



The Bahamas



Significant Achievements 2023

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) continues to support several initiatives. Among other things, it is:
 - *fostering the economic development of tourism in The Bahamas by participating as a member of several international and national tourism-related committees (including the UN Tourism's "Best Tourism Villages"); IICA encourages nationals and tourists to support local agriculture and producers through the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local, Buy Bahamian" campaign, which has been further strengthened through sponsorships from the International Food Festival and the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference;*
 - *delivering logistical and technical support to the local community, such as The Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers (BAHNROP), the Agricultural Alliance of the Caribbean (AACARI) and the Agriculture Development Multipurpose Co-operative Society; and*
 - *providing financial and logistical resources to facilitate representation at critical international meetings, including those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and crucial food safety meetings.*
- On behalf of The Bahamas government, IICA hosted GEF project sensitization workshops with civil society and the agriculture sectors of four Family Islands in order to introduce farmers and stakeholders to the new Global Environment Facility (GEF) project outputs on each island.
- The Institute successfully developed and delivered the GEF Inception Report to the Government of The Bahamas, achieving a contract award to address land degradation and reduce climate risks in The Bahamas. A GEF agricultural work plan was also developed for New Providence and seven Family Islands to address management effectiveness in protected areas, namely inadequate integration of protected areas into broader landscape planning and threats to protected areas, including invasive alien species, habitat degradation and pollution from agricultural farms that border the protected areas.
- IICA was pleased to have awarded its "Leader of Rurality of the Americas" prize to a Bahamian farmer who was featured in IICA's international media and campaigns to highlight The Bahamas' achievements with respect to promoting resilient agriculture and increasing local food production.
- IICA's technical cooperation in The Bahamas included:
 - *a presentation on multilateralism to achieve food security at The Bahamas Diplomatic Week, which improved understanding within the Cabinet and Diplomatic Corps of IICA's mission in LAC and in The Bahamas;*
 - *the promotion of The Bahamas' 50th Anniversary of Independence and production of special commemorative cups that were gifted to critical Bahamian partners, which resulted in successful marketing of IICA and fostered closer ties with high-level policymakers in The Bahamas;*
 - *a workshop for agricultural science teachers that introduced the topic of STEM in the agricultural science classroom; and*
 - *the organization of the Seventeenth Caribbean Week of Agriculture, during which IICA sponsored three booths (including one for a local producers' group) and several educational sessions; as well as support for the presentation of the Bahamas Rural Woman of the Year award to Martha Hanna Smith and the Youth in Agriculture Award to Jeremiah Young.*