



Belize



Significant Achievements 2020

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in collaboration with the Belize Poultry Association, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, successfully implemented a project on backyard poultry biosecurity, funded by the Australian Direct Aid Program. The project provided material to build 34 affordable model biosecure chicken coops and training on biosecurity. It also produced two training videos, as well as a manual and posters on backyard biosecurity. These tools are part of a package that will be used by agricultural extension officers when conducting training with farmers and have been posted on the IICA website: https://iica.int/es/Poultry_Biosecurity. Due to COVID-19, final training for the project was conducted online; it included students from the local University and colleges.
- At the beginning of 2020, a composting training exercise was carried out with the participation of thirty-five stakeholders, who were divided into three groups to do the compost recipe formulation and trials. Equipment for compost monitoring was provided to the groups. The overall objective of the project was to strengthen economic resilience through the adoption of innovative technologies and sustainable waste management systems in the Caribbean region. The project enhanced the participants' awareness, while increasing the opportunity for knowledge transfer, through information sharing and the use of a toolkit (manual, apps and compost monitoring equipment) to apply the model locally. Ultimately, the amount of compost used for soil restoration in prioritized areas is expected to increase significantly.
- IICA provided the Ministry of Agriculture with basic equipment to do rapid soil testing. This was to have been accompanied by field training; however, due to the pandemic, the activity was cancelled. The equipment will be used to gather data on soil information, which can subsequently be used to map out the different soil types and properties in the country and assist in the development of a digital soil map.
- The Institute provided logistical support for the establishment of an observation yield trial for biofortified beans, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, which provided funding, as well as with CARDI and CIAT. A second trial will be conducted at the Belize Agricultural Stations of Yo Creek, Stann Creek and Central Farm. CARICOM is expected to mobilize funds for full implementation of the project.
- IICA provided technical support to the Pesticides Control Board, as part of a committee to develop guidelines for conducting the efficacy trials required for pesticide registration.
- An Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Plan for Belize was developed, with technical support from IICA and Ohio State University, in collaboration with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority and the Ministry of Health.
- In August 2020, IICA organized a virtual stakeholder engagement with representatives of the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE), the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and the Belize Hotel Association (BHA), with a view to exchanging ideas and building a collaborative roadmap to reduce digital gaps and to serve as an instrument for the development of the country's population and strategic territories. The synergy between BCCI, BELTRAIDE, BHA and IICA was enhanced and strengthened by the exchange and by the development of a plan to design and operate a Digital Fabrication Laboratory, FabLab, focusing on agriculture, agribusiness, climate change and tourism in Belize.
- The Institute was invited to sit on a judging committee to evaluate farmers and farms to select the junior, male and female farmer of the year, as part of the National Agriculture and Trade Show.
- The IICA delegations in Belize and in Antigua & Barbuda organized a bilateral meeting between the Ministries of Agriculture, in response to a request from the Hon. Samantha Marshall, Minister of Agriculture,



Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda. The request arose following the Minister's participation in the CARICOM and IICA Virtual Engagement with CARICOM ministers of agriculture and development, partners, financial institutions, donor organizations and donor countries, to determine possible avenues and

conditions for financing post-COVID-19 agricultural and rural sector recovery efforts. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of undertaking a horizontal cooperation initiative to support the development of the livestock sector in Antigua & Barbuda following the success of Belize in this area.

