



## Trinidad and Tobago

- A Goat Industry Investment Guide (GIIG) was prepared in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society (TTGSS) and was financed through IICA's project funds. The guide seeks to improve access to strategic information to support decision-making in the Trinidad and Tobago goat agricultural chain, in both the private and public sectors, as well as to inform and encourage financiers to develop, explore and take advantage of business opportunities identified as investment worthy.
- The management of TTGSS benefitted from the development of a Business Plan focusing on the operationalization of a Milk Pasteurizing Unit to be leased from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago; the provision of guidance to the TTGSS in relation to its commercial production; and also, on attracting potential investors, donors and lending agencies for investment in goat's milk and value-added products. Additionally, the capacity of 41 TTGSS members, dairy goat farmers and Ministry of Agriculture technicians (SFC) was strengthened in the area of food safety requirements and procedures, including public health and environmental requirements towards the implementation of commercial business operations and the development of a marketing strategy. These activities were developed in collaboration with the TTGSS, The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF), the University of Trinidad and Tobago, the Agricultural Development Bank, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and other dairy goat stakeholders.
- The capacity of 30 members of staff of the Engineering Division and other divisions of the MALF was strengthened in the application of GIS in flood risk modelling, using Quantum GIS open source software to map the Orange Grove and Debe agricultural flood-prone zones in Trinidad. Additionally, as a result of a partnership between IICA and the Galilee International Management Institute (GIMI) in Israel, 25 staff members including engineers and managers have now been equipped to develop an integrated water resource management plan for the Trinidad and Tobago agriculture sector, using a participatory approach.
- Fifty-three persons, including farmers and MALF technicians attended a one-week workshop in propagation and breeding techniques, nursery management, and production of hot



peppers, through a horizontal technical cooperation initiative between the Government of Mexico and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, six members of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago (ASTT) and two persons from the MALF have developed capacities in genetic improvement of local hot pepper varieties through a technical exchange programme between the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) and Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán (CICY) in Mexico. IICA partnered with the Embassy of Mexico and the Ministry of Agriculture to assist in facilitating the workshop.

- The governance and management of five rural agricultural farming groups<sup>1</sup> were enhanced through two workshops

1. Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society, Organic Agriculture Stakeholders Association of Trinidad and Tobago; National Food Crop Farmers' Association; Trinidad and Tobago Natural Cooperative; Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago.

on 'Fostering Competitive Value Chains: Capacity Building in the Governance of Producer Organizations – Strategic Planning', devised to guide producer groups in formulating strategic plans that would effectively promote good governance within their entities. The groups also benefited from the development of a SWOT analysis; completed strategic plans that would enable them to source funding for targeted interventions within their communities; and improved their knowledge about strategic communications.

- Ten persons, including members of the TTGS Society, MALF, the Tobago House of Assembly, and the Department of Agriculture, acquired the skills and knowledge to become train-the-trainer (TOT) instructors in the production of goat's milk cheese and yogurt, during a one-week course, coordinated by IICA. The TOT course was followed by a capacity building exercise, organized by IICA, in partnership with the TTGSS executive, the Department of Marketing in Tobago, and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). It focused on 60 persons, including members of the Society, the Network of Rural Women Producers, UTT food technology students, and agripreneurs, from both Trinidad and Tobago, instructing them in the production of value-added products. A training manual was also developed as a tool to strengthen abilities in the production of quality value added products.
- IICA facilitated the participation of food and drug technicians from the Ministry of Health in five Codex committee meetings, two colloquiums and eight CCLAC meetings, in a bid to strengthen their capacities and positions to effectively participate, in meetings and to provide technical guidance for informed decision-making with respect to agricultural health and food safety concerns. Furthermore, the Ministries of Trade, Agriculture, and Health, along with private sector stakeholders are in a better position to plan and comply with

United States (US) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations through the development of a road map for the strengthening of national food safety systems and FSMA-related structures and the implementation of a strategy for long-term sustainability.

- The capacities of over 300 crop and livestock farmers from the agricultural communities of Orange Grove, Vega de Oro-pouche, Fishing Pond, Plum Mitán, St. Helena, and Maloney were enhanced through technical assistance and inputs provided by IICA to support re-engagement in productive activities, following damage to the agriculture sector by the devastating floods of October 2018.
- The capacity of key stakeholders to respond and adapt to the effects of climate change was enhanced through the convening of a technical solutions forum on climate smart technologies, as well as through the support provided to the University of the West Indies (UWI) in hosting an International Conference on Climate Change and its Impacts on Food and Nutrition Security. The technical solutions forum was organized in collaboration with Garden Pool, an international NGO with which IICA signed a General Technical Cooperation Agreement and established the first Garden Pool sub-office outside of the United States, to serve as the basis for strengthened cooperation in the promotion of climate smart technologies.
- An IICA publication entitled "Family Farming - Considerations for Agricultural Policies in the Caribbean" was developed to generate information on family farming (FF) in the Caribbean and the implications for public policy frameworks, following on from previous studies that sought to characterize typical family farming systems in the Caribbean.

