

Important achievements in 2016

- Resilience to Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) is being improved in the Jamaican coffee sector through an Early Warning System providing customized forecasts for more efficient disease management. In collaboration with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Colombia University, University of Arizona, UWI Mona, Meteorological Services of Jamaica and the Coffee Industry Board (CIB), a climate forecasting system was developed which triggers control practices for CLR, Fire Index Alerts and monthly rainfall information. A study of the socio-economic factors in CLR management decision making was conducted with 143 farmers from 12 communities in the Blue Mountain Coffee regions of St. Thomas, St. Andrew and Portland. The dipteran larva, *Mycodiplosis* was discovered feeding on CLR spores in Jamaica.
- The competitive capacity of the sweet potato industry in the Parishes of St. Mary, St. Andrew and Portland in Jamaica was improved, thus facilitating greater use of this native species through building the technical competence, as well as the knowledge of export and local markets of 32 public and private sector directors and technical staff from 5 agricultural divisions (Bodles, Plant Quarantine (PQ), Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and the Agricultural Competitiveness Programme (ACP) of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Forestry (MICAF) and the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) in Jamaica, for both moist and dry flesh type sweet potato. The capacity building activities were executed in collaboration with Louisiana State University AgCenter and North Carolina State University.
- Institutional capacity to reduce food losses was improved in the Jamaica Cocoa Sector Development Alliance (JCDSA) and at Café Blue, through the creation of two new value added products in White and Milk Chocolate coated Blue Mountain Coffee Beans launched by Café Blue in December.
- Frosty Pod Rot (FPR) disease in cocoa was confirmed in September in collaboration with CAB International UK, which is a first for the Caribbean. National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) of Peru and Tropical Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CATIE) have been integral partners in building the capacity of technicians and decision makers from the Cocoa Industry Board and the plant quarantine, research and development and RADA divisions of MICAF to identify and develop an eradication strategy for FPR to protect the cocoa sectors in Jamaica and the region.
- The 10th EDF SPS Project financed by the EU contributed to strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) through a series of capacity building and coordination interventions for 57 public and private sector stakeholders. Training was conducted in Pest Risk Analysis, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Traceability, Food Safety Risk Analysis and Pesticides Risk Management. Four government officials participated in meetings of the Caribbean Network of Conformity Assessment Bodies, the International Plant Protection Convention and the *Codex Alimentarius* standard setting bodies for AHFS. Capabilities of the MICAF and Ministry of Health were strengthened in anti-microbial resistance surveillance, Avian Influenza Preparedness and management of fruit fly in mango.

- Also through APP, a National Seed Policy and Plan was completed for the Commerce Agriculture and Forestry (MICAF). A MICAF agronomist participated in a training course on the impact of climate change on food security. Technical support for clustering and business development was provided to SMEs involved in the production and manufacturing of sweet potato. A regional financing forum was convened to improve the competitive capacity of 61 persons from CARICOM and the Pacific. SMEs and support organizations have been strengthened through a 2-day workshop on improving the governance structures of SMEs. A video production documenting the capitalization experiences of the MICAF's white potato and onion import substitution programmes provides a model for other CARICOM states. Marketing and technical support were provided to 4 agri-entrepreneurs through workshops and a technical mission.
- Three young men were recognized under the 2016 installment of the IICA Youth in Agribusiness Awards. The awards, established in 1999, promote entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity and employment among youth in the agribusiness sector and are presented annually at the premier Denbigh Agricultural show in Jamaica. The 2015 First Place Awardee was selected by the Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) Project as a youth Ambassador representing young 'agripreneurs' at the 2016 Caribbean Week of Agriculture Exposition held in the Cayman Islands.
- IICA, in collaboration with the Chilean Food Quality and Safety Agency, hosted a workshop to strengthen the capacities of local institutions and officials to manage the National *Codex* Structure. As part of the intervention, local *Codex* representatives were guided in the development of a draft strategic plan and procedural manual for the National *Codex* Committee
- The competitiveness and associative capacity of 65 farmers from 3 dairy clusters (St. Elizabeth, Rhymesbury and Serge Island) in Jamaica were improved through the establishment of 8 silvo-pastoral demonstration sites to promote good animal nutrition and adaptation to climate change. The business skills of 2 dairy clusters were improved by the development of Farm Enterprise Plans. 3 executive members of the Jamaica Small Ruminants Association (JSRA) participated in a 3 day mission to Ontario Canada to evaluate the prospects of importing new genetic material for local herd improvement in Jamaica.
- 35 Agricultural Officers from Antigua, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname received training in the management of degraded soils in Kingston, Jamaica, thus promoting and implementing measures for adapting agriculture to climate change. In collaboration with the Agricultural Land Management Division of MICAF, access to the national soils information for Jamaica was improved through integration into the regional App called Agrinett developed by the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad and Tobago. Some 23 technicians from the MICAF and the Parish council were trained to use the Agrinett app.

**Inter-American Institute for
Cooperation on Agriculture**

www.iica.int

