



Suriname

2019 Annual Report

Significant Achievements

- IICA established a Rice Variety Garden with selected rice varieties from Maroon Communities in the Upper-Suriname River region as part of the ongoing Systems of Rice Intensification (SRI) capacity building in these communities, aimed at productivity enhancement, conservation of traditional maroon upland rice varieties, and facilitating the transition of indigenous farmers from traditional shifting cultivation systems to sustainable sedentary agriculture production systems. This intervention was carried out in collaboration with the University of Cornell, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Regional Development, the local NGO Ecosystem 2000, residents of the Saamaka maroon communities and the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks Program.
- The Institute established a cocoa nursery for diversification of the agricultural production and income streams in the Upper Suriname River region. This cooperation was aimed at providing planting material for incorporation of the cocoa crop into indigenous agricultural production systems in the area, and the promotion of cocoa as an export crop. The activity was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (MAAHF), the Ministry of Regional Development, the residents of the Samaaka maroon communities and the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks Program.
- IICA strengthened the knowledge capacities of two hundred participants, including university and tertiary level students in agriculture and environmental science, agricultural extension officers, and farmers, through a series of sensitization and awareness events, field visits and, demonstration training workshops in climate smart agriculture technologies (protected agriculture, micro-irrigation and rain water harvesting system management for vegetable crops) for building resilience in the agricultural sector to climate change. These activities were facilitated under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) funded project aimed at improved Agricultural Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) in Suriname, in collaboration with the MAAHF and the University of Suriname.
- Knowledge capacities of seventy-eight participants from tertiary educational institutions, research institutions, technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries were strengthened through training in the use of digital technologies for climate variability modeling for evidenced based decision making in Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM), and 3-D Modelling and Use of Drones in the Field for ADRM with funding support from FAO and in collaboration with the “Anton de Kom”



University of Suriname and the MAAHF, as well as the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks Program.

- Seven cluster organizations which comprise the Suriname Network of Rural Women Producers (SUNRWP) increased market promotion and opportunities for their agribusinesses through participation in commercial exhibitions during world food day celebratory events held by the MAAHF. One cluster had the opportunity to participate in the IICA Booth at the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Barbados' "Heart of a Woman" Symposium and Wellness Expo.
- The governance and operational management of the SUNRWP was strengthened through the legal registration and formal approval of their constitutional by-laws through a notary act and the creation of a platform via their webpage for the promotion of products and services to members of SUNRWP.
- With funding support from the Australian Direct Aid Programme and IICA, as well as technical support from the Ministry of Regional Development, four rural maroon villages with a total population of two hundred inhabitants, located in the hinterland of Suriname, improved their access to potable water through the installation of thirty-two low-cost rainwater harvesting systems. This initiative was aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of mercury-contaminated water sources from gold mining activities, timber extraction, and extended drought events brought about by climate change.
- The project carried out by Direct Aid Program of the Australian High Commission and IICA saw the installation of twenty-two complete toilet units for two Maroon villages in the District of Brokopondo in the Upper Suriname River Region, for improved sanitation and to reduce environmental health risks to 200 hundred residents.
- IICA strengthened the apiculture value chain in Suriname through the implementation of the Permapiculture project to promote sustainable beekeeping among beekeepers in the Districts of Coronie, Saramacca, Wanica, Commewijne and Marowijne. A total of thirty beekeepers, ten agricultural extension officers and fifty students from the secondary and tertiary levels benefited from sensitization and awareness activities, permapiculture training, knowledge exchange training in queen rearing and bee management and sustainable honey production. This project was funded by the European Union through the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus facility managed by the United Nations Development Programme and executed in collaboration with the MAAHF.
- In collaboration with the Suriname Agricultural Forum for Youth (SURAFY), IICA established and operationalized two vegetable gardens for an Orphanage (Stichting Prasoro voor het kind in Nood) to supply their daily kitchen which feeds seventy-five needy children, and to serve as an exhibition and educational center for children (Villa Zapakara) where fresh vegetables are produced to educate children on the importance of agriculture.

