



Jamaica

2019 Annual Report

Significant Achievements

- Land management service delivery to farmers was improved for 15 RADA extension officers who participated in a land husbandry workshop. As a means of augmenting the training, seven sets of land husbandry equipment were presented to RADA to better enable officers to deliver services. Some 60 hillside farmers were instructed in good land husbandry practices in the context of changing climates. Eighty students from the College of Agriculture, Science and Education, Knox Community College and Ebony Park Academy benefited from training in land management and agribusiness. Each institution received a set of composting boxes and land management/soil monitoring equipment to assist future extension officers and farmers to improve their skills.
- IICA promoted opportunities in the bioeconomy, in keeping with our ongoing focus on youth in agriculture and innovative agri-solutions. IICA partnered with Jamaica 4-H Clubs, College of Agriculture, Science and Education, Northern Caribbean University and Ebony Park Heart Academy to demonstrate bioeconomy applications in the Youth Village at the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show. Participants learnt about composting, utilising bamboo to make hydroponic systems, growing vegetables in spent mushroom substrate and making paper from local plants. The IICA booth also showcased examples of the bioeconomy via a zero waste mushroom value-chain and the use of drones for precision agriculture. Approximately 300 persons viewed the bio-economy displays and demonstrations.
- Thirty-five stakeholders from the tourism, agriculture, gastronomy and agro-processing sectors participated in an agro-tourism linkages workshop hosted by IICA, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Tourism Linkages Network of the Ministry of Tourism. The workshop provided an overview of current trends in the local tourism industry and agro-food tourism globally, as well as activities to improve tourism linkages with other sectors. Three concept notes to strengthen sector linkages were prepared based on the workshop dialogue and are being developed into project proposals for submission to the Intra-ACP 11th European Development Fund.
- IICA continued strengthening capacities in agricultural health and food safety, by facilitating participation of local officials in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Organisation for Animal Health, as well as a regional International Plant Protection Convention workshop in Pathology at the University of Florida. Another 32 stakeholders in the agriculture and health sectors were trained in the development of Antimicrobial Resistance surveillance plans for the agriculture sector, which was organized in collaboration with the Veterinary Services Division of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries.



Workshops on the USA Food Safety Modernisation Act and the new Safe Food for Canadians Act were also facilitated.

- Sixteen IICA member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were assisted in preparing their country dossiers. As a result, they retained, improved or gained ICCO Fine & Flavour cocoa status, which gives cocoa farmers in these countries the opportunity to earn premium prices for their cocoa beans. Haiti achieved recognition for the first time under this intervention. Under a national intervention, a Cocoa Farmer Cluster in Jamaica received support to prepare a proposal that sought to move the cluster up the cocoa value chain, and to professionalize labour and services in cocoa crop management. The proposal was one of six shortlisted in the region, under the Compete Caribbean Funding programme, with a final decision slated for February 2020.
- Senior decision makers from the Plant Quarantine, Research and Development, Extension, Regulatory Agency and the Chief Technical Officer of Jamaica's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Fisheries and Agriculture took part in a sensitization mission to Colombia and Peru, focusing on effective strategies to manage Frosty Pod Rot and to expand the cocoa sector. Public and private sector stakeholders in these countries graciously shared their farmer-centric strategies that are primarily based on cultural practices. These are currently being used to manage the cocoa disease trilogy—black pod, frosty pod rot and witches broom disease—and to exponentially grow the cocoa sectors, thereby providing employment, generating significant foreign exchange returns and contributing to GDP.
- Bearing in mind the nature of the growing regions in Jamaica, the International Potato Center (CIP) in Peru selected and shared 33 of its improved potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) lines, under a materials transfer agreement. The 33 lines were successfully established and multiplied in tissue culture by the Bodles Research Station of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF) and are ready for field trials in Jamaica. Under IICA's Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality programme, Jamaica shared its knowledge and experience in managing citrus greening (huanglongbing) disease with the ministries of Agriculture in St. Lucia and Antigua & Barbuda, thereby building capacity in these countries.
- Four young entrepreneurs in the agribusiness sector were recognised in the annual Youth in Agribusiness Awards, presented at the 2019 IICA Jamaica Accountability Seminar. More than 100 stakeholders in the agriculture sector were in attendance. IICA also introduced a blog to share stories about young entrepreneurs in the agribusiness sector and to expose readers to the bioeconomy concept, in addition to commissioning the development of a gamified course on the bioeconomy for mobile applications. A report on existing bioeconomy practices of youth farmers, which recommended potential pathways for further development, was also prepared from a survey of selected young farmers.

