a central processing



facility that is equipped with upgraded equipment and solar energy as an alternative source, to reduce expenditure.

- The United Nations Development Programme Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (UNDP J-CCCP), aimed at supporting Caribbean countries in integrating medium to long term planning for adaptation to climate change, organized a study tour programme to Japan with the objective of transferring climate-resilient technology in the agriculture sector; this involved the Institute and twenty-three participants from the Caribbean. Participants were able to share the Caribbean experiences with respect to the effect of climate change on the agriculture sector. A number of strategies and new innovative ideas, currently being used

in Japan to combat climate change, were shared with the participants to support and improve their technical and decision-making capabilities for the development of climate resilient agricultural production systems. A virtual session within the region was organized and hosted by IICA with the beneficiaries, in collaboration with UNDP, J-CCP and other agencies, where lessons learnt and the way forward to combat against climate change were presented.

- The Institute supported the CaribVet group by facilitating the participation of veterinarians in their annual CaribVet

meeting hosted by Antigua and Barbuda; approximately 40 members benefited from IICA's intervention.

- IICA continues to contribute to the development of agriculture and rural development in Antigua and Barbuda by participating in a number of local committees, including the SPS, *Codex*, Legislation, coconut and citrus committees. These committees were created to strategically coordinate activities within the twin-island state among a number of government ministries and international agencies.

