



Dominica



Significant Achievements 2023

- Within the framework of an initiative funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to build capacities in Dominica's sea moss value chain, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) supported an assignment to strengthen the capacities of producers and technicians on best practices for sea moss production, to assess potential sites for commercial production and to validate findings of the value chain assessment conducted for the sub-sector. Noteworthy results included the following:
 - Two field-based training workshops were conducted to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the development of skills and attitudes required to practice sustainable sea moss production. These were undertaken as part of two initiatives by the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy of Dominica to develop a resilient sea moss value chain. Among the participants were current and prospective sea moss producers, processors and technical officers from the Division of Agriculture and Fisheries. A total of 32 individuals (41% of whom were women) took part in the training sessions, which were carried out at Calibishie and Grand Bay.
 - Fourteen sites around the country were assessed to determine their suitability for commercial sea moss production. The assessment revealed that two optimal sea moss production systems recommended for Dominica were the fixed off-bottom long line method and floating raft method. Eleven of the sites were deemed suitable for sea moss production whilst three sites were categorized as low and not recommended for sea moss cultivation.
 - A stakeholder validation workshop was hosted to jointly present the sea moss value chain assessment findings as well as to propose an upgrading strategy for the sea moss sub-sector. In attendance were members of the three sea moss groups, agroprocessors, support service providers and technicians from the Division of Agriculture and Fisheries Unit.
 - The assignment supported the building of one 6' x 20' drying facility at Grand Bay to assist the sea moss producers in properly drying their harvested sea moss.
- The Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PiSLM) and IICA implemented the project entitled "Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica: Strengthening the Resilience of Agricultural Lands and Forests in Dominica", encompassed various components that aimed to enhance agricultural practices, improve market access, and support the adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) technologies. IICA collaborated closely with the PiSLM Unit, the Division of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Standards in executing the project components. The project's key outcomes were:
 - Extension officers and farmers from local communities strengthened their capacity to implement SLM approaches and technologies in agriculture, through training workshops and practical demonstrations. Deliverables included a training plan, training of 13 extension officers as trainers, and training of 85 farmers in four agricultural regions.
 - The capacity of farmers was enhanced and the sustainability of agricultural land was improved through the establishment of five demonstration plots, the installation of SLM technologies on 35 farms utilizing High Nature Value Farming Index criteria, and the delivery of on-site practical training sessions for over 200 farm

- workers during farm mapping and SLM installations.
 - o To facilitate farmers' access to credit for SLM interventions, business plans and grant proposals were developed, strengthening beneficiaries' capacities and enabling them to secure financial support for farm upgrades.
 - o Market access was improved through the identification of priority value chains, comprehensive market analysis for selected value chains and the development of a Fresh Produce Inspectors' Manual.
- IICA collaborated with the International Trade Centre on the project entitled "Alliance for the Coconut Industry Development Expansion and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean" to strengthen the capacities of coconut farmers, vendors and agroprocessors in the areas of GAP/GHP/GMP and market opportunities and e-commerce. The key outcomes of the technical assistance included:
 - o Identification of the capacities of project beneficiaries by conducting a survey among the beneficiaries, validating the assessment report and consulting with national stakeholders. o Two training plans related to GAP/GMP/GHP.
 - o Two training workshops on market opportunities and e-commerce that were delivered to 15 coconut agroprocessors, who learned about digital marketing, market opportunities, market access, trade laws and policies, branding and trade events. The second workshop was on GMP/GAP/GHP and geared towards coconut farmers and vendors. Over 30 farmers, vendors and Ministry of Agriculture technicians participated.
 - o Improved labels and product profiles for 10 coconut agroprocessors.
- IICA collaborated with the Dominica Red Cross to assist a group of eight women farmers from the central farming district to strengthen the resilience of farming activities on their farms. Through an Empress Shôken funded project entitled "Agri First Responders", farmers were equipped with knowledge to better prepare for and respond to climate change and risks through solutions and techniques on farmlands. IICA led a needs assessment on farms to ascertain their vulnerabilities to extreme weather conditions, including rainwater harvesting and irrigation systems for agricultural purposes.
- Under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, the project "Building Effective Resilience for Human Security in Caribbean Countries: Advancing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Robust Agriculture (and Associated Agri-Fisheries Small Business Sector)" achieved several noteworthy results. A comprehensive market study, strategically conducted in collaboration with the local supermarket Astaphans, served as a pivotal initiative, while two trainings for 30 individuals focused on marketing and business development and agro-processing, with special emphasis on label and packaging compliance, as well as safety standards. Additionally, a directory of local buyers facilitated seamless connections and collaborations within the local ecosystem.
- Under the FAO project "Building Export-Ready Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Agri-Exporters to Access Regional and International Markets", IICA played a pivotal role in empowering three female agro-processors by facilitating the acquisition of essential machinery. This strategic intervention will help streamline their operations and contribute significantly to enhancing their efficiency.