



Achievements 2022

Guyana



- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) welcomed the Minister of Agriculture of Guyana on an official visit to its Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, agreeing to assist in strengthening the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) and the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) to better serve their clients, support coffee and cacao revitalization, improve pasture establishment and management, as well as to build the capacity of technical staff in specialized areas such as livestock and crop development, and in value addition, to increase production and market share. The Institute also agreed to support CARICOM regional initiatives, including “Investing in Vision 25 by 2025”.
- The Minister also attended the World Food Prize Foundation Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue in Des Moines, Iowa, USA, from 19-21 October 2022. He participated in an IICA-organized session that provided a Latin American and Caribbean perspective on the overall topic, “Feeding a Fragile World”, within the context of pervasive health-, conflict-, and climate-related shocks to the global food system.
- IICA supported CARICOM in the preparation of a Regional Policy for the Importation of Animal and Animal Products. The policy will serve to identify conditions governing the movement of animal and animal products within and outside of the Caribbean and enhance intra- and extra-regional trade in animal and animal products. It will also enhance protection of livestock species in the Caribbean from exotic animal diseases, especially transboundary zoonotic diseases. Through the 12th European Development Fund Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (EDF SPS) project, IICA facilitated the updating and harmonization of plant health and traceability legislation and regulations, which will also expedite increased intra-and extra-regional trade.
- The Institute contributed to and actively participated in the CARICOM Agri-Investment Forum and Expo, “Investing in Vision 25 by 2025” in Guyana. Regional heads of state agreed to build awareness and provide an avenue for the transformation of the CARICOM agri-food system to ensure increased resilience, attractive and sustainable economic opportunities for potential investors, and greater food and nutrition security.
- IICA actively pursued alliances aimed at producing impactful results to benefit agriculture and rural livelihood in Guyana, for example with:
 - The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), to conduct a rapid assessment of coffee and cacao production in Guyana. Both of these crops have experienced decline over the years, due to poor genetics, pests, diseases and



- market forces. IICA and CATIE will support the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) to introduce new and improved genetics, appropriate technology, including biotechnology, and capacity building for NAREI staff and farmers.
- The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), with funding from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), to construct and build capacity in the use of five shade houses, benefiting some two hundred students and teachers in several regions of the country in this first phase. This project is to be replicated in all regions starting in 2023. The students will use their experiences as practical sessions for their high school agriculture classes, which will benefit them even beyond their school years.
 - The Agriculture Sector Development Unit (ASDU), to conduct a “Cost of Production” training series across the country for extension officers and farmers, using a commodity-driven approach. Funding was provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). One hundred and forty-eight (148) extension officers were trained and provided with sample formats and resource material to equip them to train farmers in their respective regions. The two hundred and nineteen (219) farmers from diverse commodities groups who underwent the training now have an appreciation of the importance of costing their products and services to make a decent profit, which also benefits consumers through competitive prices.
- EMBRAPA, to conduct a rapid assessment of possibilities for cultivating tropical wheat commercially in Guyana. The Ministry of Agriculture agreed to conduct field trials for four (4) varieties of wheat, to test their adaptability and growth patterns at Santa Fe Farm, Region 9. Guyana has pledged to diversify the agriculture sector and encourage public and private sector investments.
 - The Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) and SGM Seeds Brazil, to conduct a rapid assessment of pastures in Guyana and make recommendations towards improved pasture establishment and management. Selected seeds for specific ecological zones in Guyana were purchased and two commercial seed spreaders were procured to support the GLDA. Additional pieces of equipment, including a forage harvester, will facilitate the preparation and yearly availability of quality animal feed.
- Through horizontal cooperation, IICA provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture in Suriname to improve their national animal surveillance programme. Phase one of this collaboration resulted in the completion of a needs assessment study and the preparation of terms of reference for capacity building and upgrading of services in the Animal Health and Veterinary Departments. Technical support was also provided for the preparation of a Barbados/Guyana Mutual Recognition Agreement for Trade in Products of Plant and Animal Origin.