

# Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



Barbados



Country  
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APP/PMU  
The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



## APP Country Update – Barbados

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



### Local youth provided with opportunity to promote their enterprises and expand their business networks

- Mikkel Rogers was fully funded under the APP to participate the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, Mr. Rogers was exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and he is now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’.

The Grenada YiA Forum also provided opportunities to inform participants and promote their business among their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in Grenada.

- 19 year old Mikkel Rodgers was also given an opportunity to gain first hand, expert tutorship and practical experience in constructing, operating and managing a hydroponic protected agriculture structure. Mikkel was sponsored by Component 2 (CARDI) to twelve (12) week internship, which started in April (5) 2016 on Abbey Garden Farms Ltd. in Jamaica, run and managed by veteran practitioner, Jervis Rowe and his daughter, Diandra Rowe. This APP support is a direct outcome of the GIFT Saint Lucia workshop (December 2015) and the D4D Youth Forum (January 2016). The exposure will also include incorporating use of solar power for enhanced operational efficiency, comparison of responses and performance of crops grown in enclosed structures and crop grown in open field, as well as the importance of water management, use of organic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Shamar Ward was also given the opportunity to engage with regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture, held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 7 – 10, 2016. As part of the RPF, a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs, was introduced and tested. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016, and provided participants with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that building institutional capacity and fostering policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers in Barbados and the wider Caribbean region.

### Support provided under...

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’

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Component 2 – CARDI:

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Component 3: ‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/entrepreneurs’

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### Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

- Mr. Lennox Chandler, Chief Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management (MAFFW) participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum on agriculture in Grenada, [18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016]. Mr. Chandler had the opportunity to network and dialogue with planners from the rest of the Region as well as heads and senior professionals from the key regional and international agricultural development institutions on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in Barbados, including approaches for developing commodity-based industries, facilitation of intra-regional trade and critical areas for national and regional policy response.
- Mr. Lennox Chandler also attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum on Agriculture from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016, which provided him with an opportunity to engage and network with peers in the Region and dialogue and exchange information of critical topics for agricultural policy response. The 9<sup>th</sup> RPF also provided the opportunity for MoA officials to be introduced to a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs.
- Ms. Athie Yohland Cave was afforded an opportunity, along with eight other planners from the Region, to participate in the 2016 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Outlook Forum in Arlington Virginia [25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016]. Participants reported that the experience and exposure to the level of research, technical information, dialogue and networking was worth it and despite the economic differences between the US and other developed countries, and the Caribbean, there is need for a much greater level of investment and technical infusion into the development of agriculture.

#### Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

### Local stakeholders provided the opportunity to discuss issues related improving domestic fresh produce marketing

Barbados was among the countries which benefitted directly from an assessment of the adequacy of market infrastructure for fresh agricultural produce. This study which was grounded in five (5) countries (others included Grenada, Guyana St, Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago), sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers. Local stakeholders were also involved in a validation meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations.

- **The study concluded in October 2015 and recommendations proposed are being considered**

#### Support provided under . . .

Component 1, CCS : ‘Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers’

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### Local Herbs & Spices producers get an opportunity to chart a future for the industry in the region

A local producer, Ms. Paula Manning director of Caribbean Treats Inc., participated in a technical meeting convened by the CARICOM Secretariat [9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016] in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting provided a forum to consult with and sharing information with other herbs and spices entrepreneurs and a consultant Dr. André Gordon, on the development needs for the sector as part of an initiative to develop a Regional policy and strategy for the sector and a mechanism to facilitate industry collaboration, commercial activities and their interface with the public sector on matters of policy. The process taken for the development of this industry will also inform the process for and be incorporated into the new policy framework for agriculture.

- **This activity commenced in November 2015, and will conclude in August 2016.**

### Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Develop a Regional policy framework for the Herbs and Spices Industry’

### Root and tuber farmers’ access to climate-ready and improved planting material enhanced

One (1) propagation unit at the CARDI station has been refurbished and extended to increase the capacity for multiplication of cassava planting material. Construction work included clearing and leveling off the floor area (17 feet by 53 feet), extending the roof, building of side walls and tables/shelves and installing shade netting. This refurbishment/extension work will result in an increased capacity of 10%.

### Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI : ‘Refurbish existing germplasm production structures & multiplication units’

### Hot pepper and livestock forage germplasm maintained on ex-situ conservation plots

- Forty five (45) accessions of hot pepper have been selected for the Ex-situ conservation plot established as a germplasm bank located at the CARDI field station. Seedlings were propagated on 25 February and four varieties were replanted on 3 March, including: Grenada Seasoning, 96028(2), 99122 and Agropride. Agronomic and cultural practices are ongoing, which includes, drenching the seedlings with insecticide (for thrips and mites) and fungicide to prevent damping off and the weekly application of 20:20:20 fertilizer. 40 accessions are ready for hardening. 160 screening frames have been made and four 180 feet beds have been prepared and covered in plastic mulch with drip lines and insect netting installed. Following rejuvenation of the seed bank hot pepper seeds will be distributed to farmers.
- Established plot of high quality forages on the CARDI field station, including, Mulberry, Mulato grass, Mexican sunflower and perennial peanut in January. Multiplication of mulberry plants were done using cuttings from established mulberry trees in February and distributed to farmers and farmer groups in March, including 1,000 plants to the Kendal Plantation group, 802 St. Catherine’s Farm Ltd and 50 Mulberry to 3 smaller farmers. This planting material will significantly increase the protein content of the feed to the small ruminants.

### Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI : ‘Establish ex-situ conservation plot for selected crops of commercial and food value’



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### Livestock farmers exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices

Forty eight (48) persons including schools and women groups benefited from demonstrations in the use of small scale equipment for livestock production as a cost effective means to maximize animal nutrition/feeding systems. Specifically, participants were trained in the use of a chipper shredder, hammer mill and the palletizer machines (to make feed from mulberry and sweet potato) at Agrofest in Barbados. A seminar was held also on 19 March to demonstrate to 11 farmers the benefits of using high quality forages, namely, Mulberry, mulato grass, Mexican sunflower, perennial peanut, moringa and wild tamarind. During the period August-September 2016 CARDI will conduct more demonstrations for farmers and technicians of the MoA on the use of a chipper shredder, hammer mill and pelletizer machine.

### Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI: 'Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations'

### SME's receive training in packaging, labelling and product development

Ms. Kellyann Allicott, owner of Ibis Wellness Inc was given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's [21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. Ms Allicot agreed that she required and benefited from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design, use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in her enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will be of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation.

### Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)'

### SME's receive technical assistance and equipment to support product development

Local sweet potato producer groups will receive direct technical assistance from a local Business Development Officer (BDO) contracted through an agreement between CABA and the APP Components 2 and 3, as well as provision of small scale packaging equipment (crates) and labelling, including training in use of same, to improve the marketability and presentation of their products.

### Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Purchase and distribute small-scale processing and packaging equipment to support improved product handling, presentation and quality for select agri-food processing MSMEs'

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### Producer groups and networks capacity for governance and value chain development supported

CAFAN concluded a LoA with the APP (Component 2 and 3) which makes provision for the contracting of the services of one (1) National Value Chain Facilitator (NVCF), Ms. Kai-Ann Denise Skeete who has been assigned to provide direct assistance to the local CaFAN membership for a period of six months, to support sweet potato producer group enterprises in areas related to production, export marketing, group governance and development, and credit readiness and investment profiling. Ms. Skeete has participated in initial consultations on the CAFAN Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop NVCFs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups.

- **The NVCF will be in-place until September 2016**

### Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Direct technical assistance to selected producer groups and commodity-based enterprises for value chain development through National Value Chain Facilitators'

### MSMEs trained in producer group governance and producer-buyer networks highlighted

- Mr. Ronald Moore of the St George Farmers' Cooperative and James Douglas Paul of the Barbados Agriculture society / Caribbean Farmers Network received expert training at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-27, 2016]. The local NVCF will continue to support enterprises with a focus on enterprises engaged the roots and tubers industry within defined areas of activity covered by the CaFAN Execution Plan - including Producer Group Governance building activities and access to finance.
- Mr James Paul of the Barbados Agriculture Society participated in the Strengthening Producer-Buyer Relationships: Networking Platform Experiences and Strategy Meeting held in St. Lucia during the period 27-28 June, 2016. It was designed to facilitate joint planning and sharing of information so as to improve the organizational capacity of producer, women and youth through their insertion into value chains. The aim of the dialogue platform is the removal of obstacles to the production, marketing and distribution of commodities and to build capacity and institutional frameworks and systems for value chain development. The meeting in St. Lucia benefited from the already established buyer/producer relationship which exists between Massy Stores Saint Lucia and several local producers and was the focus of discussions. Producer-buyer relationship in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were also highlighted.

### Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'

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### SME's receive support to conduct financial investment profiles

Targeted local enterprises will be assessed in terms of credit-readiness and qualifying enterprises will undergo an investment profiling. The local NVCF has already received initial training/orientation by FAST expert in enterprise credit-readiness assessment and investment profiling tools at the C2-C3 April 25-27, 2016 workshop in Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines. The application of tools by the NVCF and final assessments of selected local qualifying producer/ enterprises will be completed by end of August 2016, in preparation for engagement with Financial Institutions (FIs) during the C3 Regional Agri-Value Chain Finance Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. This is being undertaken within framework of C3 FAST-IICA and CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoAs.

### Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Prepare Financial /Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries to strengthen information baselines and stakeholders engagement on value chain financing in CARIFORUM'

### Directory of major enterprises in the hot pepper and small ruminants value chain published

Twenty (20) organizations within the hot pepper value chain and eleven (11) organizations within the small ruminant value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Forty (40) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in Barbados and the Directory will also be made available online in APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

### Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers'

### Host regional meeting on Working Capital Study

Barbados will host a regional meeting on a Working Capital Study that can support the engagement of CARIFORUM-based Financial Institutions and APP Beneficiaries operating within the agricultural sector and within specific priority commodity value chains in August. The meeting will also support the APP-supported NVCFs who are spearheading the CaFAN Regional Roots and Tuber (Sweet Potato, Dasheen) Export Programme. The meeting seeks to facilitate the engagement of producer, enterprises, women and youth groups with financial institutions (FIs) for participatory development of financial mechanisms and strategies to strengthen selected commodity value chains in the CARIFORUM region and as well, to assist in determining the scope as well as quantitative, qualitative and operational aspects of a Working Capital Fund programme for fresh sweet potato, and the CABA, CANROP-led domestic production and marketing programme for cassava based value-added products. The expected outcome will be the definition of parameters of a Working Capital Fund to support the operations of Roots and Tuber Producer, Enterprise, and Women Groups that are involved in programmes spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations and that will contribute to Regional Financial institutions and Policy Makers being more sensitized to specific opportunities to be involved in agri-value chain financing of SME enterprises.

### Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Working Capital Fund study for selected commodity based Industries'

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The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website <a href="http://www.agricarib.org">www.agricarib.org</a>) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information</p>	<p>An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad &amp; Tobago <b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed in a previous IICA-CTA project</p>	<p>The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad &amp; Tobago. The Platform targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what's happening and foster greater institutional coordination. <b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CRFM, FAO, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots &amp; Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs &amp; Spices (CABA) <b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat and their local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</b></p>



## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>] Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4Thematic Groups (TGs)</p>	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS)</li> <li>2 Business Development (IICA)</li> <li>3 Climate Change &amp; Natural Resource Management (FAO)</li> <li>4 Human Resource, Research &amp; Development (CARDI)</li> </ol> <p><b>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>close to completion</b>] Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry</p>	<p>Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be 'case studied'. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity.</p> <p><b>The recommendations and approach to commodity-based industry development should be reviewed in the context of the recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>] Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems</p>	<p>Given the longstanding priority placed on 'alleviating' these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries' efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products.</p> <p><b>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</b></p>

## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>]</p> <p>Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies &amp; programs</p>	<p>While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs &amp; spices).</p> <p><b><i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</i></b></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - <b>ongoing</b>]</p> <p>Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum</p>	<p>More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities</p> <p><b>Activities continue in 2016.</b></p>
<p>[C2 – CARDI; <b>close to completion</b>]</p> <p>Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop &amp; animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (to be convened on 7 December 2015) will explore the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p><b>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</b></p>

## Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C3 – IICA; <b>close to completion</b> ] Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains'	CARIFORUM countries will benefit from specific case studies and short videos of the successful value chain financing mechanisms. These experiences will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to other countries in the region. Among these are the financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica and the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. The two consultancies are intended to contribute to the enhancing of understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs, the pivotal role of supportive government policy and engagement and successful collaboration with financial institutions, in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new interventions that are evidence-based.
[C3 – IICA; <b>planning in progress</b> ] 'Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries'	The outcome of the Credit Readiness exercise will determine those MSMEs and Development Finance Institutions from Barbados that will attend the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. The forum will be hosted in collaboration with the CTA, and will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries. Enterprises selected to attend will include those that have undergone credit-readiness assessment and subsequently investment profiling (by BDOs using FAST Tools).