



Annual Report **2008**

Suriname

IICA's Contribution to
the Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities

WHAT IS IICA?

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American System, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations.

With more than six decades of institutional life, the Institute is responding to new mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the ministers of agriculture of the Americas, to reposition itself so that it can meet both the new challenges facing agriculture and the requests for support it receives from its member countries.

As it pursues its vision and carries out its mission, the Institute has competitive advantages it can draw on to carry out its new role. It has accumulated a wealth of knowledge regarding agriculture, rural territories, the diversity of peoples and cultures, and the agro-ecological diversity of the hemisphere, all of which are important for crafting creative solutions to a wide variety of problems and challenges.

Its presence in all of the Member States gives the Institute the flexibility it needs to move resources between countries and regions in order to promote and adapt cooperation initiatives intended to address national and regional priorities, facilitate the flow of information and improve the dissemination of best practices.

The Institute has its Headquarters in Costa Rica, and Offices in 34 countries of the Americas, an Office in Miami, which is responsible for the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, as well as an Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain. The Directorate for Strategic Partnerships works out of the IICA Office in Washington, D.C.

VISION

To be the leading agricultural institution in the Americas and the partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides in response to the needs of Member States, and its contributions to sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.

MISSION

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture and the rural milieu of the Inter-American System, whose purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

***“IICA’s Contribution to the Development
of Agriculture and Rural Communities in
Suriname”***



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

1. Introduction	1
2. Executive Summary	3
3. The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Suriname in 2008	11
a. The Context for Agriculture and Rural Life	11
b. Changes in Agrifood Production	12
c. Change in Policies that Affect Agriculture and Rural Life	14
d. Changes in the Institutional Framework for Agriculture and Rural Life.....	15
e. Major Developments in the Thematic Areas that Affected the Performance of Agriculture and the Rural Life	16
4. Results of the Implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in Suriname during 2008	17
a. IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life	17
b. Promotion of Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness	20
c. Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems	20
d. Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment.....	22
e. Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach.....	23
f. Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life.....	31
5. Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation.....	33
6. Results of Horizontal Technical Cooperation.....	35
7. New Opportunities for Technical Cooperation	37
8. Main Activities Organized by IICA.....	39
9. List of Publications	40

ACRONYMS



PREFACE

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Suriname takes pleasure in reporting on its activities undertaken in 2008. This report is in keeping with the Institute's culture of transparency and accountability to stakeholders, collaborators, partners and clients within the agricultural sector as well as the general public.

This Report highlights the achievements and major interventions which the office implemented in the milieu. We wish to acknowledge with appreciation the support and assistance of the public and private sector in Suriname. The Ministries of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) and Foreign Affairs continued to be our principal public sector partner. Other ministries including Ministry of Regional Development (RO), Transport, Communication and Tourism (TCT), Trade and Industry (HI), Labour, Technological Development



*Cromwell C. Crawford
IICA Representative in Suriname*



and Environment (ATM) also provided collaborative support to the Office.

We also wish to acknowledge efforts of our other partners in the public sector, private sector, national, regional and International organizations, educational institutions, farmers, women's and youth groups and NGO' in assisting us to fulfill our mandate.

I wish to express my gratitude to the staff of the institute in Suriname office and to the colleagues in the Caribbean and the Hemisphere for their efforts in assisting us to satisfy our clients.

The IICA office in Suriname is committed to continuing with all partners in promoting the sustainable development of agriculture and enhancement of rural life in the country.

Cromwell Crawford
IICA Representative in Suriname



1. Introduction

The year 2008 was particularly challenging for agriculture worldwide. However Suriname because of its positioning was able to cushion some of the negative effects of these challenges. For example, Suriname's agricultural producers were able to capitalize on increased food prices by increasing production and marketing of agricultural products.

Short term measures such as the instituting of export license to restrict export of staple (rice) helped ensure food security for vulnerable groups.

The IICA office supported the country's food security efforts and the development of diversification and other agricultural Initiatives under the Agricultural Sector Plan (ASP).

The IICA Office in Suriname continued to work in different thematic areas aimed at strengthening modernizing and diversifying the agricultural sector and improving the quality of life in both rural and the hinterland communities.



During 2008 IICA's activities were mainly based on the following thematic areas:

- Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life
- Promoting Trade and Competitiveness of Agriculture
- Strengthening of Rural Communities based on the territorial approach
- Promoting Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment
- Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems
- Technology and Innovation

The Plan of Operation 2008 of the Office in Suriname was mainly a continuation of that of 2007 and based on the following national and international actions and initiatives:

- The Agricultural Sector Plan 2005 – 2010
- The “Jagdeo Initiative ” aiming at revitalizing agriculture in the CARICOM member states
- IICA's Medium Term Plan 2006 – 2010
- The AGRO-PLAN 2003 – 2015
- The National Disasters that are significantly impacting on the modalities for the repositioning of Agriculture in the member states.

During 2008 the Office intensified the collaboration with organizations and institutions in the areas of Food Security, Agro-tourism development, Bio-energy and Management of Natural Resources and Environment.



These activities are in keeping with IICA's mandate to reposition and modernize the agricultural sectors in the member states, to introduce and promote the use of biotechnology and to improve the livelihoods of communities in the rural areas and the interior.

Food security as a priority for the Institute received significant attention from the office. Initiatives in this area were taken in close collaboration with public and private sector institutions.



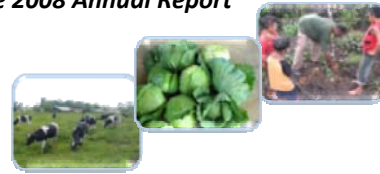
2. Executive Summary

During 2008, the Office activities were guided principally by the Plan of Operation which was elaborated toward the end of 2007. The activities also took cognizance of the Agricultural Sector Plan (ASP) which is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV). Activities were also subject to inputs received from stakeholders following the Accountability Seminar held in May and other requests from government agencies and the private sector, and hemispheric activities organized by IICA Technical Directorates.

Results of Technical Cooperation Action

Some of the actions carried out in 2008 were a continuation of activities undertaken in 2007 and in previous years.

Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life



The Office conducted the Annual Survey of External Satisfaction with IICA in Suriname and analyzed the results which are being incorporated in the revised National Agenda.

A national Seminar for youth in agriculture was conducted, as a follow up to IICA Young Leaders of the Americas initiative, to stimulate participation of Suriname Youth in the Agricultural Sector.

The office continued its publication of bulletin “Partnership”. Two issues were published to keep the milieu informed of IICA’s activities and also to highlight important topical issues.

The Office displayed an agro tourism booth in an international tourism fair sponsored by the Tourism Foundation of Suriname. The theme of the fair was: “Suriname: Where the Amazon meets the Caribbean”.

Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusinesses

The Office facilitated a seminar entitled “Farm to Table” for Agricultural producers and exporters at the monthly post harvest management training series sponsored by the Ministry of LVV.

One Terms of Reference (TOR) was prepared and submitted for funding to the Inter-American Development Bank / Trade Sector Support Program (IDB/TSSP) for the publication of a Handbook on “Farm and Airport Storage and Treatment of Vegetable and Fruit” in preparation for export of quality Surinamese products. The TOR was approved for funding.

Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems



The Office facilitated the hosting of a three-day OIE WAHID/WAHIS training course in Animal Health reporting for veterinary officers from Suriname and Guyana.

Supported the planning and implementing of a two-day Avian Influenza (AI) workshop for participants from the Veterinary and Livestock Production Units of the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV).

Supported the on-going Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) Surveillance Programme in the Guyana/Suriname border region. Facilitated and supported the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture LVV senior Technician in the WTO/SPS meeting in Geneva.

Facilitated the implementation of two on-line standard settings courses sponsored by the Directorate of Agricultural Health and Food Safety one in Codex Alimentarius and the other in Animal Health.

Facilitated the assessment and a follow-up seminar of the national SPS system under the STDF/SPS project.

Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

Implemented two food security related projects in the Upper Suriname River communities - A family chicken Coop project in collaboration with Peace Corps Suriname, and a vegetable production project as a follow up to the PADF/IICA/ OAS Flood Relief Project.

Prepared and submitted to the Ministry of LVV a proposal for agricultural diversification activities in the Coronie District. Completed the WWF/IICA Small-scale Income Generation Project.

Concluded the second phase of the IICA/OAS Agro Tourism Linkages Project with a workshop aimed at strengthening farmer Hotel Rela-



tionship and initiated Phase Three with a survey and workshop in Commewijne District.

Conducted Rural Appraisal and Food Security assessment in the Marowijne River Communities in Eastern Suriname. A proposal was prepared and submitted at their request to the Ministry of Regional Development for the further development of Hinterland Regions.

Facilitated the revitalization of Suriname Rural Women Producers (SUNROP) - the Suriname chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP).

An agreement was signed with the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) to conduct joint activities in Food Security assessment and production rehabilitation activities in flood- affected communities in Eastern and Southern Suriname.

Promoting the Sustainable management of Natural Resources and the Environment

Presented IICA's proposal on the rehabilitation of Mined- out areas in the Moengo Community to a seminar sponsored by the Bauxite Institute of Suriname.

At the request of the Suriname Airport Authority one Terms of Reference prepared and presented for financing for conducting a wild life survey and preparing a land use plan for the area surrounding the Johan Adolf Pengel Airport.

Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life



Organized and implemented a seminar on Pasture management and provided advice and information to private and public sector livestock operations.

Facilitated and supported the process of sourcing small ruminant breeding stock, in the Caribbean Region, for the Ministry of LVV Livestock Upgrading Programme.

Supported the testing of upland rice varieties in the Upper Suriname River Region.

Sourced information and planting material for selected crops from Brazil and Guyana.

In collaboration with Conservation International (CI), organized and implemented a Roundtable Discussion on Agro-energy and Biofuel with a presentation by IICA Agro-energy Consultant.



3. The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Suriname in 2008

a. The Context for Agriculture and Rural Life

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) restructured and developed the agriculture sector through different intervention policy as written in the Agricultural Sector Plan (ASP). The 3 main objectives are:

- Self-sufficiency; where the government must secure accessibility and availability for healthy food for the nation
- Income; to increase the earning capacity of the agro based industry and create employment to alleviate poverty
- Stimulate export and import substitution to contribute to the foreign exchange earning of the country.

The specific objectives are defined in the following priority actions:



- Increase production and decrease of cost.
- Conduct a agricultural census
- Improve prosperity and wellbeing of the rural community in the interior in terms of food security and livelihoods.
- Development of the agriculture sector in terms of production
- To improve the added value of agriculture produce and organize the value chains to improve income and the agricultural industry
- Improve industrialization of the agric sector to enhance diversification and internationalization of the sector
- To enhance ecological and economic sustainable production

b. Changes in Agrifood Production

The increase of world food prices also had its impact on agriculture in Suriname. The revenue of the export of agriculture products went up and there was also an increase in production.

This increase was due mainly to increases in exports of traditional crops: rice and banana. The yield of bananas increased with 8000 m ton. Due to an improved production system and the free unli-



imited market access to the European Union (EU) the export volume expanded.

Due to the high market rice prices the planting area of rice increased. This resulted in an increase of rice exports of nearly 11 000 m ton in 2008.

For the other crops there were no significantly changes in export volume.

On the other hand the Consumer Price Index increased from an average in 2007 of 6.4 % to an average in 2008 of 14.6% (see table 1). The items in the CPI packet showed on a twelve monthly base fluctuations between -38% and 133%, with an average of 7.7%.

The main groups which have increased are mostly "Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages (18.1%), Dining-out (11.3%), and "Other Goods and Services (9.9%).

Consumer Price Indices and inflation 2007 – 2008

Yr	All items index average		All Items index De- cember	
	Index	% change	Index	% change
2007	210.0	6.4	219.7	8.3
2008	240.9	14.7	240.3	9.4

Source: General Bureau of Statistics

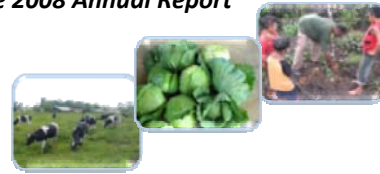


The market forces stimulated not only the increase of rice export but also the price of rice locally. To reduce volatility and risk to the population, the government of Suriname took a short term measure for food insurance. Implementation of export license to restrict the export of rice and a creation network for the most vulnerable was one of the measures taken by the government to ensure food security.

Heavy rain fall, with high peaks in the month of June 2008, led to the overflow and flooding of communities located in the South of Suriname. As the water receded it became clear that many life sustaining crops were destroyed. Reports from the National Coordination Center for Disaster Management (NCCR) indicated that 30 percent of the livestock, 65 percent of the crops and 90 percent of the fishing industry were affected.

While in the aftermath of the flooding some crops were salvaged and used for consumption and land was prepared for planting, the materials available only amounted to approximately 30 percent of the normal levels. In addition, rising fuel prices and transportation costs have made the purchase of food in the affected communities very expensive, and the variety of food products available for purchase scarce. These combined factors have resulted in a continuous food security problem in the villages affected by the flood.

In an effort to continue to support these communities, the Suriname Red Cross (SRC) and the IICA Office in Suriname have designed a program with a focus on agriculture to improve the long-



term food security situation and to take preventative steps to mitigate and help avoid future disaster.

c. Change in Policies that Affect Agriculture and Rural Life

A national agricultural research board was installed to coordinate the activities of agricultural research in the country. The objective is to bring all the research institutions together and evaluate their program and give guidance to establish an improved thematic demand driven national research agenda the establishment of the department for development of agriculture at the ministry of regional development will can improve the quality of live of the Maroons and indigenous people in the interior.

An Agriculture Credit Fund (ACF) was established to stimulate and strengthen the agribusiness in Suriname. Farmers and other entrepreneurs in agriculture could get a loan against low interest rates. The objective of the ACF is to stimulate innovation and technology to ensure that the earning capacity and the credibility of the sector are improved. The target groups to participate in this program are small and medium agricultural enterprises.

d. Changes in the Institutional Framework for Agriculture and Rural Life



The Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) extended the terms of the Codex Alimentarius committee. This committee also has to rewrite the food law and establish a food authority that will control and watch over the food safety rules which should be guided by international standards.

The restructuring of the Agriculture Health and Food Safety Unit is being executed. The establishment of a residue laboratory is already studied and the laboratory will be established in 2009.

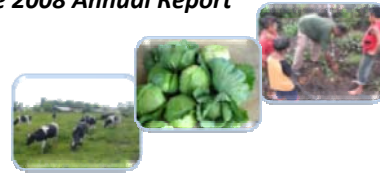
e. Major Developments in the Thematic Areas that Affected the Performance of Agriculture and the Rural Life

To achieve its objectives the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) uses a thematic approach to build capacity through training and institutional strengthening of both the private and public sectors.

- To improve the development of seed for horticulture, the Ministry developed a programme in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce to train farmer in agribusiness.
- To rehabilitate and develop the fisheries centre in the Commewijne district, an assessment was made of the existing farms types of small ruminants in the country.
- To improve the quality of the herd, new material should be imported into Suriname. Based on the experiences of countries in the region a mission with the support of IICA went to visit Barbados, Jamaica and Dominica.



- Reorganization and rehabilitation of the state Farm. This will be undertaken in 2009.



4. Results of the Implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in Suriname during 2008

a. IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

During 2008, the Suriname office continued its support of the country in its efforts aimed at the further repositioning of agriculture and rural life.

The office conducted the Annual Survey of External Satisfaction with IICA in Suriname. Responses were received from stakeholders in the public and private sectors. Satisfaction was expressed with IICA's performance in the programming of events (conferences, forums, etc), providing inter-institutional coordinating; design and implementation of training programmes and provision of technical advice.



Respondents requested that IICA's future work should emphasize Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Development of Agribusiness, Sustainable Rural Development and Technology and Innovation. These ideas have been incorporated into the National Agenda and have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the Office Plan of Operation for 2009.



A National Seminar for Youth in Agriculture was conducted as a follow up to the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative. The objective of the seminar was to stimulate the participation of Suriname youth in the agricultural sector. Eighty-four (84) youth from across the country participated and it was decided to carry out follow-up activities in 2009, including the organization of a local chapter of the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY).

Speakers at the Seminar L/R: D. Soekhai (Youth Parliament), G. DelPrado (Min. LVV), C. Crawford (IICA) and H.E. K. Raghoebarsing (Min. LVV)





*"Partnership"
Issue 16 & 17*

The office continued its publication of the bulletin **"Partnership"** to provide information on IICA's activities and highlight important topical issues on agriculture and rural development. Issue 16 was published in March and featured topics on Agrotourism, Global Warming and Youth Leadership in Agriculture. Issue 17 was published in October and highlighted the office third Accountability Seminar and the World Food Crisis.

The office participated in an International Tourism Fair sponsored by the Tourism Foundation of Suriname (STS) and The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). An agro-tourism booth was setup displaying IICA's achievements in that activity. The theme of the fair was: **"Suriname where the Amazon meets the Caribbean"**



Visitors at the IICA Booth



b. Promotion of Trade and the Competitiveness of Agri-business

In collaboration with the Airport Authority the office prepared a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a handbook **“from Farm to Airport”** with the objective: To provide international operating companies in Suriname involved in the primary and secondary food production and marketing and the government with a pragmatic guideline/handbook towards the management of exporting companies and the correct flow of air-cargo from farms to the airlines.

Also to have special obligations to harmonise and manage their operational (internal) processes to the internationally accepted quality management systems. The TOR was submitted and approved by the Ministry of Trade and Industry for financing through the Trade Sector Support Program (TSSP).

c. Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

The office hosted a three-day OIE WAHID/WAHIS (World Animal Health World Animal Health Information Database/World Animal Health Information System) training activities for veterinary officers



Participants at the OIE WAHID/WAHIS Training



from Guyana and Suriname. Two Veterinary officers each from the Ministries of Agriculture of Guyana and Suriname and IICA's Agricultural Health Specialist with responsibilities for both countries participated in the training course which highlighted Animal Health reporting systems and which was facilitated by a Canadian consultant engaged by the OIE.

During 2008, the IICA office in Guyana and Suriname continued to support the on-going Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) surveillance, program in the Border Region of the two countries. Surveillance activities were conducted in the countries along the banks of the Corantijn River.

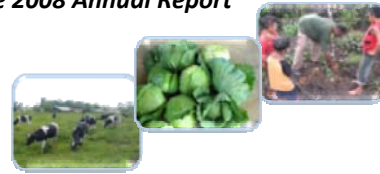
The office supported the planning and implementation of a two-day Avian Influenza (AI) workshop for forty (40) participants from the Veterinary and Livestock Production Units of the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV). The Workshop focused on the country's contingency plan for Avian Influenza. Participants received training in several areas including preventing, control of and sampling for AI.



Participants of the Common Vision Session of the STDF project

Under the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Project:

The Office facilitated and supported the application of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) in the conduct of interviews with



stakeholders.

The results of the interviews were analyzed and presented in a Common Vision Session which recommended stakeholders to address constraints identified during the interviews.

The Office facilitated the implementation of two live on-line standard-setting courses on Codex Alimentarius and Animal Health, sponsored by the Directorate of Agriculture Health and Food Safety.



Participants at the on-line Standard-setting course on Codex Alimentarius

d. Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

The Office presented IICA's proposal on the rehabilitation of mined-out areas in the Moengo community to a seminar sponsored by the Bauxite Institute of Surinam. The proposal was previously prepared by IICA at the request of Suralco.

At the request of the Suriname Airport Authority, one project profile with terms of reference was prepared and presented for financing for conducting a wild-life survey and preparation of a land use plan for the land adjacent to the Johan Adolf Pengel Airport.



e. Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

The Suriname Red Cross (SRC), in partnership with IICA, conducted a rural rapid appraisal in order to identify the agricultural state of the communities identified for the rehabilitation program. As a result of the findings SRC and the IICA Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the rehabilitation of the flooded areas.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Mr. T. Nahar (Red Cross) and Mr. C Crawford (IICA)



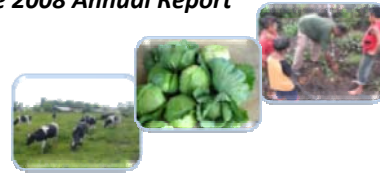
A program was prepared to improve the identified communities in the ongoing food security situation and prepare them to deal with and prevent future disasters as they relate to agriculture. The communities that were identified were:

- ✓ Upper Marowijne basin - Godo olo
- ✓ Kwamlasamutu

During the appraisals several consistent factors were observed that impacted the agricultural and food security situation in the communities in addition to the flooding, such as poor soil quality, inefficient slash and burn agricultural and planting techniques, lack of crop diversification, and the impact of climate change on crops (shifting of rainy seasons and increased rains). The information gathered during these assessments was done in a multilateral approach using observation, interviews with community members and agricultural technical tools such as soil sample analysis.

A program was established with the following objectives:

- Introduce new vegetables and source of nutrition into the diets of the community members (diversification of food sources).
- Train and educate individuals in community on new and improved planting techniques, which they can utilize and disseminate to fellow



- Capacity building and the empowerment of participating community members.
- Teach participants the proper way in which to prepare vegetable for healthy and nutritious consumption.

The implementation of the programme will start in 2009.

IICA and the Organization of American States (OAS) have provided important inputs to agrotourism improvement in the region with the implementation of the project “Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean”. Suriname is one of the seven countries in the Caribbean participating through this project to enhance both agricultural production and tourism diversification.



L/R: John King, IICA Project Coordinator, addressed the participants at the Agro-Tourism workshop.

The objectives of the project are:

- To increase trade in agricultural goods and services to the tourism sector;



- To establish partnerships between communities and the tourism industry;
- To identify and possibly introduce new and unique agrotourism products and services with a view to expand and diversifying the tourism product mix;
- To increase awareness and improve the capability of stakeholders to comply with international tourism and safety and service standards;
- To improve access to tourism marketing and promotion programs.

This program started in 2005 and during 2008 the following activities were undertaken:

1. Managing the Farmer-Hotel Partnership



Participants Agrotourism workshop

A three-day workshop was conducted to emphasize the importance of building farmer-hotel partnerships and at the same time developing culinary products and services that build excitement and create a competitive advantage for Suriname. This workshop was held for farmers and chefs from different hotel businesses.



The consultant delivered a three-day training workshop with the following specific objectives:

- Prescribe *how* to build farmer-hotel partnerships
- Deliver practical tips for developing local (country-specific) culinary tourism experiences
- Solicit and record recommendations from workshop participants
- Facilitate new farmer-hotel alliances by the end of the workshop

The driving forces of Culinary Tourism, with particular emphasis on rich and diverse heritage, were identified and appropriate Surinamese examples given to legitimize the trends. The participants were subsequently exposed to the profiles of culinary tourists and engaged in discussions on the types of tourists with whom they were familiar.



Participants at Agrotourism Workshop

It was itemized the various methods and media available for marketing Suriname as a culinary destination with particular emphasis on the produce-based and agro-cultural aspects of the local cuisine.



Participants at farm

The last day of the workshop the participant visited farms as well as kitchens from Hotel and Restaurant to observe the activity of the different actor in the relationship. It was understood that food is about business and fresh food is about a relationship.

Two new direct farmer-restaurant contacts were initiated during the workshop.

2. Community Engagement Strategy Document

The preparation of this Community Engagement Strategy Document based on a selected district in Suriname was undertaken. The objective of the document was to:

- a) Conduct community consultations with a district that has already identified agrotourism as a priority to further investigate, and



Harold Sijlbing, Consultant at the presentation of the Agrotourism workshop in the Commewijne District.



- b) Prepare a Community Engagement Strategy Document that will guide community leaders on how to identify economic opportunities in agrotourism, mobilize resources, and implement projects

The slogan launched on the community workshop: “COMME-WIJNE IS RICH AND READY FOR AGROTOURISM” indicates the inspiration and aspiration of the community.



Demonstration plot at the Medische Zending (Medical Mission) at Duwatra

Following the flood relief program from IICA/PDAF and OAS the flood relief program was continued as a food security program. The objective of this project was to improve the quality of life of the villager through increase the nutrition value of their diet and implement income generation activities. In collaboration

with the Medische Zending (Medical Mission) a demonstration plot was established at the polyclinic in the Duwatra region. About 30 farmers were trained in cassava and vegetable production.



In collaboration with Peace Corps Suriname a Chicken Coop Project was implemented in the village Kajapaati in Upper Suriname. The main objective of this program is to provide the families knowledge of a healthy source of protein and establish a base knowledge in the production, processing and marketing of chicken products.

Together with the private sector a program was prepared and training was conducted. Fourteen (14) families participated in the program and 8 coops were built by the participants. Each participant received 36 to 42 layers.

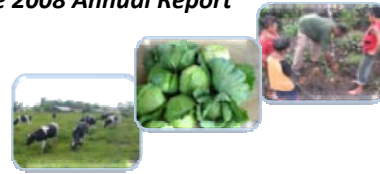


Chicken Coop



Poultry Project at Brownsweg

The office and the World Wild-life Fund (WWF-Guyanas) completed implementation of the project “*Alternative Income Generation Opportunities for Goldmines to reduce the negative impact in the Brownsberg Nature Park*”. During project implementation socio-economic and land-



use surveys were conducted, six pilot farms were established and fifteen (15) community members were trained in various aspects of fruit and vegetable productions and poultry rearing. Community members are utilizing techniques gained to enhance their production activities.

The Suriname Network for Rural Women Producers (SUNR♀P) held elections in 2008 and installed a new Board of management. Executive members of the new Board participated in regional events including the Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The network plans to boost its membership and plan to implement activities to enhance the business capabilities of its members.

f. Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

The Office organized a one-day seminar on pasture establishment and Management for technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) public and private livestock operators. Visits were made and advice and support provided to livestock operation by a specialized pasture agronomist contracted by the Office.



Seminar on Pasture Establishment and Management





Facilitated and supported the process of sourcing small ruminant breeding stock in the Caribbean Region for the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) Livestock upgrading programme. Support in this initiative was received from the Offices in Barbados, Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

At the request of Surinamese farmers, the Office liaised with the IICA Office in Brazil to obtain information on the sourcing of planting material for podosiri, upland rice, cassava and passion fruit.



Participants at the Roundtable Discussion on Agro Energy and Bio fuels

In Collaboration with Conservation International (CI) the Office organized and implemented a Round Table Discussion on Agro Energy and bio fuels. An international consultant facilitated the discussion which attracted participants from public and private sector agencies. A Major follow-up workshop is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009.



5. Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation

During 2008, the office continued to collaborate, strengthen and deepen relations with partners, stakeholders and clients in the public and private sectors including local, regional and international organizations in carrying out its activities in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) was the major public sector collaborator along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Ministries of Regional Development (RO); Planning and Development Cooperation (PLOS); Transport Communication and Tourism (TCT); Ministry of Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment (ATM); National Resources (NH); Trade and Industry (HI); Education and Community Development. Public sector and parastatal organizations as Airport Authorities, Tourism Foundation in Suriname (STS), National Coordination Center Disaster Control (NCCR); Foundation of Productive Work Unity (SPWE) and Trade Sector Support Program (TSSP), collaborated closely with IICA.

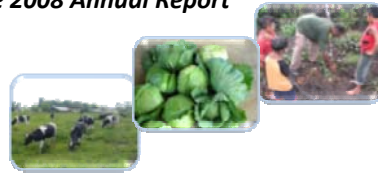
Within the private sector existing relations were strengthened with such organizations as Suralco and Dairy Unions and new relations were forged with entities such as Gembecco and Prowest.



IICA Suriname continued to work very closely with regional organizations including members of the Alliance - CACHE and CANROP and their local chapters. Extra regional institutions and organizations such as the WWF, CI, FAO, Peace Corps and Red Cross continued to collaborate with the Office.

The office also strengthened relations with members of the Inter-American System: the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and Embassies of the United States of America, Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana.

Education and Research Institutions such as the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (ADEKUS), Centre of Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) and the Anne van Dijk Rice Research Institute (ADRON) continue to be IICA's close collaborators in the process of education and technology generation and transfer.



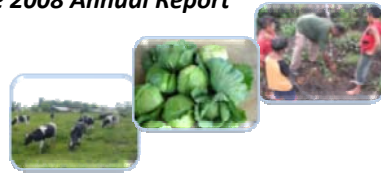
6. Results of Horizontal Technical Cooperation

1. Diana Francis, Regional Specialist Policies and Trade Negotiation assisted the Office in the process of applying the Agro-matrix in the planning and elaboration of its activities.
2. The Office in Brazil provided support in sourcing information from Brazil on selected crops for Surinamese producers. Crops for which information was sought and was received were upland rice, cassava and podosiri.
3. Ena Harvey, Hemispheric Specialist in Agro-tourism through the IICA office in Barbados supported the implementation of the second phase of the Suriname component of the Regional Agro-tourism project by making available to the office Steve Maximay, a consultant in Agro-tourism. Maximay conducted two training workshops on



“Managing the Famers-Hotel Partnership”, with local hoteliers, restaurateurs and agricultural producers.

4. The Office in Guyana facilitated the visit to Suriname of pasture agronomist Nigel Cumberbatch. He conducted a training workshop for technicians and producers and visited public and private sector livestock enterprises to conduct assessment and provide necessary advice and guidance.



7. New Opportunities for Technical Cooperation

IICA Suriname will continue to collaborate and work with partners in the public and private sectors for the development of agriculture and rural life in the country. Continued efforts will be devoted to, among others:

1. Assist the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) with the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Plan (ASP).
2. Support the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) in the intensification of its Agricultural Diversification Programme.
3. Intensify efforts aimed at enhancing food security in vulnerable communities.

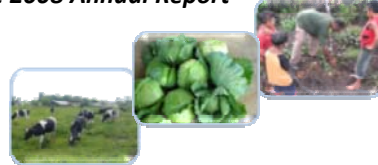


4. Support the Ministry of Regional Development in strengthening of the department of agriculture in the interior.
5. Intensify relations with research institutions such as CARDI, Embrapa, Procitropicos
6. Establish and consolidate agricultural youth organization.
7. Strengthen SUNROP
8. Support the national efforts in the development of biotechnology and biofuels.
9. Strengthen existing producer organizations and support the formation of new organizations.
10. Formulate proposals to garner resources to implement selected agricultural and rural development projects in Suriname.



8. Main Activities Organized by IICA

#	Official name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of Participants	Place and date of publication of the report of proceedings of the event
1	National Workshop of the Agro-Tourism Project “ Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with Agricultural Sector in Suriname ” - ‘Managing the farmers-hotel Partnership’	Mar 26-28	Meeting Room of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries - Agricultural Research Station	26	
2	New Opportunities for Sustainable Development – “Agrotourism in Commewijne”	Oct 25	Express Hall, Meerzorg in the District Commewijne.	43	Report prepared in draft
3	National Seminar Youth in Agriculture on – <i>Securing the Future of Suriname’s Agriculture.</i>	Nov 15	Guesthouse of The Anton de Kom University of Suriname	84	November 17, 2008 in the “De Ware Tijd” (local news paper)
4	Pasture Management Seminar	May 23	IICA Training Center	30	
5	The OIE/IICA <i>Standard-Settings Process</i> On-line Course.	Sept 30	Guesthouse of The Anton de Kom University of Suriname	22	



9. List of Publications

Bulletins

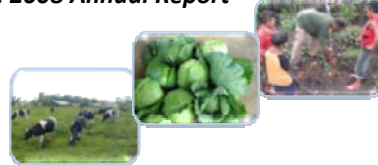
1. Partnership Issue # 16
2. Partnership Issue # 17



Reports/ Documents:

1. 2007 Suriname Annual report: IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of the Rural Communities in Suriname.
2. Concept Raamwerk actieprogramma ter ontwikkeling van de duurzame bevolkings landbouw in het district Coronie, January 2008. By W. R. Caldeira and H. Ormskerk
3. Final Project Report Sustainable Small Scale Income Generation Activities for Brownsweg Communities, KR -02, Suriname-Paramaribo, June 24, 2008.
4. Agro-tourism in Community Engagement Strategy document, November, 2008. By Harold Sijlbing.





ACRONYMS

ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
ATM	Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AI	Avian Influenza
ASP	Agricultural Sector Plan
CABA	Caribbean Business Association
CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
CaFAN	Caribbean Farmers Network
CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Youth Forum
CANRQP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women producers
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Center
CELOS	Center for Agricultural Research Suriname
CI	Conservation International
CTA	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
CWA	Caribbean Week of Agriculture
DORI	Directorate of Operations and Integration (IICA)
EC	Executive Committee (IICA)
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the



	Caribbean
Embrapa	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
EVIDA	Virtual Learning Environment for Agricultural Development (IICA)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology
FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GBS	General Bureau of Statistics
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMARK	Information Management Resources KIT
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LVV	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MTP	Medium Term Plan (IICA)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NAYA	National Association of Youth in Agriculture (Dominica)
NCCR	National Coordination Center of Disaster
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NH	Ministry of Natural Resources
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health



OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health
OLADE	Latin American Energy Association
PADF	Pan-American Development Foundation
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PLOS	Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
Procitropicos	Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics
SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation Service of the Americas
SRC	Suriname Red Cross
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
Suralco	Suriname Aluminum Company
SUNR♀P	Suriname Network of Rural Women Producers
RGB	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forestry Management
RO	Ministry of Regional Development
TCT	Ministry of Transport Communication and Tourism
TSSP	Trade Sector Support Programme
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WAHID	World Animal Health World Animal Health Information Database
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wild-Life Fund