



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



Jamaica

Most significant results 2010-2017

- **A more structured small ruminant industry.** Best practices and improved standards for rearing, feeding and slaughtering activities in the Jamaican small ruminant industry have been adopted with the collaboration of IICA. The experience of Canada and the USA has been useful to evaluate good management practices for rearing of small ruminants and prospects to introduce new genetic material to import into Jamaica. The establishment of silvopastoral systems built capacities in the use of forage and fodder species in order to enhance animal nutrition and promote adaptation to climate change. IICA also worked on training in meat fabrication, hygienic slaughter and conducted a market studies under a two-year FonCT project.
- **Prevention; a useful tool against coffee leaf rust.** An Early Warning System for managing coffee leaf rust (CLR) was developed by a task force coordinated by IICA, to increase the resilience of the Jamaican coffee sector to rust epidemics. The system is expected to trigger control practices for CLR in advance, when climatic conditions favor coffee rust outbreaks. The task force included the International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Colombia University, the University of Arizona, the University of West Indies at Mona, Meteorological Services of Jamaica and the Coffee Industry Board. A study for understanding climatic, socio-economic factors and farmers' disease management decision making processes with regards to CLR outbreaks was conducted in the Blue Mountain Coffee region of Jamaica , with the objectives of developing appropriate information systems and teaching farmers how to optimize use of their limited resources against this plant disease.
- **Sweet potato value chain more developed.** The sweet potato value chain received direct support from IICA for the introduction of and building capacity in commercial production of the orange flesh Beaugard, a new variety to Jamaica. Farmers utilized training in production, harvesting and post-harvest handling to grow over 100 acres of this moist flesh sweet potato for the export



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market. The beneficiaries of training were farmers, extensionists and the research services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The industry also increased its competitive capacity to access export and local markets with native species, in both moist and dry flesh type sweet potato through the establishment of a sweet potato Clean Seed Program and training of Plant Quarantine Officers to be Inspectors of such a system to guarantee farmers high quality planting materials. Additionally, as part of the APP program financed by the European Union and implemented by IICA, small and medium-sized enterprises involved in the manufacturing of sweet potato value added products received technical support for clustering and business development.

- **Strengthened apiculture.** IICA strengthened the sustainability of this sector in Jamaica through training in business management, provision of capital inputs (such as hive boxes, wire frames and wax foundation), building capacity and conducted inspection of apiaries in the entire country for the control of the American Foulbrood disease (AFB), refurbishing of the national apiculture lab and documentation on apiculture pest and diseases, beekeeping regulations and AFB protocol, all activities of the EU-BSP Apiculture Project.
- **More greenhouses and capabilities for management.** Within the framework of the project “Improving Jamaica’s Agricultural Productivity” (IJAP), funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), IICA coordinated the construction of 40 commercial greenhouses and two pack houses. The Institute also collaborated in the training of farmers, researchers and extension officers and assisted with the formalization of clusters as registered societies to take advantage of the facilities and knowledge acquired. New infrastructures and training were aimed to increase productivity in the entire value chain of greenhouses. Fisheries also benefited under this project with the establishment of artificial reefs and refurbishment of fishing depots for better cleaning, storage and sale of seafood.