



## Guyana

### Significant achievements in 2010

- IICA and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) conducted trials for hydroponics systems in order to evaluate the performance of selected crops in various media and nutrient treatments. The Institute also collaborated with the St. Stanislaus College Farm (SSCF) in holding demonstrations for over 60 farmers. These activities have heightened awareness and interest in hydroponics as a climate change adaptation mechanism that is receiving increased attention from stakeholders in the agricultural sector.
- The IICA-led Secondary Schools Hydroponics Competition, which was launched in 2007 among 15 secondary schools with 150 participating students, has grown in popularity and led the Ministry of Education to expand the program to 38 schools and 380 students in 2010. In addition, hydroponics technology is now an integral component of the agricultural science and environmental studies syllabi and also forms part of the School-based Assessment (SBA) for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC).
- The Institute, under an agreement with the USDA-APHIS and in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, implemented the Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) Delimitation Program, which has enhanced the technical capacity of the ministry to carry out monitoring and surveillance activities on the country's borders. As a result, Guyana has up-to-date and reliable information for making decisions and reporting on the incidence of the pest.
- IICA and the Canadian Trade Facilitation Office (TFO), in a series of six training seminars in Georgetown, Anna Regina (Essequibo), Black Bush Polder and Corriverton (Berbice) attended by 120 people, and two trade missions to Canada, assisted in enhancing the capacity of several SMEs in the area of international trade. Thanks to these actions, producers, processors, manufacturers and the national authorities now have access to the following information: i) Preliminary Assessment of Guyanese Shipping and Logistics; ii) Guide to Caribbean Suppliers of Packaging; and iii) Export Packaging Technical Training and Sourcing Support.

- Six people in the agribusiness sector received first-hand market information and established contacts with Canadian buyers thanks to their participation in an international trade show and a producers/exporters mission in the cities of Vancouver and Montreal, Canada, respectively. The visits were also useful in reinforcing networking and collaboration among key stakeholders, particularly the sole manufacturer of paper cartons, Caribbean Containers Inc – (CCI) and exporters, New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC) and the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA).
- In a seminar on production costs facilitated by IICA and held at the University of Guyana (UG) and at the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), farmers, MoA technicians, and lecturers from the University and Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) enhanced their skills in methods of data collection and management for farm enterprise decision-making.
- Forty-six key stakeholders were trained in a forum on beekeeping coordinated jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and IICA, which identified opportunities for improvement of the beekeeping sector in the country.
- IICA helped twenty beekeepers from Muritaro Amerindian Village, who are better equipped to manage their small beekeeping operations.
- The Institute completed an assessment of an agro-processing facility for the Blue Flame Women's Group in the Northwest Region for purposes of certification for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs). As a result of this assessment, the group was able to secure grant funding from the CFLI, for implementation of the recommendations derived from the assessment.
- As a result of the preparation of a Community Engagement Strategy document prepared by IICA under the IICA/OAS Agro-Tourism Project, the Capoey Village was prepared to implement a rural tourism project. This project included the construction of an eco-lodge and the training of women in various aspects of hospitality services. IICA facilitated the development of the project proposal, including the design of the building and cost estimates. These instruments facilitated the approval of grant funding for the project from the CFLI and the Guyana Environmental Management and Capacity Development Programme (GENCAPD) Small Grants Fund.