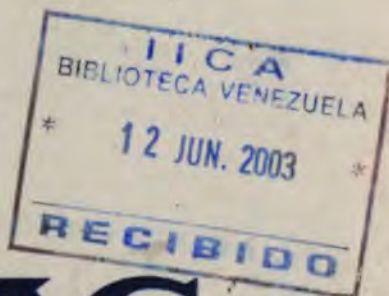


99-03-03



Technical Cooperation Agency in Jamaica



CARILAC

**(Programme for
Horizontal Technical
Cooperation between Latin
America and the Caribbean)**

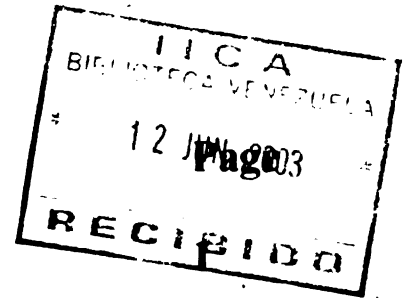
**OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE
PERIOD 1997-1998**

**Kingston, Jamaica
October 1998**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



i) Introduction	
1. Background to CARILAC	2
2. Rationale for CARILAC	3
3. Objectives of CARILAC	4
4. Operation of CARILAC	4
5. The Key Components of CARILAC	5
6. Activities within the IICA/Mexico Agreement	7
7. Activities within the IICA/Brazil Agreement	9
8. Caribbean/Central America Cooperation	11
9. Conclusions	15
10. ACRONYMS	16

i) INTRODUCTION

In 1997, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in recognition of the need to support member states in the process of economic hemispheric integration, which was initiated in the Miami Summit in 1994, established the programme for horizontal technical cooperation in agriculture between Latin America and the Caribbean (CARILAC). The Institute is aware that the agricultural sector continues to be of fundamental importance to the economies of the region and that coordination of programmes and effective cooperation to exchange technology and experiences can contribute to hemispheric integration and provide needed technical support to the sector. This first report on the activities of this programme is presented to inform the member states of the scope, goals and achievements of the programme during 1997/1998.

We hope that the information presented will provide a stimulus for more effective horizontal technical cooperation in agriculture between Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Institute expresses its thanks to those agencies, institutions and countries who have contributed to the achievements realized in this first report. The contribution of the Ministries of Agriculture of the Governments of the Hemisphere, the CARICOM and CORECA Secretariats and cooperating technical agencies, e.g., CATIE and CARDI, was pivotal to the results here reported.



CARILAC – PROGRAMME FOR HORIZONTAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE BETWEEN LATIN-AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. BACKGROUND TO CARILAC

- a. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) within its mandate "to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve their agricultural development and rural welfare" has emphasized the need for more effective horizontal technical cooperation among countries.
- b. Recent initiatives in trade liberalization and sub regional integration, the formation of NAFTA, the formation of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and the proposed FTAA, have resulted in a new consciousness of the need for greater integration and increased alliances in commercial, economic and cultural affairs between Latin America and the Caribbean.
- c. As a result of the above and the high priority which the Institute assigns to horizontal technical cooperation among the countries, the Institute has established the Program for Horizontal Technical Cooperation in Agriculture between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (CARILAC) with Headquarters at the IICA Technical Cooperation Agency in Jamaica.



2. RATIONALE FOR CARILAC

The conceptual base of CARILAC is grounded in the ^{need} recognized need of both regions to optimize the use of their scarce technical, human and financial resources in pursuing their agricultural development and the need for efficient and cost effective mechanisms for the generation and transfer of experiences and relevant technology, so as to enhance the competitiveness of their agricultural sectors in the international market place.

In addition, limited budgets available to technology transfer institutions and the high costs of technology generation make this horizontal technical cooperation venture a compelling imperative. In this undertaking, experiences and knowledge will be shared and joint projects and programs undertaken

CARILAC provides a structured framework for the systematic implementation of ongoing initiatives between the two regions and expanding these areas of cooperation. CARILAC seeks to tap the enormous benefits, which can accrue to agriculture in the Caribbean and Latin America through coordination, cooperation, minimizing duplication and implementing successful experiences.

In addition to being an institutional mechanism for facilitating technical cooperation in agriculture, CARILAC also represents a mechanism for implementing agricultural aspects of bilateral cooperation agreements between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is obvious that cooperation can support and multiply individual efforts but this is especially important in agricultural technological innovation where the experiences of individual countries can be brought together to reduce the time frame required in the achievement of specific goals. IICA supports cooperative technological innovation programs as mechanisms to promote the development of agricultural and agroindustrial technologies in our joint efforts to promote sustainable agricultural development in the Americas.

In the geographical context, the small economies of Central America and the Caribbean have a limited capacity to generate the technology required to modernize their agricultural sectors. Cooperation in agriculture can facilitate the development of joint programs and projects, reduced duplication of efforts and the interchange of successful experiences. Solidarity among the small developing countries of Central America and the Caribbean in the negotiations of the FTAA process is vital to protect the interest of the agricultural sector of small economies in the proposed free trade area. In this context CARILAC can be a beacon in South-South Cooperation.

3. OBJECTIVES OF CARILAC

CARILAC seeks to be an institutional mechanism for fostering horizontal technical cooperation in agriculture between Latin America and the Caribbean, through the establishment of linkages for exchanging agricultural development experiences and technical information in areas relevant to agricultural development.

4. OPERATION OF CARILAC

IICA provides leadership in the execution and coordination of the CARILAC programme. The Institute works in collaboration with other major stakeholders in each region – the CARICOM and CORECA Secretariats, CARDI, CATIE, other research and training institutions and private sector institutions. A technical committee consisting of the Directors of IICA's Regional Centres and the IICA Representative in Jamaica provides institutional leadership in the implementation of the programme.

IICA's Technical Cooperation Agencies (TCA) in the countries serve as the national points of contact for the development and implementation of this proposal especially as it relates to the identification of needs and areas for horizontal technical cooperation. The Secretariat of CARILAC is based at the IICA Office in Jamaica.

5. THE KEY COMPONENTS OF CARILAC

CARILAC provides a framework for the implementation of three recent initiatives in horizontal technical cooperation and the incorporation of an on going initiative.

5.1 Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement between IICA and the Government of Mexico in support of the Agricultural Sector of Central America and the Caribbean

In June 1995 the Government of Mexico signed a technical cooperation agreement with IICA to strengthen relations and complement the on going technical and scientific cooperation programs of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations of Mexico, with the countries of the Inter-American System, with special emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean.

This cooperation agreement seeks to contribute to the economic and social development of the agricultural sector of Central American and Caribbean regions, as well as to the integration of the regions and the strengthening of relations between them, with both parties (IICA/MEXICO) using the human and material resources at their disposal to obtain better results from international cooperation.

5.2 Agreement between IICA and the Government of Brazil in support of agricultural development in Central America and the Caribbean.

In May 1997 the Government of Brazil and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) signed an agreement of technical cooperation in support of agricultural development in Central America and the Caribbean. This agreement has as its basic objective to carry out actions and activities related to agricultural development that fall within the area of competence of IICA which includes actions for the institutional strengthening of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

5.3 Caribbean-Central American Cooperation (Belize Agreement)

In May 1997, the Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) and CORECA (Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic) held a joint meeting in Belize City, Belize and agreed to seek closer regional cooperation in agriculture.

They signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation and established a Working Group to prepare a Work Program. IICA was asked to lead the Working Group in view of its leadership role as the only institution of the Inter-American System dedicated to agriculture with activities in both regions and due to the presence of its network of offices and technical personnel in all the countries. In addition, IICA and the Ministries of Agriculture of the countries are already implementing projects which can form a basis for a program of cooperation.

The Working Group met on August 4 and 5, 1997, and prepared the Work Program as requested by the Ministers, for implementation of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Work Program sets out the agenda for cooperation in agriculture. It consists of a series of project proposals for strengthening cooperation in Trade, Agricultural Health and Technology Generation and Transfer between the two regions. The program also proposed an initiative to facilitate the exchange of youth between the countries of the two regions and a proposal to reduce language as a barrier to communication and cooperation.

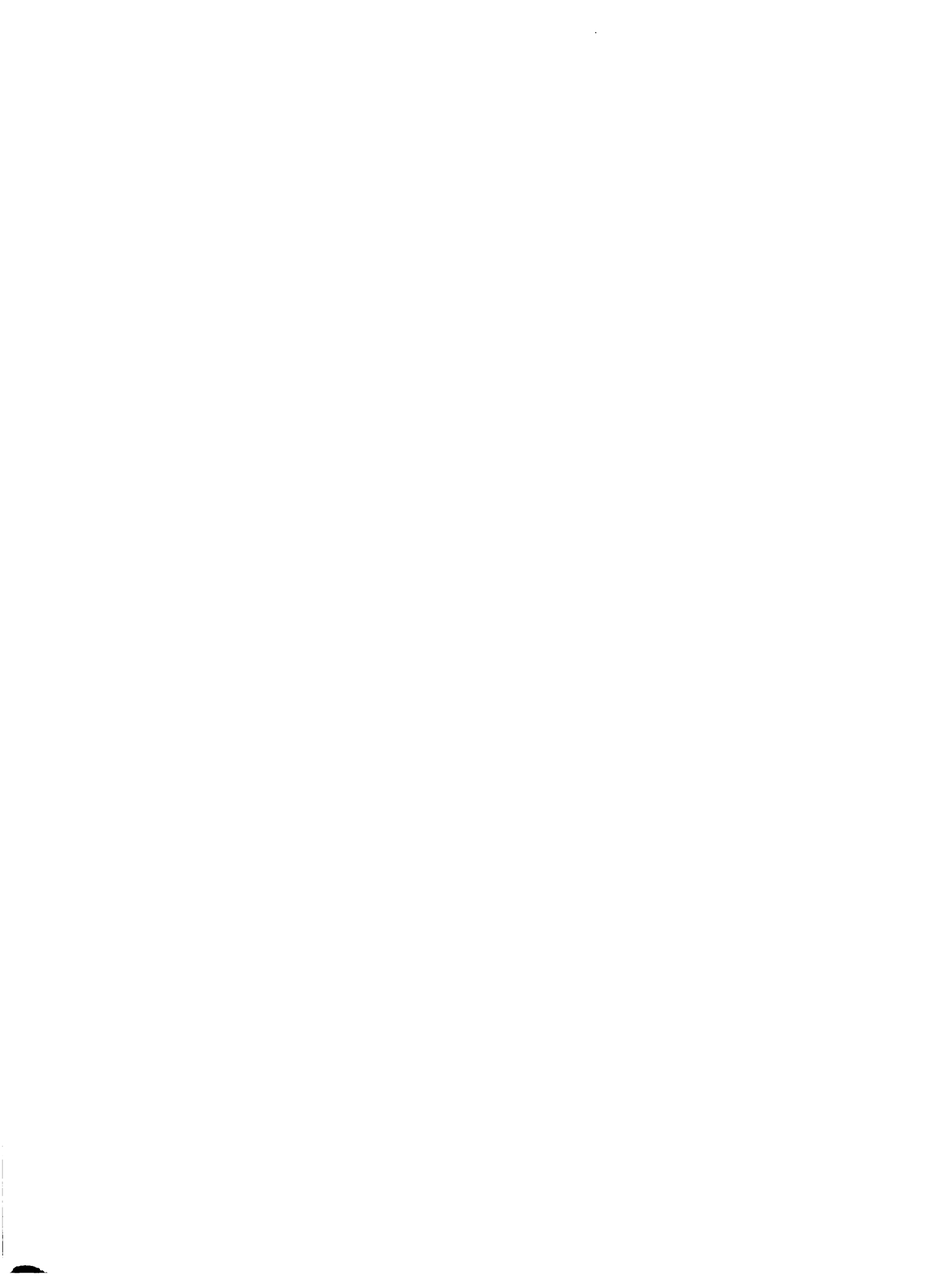
5.4 Incorporation of the TECLAC Initiative

Since 1992, IICA in cooperation with Technology Generation and Transfer Institutions of the Hemisphere has been facilitating the transfer of relevant technologies among the countries. To ensure institutionalization of this agricultural technology transfer, a Technical Committee for Agricultural Technology Transfer between Latin America and the Caribbean (TECLAC) was established.

The initial members of TECLAC were EMBRAPA (Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research), CATIE (Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center-Costa Rica), INIFAP (National Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Research-Mexico), CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute-Trinidad and Tobago) and UWI (University of the West Indies-Trinidad and Tobago). This mechanism is now incorporated into the CARILAC Initiative.

6. ACHIEVEMENTS 1997/1998 ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE IICA/MEXICO AGREEMENT

- 6:1** A Mexican expert provided technical assistance in the control of Sugarcane Froghopper at a Consultation on Froghopper in sugarcane in Trinidad and Tobago during the period 7-19 July, 1997. The pest is affecting more than 50% of the sugarcane production of Trinidad and Tobago. The significant damage wrought by the sugarcane Froghopper to the sugarcane subsector of Trinidad and Tobago and the recognized need for assistance resulted in the consultation organized by Caroni Limited, the main sugarcane producing company in Trinidad and Tobago. Key participants included high level management and research staff at Caroni, Agricultural Specialists from relevant institutions in Trinidad and Tobago and experts in



Integrated Pest Management. In addition, the resource personnel secured by IICA from the public and private sector bodies in Latin America comprised six representatives from five countries, as follows: Brazil – 1; Costa Rica – 1; Mexico – 1; Peru – 1; Venezuela – 2. Recommendations were made to shift from a chemical based strategy of controlling the Frog hopper to an integrated strategy (IPM). This change is expected to save Caroni 1975 Limited millions of dollars and result in an improved public health due to its more environmentally friendly mode of operation.

Caroni 1975 Limited, expressed publicly its immense satisfaction for the technical guidelines contributed to the consultation by the invited experts from Latin America, through their formal presentations, panel discussions and field visits. As a result, Caroni has proposed to develop a closer partnership with Brazil, Costa Rica and Venezuela, where damage caused by the Frog hopper to sugarcane has been successfully reduced and contained. Caroni also proposed to continue technical cooperation with Mexico and Peru in the general area of IPM. All five countries welcomed Caroni's proposal. Cooperative initiatives which may emanate from that general understanding between Caroni and the five Latin American countries represented at the Consultation should allow IICA to continue its contribution to treating this problem.

6.2 Control of West Indian Fruitfly

A Mexican specialist visited St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia and Dominica during the period 8-14 August 1997, to establish the groundwork for a program of control and eradication of the West Indian Fruitfly – *Anastrepha Obliqua*. The mission dealt with a specific strategy to approach the problem, the conduct of an investigation of the feasibility of biological control of *Anastrepha Obliqua* and the identification of areas of support and collaboration between Mexico and the Eastern Caribbean in the control of the West Indian Fruitfly.



6:3 Control/Eradication of the Pink Mealy Bug

A scientist from the Post Graduate College of Mexico visited Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and St. Kitts/Nevis during the period 27 July - 4 August 1997 to gain knowledge and experience in the successful control/eradication of the Pink Mealy Bug in the Caribbean region.

6.4 The marketing of Caribbean Fine Flavoured Cocoa

In an attempt to enhance the competitiveness of the Caribbean in the marketing its Fine Flavoured Cocoa products in the USA, Canada and Europe, the advisory services of an expert in cocoa from Mexico was secured for a workshop on the Marketing of Fine Flavoured Cocoa which was held from 23 to 25 September 1997 in Trinidad and Tobago. A presentation on the marketing situation and future prospects of fine flavour cocoa was made. The thirty-seven participants from the Caribbean, Latin America, North America and Europe brought their wide experiences to bear upon the successful outcome of the meeting. A cooperative framework to ensure economic sustainability and competitiveness of the fine flavour industry in the hemisphere was established. The meeting also resulted in the formation of the Caribbean/Latin American Association of Fine Flavour Cocoa.

7. ACTIVITIES WITHIN IICA/BRAZIL AGREEMENT

7.1 Identification of projects for cooperation

A mission to selected Caribbean countries (Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts/Nevis and Suriname) by a representative of the Brazilian Technical Cooperation Agency and two representatives of IICA headquarters took place during the period 6-29 May, 1997. Discussions were held with relevant authorities and field visits made to identify agricultural projects to be funded under the recently signed agreement between IICA and the Government of Brazil in support of Agricultural Projects in the Caribbean and Central America.



7.2 Provision of critical up-to-date information on the production and marketing of fruits and vegetables in Barbados

A consultant has been retained to update the horticultural handbook of Barbados. Demand and supply of certain fruits and vegetables, forecasting of production needs, production costs and similar issues will be treated in this work which is due for completion in 1998.

7.3 Participation in the Water Resource Management Seminar in Brazil

The "Water Meeting" was held in Fortaleza, Brazil during the period 10-14 November 1997. Both the Central American and Caribbean regions were well represented by Ministers of Agriculture and senior officials of the Ministries of Agriculture, the Water and Sewerage Authorities, regional bodies and other related entities. This important forum was convened to treat with all aspects of this indispensable and threatened commodity which is vital to our well being. Due treatment was meted out to the different elements of water management in an attempt to treat the crisis represented by actual or impending water shortage.

Caribbean representatives at the Water Meeting in Brazil were made aware of the significant advances in the area of legislation and water resources management. They also recognized the pivotal role Brazil can play in advancing technology in water resources management in the developing states of the Caribbean.

At the end of the meeting a statement was issued by the representatives of the Caribbean highlighting the need of the region for technical assistance and cooperation to elaborate an integrated and holistic Water Resources Management plan. IICA was requested to continue its efforts to promote a holistic approach to Water Management and the sharing of experiences between countries of the hemisphere. A request was also made



for IICA to facilitate a regional workshop for the Caribbean with specific reference to water as it affects the agricultural sector.

7.4 Transfer of improved planting material

Twenty cultivars of Dwarf Cashew were introduced from EMBRAPA – CENERGEN to Suriname as part of a programme for expanded production of cashew in that country.

7.5 Sugarcane production and processing in St. Kitts/Nevis

A visit was made by two representatives of St. Kitts/Nevis to sugarcane plantations and factories in Brazil in November 1997. Emphasis was placed on field layouts, mechanized/semi-mechanized field operations, equipment types, by-product usage and scrubbers for gases issuing from factory chimneys. Of particular relevance were the environmental problems and public outcry against gaseous emissions of the sugarcane factory in St. Kitts. The outcome of the visit was such that the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation has extended its gratitude and appreciation in writing for the experience afforded by the trip.

8. CARIBBEAN/CENTRAL AMERICA COOPERATION (Belize Agreement)

8.1 A Global Market Workshop was held in Jamaica in March, 1998 for the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Belize. The workshop significantly achieved its objective of strengthening capabilities in the area of trade monitoring and addressing dumping and unfair trading practices. Participants exchanged their experiences regarding the progress in establishing and operating trade-monitoring units. The experience and expertise of representatives of Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala were harnessed in ensuring a successful outcome. Other workshops are scheduled for the other countries in 1999. The initiative was financed by



IICA, the Jamaica Private Sector, the IICA/Brazil Agreement and regional government.

Another workshop entitled "Implications of International Trade Agreements on Belize's Agriculture and Export Industries" was held during the period 6-7 November 1997 in Belize. The seventy-five participants from the public and private sectors were sensitized on issues of international trade and competitiveness. Leading contributors to the proceeding were drawn from the private sectors of Costa Rica, Mexico,

Belize, the public sector of Belize and a team of IICA experts. Further assistance is required in support of training activities and negotiating skills with regard to International Trade Agreements. This area, along with others will form the basis of future joint collaboration.

8.2 Training in biosystematics of the Pink Mealy Bug and upgrading of skills required for its eradication

Considerable information on the containment of the Pink Mealy Bug was shared during the workshop on the identification of the Pink Mealy Bug in the Caribbean during the period October 14-23 1997. Sharing of basic information on the biosystematics of the Pink Mealy Bug was seen as critical in controlling this pest. The support of IICA in securing the services of experts from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela ensured the successful attainment of the goals of the workshop. The meeting resulted in upgrading the skills of eighteen scientists from Latin America and the Caribbean in collecting, preserving and preparing mealy bugs and their natural enemies for identification. The participants developed authoritative reference collections for identifying mealy bug specimens.



8.3 Cooperation in making available improved technology in potato seed production and Peijibaje production to Caribbean countries from Peru and Costa Rica.

One professional from the Ministry of Agriculture, St. Vincent and the Grenadines mastered scientific knowledge, techniques and skills in the production of botanic seeds of Irish potato through specialized training at the International Potato Center (CIP) in Peru. A visit was made by a potential producer of Peijibaje (Bacris Gesipaes) from Trinidad and Tobago to Costa Rica during 1997 for the purpose of visiting plantations, marketing outlets and sourcing different varieties of the plant.

8.4 Program for training and exchange of young professionals between Central America and the Caribbean

One professional from St. Lucia graduated in December 1997 at the B.Sc. Level in Veterinary Science from the Universidad del Estado de Mexico. Support from IICA continued, relative to the undergraduate studies in Agriculture being undertaken by twelve nationals of CARICOM member states at the Instituto Superior de Agricultura (ISA) in the Dominican Republic. A professional from Antigua and Barbuda obtained a M.Sc. Degree in Agroforestry at CATIE, Costa Rica. Once again the decided advantages of competence in a foreign language, Spanish and the experiences shared were foremost in IICA's enthusiasm in promoting and supporting these initiatives.

8.5 Training in Farm Management in Venezuela

Two young high school graduates from the rural area of Jamaica were sent to Venezuela under the auspices of the Government of Venezuela and the Caribbean Development Bank, to undergo a three year intensive training in Farm Management, at the "United World College", Simon Bolivar College of Agriculture. The young professionals will learn Spanish and will return to Jamaica to promote farming.



8.6 Strengthening regional and institutional links through the Green Heart Youth Exchange Programme

This programme continues to strengthen cooperation between both regions. The primary objective of the programme is to strengthen institutional and regional links through the participation of young and appropriately trained leaders in rural projects supported by IICA. Opportunities for learning and sharing experiences, and transferring technology feature prominently in the programme. The initiative was launched in 1997 and three volunteers from Guatemala participated in the programme, resulting in the technological and operational cooperation in agribusiness ventures in coffee, vegetables and fruit processing in Jamaica, Grenada and St. Lucia.

A National of Nicaragua is presently in Jamaica learning about the Jamaica agricultural sector policies. A young professional from the Coffee Industry Board of Jamaica has been supported to visit Guatemala for six months to obtain training in Spanish and in coffee production within the PROMECAFE Project.

8.7 Jamaica Goat Farmers Visit to Costa Rica

Fourteen participants from Jamaica, including five farmers, visited Costa Rica in order to examine goat production systems with a view to adapting aspects of their goat production technology to Jamaica conditions. During this visit, the participants were able to observe meat, milk and cheese production from goats and the functioning of relevant farmers associations. The group also observed waste management and efforts to reduce contamination and care for the environment. As a result of the visit, goat producers in Jamaica have been adopting a low cost goat pen which reduces praedial larceny and contribute to the recycling of goat waste. The Coffee Industry Board has also been using the California earthworm to process coffee pulp, based on the Costa Rica experience, which results in the production of a high quality soil amendment and avoids down stream contamination of the river.



8.8 Coconut Genetic Resources Network for Latin America and the Caribbean

A regional coconut formulation meeting, sponsored by BUROTROP, COGENT, IPGRI and IICA was held in Kingston, Jamaica from July 7 – 12, 1997. Participants from Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica met to discuss the prioritization of coconut genetic resources research and to formulate a regional project proposal to address priority research areas.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The first year of operation of this programme has resulted in a number of useful cooperative actions between countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The government of Mexico and Brazil have given significant support to these efforts.

In addition, the agreement signed between Central America and the Caribbean heralds a new era in cooperation in agriculture between the small economies of the hemisphere.

During 1997/98, several initiatives in horizontal technical cooperation were realized. This programme will continue in 1999 seeking to be an effective vehicle for strengthening cooperation in agriculture between Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is obvious that this cooperation can support and multiply individual efforts but this is especially important in agricultural technological innovation where the experiences of individual countries can be brought together to reduce the time frame required to achieve success. Our Institute will continue to support cooperative technological innovation programmes as mechanisms to promote development of agricultural and agroindustrial technologies in the efforts to promote sustainable agricultural development in the Americas.



ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CARILAC	Programme for Horizontal Technical Cooperation in Agriculture between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Centre
CIP	International Potato Centre
CORECA	Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INIFAP	National Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Research (in Mexico)

IPM	Integrated Pest Management
NAFTA	North America Free Trade Agreement
TECLAC	Technical Committee for Agricultural Technology Transfer Between Latin America and the Caribbean
UWI	University of the West Indies

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