



# Bahamas

## Technical Cooperation

Non-programmed activities: 4

IICA resources projects: 1

External resources projects: 2

## Main contributions during 2013

- IICA carried out the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) methodology in Food Safety and Monitored Plant Health which facilitated the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment a workshop to design an action plan in AHFS along with FAO and PAHO and support from IDB. The plan will serve not only as a guide for the Bahamas to modernize AHFS and orientation to IICA technical cooperation in SPS, but as a mean to comply with international agreements and conventions.
- The main islands of the Bahamas prepared with support from IICA their action plans in agriculture as a tool to develop the sector according to the needs of each territory. The plans also involved the institutional strengthening of farmers organizations.
- The Exuma Women Project, funded by UN Women, has created a great impact in developing Handicraft in several islands of The Bahamas. It was initially designed for a group in the Island of Exuma but then doors were opened to benefit other groups in other islands. Two groups were favored with equipment, Training and technical assistance has reached participants in 8 islands, including train-the-trainers that is starting to multiply the benefits and providing skills with different materials.
- A MOU with the Department of Cooperatives and in coordination with BAIC and other institutions IICA organized workshops and training in project management and organization of action plans with Cooperatives and Associations in 10 islands directed to strengthen the farmers' organizations. This will allow them to work joint projects and access to assistance from the Government and international organizations.
- Three grant writing workshops enabled the organizations to prepare cooperation projects and access funding from organizations like GEF, UN Women, IDB, Compete Caribbean, among other. GEF have already approved several hundred thousand dollars of their small funds to several organizations.
- Direct support has been given to handicraft organizations, including the Bahamas National Handicraft Association (BNCA) and their member associations in different islands, the Bahamas Forum for Youth in Agriculture (BAFY), the Bahamas Agribusiness Cooperative (BABCO), among other. It has included the integration of BNCA to CANROP, assistance to BAFY in organizing activities, promoting scholarships in foreign universities and participation in international forums. Also have supported BABCO in developing with Ministry of Agriculture a project of backyard gardening and negotiating supplying the big hotel developments from local farmers.
- An ample program of training and technical assistance was provided in areas like agribusiness and trade, project management, entrepreneurship, food safety, food processing, livestock, animal nutrition, sourcing planting material and aquaponics among others. The use of video-conference tools have reduced the costs and reached speakers abroad and farmers and technical people in the outer islands of The Bahamas.