



XIX Regular Meeting of the
Inter-American Board of Agriculture

AN INSTITUTION RICH IN **HISTORY** THAT IS **BUILDING**
THE FUTURE OF **AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

San Jose, Costa Rica | October 25-26, 2017



Belize

Most significant results 2010-2017

- **A significant policy for agriculture.** After several years of joint work that included the Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies, IICA built a solid proposal for the implementation of the National Agriculture and Food Policy 2015-2030, which contained mechanisms for coordination and monitoring. The Policy was the result of a consultation process involving over 250 stakeholders in the areas of food and nutrition security, competitiveness, biodiversity, climate change and rural prosperity, among others.
- **Improved technical capabilities in AHFS.** Through the SPS Project financed by the EU, IICA was able to improve the capabilities of authorities, organizations and groups of producers in HACCP, food safety risk analysis, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, antimicrobial resistance and the use of geographic information systems for animal health surveillance.
- **Innovations to improve conditions for producers...** The SICTA Network project implemented by IICA in Belize and the rest of the Central Region, implemented innovations aimed at small maize and black bean producers in the Toledo district, specifically for increasing yields and reducing post-harvest losses. The introduction of new production practices and technologies for threshing, drying and storage resulted in a 30% increase in productivity, better food security conditions and greater incomes for around 70 farmers and their families in Toledo.
- **...and scale up the benefits.** Based on the results of the SICTA Network, IICA assisted the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA) in scaling up innovations in indigenous communities in the Southern region of Belize. As part of these efforts, IICA documented the farming systems of 60 households, sensitized groups on integrated farming systems and implemented a farmer field school with small farmers and personnel from public institutions, in order to build capacities in agriculture.



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- **Knowledge transfer from Mexico.** Through IICA's support, Belize obtained several benefits from Mexican researchers. For example, under the IICA-CONACYT program, the Institute provided training for in-vitro propagation to personnel from the University of Belize, and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture exchanged visits with Mexican counterparts and improved their knowledge in export of beef cattle to regional markets. In addition, some agriculture professionals from Belize pursued master's and doctoral studies in Mexico, under the program with CONACYT.
- **Boosting rural development.** IICA worked with the Ministry of Rural Development to create and implement the Belize Rural Area Development Strategy (BRADS), within the framework of ECADERT. Under this initiative, three projects were implemented in the Belize River Valley to improve the livelihoods and prosperity of almost 15 communities of about 3,000 families. Community groups and leaders were linked with government officials to increase their capabilities in poultry and small ruminant production as well as backyard gardening.
- **Supporting sugar production.** The Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI), and more than a thousand sugar producers in Belize were directly strengthened by farmer field schools implemented by IICA as part of a project funded by the European Union (EU) to transfer improved technologies to sugar cane producers and provide extension services. Farmers received training in good practices while technical and administrative staff at SIRDI improved their capabilities in human resources management, research and providing information to decision makers.
- **An organic certification scheme.** IICA developed, along with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, a National Strategy for the Production and Marketing of Locally Produced Organic Products, based on an organic certification scheme created by the Institute to provide organic farmers with an alternative form of certification for local products, rather than a third party certification. IICA also delivered technical assistance to organizations and producers in organic farming and marketing.