



The Bahamas

2019
Annual Report

Significant Achievements

- IICA provided the national project on apiculture research and development with evidence of the potential of the sector, by developing capacities in the beekeeping industry in The Bahamas. Building on previous initiatives and partnerships with the Office of the Prime Minister in Grand Bahama, the Bahamas Development Bank and the Department of Cooperative, the Institute's technical cooperation bolstered the apiculture industry by developing baseline studies, business plan templates and beginner/advanced training for sixty-five persons on three islands (Cat Island, Eleuthera and New Providence).
- The Delegation continued strengthening the government's competent SPS authority, the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA), by designing a 10-year conceptual framework document for a "Cross sectional Multidisciplinary Approach to Surveillance, Detection, Identification, Neutralization and Prevention of Zoonotic Pathogens along the Food Chain in The Bahamas".
- The Institute also provided training in the "One Health" approach and biosecurity surveillance to BAHFSA, private veterinarians, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Environment Health Services and the Ministry of Tourism.
- IICA continued to support The Bahamas in its efforts to secure external funding from international sources such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), GEF SGP and FAO. This year, IICA assisted both the government and private sector in strengthening their expertise in grant writing and project management through workshops and scheduled presentations.
- The team also provided support to the GEF Pine Island/Forest and Mangrove Innovation and Integration project, which aims to build on recent advancements in the forestry sector, by integrating biodiversity values, ecosystem services values and principles of sustainable forest management and land-use into enhanced land-use planning in The Bahamas. IICA provided technical assistance for the sustainable livelihoods component of the project that focuses on multi-functional conservation in coastal communities through effective provisioning of forest ecosystem services, while promoting sustainable practices and community management of Cascarilla (Croton eleuteria) bark cultivation and the processing of Cascarilla Oil in Acklins and Crooked Islands.
- The Institute initiated cooperation actions immediately after Hurricane Dorian, for example, supporting rehabilitation efforts for various agriculture subsectors, such as crops, livestock and bees, and undertook interventions related to climate smart agriculture, AHFS and resilience. The Delegation supplied inputs, tools, small equipment and seeds for on-farm and related activities. It engaged in a series of capacity building interventions to facilitate rehabilitation, while bolstering resilience to agricultural risks and disasters



and documenting lessons learned, with a view to informing medium to long term efforts in the affected areas. Thus far, the Institute's support has impacted 40 farmers and 20 beekeepers in the post-Dorian period.

- Finally, IICA improved the Bahamian government's capacity to manage policies, plans and strategies, and strengthened its institutional framework, in keeping with international commitments. It assisted with the development of proposals

for Agricultural Health and Food Safety regulations, while providing support for the country's participation in and compliance with international organizations and agreements (CODEX, OIE, IPPC and WTO). With external funding from partners the country was able to benefit from training and networking opportunities in agri-tourism and plant pathology. The Institute also afforded The Bahamas the opportunity to represent the Caribbean at the COP 25 meeting in Madrid, Spain.

