



Saint Lucia



Significant Achievements 2020

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) enhanced agro-tourism linkages with the aim of improving market coordination between farmers and major buyers, such as the Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association (SLHTA), restaurants and other stakeholders in the tourism industry. The Institute also provided assistance to automate certain parts of the procurement process in order to increase transaction turnover and payments to farmers. This was facilitated by the Guru platform, developed by local youth with technical guidance and support from IICA in matters related to resource mobilization, planning and implementation. The initiative was approved by Compete Caribbean under its 2020 Agro-Tourism call for proposals, and resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) were secured to conduct work related to precision farming and climate-resilient greenhouse systems. Memorandums of understanding were signed with Massy Stores St. Lucia to launch a 3-month trial to incorporate the Guru tool into coordination and procurement systems with local farmers, and with SLHTA to drive the adoption of the platform by all of its members.
- In the area of family farming, together with the Beausoleil Sustainable Agribusiness Group (BSA Group), IICA supported the development of indigenous business undertakings related to biodiversity. Efforts focused on building capacities, fostering business development and generating jobs in the rural community of Saltibus by improving cocoa fermenting, product development, value adding, composting and the creation of bio-fertilizers. Following the reallocation of funds, IICA mobilized external resources through the BSA Group to continue work in this area. The initiative has allowed for building capabilities in the production of mushrooms, bio-fertilizers and compost, as well as in cocoa value-adding.
- At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, IICA provided resources to support the Saint Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB) within the framework of the Ministry's Covid-19 response plan. IICA's intervention allowed for producing a packhouse operations manual aligned with HACCP principles, brokering new relationships between the SLMB and exporters, improving market coordination between the SLMB and over 100 farmers by means of the Guru app, as well as enhancing farm operations. Additionally, staff at the SLMB packhouse were provided with personal protective equipment, digital scales and point-of-sale equipment (including cloud software) to enhance business operations and data management. These actions were carried out within the framework of the project entitled "Building more efficient and coordinated production and marketing mechanisms for the stability of the domestic food system in Saint Lucia", with funding from IICA's Special COVID-19 Fund for the Caribbean Region.
- The Institute provided the clusters of the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) in Micoud, Babonneau and Laborie with technical cooperation and support in mobilizing resources. In the case of Micoud and Babonneau, IICA assisted rural women in entering into a lease arrangement to operate small agro-processing facilities in neighboring communities, which were built by the Ministry of Agriculture. Group organization, the negotiation of lease terms, business planning and partner engagement were some of the areas in which the women received support. The objective of these efforts was to build up the capacities and legitimacy of SLNRWP as a partner for rural development.
- IICA provided technical and logistical support to successfully organize the 10th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress, in collaboration with the Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organizations (ACBO), GEF SGP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year's congress was held virtually due to travel restrictions resulting from Covid-19. Participants from India, the United States and Canada attended the event, which included seminars on relevant topics and country-specific presentations by ACBO affiliates.

