



Important achievements in 2016

- Under the SPS Project, financed by the European Union (EU), IICA collaborated with strategic partners to form the Coordinating Council for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) in Antigua and Barbuda, primarily to review and agree to the annual work plan and budget as well as identify the priority interventions to strengthen AHFS systems at the national and regional levels.
- Under the APP project, financed by the EU, 20 agro-processors from St. Kitts and Nevis shared their experience in labelling & packing and were able to re-brand their product(s) of choice with new label. One thousand new labels were distributed to the agro-processors through collaborative efforts with strategic partners.
- IICA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders in organizing various activities for Mango Fest 2016, which is to create greater access and increase the presence of local products from agro-processors in the mainstream domestic market. IICA continued to promote and support rural women by organizing an agro-processing competition for agro-products. Over twenty agro-products were judged.
- IICA assisted the *Codex* Contact Point in forming the National *Codex* Committee (NCC) that will assist in promoting and sensitizing the public and private stakeholders to the objectives and principles of *Codex Alimentarius*. The NCC is comprised of 13 key stakeholders, which includes the Fisheries Division, Plant Protection, Extension Division, Ministry of Agriculture (Policy level), private supermarkets, Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Health, Analytical Services, Veterinary Division, and the Bureau of Standards.
- IICA collaborated with the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) (*Codex* Contact Point) and United States Development of Agriculture (USDA) in hosting a seminar under the *Codex* Twinning Program entitled “Development of institutional capabilities for the strengthening and sustainability of *Codex Alimentarius* in the country”.
- 60 technicians from various ministries were able to build capacity in comprehensive information sharing via extensive discussions on *Codex Alimentarius*, and acknowledged the importance of the *Codex* concepts and best practices presented. Also, the capacities of the National *Codex* Contact Points/Secretariats from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica, at both the national and sub-regional levels improved for more effective coordination, participation and visibility of territories in the activities of *Codex* under the Twinning Program entitled “Capacity building for *Codex* Contact Point and National *Codex* Committees on better management and communication on *Codex Matters* at the sub-regional level (ECS)”.
- IICA strengthened the technical capacity of public and private institutions responsible for the promotion of sustainable land use for better adaptation of the agricultural sector to climate change. Soil samples were collected from a demonstration plot in Antigua and Barbuda, and sent to the USA for testing. Technicians are expected to sensitize other actors based on their own understanding of soil degradation issues, as well as strengthen their capacity to promote dissemination of innovations and good practices.

- IICA promoted farm success stories relating to climate change; two national institutions participated in a competition focused on on-farm technologies and practices in response to climate change risks and impacts. The Sir McChesney George Secondary School won both the national and regional competitions.
- The Institute in collaboration with strategic partners such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (MALFBA) and Grandad's Garden, constructed two demo experimental Vermicomposting bins to be used for research purposes. Thirty persons were trained in Vermiculture Production.
- Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Teachers, and Agro-Processors benefited from a workshop entitled "Best Practices in Hot Pepper Mash and Hot Pepper Sauce Production Agro-Processors/ Enterprise Groups", where twenty-five persons participated and learned best practices in the hot pepper production and processing sectors in Antigua and Barbuda. This workshop was a collaborative effort between IICA, CARDI and other strategic partners.

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