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**A REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE TO THE AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR IN JAMAICA
DURING 1999.**

March 2000
Kingston, Jamaica

IICA OFFICE IN JAMAICA



What is IICA?

The Inter-American Conference on Agriculture held in Washington D.C. in 1930, under the aegis of the Pan American Union, put forward the idea of creating an Inter-American Institute for Tropical Agriculture. Twelve years later, in 1942, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences was born, formally inaugurated in March in Turrialba, Costa Rica, with the purpose of promoting research and training in tropical agriculture.

During the late 1960s and the early 1970s, the Institute expanded the scope of its action to include the entire hemisphere, establishing offices in each of the Latin American countries and in several Caribbean states.

In 1980, a new Convention was opened for signature which broadened the purposes of the Institute and changed its name to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) - an agency of the Inter-American system. Its mission is to encourage, facilitate and support technical cooperation among its 34 Member States and the organizations of the civil society, in order to promote the sustainable development of agriculture.

The Institute has earned the respect of governments and societies in the Americas and in other parts of the world for its leadership role in agricultural development in the Americas. The vision of the Institute as enunciated in its medium term plan for 1998 to 2002, is to be the leading

Inter-American Institution, providing technical cooperation in Agriculture, in order to bring about a comprehensive transformation of the agricultural sector in the Americas, a transformation that is necessary for achieving sustainable development. The position of leadership will be achieved with the quantity of the Institute's human resources, its alliances with other organizations, and the effective use of advances in information technology, communications, education and training. This will enable the Institute to maintain its commitment to excellence in the provision of cooperation services.

The Inter-American Board, IICA's highest governing body is made up of the Ministers of Agriculture of its 34 Member States and is the highest-level political forum for the definition of strategic guidelines for agriculture in the Americas.

The Government of Jamaica joined IICA in 1975. Since then, the Institute in collaboration with a number of agencies, particularly with Ministry of Agriculture, has cooperated and participated in a diverse number of initiatives such as, supporting the rural development process, small business management training, including institutional strengthening of rural groups, the introduction of the appropriate innovative technologies for hillside farming, training at both the adult and youth levels, with supporting manuals and exchange visits and the diffusion of technologies for watershed management.





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Our Mission

“To cooperate with the Government of Jamaica, the private sector, national, regional and international institutions in order to improve competitiveness and promote the sustainable development of agriculture in Jamaica”.

➤ *To support better use and management of the natural resources, particularly hillside lands and watershed areas.*

➤ *To contribute to rural development, food security, poverty alleviation and social stability.*

➤ *To improve middle management, technical capabilities and farmers skills.*

➤ *To foster Agribusiness development and private sector participation in agriculture.*

➤ *To contribute to the strengthening of the dialogue and coordination between Public and Private Sectors and Regional and International Agencies in Agriculture.*

Our Goal

➤ *To strengthen the linkages between Jamaica's Agriculture and that of the wider Caribbean and Latin America.*

➤ *To support activities which contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of the Jamaican Agricultural Sector.*



1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Jamaica is pleased to present this report, which seeks to keep the agricultural sector informed about our activities and programmes carried out in 1999.

The Institute acknowledges the contribution of the private sector, national, regional and international organizations and the farmers of Jamaica in the achievements of the results here reported. Special mention must be made of the cooperation of the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Roger Clarke and his staff in the Ministry of Agriculture, for their cooperation and support for the work programmes of the IICA office in Jamaica. The hard work and cooperation of the staff of the IICA office in Jamaica is also acknowledged.

We hope that the information enclosed will not only serve as a record of our contribution to the sector, but will also provide a basis for cooperation with national, regional and international institutions and the private sector which are involved in agricultural development in Jamaica.

Signed:.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chelston W.D. Brathwaite', written over a dotted line.

Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite

IICA Representative in Jamaica



On April 16, 1999, the Honourable Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica and Dr. Carlos E. Aquino, Director General of IICA, officially opened the new IICA Office at Hope Gardens.



1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - Technical Cooperation Highlights

During 1999 IICA Jamaica continued implementation of the Technical Cooperation Agenda which was developed in 1998, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Sector.

The Agenda has as its objectives the following:

- To support better use and management of the natural resources and the environment particularly hillside and watershed areas.
- To contribute to rural development, food security, poverty alleviation and social stability
- To improve middle management and technical capabilities and farmers' skills in the sector.
- To foster agribusiness development and private sector participation in agriculture
- To contribute to dialogue and coordination between public and private sectors and regional and international agencies in agriculture.
- To strengthen linkages between Jamaica's agriculture and those of the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

The strategic areas for intervention as agreed in the agenda are:

- i. To assist the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its preparation for free trade and participation in the global economy.
- ii. To promote the sustainability of Hillside Farming Systems and Watershed Management.
- iii. To support agribusiness micro-enterprise with emphasis on the incorporation of women and youth in agricultural development.
- iii. To facilitate cooperation and interchange of technology and experiences between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

Since the initiation of the implementation of the agenda, a technical cooperation project entitled "Technical Support to the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its Preparation for Free Trade and Participation in the Global Economy" has been prepared and approved for implementation. A new project proposal entitled: "Support for

Agribusiness Enterprises with Emphasis on the Participation of Women and Youth in Agricultural Development" was prepared also.

In cooperation with the national authorities, we implemented a number of activities which contributed to the development of the agricultural sector.

These included:

- i. In cooperation with the First Lady of Jamaica, Lady Cooke and RADA we established the Network of Rural Women Producers.
- ii. In cooperation with the Agribusiness Council, Jamaica Agricultural Society, Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation and RADA, we implemented the national training course on Globalization where we visited the rural areas to inform farmers about globalization and the WTO mandates.
- iii. We established the "Forum" for the discussion of new and emerging issues in agricultural trade and in cooperation with Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) and Professor Clayton of the University of the West Indies, we dealt with minimum residue levels (MRLs) for the export of fresh produce to Europe and explored possibilities for the production of nutraceuticals and functional foods in Jamaica, respectively.
- iv. In cooperation with RADA, we prepared an index of pests and diseases of plants in Jamaica. An index that had not been updated since 1967. We now have the most up to date pest list in the Caribbean - a tool vital for regional and international trade under WTO Rules.
- v. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, CARDI and the University of the West Indies, we established the Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information Network (JADIN).
- vi. In cooperation with the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) we implemented a programme in leadership and team building for Parish Managers and subsequently facilitated a group from the JAS and the Ministry on a visit to St. Lucia to observe a contract farming project where farmers produce fresh fruits and vegetables for the supermarkets and hotels in that country.



- vii. We presented the Agribusiness Awards to three Jamaicans at the Denbigh Agricultural Show and were able to congratulate Professor Lloyd Wright for the production of Jerk Cheese, Mr. Robert Cooper for Organic Farming and Ms. Marlene Jackson for crop and livestock farming. And we subsequently facilitated a visit to Panama and Costa Rica for Mr. Cooper to see organic farming in these countries.
- viii. We facilitated the visit of Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Dr. Richard Harrison, Chief Technical Director, to Brazil to partici-

pate in the 10th Meeting of the Inter-American Board and the Hemispheric Meeting of 34 Ministers of Agriculture, where important issues in Agricultural Trade were discussed.

- ix. We facilitated a group of marketing professionals from the Eastern Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Barbados and Guyana) to see the Ministry of Agriculture/JEA One-Stop Shop at the Norman International Airport and with the possibility of using the same as a model for Caribbean Agricultural Exports from other countries of the region.
- x. We prepared a project proposal for the recovery of mined out bauxite soils for Goat production in the Mocho Area of Clarendon in cooperation with the Jamaica Bauxite Institute where we seek to foster small farmer production, community strengthening, and agro-industrial development of the Mocho Community.
- xi. We concluded the technology component of the Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- The Representative participated in the National Round Table Consultation at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Jamaica.
- The office organized and implemented an Inauguration Ceremony for the new office with some eighty (80) participants from IICA; private and public sectors, Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs and IICA's Director General on April 16, 1999.
- Staff of the TCA participated in an Administrative Retreat during the first week of the year. The objective of the exercise was to discuss ways of increasing the efficiency of operations of the office and to acquaint staff of the new internal norms and procedures of the Institute.
- An Employee of the Year 1998 was selected. Mrs. Maureen Machado obtained the award.
- Byron Noble was appointed Agricultural Trade Specialist in the Office.

As we begin a new year and enter a new century, IICA remains committed to the sustainable development of the Agricultural Sector in Jamaica and will continue to seek close cooperation with national, regional and international institutions to ensure the growth and prosperity of the sector. Let me on behalf of our Institute thank all national, regional and international institutions for the opportunity to work with you during 1999. We look forward to even greater collaboration in the year 2000 when we will again concentrate our efforts on International Trade Issues, Women and Youth, the Environment and Information.



(l-r) Dr. Chelston Braithwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica; Mr. Albert Shand, Executive Director of RADA; the Honourable Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture; the Honourable Seymour Mullings, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Mr. Aaron Parke, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Dr. Carlos E. Aquino, Director General of IICA at the Opening of the IICA Office in Hope Gardens, April 16, 1999.



1.3 AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA

The economy of Jamaica is largely dependent on the production of bauxite, alumina, sugar, bananas and tourism. These activities contribute nearly 50% of the country's GDP and nearly 66% of its gross foreign exchange.

Jamaica is primarily a mountainous country with a land mass of 11,000 sq. km, 60 percent having an altitude of over 250 metres above sea level. Approximately 25% is forested, 45 percent under crops and 3.5 percent classified as urban.

The liberalization of trade and foreign exchange has strongly influenced the performance of the Jamaican economy, one impact being a surge in imports, resulting most evidently in the contraction of manufacturing from J\$m 3608 (constant) in 1990 to J\$m 3034 in 1998.

Real GDP during 1998 continued the third consecutive year of decline, following declines of 1.4% and 2.1% in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

The agrarian structure in Jamaica is characterized by a dual system. At one level, is a large number of small farmers (approximately 150,000) each with one or more small plots of land amounting to less than five acres. These are located on hilly, less arable and less accessible lands, producing livestock (goats, pigs, chickens, general purpose - cattle) and mixed crops for family consumption and the general market. There is some participation in the export market, primarily through the production of coffee, cocoa and non-traditional exports. At the upper level, there is a small number of large farm enterprises (fewer than 300)

with 500 acres or more comprising just 0.16% of the total number of farms, but occupying approximately 44% of the country's farmland. These farms account for the bulk of traditional exports (e.g. sugar, bananas).

The agricultural sector plays a critical role in the economic life of Jamaica in terms of contribution to GDP (7.3%), employment (21.8%) and foreign exchange earnings (25%). Domestic crops, livestock and fisheries are most critical for national food requirements and together account for 64% of agriculture's contribution to GDP. The six major agricultural exports (sugar, bananas, coffee, citrus, pimento, cocoa) account for almost 85% of agricultural exports with sugar and bananas accounting for almost 70%. The value of non-traditional exports (includes tubers, vegetables, fruits, ornamentals, fish/lobsters) has fluctuated over the years reflecting problems with production and satisfying importer sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.

Agricultural output declined by 14.6% in 1997 and 0.3% in 1998. Improved rainfall in the second half of 1998 is credited with the slowing of the rate of decline, highlighting the rain-fed nature and consequent vulnerability of the agricultural sector and the domestic sub-sector in particular to weather conditions.



2. ASSISTING THE JAMAICAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN ITS PREPARATION FOR FREE TRADE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY



Mr. Byron Noble, Agricultural Trade Specialist, IICA and Mr. Paul Whyllie, Registrar of the Pesticide Control Authority, discuss pesticide issues at one of IICA's Agricultural Trade Forums.

This strategic area seeks to:

- Strengthen the trade policy and institutional framework;
- Support the establishment of a trade policy information monitoring unit;
- Diffuse information on trade regulations and agreements and their implications - WTO, FTAA 2005 and the CARICOM Single Market;
- Strengthen public and private institutions in their preparedness for trade liberalization;
- Increase and facilitate access to trade and market information to policy makers, entrepreneurs and producers;
- Promote and coordinate an inter-agency forum (of public and private sector organizations) on trade policy issues;
- Diffuse information on sanitary and phytosanitary issues (SPS) affecting agricultural trade;

- Develop programme on pest-risk analysis and pre-clearance procedures.

In 1999 the following activities were carried out in this area:

NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON GLOBALIZATION

- a. Globalization is a dynamic, on-going process that involves the integration of markets and technologies. The training course was designed to:
- b. Dispel a growing sense of helplessness among Jamaican farmers.
- c. Explain that there is the possibility of enhanced value of exports from Jamaica while dealing squarely with the matter of the barriers to trade.



- d. Sensitize farmers and extension officers as to the broad principles (transparency, predictability and non-discrimination) and market forces (enhanced information flows, enhanced consumer expectations) that drive the process of globalization.
 - e. Discuss possible positions of Jamaica in the new round of negotiations, WTO, FTAA, Successor to Lomé IV, CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The issues discussed include Genetically Modified Organisms and Intellectual Property Rights.
 - f. Obtain feedback on the concerns of farmers, what they perceive as the important issues and the solutions they would propose.
- Bring new and emerging issues and opportunities to the attention of decision-makers in the private and public sectors.
 - Facilitate discussion and the exchange of ideas.
 - Facilitate cooperation between private and public sectors in the development and execution of plans.

The Forum on EU Proposals for Pesticide (MRLs) on Fruit and Vegetables concluded that:

- i. A list of *priority* crops will be registered for export to the EU.
- ii. Manuals will be developed for use by extension officers and farmers to indicate Good Agricultural Practices and any other information that may become relevant from time to time.
- iii. Improved Jamaican cooperation with COLEACP will be promoted.
- iv. A regional approach (CARICOM, CARIFORUM, Regional Negotiating Machinery), to the matter of registration of crops with the EU is needed.
- v. Need for the Pesticide Control Authority (PCA) should be the lead agency in the tracking and control of pesticides.

As a result of the forum:

- i. The PCA has been meeting with manufacturers and importers of pesticides to improve procedures.
- ii. RADA has begun the process of documentation of those cases where good agricultural practices already exist.
- iii. RADA is to establish a system of registration of farmers. The list has begun with registered exporters and will eventually include all producers.
- iv. IICA, working with the Papaya Growers Association and AGRO-Grace is in the process of developing a system of traceability.
- v. The JEA has published a manual of Pesticide MRLs (US) for Avocado, Callaloo, Dasheen, Cocoyam, Yam, Hot Pepper, Melons, Papaya, Pumpkin.

Forum on Nutraceuticals and functional foods recommended that:

- i. There was a need to revisit the potential of traditional crops for the production of nutraceuticals.

The most important result has been the acceptance by farming groups of the need to be actively involved in the framing of the Jamaican policy on trade. Specific results include:

- a. Increased awareness of the importance of domestic marketing in order to increase cash flow as well as to counter the inflow of imported food and develops the skills necessary for the export market.
- b. Increased awareness of the importance of quality standards.
- c. The need to document pesticide use and to follow the recommended agronomy practices in order to achieve the pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs).
- d. Acceptance by farmers of the need for production to be market driven. They need to produce what is required by the market.

The workshops have been successful and should be expanded in 2000 to include the business community. So far a few members have only been exposed to the WTO technocrats' views, not necessarily to the agreements from a Jamaican perspective.

FORUM ON NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES IN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Many organizations in the public and private sectors do not have the institutional structures to allow for the assimilation of the vast amount of data that are available. In the context therefore of multiple negotiations (WTO, FTAA, etc.,) taking place at a time of particularly dynamic markets, the forum was conceived. Its objectives were to:



- ii. In the design of production systems, cost of production would not be the driving force. Quality and reliability of supply would be the important considerations to brokers.
- iii. Potential producers for this market should be careful to identify the crops, variety, production methods to be employed, the time and method of reaping, etc.
- iv. A working group, consisting of representatives from JAMPRO, the Agri-Business Council, UWI, the Scientific Research Council, RADA, IICA, be established to create a database of brokers, researchers in the area, promote further investments in Nutraceuticals and facilitate contact between brokers and potential investors in Jamaica.

The Forum has proven to be a vital link between IICA and our clients. The topics covered in the series will be decided by the participants thus allowing us to address their concerns. A Forum on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy is planned for January 2000.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE TRADE MONITORING UNIT, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Trade Specialist has worked with the Director of the Trade Monitoring Unit, and the Ministry of Agriculture to:

- i. Develop a trade database.
- ii. Assist in the development of the Jamaican position in the new round of WTO negotiations (primarily) and the FTAA.
- iii. Develop plans to enable Jamaica to participate in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The present level of staffing consisting of one officer is not ideal. A promised series of public consultations on the WTO has not materialized. Training sessions, led by WTO technocrats have been held. Except at the highest level however, few Jamaicans are aware of the position Jamaica will take in the negotiations.

AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

Little is known of the exact status of Jamaica's compliance with the requirements of the various agreements signed over the last decade. There is no clear schedule of responsibility. The objectives of the exercise carried out by Dr. Janice Reid, Consultant were:

- i. To review and set out the agricultural health standards for international trade in agricultural products as these relate to Jamaica, especially the timetable for compliance.
- ii. Review the operations of the institutions of the agricultural health system in terms of their capacity to provide the services required.
- iii. Liaise with those responsible for the review of national legislation and regulations with respect to WTO/SPS compliance and food safety concerns.

Dr. Reid's report will be published in early 2000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Representative, with the Trade Specialist, provided support to a committee developed by the Agribusiness Council to provide input into the Draft Policy Framework for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, published by the Ministry of Agriculture. The final document is to be presented to the Minister of Agriculture and reflects a view of agriculture as one input into the rural sector and the need for inter-Ministerial cooperation for the achievement of rural development.



3. SUPPORTING AGRIBUSINESS - Microenterprises with emphasis on participation of Youth and Women in Agricultural Development

This strategic area seeks to:

- Develop information support services and training programmes for microenterprise agricultural products;
- Promote profit oriented activities among rural women and youth;
- Identify opportunities for rural agro industry and small agribusiness development in Jamaica.

In 1999 the following activities were carried out in this area:

NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS

The major activity in this new area of work was the launching of the Network of Rural Women Producers in Jamaica on May 14, 1999 at a workshop at King's House, under the patronage of Lady Cooke, First Lady of Jamaica.

The overall goal of the network is to equip women to become self-reliant thereby empowering them to improve their socio-economic status. Within this context, the specific objectives of the Network are:

- Creation of sustainable employment within the rural agricultural sector;
- Promotion of self reliance among rural women producers in particular;
- Promotion of products made by rural women producers;
- Promotion of relevant training so as to upgrade and develop the human resource capacity of rural women producers;



Dr. Chelston Brathwalte, IICA Representative In Jamaica, Lady Cooke, the First Lady of Jamaica and Ms. Glenda Simms of the Womens Bureau, examine products of women's groups at the launching of the Network of Rural Women Producers In Jamaica, on May 14, 1999.



- Strengthening of links among rural women producers;
- Advocacy to promote and sensitize the wider society to the needs of rural women producers;
- Institutional strengthening among rural women groups;
- Promotion of sustainability of individual groups and the Network of Rural Women Producers.

The workshop was a success and received extensive media coverage. A video clip was prepared and sent to headquarters for inclusion in documents being prepared for the meeting in Canada. The First Lady continued to demonstrate her wholehearted commitment to the programme. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the Meeting of the Wives of Heads of Government and Heads of State held in Trinidad and Tobago in July. Mrs. Lurline Brooks, President of the Rural Women's Network and Hyacinth Chin Sue, represented Jamaica.

Through this meeting and the "Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century", in Fresno, California, attended by Mrs. Chin Sue in July, the work and needs of the local network were conveyed to regional and hemispheric levels of the Sustainable Development programme. Fund raising is critical to the sustainable development of the network.

Two proposals were developed and submitted to the OAS and the regional programme, designed to secure funding for the programme. The groups were identified. Most of these already have businesses (processing plants)

and require assistance that calls for financial commitments.

INITIATIVES WITH THE WOMEN'S GROUPS

A meeting was held with the Women's Group at Reach to closely examine the problems affecting the factory. We were able to get the University of the West Indies to sponsor the visit of Dr. Lynda Wickham to Jamaica and to be committed to working with RADA and the network to improve the quality and competitiveness of dasheen chips and the factory in general.

AGRIBUSINESS AWARDS

The other major activity in this programme was the promotion of the Agribusiness Awards, the selection of the Awardees and presentation of the Awards at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. IICA's support to agribusiness micro-enterprises and rural agro-industry was the basis for implementation of these awards. The awards were developed to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and employment in the agribusiness sector by rewarding entrepreneurs who through the use of local raw materials, developed a new product or technique, expanded existing business or provided a new service which could make a significant contribution to food security, employment generation and/or development of new markets.

Three awards were presented this year as follows:

YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS AWARDEES:

ROBERT COOPER (1st Prize),

Eastman Organic Farm Limited, Morant Bay St. Thomas

MARLENE JACKSON (2nd Prize),

Lamarzoy Farms, Raggsville

**AGRIBUSINESS AWARDEE:**

PROFESSOR LLOYD WRIGHT,

Mayfield Milk Producers and Processors,

Maidstone, Manchester

Mr. Cooper went to Panama and Costa Rica to view organic farming operations in those two countries. He is currently making plans to improve the farm significantly based on the information gathered.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Provided financial support to RADA coco production project and met with RADA/Sandals group to review the programme and contractual agreement.
- AgriFuture Foundation provided seeds for two women's groups and donated 13 computers for distribution to primary schools in areas near to the women's groups.



Prime Minister the Honourable P.J. Patterson presents the award to Professor Lloyd Wright at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition.



4. PROMOTION OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF HILLSIDE FARMING SYSTEMS AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



Hillside farming in the Morant Yallahs area: A farmer tends to pineapple barriers.

This strategic area seeks to:

- Consolidate and expand IICA's present work in other critical watershed areas;
- Access and adapt environmentally friendly technology from other Caribbean and Latin American countries;
- Facilitate linkages with PROCICARIBE and technology institutions in Latin America through CARILAC;
- Promote a community-based approach to natural resource use;
- Promote agroforestry programmes;
- Promote workshops and seminars for small farmers

on new technologies for production and conservation of the environment.

INTRODUCTION

Watershed degradation in Jamaica has been intensified by a combination of unsuitable agricultural practices on steep slopes, illegal removal of trees for fuel and the illegal/improper construction of housing and roads. The effects of watershed degradation are many and varied and include reduced water supply and quality, increased coastal contamination and degradation as well as increased incidence of flooding resulting in loss of life and property.



Jamaica possesses a wide range of ecosystems and an unusual range of biodiversity and is ranked fifth in islands of the world in terms of endemic plant species. These biological resources constitute a capital asset. Unfortunately, habitat destruction and pollution have resulted in some 200 to 500 of the approximately 3,200 endemic species being declared vulnerable to extinction, imperiled or rare. The government has declared its intention to better preserve the natural heritage and inter alia, explore the possible commercial value of some plant species.

In 1999 the following activities were carried out in these areas:

MORANT/YALLAHS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MYADP)

The Morant/Yallahs Agricultural Development Project which was funded mainly by the European Union ended in September with 85% of the targets achieved. Some targets were exceeded including the target for demonstration plots which was exceeded by 120%. These achievements ensured the verification of the 15 technologies to complete that target.

The contract was extended twice to compensate for time loss following the Mid-term evaluation and during climatic changes brought about by El Niño and La Niña. The CARDI sub-contract with IICA was terminated at the end of May. With the exception of the Technical Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant/Secretary who were responsible for wrapping-up the project, the contracts of all project staff were terminated at the end of April.

During this year, effort was focused on meeting the requirements of the Project Management Unit (PMU) as it relates to the indicators for technologies verified. The following were the technologies verified:

i. Vegetable production in Phillipsfield

Four new varieties of sweet pepper and 2 new varieties of sweet corn were introduced to farmers in Phillipsfield. This research was carried out at the request of the extension agency in order to support the introduction of new crops in the area. Phillipsfield had recently acquired an irrigation

system which would allow farmers to diversify production. The farmer participating in the sweet pepper trial found the crop very profitable. The two most promising varieties, (a yellow and a red), were accepted by hotels and supermarkets and this was based on a comparison of the quality of local and imported peppers. This market study showed that farmers were capable of competing with imported goods, both in terms of price and quality for the hotel trade.

ii. Herbicide weed control

The project demonstrated the proper control of weeds with herbicides, which is an alternative to the present practice of hand weeding and burning. This is a useful labour saving technology that especially the women farmers found effective.

iii. Composting

At the 4-H Club in Font Hill where there is an already established goat and rabbit rearing facility and demonstration farm, the component established a compost heap. The fertilizer generated through this system would reduce the expenditures on inorganic fertilizer and add organic matter to the soil. These young people were not previously exposed to the use of manure because in their generation they have observed all farmers using in-organic fertilizer. This technology was also demonstrated at a neighbouring organic farm.

iv. Construction of goat houses

Farmers in the watershed area began adopting the low cost goat houses based on exchange visits to the Rio Cobre GTZ project. Three new goat houses were completed. The Agri-business Awardee from the Morant/Yallahs area saw this technology being used during his prize trip, which took him to Costa Rica and Panama. The technology is now being promoted as one that integrates well with organic farming.

v. Introduction of Escallion to Phillipsfield

The decision to introduce escallion to Phillipsfield came out of a knowledge that onion was once a major crop in the area and that the farmers had the know how to manage the crop. Based on the growth of the demonstration plot, a number of farmers are procuring planting material and adopting the technology.



vi. Introducing mulch on escallion farms in Penline Castle

Penline Castle is a dry area with gravelly soil. During the last drought period which resulted from the effects of El Niño, these farmers suffered great losses. The plants did not produce adequate suckers to maintain the level of production. While the price was good in the drought there was no production to maintain the markets because of the drought. Seeds were not available and so there was a decline in production. This made farmers more receptive to trying mulch. In a plot established to compare mulched with unmulched escallion, the benefits of the mulch were established.

vii. West Indian Red Variety of Hot Pepper

Two plots were established to demonstrate the production of a new variety of pepper. The West Indian Red variety is more tolerant to common virus and therefore does not require spraying to achieve good yields. This was a substitute from the Scotch Bonnet variety which is grown mainly for export but was very susceptible to the virus. As a result of farmers weekly spraying to control the pest responsible for spreading the virus, the peppers were frequently contaminated with pesticide residues. Planting the new variety was one means of overcoming this problem.

viii. Pineapple barriers

Over ten thousand pineapple suckers were distributed to farmers in the predominantly vegetable growing areas. The pineapples were planted in double rows as barriers on the hillside. Farmers preferred pineapple to *Luceanea* and *Calliandra* possibly because of the cash value of the crop and that there was less need for pruning to maintain the barriers.

ix. Plantain as shade and income earner in the first two years of establishing coffee

Blue Mountain coffee attracts a high price on the export market. The market system is well organized and once established the crop is relatively easy to manage. However the cost of establishing coffee is very high and there is need to generate income through intercropping in the first two years. Plantain not only provides shade for the young plants but generates a substantial income in the

first two years. Economic analysis of the data indicated that income from plantain could adequately cover all the cost of the coffee up to the first harvest after which coffee is able to sustain itself. Management of the plantain is critical as farmers tend to neglect the coffee because of the attractiveness of the money earned from the plantain. With proper management on the intercropping system there is the potential to increase income of coffee farmers.

x. Carrot on ridges

The project felt that farmers could save on the use of seeds and conserve soil loss by adopting a system of planting on ridges. The recommendation is to mix the seeds with sand and to plant along the furrows. Red peas could also be planted on the ridges to increase income.

The component reviewed and completed the following extension brochures in collaboration with RADA:

- ▶ Growing Coffee
- ▶ Growing Carrots
- ▶ Soil Conservation Practices for *Coffee Cultivation: The Case of Mango Row*
- ▶ Integrated Pest Management
- ▶ Minimum Tillage
- ▶ Growing Hot Peppers
- ▶ Top Working Mango Trees
- ▶ Growing Peanuts
- ▶ Pineapple Barriers

Technical papers were prepared to support the technologies and explain the methodology. These included:

- a. Revised Inception Report
- b. Survey to Determine the Main Problems Affecting Farming Systems of Small Farmers
- c. Programme of Investigation
- d. Low Cost Goat Housing
- e. Economic Analysis of Farm Models
- f. Sociological Survey on Response of Farmers to TG&V Technologies
- g. Sweet Corn in Phillipsfield Sweet Pepper Varieties in Phillipsfield
- h. Sweet Pepper Varieties in Phillipsfield
- i. Carrot on Ridges
- j. Plantain as Shade and Income Earner in Coffee
- k. Analysis of Different Hedgerows in MYADP



- i. Report on West Indian Red Variety Trials in MYADP
- m. Analysis of Soil Status in MYADP

rators, the achievement is commendable.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

IICA continued to collaborate with different sections of the Ministry of Agriculture. Support was given to:

- i. The Land Husbandry Specialist, to select farmers to benefit from the Land Husbandry component and to line pineapples and Calliandra barriers on their farms;
- ii. The Rural Agricultural Development Authority extension at the parish level to identify suitable varieties of vegetables; and
- iii. RADA training division to edit extension brochures.

These activities served to strengthen the Ministry's capacity to carry out the TG&V function at the end of the project. Given that this type of activity was dependent on the availability of personnel and resources of our collabo-

EVENTS ORGANIZED

Five training days were organized to expose 81 farmers to the technologies of goat housing, mulching escallion, production of West Indian Red variety of peppers and composting.

RIO COBRE WATERSHED PROJECT

The Rio Cobre Watershed Project is a joint undertaking of IICA, GTZ and RADA and is designed to provide a broader framework for watershed management in Jamaica.

Collaborators are mainly:

- RADA
- The Local Management Committee (LMC) of the Rio Cobre area
- The Natural Resource Conservation Authority



The goat house on the grounds of the IICA Office in Jamaica.



- Coffee Industry Board (CIB)
- The United States Peace Corps (USPC)
- Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)

The year 1999 is the third in the life of the project and the major achievements include:

- i. Implementation of a number of Goat Agroforestry Production Systems (GAPS). In the initial phases of GAPS implementation, a problem arose concerning the use of bamboo to make the floor of the goat houses. Bamboo was not ideal as a flooring material because:
 - a. There was difficulty in the selection of adequately mature bamboo
 - b. The bamboo became polished by the goat hooves and footing soon became difficult. It became necessary to remove the bamboo floors and replace them with wooden slabs (sawmill waste).
- ii. Publication of a GAPS manual, "A Goat Agroforestry Production System for Jamaica". This manual highlights the advantages of GAPS and provides simple instructions on how to construct GAPS.
- iii. Continued promotion of the vermicomposting technology. Farmers in the area were given Red California Earthworms and were trained in the vermicomposting technique aimed at transforming goat and other farm wastes into organic fertilizer.

- iv. The establishment of the Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association. This Association was formed in response to the interest in GAPS, along with the problems that farmers encountered with respect to goat rearing, breeding and marketing. The major goals of the Association are to upgrade the local goat, to increase farmers' income, to increase meat/milk production and to increase knowledge of goat rearing in the area.
- v. Participation in numerous training sessions targeted for farmers in the area. Along with the collaborating institutions we carried out programmes geared toward environmental education, soil conservation and environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- The office facilitated the evaluation of the Rio Cobre Window of Sustainability and a new programme of work was approved to October 2000.
- A seminar on the Preservation and Sustainable Development of Genetic Resources in Jamaica and a workshop on the Development of a Matrix of Indicators to Monitor Integrated Watershed Management were held.



5. PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN JAMAICA, THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA



Dr. Chelston Brathwaite receives a report from Mr. Gusland McCook of the Coffee Industry Board, who completed a 6 month IICA-sponsored study visit to Costa Rica and Guatemala.

This strategic area seeks to:

- Provide opportunities for professionals from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to visit Jamaica and provide relevant technology and information;
- Provide a flow of relevant information and technologies from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to Jamaica;
- Provide opportunities for Jamaican nationals to visit the wider Caribbean and Latin American countries to obtain relevant technology and information.

In 1999 the following activities were carried out in this area:

- i. The IICA office facilitated the visit to Chile of Dr. Juliette M. Newell, Managing Director of Tijule Co. Ltd., a company involved in the production and processing of fruits, vegetables and spices here. Dr. Newell's visit was part of a Caribbean initiative in the context of the Chile/CARICOM Cooperation Agreement. Dr. Newell reported that the visit was



- very useful in providing information and technology for fruit processing.
- ii. Dr. Richard Harrison, Chief Technical Director of the Ministry of Agriculture was facilitated to attend the Discovery Dialogue Workshop which was held at Texas A & M University, to develop research project profiles for possible funding from FONTAGRO. Dr. Harrison reported that the workshop developed a number of profiles and that Jamaica was identified as a participating country in one of the initiatives. He also indicated that "The Ministry continues to value the assistance of IICA in fostering contact with research scientists and institutions in other countries".
 - iii. The office facilitated the visit of two officials of the Gene Bank Committee of the National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST) to visit Costa Rica, June 17 ñ 18, 1999. The purpose of the visit was to gain firsthand knowledge of the cultural significance and economic potential of biodiversity in conceiving and planning new development strategies. Costa Rica has been innovative in this regard and Jamaica stands to gain much as the country's rich biodiversity is being eroded through inadequate knowledge awareness, unplanned deforestation and poor production practices.
- The two-person delegation included Dr. Audia Barnett, Technical Officer of the NCST Secretariat and Dr. Helen Jacobs, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.
- While in Costa Rica, Drs. Barnett and Jacobs met with representatives of the National Biodiversity Institute (INBIO). They sought to obtain knowledge and awareness of institutional and national instruments used in preserving biodiversity in Costa Rica; to effectively grasp the challenges associated with Intellectual Property Rights as they relate to biodiversity; and to establish links for further communication and collaboration with partners in Costa Rica.
- The Jamaican delegation's visit to INBIO underscored the value of effective collaboration in accelerating the process of technological innovation and transfer in agricultural development in Jamaica. IICA remains committed to
- its goal of facilitating such initiatives to further promote technical cooperation between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America.
- iv. ICA Jamaica facilitated the visit of 4 professionals to participate in the World Bank/EMBRAPA/IICA Food Safety Conference, which was held in Costa Rica on August 26-27, 1999. The team from Jamaica comprised of Dr. Trevor Dewdney, Special Project Manager, Jamaica Broilers Group; Dr. Andre Gordon, Managing Director, Technological Solutions; Dr. George Grant, Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture; Dr. Janice Reid, Integrated Pest Management Specialist. A presentation was made at the meeting on Food Safety in Jamaica and Jamaican participants got an opportunity to share food safety experiences with other countries in the Hemisphere.
 - v. The study on management models of agricultural enterprises in Costa Rica was completed for Coffee and Banana and these have been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture. These documents were shared with other TCAs and the Regional Centre.
 - vi. The office supported, in cooperation with RADA, the visit to Jamaica of three nationals from Suriname to transfer technology on cassava processing to Jamaican farmers using a traditional method called "Matapi". This method was used by Amerindians to extract the poison from bitter cassava.
 - vii. The office facilitated the visit to Costa Rica and Panama for Mr. Robert Cooper, winner of the first Agribusiness Award for Youth. Mr. Cooper had the opportunity to see Organic Farming in Costa Rica and Panama.
 - viii. IICA Jamaica facilitated the visit to St. Lucia of three officials from the Jamaica Agricultural Society and one official from the Ministry of Agriculture to observe contract farming arrangements between Black Bay Farmers and hotels and supermarkets in that country. Participants from the JAS were Mr. Errol Anderson, Field Operations Manager; Mr. Donald Salmon and



Mr. Garnet Edmonson. Mrs. Margaret Mais of the Ministry of Agriculture, Marketing Division also participated. The objectives of the visit were to:

- Observe the production, financing and marketing of the Black Bay farmers especially as it relates to their contractual arrangements with hotels and supermarkets for the supply of agricultural produce;
- Observe any other aspect of agriculture which demonstrates the promotion of farmer organizations and the use of group cooperation in agriculture;
- Explore the use of group dynamics and other techniques of group organization as practices in St. Lucia for Rural Enterprise Development and
- Share experiences on farmer organization development - the Jamaican Experience - with Extension Officers and institutions involved in farmers' organizations.

A report on the visit indicated that the visit was highly successful in achieving its objectives.

- ix. Workshop of Marketing Representatives. The Jamaica TCA assisted with the coordination of a workshop for marketing representatives from the Eastern Caribbean and Guyana, October 11-13, 1999. Presenters from JEA described the "one stop" export facility operated by the JEA. Participants also toured the packinghouses operated in the "AMC" facility.
- x. IICA facilitated the visit of Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Dr. Richard Harrison, Chief Technical Director, to Brazil to participate in the Hemispheric Meeting of 34 Ministers of Agriculture, where important issues in agricultural trade and IICA's programmes were discussed.
- xi. The IICA Jamaica office supported the participation of Mr. Basil P. Fernandez, Managing Director of the Water Resources Authority to participate in the Water Meeting held in Montevideo, Uruguay from June 15-18, 1999. Mr. Fernandez presented a paper on "Sustainable Economic Development through Integrated Water Resources Management in the Caribbean". This paper addresses the need for small countries to pursue an integrated approach to water resources management which includes strengthening institutions that can fundamentally affect sustainable management and use of water-resources.

xii. IICA Jamaica supported the participation of Mrs. Yvonne Joy Crawford, Senior Legal Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture in the meeting of the Caribbean Task Force on Intellectual Property Rights in Agriculture, which was held at Gros Islet, St. Lucia, from October 18-21, 1999. The objectives of the Task Force were to:

- Provide information and to discuss the issues directly related to the preparation of a model legal system to enforce intellectual property laws on the various types of intellectual property impacting on trade in agriculture, including those areas identified as being of special significance to developing countries.
- Prepare a model framework of a legal system agreed upon by the Task Force for submission to the respective Attorneys General, in consultation with appropriate national institutions.

xiii. IICA Jamaica facilitated the visit of Mexican Entomologist Dr. Hector Gonzalez to St. Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda, where he examined the status of the pineapple mealy bug, citrus leaf miner, citrus black fly and papaya mealy bug (*Paracoccus marginatus*). A workshop on the latter was held. Samples of natural enemies of some of the pests were collected and taken to Mexico for identification. Opportunities for bilateral cooperation between these countries and Mexico were developed.

xiv. Gusland McCook, an officer of the Coffee Industry Board, who IICA supported on a visit to Central America from September 1998 to February 1999, has returned to the Board. In a letter to the IICA Representative in Jamaica, the Board noted that Mr. McCook's participation in the programme resulted in the following benefits:

- a. More effective communication between the Board and PROMECAFE, re in-office translations (Spanish/English) of correspondence and documents and interpreting during visits from PROMECAFE officials.
- b. Collaboration with CARDI on the rearing and release of parasitoids for the biological control of the coffee berry borer. Mr. McCook gained considerable expertise in this area while in Guatemala.
- c. Exposure for Extension Officers of the CIB and coffee farmers to coffee culture of Central America, by virtue of Mr. McCook's involvement in training and discussion groups during his stay abroad.



6. PROVISION OF TRAINING, EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

This area seeks to:

- Establish a programme on agricultural information and documentation to provide bibliographic, electronic and market information to the sector;
- Promote wider use of the Internet to access and disseminate information;
- Facilitate linkages to AGROINFO and network with Latin American and Caribbean institutions;
- To provide training opportunities in information technologies both at the professional and farmer levels;
- To support information needs of the specific areas of the technical agenda of the Office;
- To promote training in the critical areas of the technical agenda of the Office.

In 1999 the following activities were carried out in this area:

IICA JAMAICA'S COMMITMENT TO TRAINING

IICA Jamaica remains committed to the training aspect of its role as a technical cooperation agency for the agricultural sector in Jamaica. The focus on training is great, as the Institute seeks to facilitate individuals to equip themselves with necessary skills and techniques to enhance their operations. The focus on education is equally as important as the Institute also encourages the acquisition of knowledge and the upgrading of qualifications where necessary, for both its staff members and its clients of the agricultural sector of Jamaica.

The emphasis on capacity building through training was an integral component of the activities at this TCA in 1999. IICA professional and general staff and clients of the Institute participated in various training events, both in Jamaica and abroad.



Researcher Ms. Jeannette Williams from the University of the West Indies, using the Information Centre.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF

All members of professional staff attended programmes outside of Jamaica.

- i. **HYACINTH CHIN SUE** - Rural Development Specialist participated in the "Training Summit on Grassroots Community Building for the 21st Century" held in Fresno, California from July 17-20, 1999. The workshop provided training in methodologies for development at the grassroot level and also provided the opportunity for participants to observe rural development programmes in the United States.
- ii. **BYRON NOBLE** - Agricultural Trade Specialist participated in the Agricultural Trade Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. from September 12-18, 1999. The seminar sought to provide an understanding of how U.S. trade policy is developed and implemented. The effect of trade policy on small island countries was also covered.
- iii. **ZITHROY ANNIKIE** - Watershed Management Specialist, participated in a GoatHerd Management training programme at Ohio State University from October 7-24, 1999.
- iv. **KATHRYN DUNCAN** - Information Specialist, attended a Multimedia Instructional Development Course at the Centre for Distance learning Mexico (CECADI), at the IICA headquarters in San José, Costa Rica from January 11-15, 1999. The course introduced participants to the concepts of multimedia distance learning.

The training of Byron Noble and Zithroy Annikie was supported by Cochran Fellowships arranged through the Northern Regional Centre and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

SPANISH

Recognizing the importance of the ability to effectively communicate with our Spanish-speaking counterparts of the Institute, the Representative invited the staff to become fluent in the Spanish language within the next three years. Thus, the Institute facilitated an initial 3-month (September - December) Spanish language course for staff at two levels: beginner and advanced. Instruction was given in-

house by the Latin American and Caribbean Centre (LACC) of the University of the West Indies.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to promote leadership skills, motivate staff and develop teamwork among the staff of the office, a workshop on "Leadership, Motivation and Teambuilding" was held at the office from May 19-21, 1999. The workshop was facilitated by Jan Hurwitsch, Consultant in Institutional Development and Patricia Brenes, Technical Assistant, Technical Consortium, IICA Headquarters.

GLOBALIZATION WORKSHOPS

IICA, in collaboration with the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the Agri-Business Council and the Ministry of Agriculture collaborated to present a series of training workshops to make individuals aware of the process of globalization, the WTO, FTAA, the Lomé negotiations and the movement towards a CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Six workshops were facilitated during the second half of 1999.

MYADP

Five training days were organized in the Morant Yallahs in the technologies of goat housing, mulching escallion, the production of West Indian Red variety of peppers and composting.

RIO COBRE WATERSHED PROJECT - "WINDOW OF SUSTAINABILITY"

Training and education activities under the "Window of Sustainability" programme were organized and carried out in collaboration with NRCA, RADA and the LMC of Rio Cobre. They included: construction of GAPS, vermicomposting techniques, environmental education, soil conservation and other environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

THE JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

This TCA supported another of the series of workshops on leadership, motivation and team-building for the Jamaica Agricultural Society at the Eltham Training Centre



in Ocho Rios, from September 7-9, 1999. Entitled "Workshop on Leadership, Motivation and Training in Institutional Development", it aimed at ensuring that the members of the JAS be prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The progress of the IICA Information Centre in 1999 was characterized not only by the progress made in the organization of the collection and the development of the database, but also by the nature and quality of the information services and products provided to clients of IICA Jamaica. Information services to clients throughout the year included loans, reprographic services, bibliographies, selective dissemination of information (SDI), training and Internet searches.

PUBLICATIONS

Several promotional products were prepared by the Information Centre (IC) that were intended not only to inform, but also to draw clients to IICA and its services and to the use of the collection at the Information Centre:

BIBLIOGRAPHIES - The IC compiled and distributed two bibliographies of material available at the Centre itself. The first was the "Women in Agriculture" bibliography in commemoration of International Women's Day in March. A bibliography on "Trade Performance in Agriculture Products" was the second in the series and was distributed in September.

NEWSLETTER - The IC prepared Volume 1 No. 1 of the *IICA in Focus* Newsletter (August 1999).

SUMMER STUDENTS

The Information Centre hosted two students: Carol Shields from the Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI and Kerry Helligar, from the College of Agriculture, Science and Education over the summer period. Both students were trained in the use of Micro CDS/ISIS and Winisis (CDS/ISIS for Windows), Microsoft Word and Access and had an opportunity to use the Internet. They also assisted in library procedures and the compilation of the bibliography on trade performance in

agriculture products. The Information Centre plans to continue hosting students during the summer period, as this benefits both the student and the Centre.

DATABASE

The database of holdings of the Information Centre grew steadily during 1999 and contained 1004 records at the close of the year. This database is accessed through Winisis. The database will be available on the Internet in 2000.

JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION NETWORK (JADIN)

Cognizant of the need for greater cooperation among agricultural information and documentation centres in Jamaica in order to improve the provision of agricultural information services in Jamaica, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) established a Network of Agricultural Information and Documentation Units in Jamaica. A meeting was held in October which brought together management and information personnel from agricultural agencies and units within the private and public sector and academia, which now make up this network. It was decided that the Ministry of Agriculture Library serve as the National Centre for the Network with the IICA Information Centre as the supporting Secretariat. A Technical Committee of the Network was formed, comprising seven library and information professionals from the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Library of Jamaica, the University of the West Indies and the College of Agriculture, Science and Education and IICA. The Technical Committee will meet in early 2000 to determine the *modus operandi* of the Network.

Through the Kellogg Foundation seed money was granted for the operation of the Network in Jamaica. Funds are specifically to be used for attendance at workshops and seminars and training in technologies as they relate to the functioning of the Network. Additional funding will be sought to assist in making the Network a viable and successful initiative.



7. TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CENTRE, IICA HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER IICA OFFICES



Manuel Leon and Javier Alfaro from IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, installed a computer network at the Office in Jamaica in March 1999.

The IICA Office in Jamaica continued in 1999 to receive valuable assistance and cooperation from the Caribbean Regional Centre, other regional centres, IICA Headquarters and other offices in the implementation of its programme of work. During the year the following persons visited and provided valuable contributions to the work of the office:

- James R. Ebbitt, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, USDA; Jocelyn Thompson, Auditor General of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Oscar Hector Ghersi, Internal Auditor, National Institute for Agricultural Technology, Argentina (members of the Audit Review Committee); Jesus Moreno, Director of Finance and Harry Scott, Financial Analyst, IICA Headquarters - reviewed the programmes of the Office.
- Dr. Vincent Little, Project Specialist, Regional Project Unit, IICA Barbados - assisted in the preparation of project proposal to develop goat production in the Mocho area of Clarendon.



- Javier Alfaro & Manuel Leon, Informatics Division, IICA Headquarters - installed a computer network for the Office.**
- Nelly Vinueza, Marketing Specialist, IICA-GTZ Project, IICA Headquarters - developed a marketing programme for the Rio Cobre Project.**
- Carlos Reiche, Advisor and Natural Resource Economist and Laura Ramirez, Technical Advisor, IICA-GTZ Project - evaluated the "Window of Sustainability" Rio Cobre Project.**
- Jan Hurwitch, Consultant in Institutional Development and Patricia Brenes, Technical Assistant, Technical Consortium, IICA Headquarters - provided training for transformation and teambuilding.**
- Dr. Patrick Antoine, Head of Policies and Trade Unit, Caribbean Regional Centre of IICA - presented an address on agricultural trade issues to the Agribusiness Council.**
- Judith Francis, Coordinator of Tropical Fruit Crops Project, Caribbean Regional Centre - assisted in the formulation of fruit projects for Jamaica.**
- Marcelle Banuet of the Sustainable Rural Development Programme, IICA Headquarters and Marlene Antoine, Rural Development Coordinator, Caribbean Regional Centre - contributed to the formation of the Network of Rural Women Producers.**
- Everton Ambrose, Pest Management Specialist, IICA Office in St. Lucia, - assisted in the development of a plant protection programme for Jamaica.**



Officials from IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, Representatives of IICA Offices, staff of IICA Jamaica and agricultural sector officials at the official opening of the IICA Office at Hope Gardens in April 1999.



8. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION



Dr. Chelston Brathwalte, IICA Representative in Jamaica, Mr. Abijah Buchanan, Chairman, All Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association (AIJCFA), and Mr. Albert Shand, Executive Director of RADA, at a RADA-sponsored Inter-Agency Conference.

This area seeks to:

- Promote cooperation between public and private sector organizations.
- Promote overall coordination of development assistance in the sector.

In 1999 the following activities were carried out in this area:

COOPERATION WITH FAO, CFNI, CARDI AND UWI

The IICA Office continued to foster cooperation between regional and international agencies that support the agricultural sector in Jamaica. Quarterly meetings with

the Heads of FAO, CFNI, CARDI, UWI and IICA continued during 1999. The agencies shared work programmes and documentation during the period and look forward to the implementation of joint initiatives in the future.

COOPERATION WITH THE JAMAICA EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

IICA and the Jamaica Exporters' Association (JEA) signed a technical cooperation agreement which strengthens the relationship between the two institutions. The agreement seeks to:

Establish a framework and a legal basis for future specific Operation Agreements of contracts, which responds to



proposals of cooperation by either party or arise from shared concerns among them:

- a. The need for support to enhance the capabilities of the public and private sector for developing agricultural strategies and policies as required to modernize agriculture in Jamaica;
- b. The need to adapt the agricultural production structure in the context of current trade liberalization and increased international trade;
- c. The need to modernize the national agricultural research, technology transfer systems and provide information for agricultural development and rural well-being.

PARTICIPATION IN THE DONOR/LENDER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

IICA participated as a member of the Donor/Lender Environmental Committee which is chaired by the

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Among the agencies represented on this Committee are the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the USAID.

PARTICIPATION IN THE GENE BANK COMMITTEE

IICA participates in the Gene Bank Committee which comprises representatives from the National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST), the Scientific Research Council (SRC), the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the National Arboretum Foundation (NAF), the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) and the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica. The objective of the Committee is to promote and coordinate the preservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources in Jamaica.



(l-r) Dr. Chelston Brathwaite; Mr. Alford Williams, Coffee Industry Board; the Honourable Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Lenworth Henry, Coffee Industry Board; Dr. Gilbert Normand, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Agrifood, Fisheries and Oceans of Canada and Mr. John Pickersgill, then General Manager of the Coffee Industry Board meet at the Ministry of Agriculture Headquarters in Hope Gardens.



Staff of IICA Jamaica in a working session at their office in Hope Gardens

COOPERATION WITH THE JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

IICA Jamaica and the Jamaica Agricultural Society organized a workshop on Leadership, Negotiation and Teamwork in September 1999 as part of the programme on modernization of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

COOPERATION WITH RADA

IICA Jamaica and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) contracted Miss Jeannette Williams to compile an update of the National Pest List for Jamaica. The objective of this project is to have a comprehensive listing of the various pests attacking crops grown in Jamaica. In this country a wide range of pests such as fungi, nematodes, bacteria, insects, viruses and mycoplasma-like organisms are found to be associated with the crops grown.

In 1967, R.I. Leather published *A Catalogue of Some Plant Diseases and Fungi in Jamaica*. This information needed to be updated. There is not a comprehensive list-

ing of the various pests found to be associated with crops grown in Jamaica, in a single publication. However there are many publications with information relating to certain pests of particular crops, with reference to Jamaica. From these publications the necessary information was compiled, resulting in a comprehensive list.

COOPERATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

IICA Jamaica and the local office of the Organization of American States cooperated in the development of a project on Informal Credit for Rural Women. The project will improve access to financial resources allowing women the opportunity to improve existing agribusiness microenterprises and to develop new ones in the rural areas of Jamaica.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

- The office hosted the visits of Dr. Gilbert Normand, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Agrifood, Fisheries and Oceans of Canada and Dr. David Johnson of the Canadian International Development Agency to Jamaica.
- The office developed a project proposal to develop goat production in the Mocho area of Clarendon in cooperation with the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, RADA and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- IICA Jamaica, in cooperation with the Regional Centre, provided financial and technical support to the restructuring, modernization and development of a corporate plan for the RADA.
- The office facilitated the visit of Dr. Franco Bernadini from IICA Headquarters to discuss emerging issues in Agricultural Health with national authorities.

THE REPRESENTATIVE

- Attended the U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer Supervisors orientation day at José Martí Technical School. Peace Corps Volunteer, Christopher Smith, has been assigned to the TCA.
- Attended the College of Agriculture, Science and Education graduation ceremony and presented an Award to the most outstanding student in Agriculture.



APPENDICES

A. PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of the publications of this office during 1999:

ANNUAL REPORT

Contribution of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to the Jamaican Agricultural Sector During 1998: 1998 Annual Report.
Kingston, Jamaica: IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999.

BOOKLET

The Agribusiness Awards 1999 & Nominations for 2000.

BROCHURES

Promotion of a Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers.

IICA Information Centre.

IICA/MINAG Youth in Agribusiness Award 1999.

INFORMATION PACK

IICA Technical Cooperation Agency in Jamaica: Corporate Profile and Information for Visitors.

MANUAL

Annikie, Zithroy and Chris Smith.
A Goat Agroforestry Production System for Jamaica.
Kingston, Jamaica: IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999.

NEWSLETTER

InFocus IICA Jamaica Newsletter.

STUDIES

The Banana Sector of Costa Rica: Production, Organizational and Institutional Aspects of the Industry. Kingston, Jamaica:
IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999.

The Coffee Sector of Costa Rica: Production, Organizational and Institutional Aspects of the Industry.
Kingston, Jamaica: IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999.

Young, Florence. A Diagnosis of Agricultural Health in Jamaica. Kingston, Jamaica:
IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999.

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Duncan, Kathryn, comp.
Proceedings of the Workshop Network of Agricultural Information and Documentation Units in Jamaica.
Kingston, Jamaica: Ministry of Agriculture: IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999.

Chin Sue, Hyacinth, comp.
Workshop on Strategies for Strengthening Micro-Enterprises for Rural Women.
Kingston, Jamaica: The First lady of Jamaica: Rural Agricultural Development Authority: IICA Office in Jamaica, 1999

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MORANT YALLAHS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (MYADP).

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- ▶ Revised Inception Report
- ▶ Survey to Determine the Main Problems Affecting Farming Systems of Small Farmers
- ▶ Programme of Investigation
- ▶ Low Cost Goat Housing
- ▶ Economic Analysis of Farm Models
- ▶ Sociological Survey on Response of Farmers to TG&V
- ▶ Technologies
- ▶ Sweet Corn in Phillipsfield
- ▶ Carrot on Ridges
- ▶ Plantain as Shade and Income Earner in Coffee
- ▶ Analysis of Different Hedgerows in MYADP
- ▶ Report on West Indian Red Variety Trials in MYADP
- ▶ Analysis of Soil Status in MYADP



EXTENSION BROCHURES

- ▶ Growing Coffee
- ▶ Growing Carrots
- ▶ Soil Conservation Practices for Coffee Cultivation:
The Case of Mango Row
- ▶ Integrated Pest Management
- ▶ Minimum Tillage
- ▶ Growing Hot Peppers
- ▶ Top Working Mango Trees
- ▶ Growing Peanuts
- ▶ Pineapple Barriers

B. COLLABORATORS

- ▶ Agribusiness Council
- ▶ Banana Industry Board
- ▶ Canadian International Development Agency
- ▶ Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development
Institute
- ▶ Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
- ▶ Coffee Industry Board
- ▶ College of Agriculture Science and Education
- ▶ European Union
- ▶ Food and Agriculture Organization
- ▶ Jamaica Agricultural Society
- ▶ Jamaica Bauxite Institute
- ▶ Jamaica Broilers
- ▶ Jamaica Exporters Association
- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture
- ▶ National Commission on Science and Technology
- ▶ Natural Resources Conservation Authority
- ▶ Organization of American States
- ▶ Rural Agricultural Development Authority
- ▶ Scientific Research Council
- ▶ United Nations Development Programme
- ▶ United Nations Environment Programme
- ▶ United States Agency for International Development
- ▶ University of the West Indies

C. STAFF OF IICA JAMAICA

Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Representative

TECHNICAL STAFF

Hyacinth Chin Sue
Rural Development Specialist

Zithroy Annikie
Watershed Management Specialist

Kathryn Duncan
Information Specialist

Byron Noble
Agricultural Trade Specialist

Dr. Janice Reid
Consultant

Joseph Duhaney
Agronomist (MYADP)

Howard Demetrius
Assistant Agronomist (MYADP)

Garfield Wallace
Assistant Agronomist (MYADP)

Christopher Smith
Peace Corps Volunteer

SUPPORT STAFF
Maureen Machado
Executive Secretary

Ann Marie Hinds
Programme Secretary

Andrea Tucker
Secretary/Receptionist

Donna Halstead
Administrative Assistant

Karen Gumbs-Barrett
Accounting Assistant

Henry Powell
Driver/Messenger

Leonie Simmonds
Office Attendant

Aston Daley
Gardener



D. ACRONYMS

		FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
AMC	- Agricultural Marketing Corporation	FTAA	- Free Trade Association of the Americas
CFNI	- Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute	GAPS	- Goat Agroforestry Production Systems
CABA	- Caribbean Agribusiness Association	GTZ	- German Technical Cooperation Agency
CARDI	- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	IDB	- Inter-American Development Bank
CARICOM	- Caribbean Community	IICA	- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
CARIFORUM	- Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean & Pacific States	IOJ	- Institute of Jamaica
CARILAC	- Programme for Horizontal Technical Cooperation in Agriculture between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	JADIN	- Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information Network
CARTF	- CARIFORUM Agribusiness Research and Training Fund	JAMPRO	- Jamaica Promotions Company
CASE	- College of Agriculture Science and Education	JAS	- Jamaica Agricultural Society
CDS/ISIS	- Computer Database Systems Information	JBI	- Jamaica Bauxite Institute
CIB	- Coffee Industry Board	JEA	- Jamaica Exporters Association
CIDA	- Canadian International Development Agency	JSAS	- Jamaica Society of Agricultural Sciences
COLEACP	- Liaison Committee for Europe and the African Caribbean and Pacific States	LAN	- Local Area Network
EFJ	- Environmental Foundation of Jamaica	LMC	- Local Management Committee
EU	- European Union	MRL	- Maximum Residue Level
		MYADP	- Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Programme
		NAF	- National Arboretum Foundation
		NCST	- National Commission on Science and Technology



NRCA	- Natural Resources Conservation Authority
OAS	- Organization of American States
PCA	- Pesticide Control Authority
PMU	- Project Management Unit
PROMECAFE	- Regional Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic
PSOJ	- Private Sector Organization of Jamaica
RADA	- Rural Agricultural Development Authority
SDI	- Selective Dissemination of Information
SPS	- Sanitary Phytosanitary
SRC	- Scientific Research Council
TCA	- Technical Cooperation Agency
TG&V	- Technology Generation and Validation
UNDP	- United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	- United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	- United States Agency for International Development
USDA	- United States Department of Agriculture
USPC	- The United States Peace Corp:
UWI	- University of the West Indies
WTO	- World Trade Organization

E. OPERATIVE BUDGET 1999

The IICA Office in Jamaica managed an operative budget of US\$529,957.00 during 1999. Of this total, 75% corresponded to IICA's quota resources; 13% came from funding by the European Union; 5% was attributed to IICA/GTZ funds; 3% each under the Kellogg Foundation and the CARILAC funds and 1% came from CATIS.

F. IICA WORK PROGRAMME 2000

IICA Jamaica will continue in the Year 2000 to work in the four strategic areas which were defined in the Technical Cooperation Agenda of 1998.

STRATEGIC AREA I

1. *Assist the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its preparation for Free Trade and participation in the Global Economy.*

Person Responsible: Byron Noble,
Agricultural Trade Specialist.

Cooperating Institutions: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica Agricultural Society, Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation, Agribusiness Council of Jamaica, Rural Agricultural Development Authority, Jamaica Exporters Association, Pesticide Control Authority.

ACTIVITIES:

- Continue presentation of the National Training Course on Globalization and production of a Training Manual on Globalization and the Agricultural Sector.
- Finalize the national pest list for Jamaica and the study of readiness of Jamaican institutions for compliance with WTO/SPS.
- Develop information systems to support competitiveness studies and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary systems.
- Carry out analyses of competitiveness of Jamaican agricultural products with a view to improving competitiveness.



- ▶ Cooperate in the formulation/development of a policy framework for the agricultural sector.
- ▶ Continue the iForum for the Discussion of New and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Trade.
- ▶ Evaluate the impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector.

STRATEGIC AREA II

2. *Promotion of Sustainability of Hillside Farming Systems and Watershed Management.*

Person Responsible: Zithroy Annikie, Watershed Management Specialist.

Cooperating Institutions: Rural Agricultural Development Authority, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, Natural Resource Conservation Authority, Water Resources Authority, Forestry Department, Coffee Industry Board, US-Peace Corps.

ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Support the development of economic environmental and social activities in the Rio Cobre Watershed area in cooperation with the national agencies.
- ▶ Support the newly formed Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association.
- ▶ Provide training and establish demonstration plots in organic farming.
- ▶ Develop proposal for research and utilization of organic pesticides from local plants.
- ▶ Expand vermiculture technology for the production of organic fertilizer.
- ▶ Continue development of the Goat Agroforestry Production system in the area.
- ▶ Provide training in soil conservation practices necessary for conservation of the watershed.

STRATEGIC AREA III

3. *Support Agribusiness Micro-enterprises with emphasis on the incorporation of Women and Youth in Agricultural Development.*

Person Responsible: Hyacinth Chin Sue, Rural Development Specialist.

Cooperating Institutions: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Agricultural Development Authority, JAMPRO, Organization of American States, Kingís House.

ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Support to the Network of Rural Women Producers.
- ▶ Establishment of a Revolving Credit Fund in cooperation with the Organization of American States.
- ▶ Implementation of Training programmes in business management and the preparation of business plans.
- ▶ Selection of agribusiness entrepreneurs for the Agribusiness Award.

STRATEGIC AREA IV

4. *Facilitating cooperation and interchange of technology and experiences between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin American countries.*

Person Responsible: Chelston W. D Brathwaite, Representative.

Cooperating Institutions: Ministry of Agriculture and National Institutions of the Agricultural Sector.

ACTIVITIES:

- ▶ Provide opportunities for professionals from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to visit Jamaica and provide relevant technology and information.
- ▶ Provide a flow of relevant information and technologies from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to Jamaica.
- ▶ Provide opportunities for Jamaican nationals to visit the wider Caribbean and Latin American countries to obtain relevant technology and information.



5. *Information and Training and Networking*

Person Responsible: Kathryn Duncan,
Information Specialist.

Cooperating Institutions: Ministry of Agriculture,
University of the West Indies, College of
Agriculture, Science and Education, National
Library of Jamaica.

ACTIVITIES:

- Maintenance and updating of database of information resources available at the IICA Office in Jamaica.
- Creating and maintenance of a website for IICA Jamaica on Agroinfo.
- Information services: provision of documentation and access to electronic information (on-site) available to all clients.
- Coordination of workshops and seminars in Information Management/Technologies for library personnel (within the Network) and clients.
- Preparation of training materials in the above events.
- Functioning as the Secretariat for the Network of Agricultural Information and Documentation Units in Jamaica
- Developing and delivering network products and services to clients.

6. *Administrative and Management Activities.*

Person Responsible: Chelston W. D. Brathwaite.

ACTIVITIES:

- Continue to develop and strengthen relations with national, regional and international agencies. In this context, continue meeting with CARDI, CFNI, FAO and UWI in search of joint initiatives.
- Manage the implementation of the technical cooperation agenda in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural sector representatives.
- Keep the sector informed of plans and projects developed within the Institute which may be relevant to Jamaica.
- Promote cooperation between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America in areas of interest to the Jamaica Agricultural Sector.
- Continue to represent the Institute at national events where agricultural issues are discussed.
- Ensure Jamaica's representation at Inter-American events sponsored by the Institute where issues of interest to the country are being discussed.

8. *Agreements with National Institutions.*

The IICA Office in Jamaica has signed Agreements with the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), and the Sandals Group in cooperation with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority.



NOTES



What is IICA?

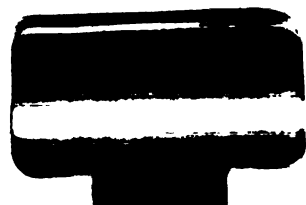
In early 1998, the IICA Office in Jamaica instituted a process for the redefinition of the focus of its technical cooperation programme in Jamaica. The process coincided with the appointment of a new Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Roger Clarke, who defined modernization of the agricultural sector as the new mandate of his Ministry. In addition, IICA designated Dr. Chelston Brathwaite to the post of Representative of its office in Jamaica. The process of redefinition was consultative and participatory and began with consultations with the various entities of the sector and culminated in a seminar in July 1998 where representatives of the sector presented their views on what they perceived to be the future role of the Institute in Jamaica.

As a result of the consultations and the views expressed in the seminar, IICA Jamaica has produced a strategic plan to guide the future work of the Institute in Jamaica. The plan has, as its basic objective, cooperation with national agricultural institutions to improve the competitiveness of Jamaica's agriculture. The strategic areas for intervention are to:

- Assist the Jamaica Agricultural sector in preparation for free trade and participation in global economy.

- Promote the sustainability of Hillside Farming Systems and Watershed Management.
- Support agri-business micro enterprises with emphasis on the incorporation of women and youth in rural development.
- Facilitate cooperation and interchange of technology and experiences between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

The member states of IICA are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, The United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Its Permanent Observers are: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Community, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Spain.





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