

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE



IICA TECHNICAL COOPERATION STRATEGY IN BELIZE 2011-2014



*PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE
AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS*

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INTRODUCTION

The IICA Office in Belize is pleased to present to stakeholders and friends of the agricultural and rural sector, the IICA Belize Country Strategy, which is an instrument that sorts and prioritizes the technical cooperation that the institute offers to the country. The development of this strategy, a series of meetings and interviews were carried out, with both public and private sector and academia. In these sessions the following were analyzed:

- Review of current policies, priorities and objectives of the government for agricultural and rural development.
- Identification of the major challenges and opportunities for Belize's agricultural and rural sector.
- Identification of IICA's major capacities to deliver its technical cooperation services effectively.
- Elaboration of the Country Strategy 2011-2014.

The resulting document serves as a guideline for IICA Belize and identifies three projects that the office will be involved with for the period 2011-2014. These projects fall under the thematic areas of 1). Agriculture, Territories and rural well being; 2). Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness. The strategy is complemented by monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to monitor compliance with project objectives. This document is open and flexible can be modified to reflect changes in the demands of the economical and social development of Belize.

We encourage all stakeholders to contribute to comprehensive development to the sector and thus guaranteeing the long-term well being of the nation. Our role in the development of the sector is to foster economic growth, increasing individual income levels as well as increasing the national revenue. We must play a key role in making food security a reality, and to be a line of defense in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

I. AGRICULTURE SECTOR STRATEGY

Belize is a constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy and member of the Commonwealth of Nations. It has a unique geographical and cultural background. Its location is in Central America but with Caribbean cultural. Legal and institutional heritage allows Belize to participate in both regions, with simultaneous membership in CARICOM and Central American regional groupings.

Belize has the smallest population of the Central American countries and one of the lowest population densities in the world. As a consequence of its relative abundance of land, its economy is based on natural resources: tourism, agriculture, and increasingly petroleum, which represent 22, 12 and 6 percent of GDP respectively. This economic structure, as well as the fragility of its rich terrestrial and marine ecosystems, strengthens the importance of sound environmental management. Low population density prevents agglomeration and scale economies, and makes the provision of infrastructure inherently expensive in per capita terms.

The poverty rate in Belize worsened between 2002 and 2009, rising from 34 percent to 41 percent. Several factors accounted for this sharp increase including a decrease in new investments, rise in fuel prices and government servicing heavy debt held with both external and local financial institutions. Total unemployment increased to 14 percent between 2007 and 2009. The challenges for new investments to secure jobs are worsened by the global economic slowdown.

The economy improved in 2010, with growth of around 1.5 percent driven by improvements in agriculture, a rebound in stay-over tourism and an expansion in oil exports. The national budget of March 2010 projected an overall deficit of 2.8 percent of GDP for fiscal year 2009/2010, up from the budgeted 1.7 percent of GDP, as a result of lower revenue inflows and increase spending in government social programs.

Belize's economic performance is highly susceptible to external market changes, a fact that was reflected in the rise of its real growth rate from 1.2% in 2007 to 2.1% in 2008. The global slowdown hit Belize hard, and in 2009, growth decreased to -1.5%. World commodity price fluctuations and continuation of preferential trading agreements, especially with the United States and the European Union (cane sugar) and the United Kingdom (bananas), greatly impact Belize's economic performance.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Agricultural Sector in Belize

The agricultural sector suffered from damage resulting from hurricanes that struck Belize in late 2007 and heavy flooding in mid-June and October of 2008. The farm shrimp industry, a chief export earner until 2005, continues to decline.

The country has about 809,000 hectares of arable land, only a small fraction of which is under cultivation. Most of this land is inaccessible due to lack of roads. Some roads,

including sections of major highways, are subject to damage or closure during the rainy season. Thus, a major constraint on the development of agricultural sector continues to be the scarcity of infrastructure investments, utilities and roads. Although electricity, telephone, and water utilities are all relatively good, Belize has the most expensive electricity in the region.

The reality of being a small developing economy has made agricultural exports the engine of economic growth for Belize. The main export portfolio has not diversified significantly, and its main export industries lack international competitiveness. Small countries find it difficult to support more than a few key industries as diversification causes resources to be channeled away from sectors that enjoy a comparative advantage. Economic diversification has long been the goal of the Government of Belize to ensure continued growth in an increasingly competitive environment and for greater economic efficiency.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in consultation with its partners in development has adjusted the National Agriculture and Fisheries Policy to focus on priority areas the new administration recognized as interventions to expand the sector. The vision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is to have a transformed/modern sector that is fully competitive, diversified, and sustainable. The mission is to continue as the economic pillar of Belize, ensuring food security, developing the capacity to manage risks associated with hydro-meteorological hazards, generating income and foreign exchange, creating employment and conserving natural resources in order to grow the economy, reduce poverty and empower the local population for sustainable development. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is also implementing its **Agricultural Export Strategy**

The reality of being a small developing economy has made agricultural exports the engine of economic growth for Belize. The main export portfolio has not diversified significantly, and its main export industries lack international competitiveness. The driving forces behind exports are mainly markets, price, quality and foreign exchange. The best way to achieve export success is to formulate an export strategy based on solid information and sound assessment. To determine the priority level of products or industries for export the following strategy took into consideration the criteria for determining whether a product receives a high priority rating in terms of export readiness. A high level of priority for export readiness depends on access to markets, competitive prices, high quality products, cost effective transportation and low barriers to trade.

The IICA Belize office will continue to monitor the agriculture sector and adjust its work plan accordingly to ensure technical assistance in priority areas determined by stakeholders. The following three projects developed with the assistance of stakeholders seek to contribute to the sector and is agreed to by the Minister of Agriculture and fisheries (Hon. Rene Montero).

II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIONS IN IICA BELIZE

A. Objectives of Technical Cooperation Activities

The IICA-Belize Country Strategy is the programming tool that organizes the action of IICA in the country, with strategic vision and medium term, for the efficient allocation of financial and technical resources of the Office of the regional and hemispheric and institutional thematic networks, depending on the needs, proposals and requests for cooperation of relevant stakeholders, public and private sectors, and the agricultural sector of Belize.

IICA recognizes in its Strategic Plan 2010-2020, the complexity and magnitude of the opportunities and challenges agriculture has to face in the coming years. Therefore, the Institute decided to focus its limited resources and efforts in contributing to the achievement of those strategic objectives which the Institute has more expertise, experience and recognition, and therefore, make more significant contributions and have more impact, these being:

- Improving productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector
- Improving the contribution of agriculture to food security.
- Enhancing the contribution of agriculture to the development of territories and rural welfare
- Improve the ability of agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources

IICA organizes their cooperative efforts around its four technical concentration:

Innovation for productivity and competitiveness of agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness and marketing, agriculture, rural areas and well-being and its two cross-coordination programs Agriculture, natural resource management and climate change, agriculture and food security.

B. Summary of Technical Cooperation Activities

The technical cooperation priority areas identified in the Strategy IICA-Belize will be developed through the design and implementation of 3 Strategic Projects properly aligned with corporate priorities, needs and requests for cooperation prioritized by the country and in correspondence with the technical and financial capacities of IICA.

These strategic projects are the instruments to execute plans, policies and strategies at the local and national level, through mobilization of different resources from IICA and its partners to take actions planned and interrelated in order to contribute the achievement of programmed goals and objectives. The IICA office in Belize, thru consultation with its stakeholders, has identified the following three strategic areas of intervention:

Thematic Area: Agriculture, Territories and Rural Well-being: Integrated and Sustainable Management of Rural Territories

2.1: Development and implementation of the Belize Rural Area-Based Development Strategy

The *Vision* of the Belize Rural-Area Based Development Strategy is: The rural areas of Belize have significantly improved quality of life; both human and of the ecosystems, through innovation, and informed decision-making capabilities of their populations, while appreciating and respecting their cultural identities and the potential of each rural area with robust and integrated institutions responsible for inclusive and sustainable development.

The *Mission* is to: Guide and be the driving force of the institutional, social, economic, cultural and environmental transformations required, with the active involvement of social stakeholders and public and private institutions in management of public policies in the rural areas, enhancing its cultural identity and its potential, and generating new opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development.

The *general objective* is: The objective of this strategy is to make "rural areas a more attractive place to live and work in and where increasingly diverse people of all ages can find a better life " by providing them with the means to generate their own development, to adapt to new economic circumstances and to be valued as they deserve to by all of society.

The specific objectives are:

- a) Promote continuous and diversified economic activity in the rural milieu.
- b) Promote the participation of the private productive sector and of civil society in general through leadership training.

The IICA Belize office is an active member of the National Rural Development Coordinating Committee (NRDCC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG). The directorate for agriculture, territories and rural well being will support the implementation of the BRADS through capacity building and funding for pilot projects financed by the Rural Development Strategy (ECADERT).

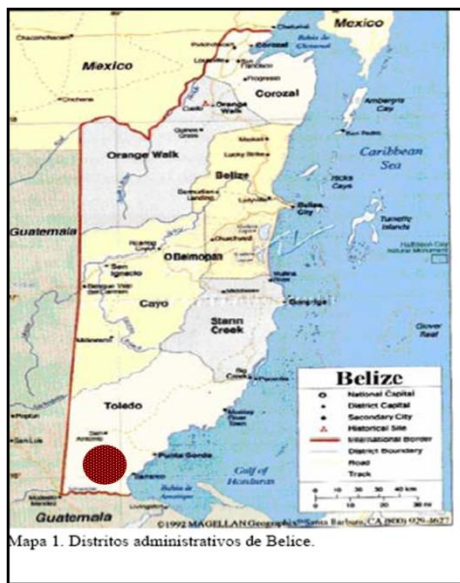
Thematic Area: Innovations for Productivity and Competitiveness; Regional and International cooperation for technology for Innovation

2.2: Innovations to improve post harvest technology and the income of small white maize and black bean producers in Jalacte and San Vicente Villages, Toledo District, Belize.

The basic grains maize and bean constitute almost 90% of the diet of the rural population in the Toledo District and almost 100% of the income generated by the sale of these grains by small producers in these communities.

Most of the small producers use the “Milpa” system planting maize during the rainy months of May and June and harvesting in the months of October and November. Traditionally the maize is left on the cob and stored in corn houses. The black bean is planted in the months of November and December and is harvested in the months of February and March. The grain is dried in the sun and then stored in their houses for use as food, or sold across the border in neighboring Santa Cruz Village, Guatemala.

Inefficient systems of harvesting and drying, high relative humidity and inefficient practices of storage have led to losses up to 70% in stored grains. The losses for post harvests can be reduced significantly if the humidity of the grain is controlled and if the grain is protected against pest and rodents. This is based on the good handling of the product after harvesting, carrying out an efficient process of drying and storage.



● Zone of influence of the project – Communities of Jalacté and San Vicente – District of Toledo

In the present conditions the producers are forced to sell their product at low prices because they lack mechanical threshing, drying and storage facilities. In the season of grain shortage and when the prices are high the producers do not have grains to sell so they lack the benefit from the market opportunities. Most times they even buy back the grains as food source at a much higher cost. In addition, natural disasters such as hurricanes have devastated the area and cause food security and seed stock concerns.

This project proposes to compliment the RedSICTA Project in improving the standard of living of the producers of the communities of Jalacté and San Vicente. The RedSICTA Project focuses on introducing innovations through the productive chain.

Improved agronomic practices will include improved germplasm, plant density, fertilizer and pesticide application and contouring. Threshing will be done mechanically, drying will be done using mobile butane operated grain dryers and storage will be done using modified inexpensive plastic silos. Solar power will be used to provide lighting for night work and additional security.

Also, the current RedSICTA Project makes emphasis to the organization of the producers establishing them in an organized legal entity to be able to adopt innovations as partial solutions to the numerous limiting factors which affect their development. Both Jalacté and San Vicente small producers have never been organized and have operated in isolated.

An alliance was formed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, IICA, CARDI, HELP For Progress, TCGA, the United States of America Embassy in Belize and the communities to ensure efficient and effective use of limited resources.

Thematic Area: Innovations for Productivity and Competitiveness; New Uses of Agriculture

2.3: *Development of a National Strategy for the Production and Marketing of Locally Produced Organic Products*

Over the past few years, global sales of organic products have been on a rise, reaching a stunning 50.9 billion US\$ in 2008, representing a steady increase of approximately 15% per annum. This figures comes from an approximately 35 million hectares of land under organic cultivation from 1.4 million producers. Of this number, 8.1 million ha is in Latin America with the participation of 260,000 producers. In Belize, only about 1125 ha is under organic production with 90% being cacao bean and the other 10% a mixture of vegetables, peanuts and chia seeds. Very few vegetables are being marketed locally as certified organic products.

Organic agriculture is relatively new to Belizeans, but is slowly gaining popularity, especially from the resorts, restaurants and health conscious consumers. Belizean farmers on the other hand, are not familiar with the organic concept and lack the experience in producing crops organically without the help of synthetic inputs and have difficulty in providing a continues supply of quality organic products. The consumers thus recur to purchasing conventionally grown produce and even importing products. The few farmers, who are making the transition to organic agriculture, then find themselves having difficulty in marketing their products to the local population who are not willing to pay the extra costs for the healthier alternative.

This strategy seeks address the problems of production and marketing by offering a defined and clear path for institutions and producer groups. Once implemented, this strategy can offer the Belizean producer and consumer a healthier, more nutritious alternative to the traditionally grown conventional produce.

The General objective is the Development of a National Strategy for the Production and Marketing of Locally Produced Organic Products with specific objectives which are:

- Provide technical assistance in the development and implementation of a National Organic Guarantee System.
- Assist in the development of a strategy for the marketing of locally produced organic products.
- Provide support in Strengthening of the Capacity building program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) for the production of organic products.

The IICA office will help coordinate the development of a strategic document for organic agriculture and will provide technical assistance in the implementation of this strategy.

III. MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM

The Country Strategy is a process and will include a monitoring and evaluation component. It is important to monitor the activities of the projects to ensure that the objectives are achieved in a timely manner, within the specified budget and with the greatest impact. Necessary adjustments must be made regularly since the process is dynamic and stakeholders are involved.

A project implementation schedule including a budget and work plans will be developed to improve management of the projects. The office staff will meet regularly to ensure that the team work approach is used for efficient and effective implementation of the projects. Regular meetings with the beneficiaries will ensure active participation and ownership.

IICA Office in Belize will ensure the following:

- Use of a project implementation schedule to monitor and evaluate the projects.
- Ensure effective communication, participation and involvement with all beneficiaries.
- Document projects progress and communicate all adjustments to beneficiaries.
- Monthly Reports: Status reports must be completed by all team members so that progress and problems can be identified and corrected.
- The office Annual Report will highlight the main achievements realized by the projects and will be distributed to all stakeholders.
- The office Accountability Seminar will serve as the forum for discussion of projects results and recommendations/adjustments that are necessary to keep the projects focused on the objectives.
- Evaluation of the projects will also include the inputs of regional specialist and technical staff at Head Quarters.

IV. ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The implementation of the present IICA Technical Cooperation Strategy will be subject to an ongoing process of monitoring, follow-up and evaluation, intended to make sure that the available technical and financial resources are allocated strategically in implementing the technical cooperation projects and activities approved and validated by the senior authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture.

IICA, by monitoring the progress of the projects, following up on implementation throughout the life of the project and evaluating the expected results will generate information which, in turn, will also serve as feedback for the key national counterparts.

To this end, the ***Integrated System for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Technical Cooperation (ISME)*** has been created. This system will make it possible to evaluate, in

stages, the completion of technical cooperation actions, contribute to the achievement of the Institute's objectives and report to the Governing Bodies.

Internally, the monitoring, follow-up and evaluation process will be the responsibility of the Offices, in coordination with the Directorate of Management and Regional Integration (DMRI) and the Secretariat of Planning and Evaluation (SEPE). The three processes will focus on:

- a) **Monitoring**: This will identify relevant elements or signs during implementation of technical cooperation projects and actions. They will be detected on a monthly by the DMRI and the SEPE.
- b) **Follow-up**: This will focus on analyzing progress in the implementation of activities programmed for the life of the project, through: 1) regular reports, starting at the beginning of each activity of the projects; 2) quarterly reports on the physical and financial execution of the activities; 3) regular reports on the conclusion of activities; and 4) the fourth quarterly report, to be submitted in December of each year at the close of the Annual Action Plan and used as the basis for preparing the annual report presented at the annual accountability seminar. The Offices will follow this procedure in contributing to the ISME, based on the attached matrix.
- c) **Evaluation of Results**: This will take place at the close of the project cycle, based on the expected results of the projects, and will provide information to consider in evaluating the medium-term focus of the Technical Cooperation Strategy.

One of the main goals is to generate useful information for refocusing the resources and actions, and by so doing ensure that the technical cooperation provided to the countries has the greatest possible impact.

Annex 1

Portfolio of Technical Cooperation Projects – IICA Belize 2011-2014

Project 1: *Development and implementation of the Belize Rural Area-Based Development Project.*

1. Name of project	Development and implementation of the Belize Rural Area-Based Development Project.			
2. Predominant Line of Action of the 2010-2014 MTP	Integrated and sustainable management of rural territories.			
3. Level: Country	This is a National Project that will form part of a regional ECADERT Project fulfilling the mandate of the Heads of Government of Central America.			
4. The problem	The problem is lack of economic activities in rural areas resulting in migration and increase in poverty.			
5. General objective	The IICA office supports the country in the modernization of rural communities through the implementation of the Belize Rural Area Based Development Strategy(BRADS), for the purpose of promoting rural prosperity.			
6. Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote continuous and diversified economic activity in the rural areas. b) Promote the participation of the private productive sector and of civil society in general through leadership training. 			
7. Beneficiaries	The rural communities of Jalacte and San Vicente will be the direct beneficiaries of this intervention and the country as a whole after this experience is replicated.			
8. Duration	The project will last 4 years. The first year is to collect base line information and to develop the project profiles while the last three years is for implementation.			
9. Description of activities, outputs, results, and achievement indicators	ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS
	1. Strengthening of rural communities to develop and execute investment plans in sustainable rural development. 2. Capacity building in leadership for both Jalacte and San Vicente residents	1. Training in project profiles conducted in selected rural areas and project portfolio reviewed and approved by technical working group. 2. Training forum in leadership executed in both Jalacte and San Vicente	ER:1 A portfolio of projects are prepared for each rural area by local actors. ER:2 Area Development Groups established to facilitate implementation of project in their communities	AI 1: 3 Trainings in project preparation. AI 2: 30 participants trained in project preparation. AI 3: 18 projects prepared for approval and finance. AI 4: 10 community leaders trained in leadership skills. AI 5: 2 leadership forums conducted.

10. Project budget	It is an IICA project that will include the Regular Fund resources (quota contributions and miscellaneous income) specified in the following table:			
ANNUAL DIRECT COSTS OF THE IICA PROJECT				
1. PERSONNEL				
1.1. Office personnel (the substantive contribution to the project)				
Name	Position		% of Time	
Wilmot Garnett	Specialist in Competitiveness	in	40%	
Salvador Monge	Representative		20%	
Maximiliano Ortega	Specialist in Technology		20%	
1.2. Personnel of the Technical Concentration and Cross-cutting Coordination Programs, CAESPA, and other units (the complementary contribution to the project)				
Name	Position		% of Time	
Mario Samper	Regional Specialist in Rural Development	in		
2. DIRECT OPERATING COSTS (US\$)				
ITEM	QUOTA CONTRIBUTIONS	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	REGULAR FUND	
MOE 3: Training and Technical Events	450	3,000	3,450	
MOE 4: Official Travel	500	2,400	2,900	
MOE 5: Publications and Materials and Inputs		1,680	1,680	
MOE 6: Equipment and Furniture	450	2,000	2,450	
MOE 7: Communications, Public Utilities and Maintenance	3,200	6,600	9,800	
MOE 8: Service Contracts				
MOE 9: Insurance, Official Hospitality and Others	1,300		1,300	
TOTAL DIRECT OPERATING COSTS OF THE PROJECT	5,900	15,680	21,580	
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS TO OPERATING COSTS				
Contributor:				
Contributor:				
GRAND TOTAL OPERATING COSTS				
	5,900	15,680	21,580	

Project 2: Innovations to improve post harvest technology and the income of small white maize and black bean producers in Jalacte and San Vicente Villages, Toledo District, Belize.

1. Name of project	Innovations to improve post harvest technology and the income of small white maize and black bean producers in Jalacte and San Vicente Villages, Toledo District, Belize.			
2. Predominant Line of Action of the 2010-2014 MTP	Institutional innovation for a new paradigm of technical change for food production and diversification.			
3. Level: Country	Jalacte and San Vicente Villages, Toledo District, Belize.			
4. The problem	Inefficient systems of harvesting and drying, high relative humidity and inefficient practices of storage have lead to losses up to 70% in stored grains.			
5. General objective	Innovations to improve the competitiveness and the income of small white maize and black bean producers in Jalacte and San Vicente Villages, Toledo District, Belize through innovations using the productive chain approach.			
6. Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased net income by 30% in the post harvest of white maize and black bean for grain and as seed. b) Reduced by 30% the costs of shelling of maize c) Reduced by 70% the losses of post harvests in white maize and black bean 			
7. Beneficiaries	The beneficiaries of this project are 170 small white maize and black bean producers non-associated in the communities of Jalacte (95 producers) and San Vicente (75 producers).			
8. Duration	2 years			
9. Description of activities, outputs, results, and achievement indicators	ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS
	1. Investigations on new varieties and improved agronomic practices in maize and bean 2. Identified and Incorporated technologies of post harvests (dried) and grain storage. 3. To train and facilitate producers in negotiations,	1. Protocols for agronomic handling and fertilization. 2. Technical report of installation and operation of equipment for shellers and drying equipment. 3 Organization document, policies and planning of the organization.	ER: 1 Elevated the level of productivity and quality of white maize and black bean ER: 2 Reduced costs of shelling and cleaning, and risks and losses of postharvest in maize and bean. ER: 3 Producers organized in one organization that satisfies its expectations.	AI 1: Yield increased from 30 to 35 bags (100 pounds) maize per manzana and from 16 to 20 bags per manzana for beans. 2: Reduce the percentage of dirt and broken grain by 10% in the harvested product. AI 2: Reduced by 30% the costs of shelling of maize 2: Reduced by 70%

	securing markets.			the losses of post harvests in maize and bean AI 3: An organization of producers constituted and received training in their role and functions.
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2. Project budget

It is an IICA project that will include the Regular Fund resources (quota contributions and miscellaneous income) specified in the following table:

ANNUAL DIRECT COSTS OF THE IICA PROJECT			
1. PERSONNEL			
1.1. Office personnel (the substantive contribution to the project)			
Name	Position	% of Time	
Salvador Monge	Representative	20%	
Wilmot Garnett	Specialist in Competitiveness	40%	
Maximiliano Ortega	Specialist in Technology	20%	
1.2. Personnel of the Technical Concentration and Cross-cutting Coordination Programs, CAESPA, and other units (the complementary contribution to the project)			
Name	Position	% of Time	
Jesus Perez	Regional Specialist for RedSICTA	15%	
2. DIRECT OPERATING COSTS (US\$)			
ITEM	QUOTA CONTRIBUTIONS	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	REGULAR FUND
MOE 3: Training and Technical Events	650	3,500	4,150
MOE 4: Official Travel	1,050	2,700	3,750
MOE 5: Publications and Materials and Inputs		2,100	2,100
MOE 6: Equipment and Furniture	550	2,000	2,550
MOE 7: Communications, Public Utilities and Maintenance	3,000	7,400	10,400
MOE 8: Service Contracts			
MOE 9: Insurance, Official Hospitality and Others	1,300		1,300
TOTAL DIRECT OPERATING COSTS OF THE PROJECT	6,550	17,700	24,250
GRAND TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	6,550	17,700	24,250

Project 3: Development of a National Strategy for the Production and Marketing of Locally Produced Organic Products

1. Name of project	Development of a National Strategy for the Production and Marketing of Locally Produced Organic Products			
2. Predominant Line of Action of the 2010-2014 MTP	New uses for Agriculture			
1. Level:	This project is at the national level.			
2. The problem	Organic agriculture is fairly new to Belize and “organic” farmers are facing problems in two main areas. One of the main areas is marketing of organic products. Producers don’t have a mechanism to guarantee “organic” products to consumers and generally lack a strategy to promote these products on the local market. The other main problem is the lack of technical expertise in organic crop production.			
3. General objective	Fostering the Production of Organic Agriculture as healthier farming alternative and adding value to local products.			
4. Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide technical assistance in the development and implementation of a National Organic Guarantee System. - Assist in the development of a strategy for the marketing of locally produced organic products. - Provide support in Strengthening of the Capacity building program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) for the production of organic products. 			
5. Beneficiaries	Belize organic producers and consumers, Technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture			
6. Duration	(i) the duration of the formulation of the project – 3 months (ii) the duration of the implementation of the project – 2 years			
7. Description of activities, outputs, results, and achievement indicators	ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS
	1. Support the establishment of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Local Organic Crops	1a. The PGS certification scheme for organic crops developed. 1b. Technical staff and key grower groups trained and strengthened in organic crop	ER1. PGS scheme developed and being used by at least three grower groups in three districts of Belize.	AI1. PGS scheme developed for Belize. AI2. Three growers groups in three districts in Belize using the PGS scheme.

		certification.		AI3. Three training courses given in organic crops certification procedures to three organic producer groups.
	2. Strengthening the Organic Program for the Ministry of Agriculture at Central Farm.	2a. Organic training curriculum developed 2b. Technical staff trained in organic production practices.	Er2. The Ministry of Agriculture at Central Farm carrying out regular training and capacity building courses in organic production practices and certification.	AI4. At least three training courses given to at least 60 organic producers in organic production practices.
	3. Provide technical assistance in the development of a Marketing strategy for organic products	3a. A marketing strategy/ mechanism developed for the promotion of organic products. 3b. A core group identified to implement marketing strategy	ER3. Organic producers marketing organic products under an established certification system.	AI5. Three grower groups having regular sales at the local producer market and to local hotels and resorts.

8. Project budget	It is an IICA project that will include the Regular Fund resources (quota contributions and miscellaneous income) specified in the following table:		
	ANNUAL DIRECT COSTS OF THE IICA PROJECT		
	1. PERSONNEL		
	1.1. Office personnel (the substantive contribution to the project)		
	Name	Position	% of Time
	Maximiliano Ortega	Specialist in Technology and Innovation	60
	Wilmot Garnett	Specialist in Competitiveness	20
	Salvador Monge	Representative	20
	1.2. Personnel of the Technical Concentration and Cross-cutting Coordination Programs, CAESPA, and other units (the complementary contribution to the project)		
	Name	Position	% of Time

2. DIRECT OPERATING COSTS (US\$)			
ITEM	QUOTA CONTRIBUTIONS	MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	REGULAR FUND
MOE 3: Training and Technical Events	400	2,500	2,900
MOE 4: Official Travel	450	1,900	2,350
MOE 5: Publications and Materials and Inputs		1,420	1,420
MOE 6: Equipment and Furniture	500	1,500	2,000
MOE 7: Communications, Public Utilities and Maintenance	2,057	6,300	8,357
MOE 8: Service Contracts			
MOE 9: Insurance, Official Hospitality and Others	1,300		1,300
TOTAL DIRECT OPERATING COSTS OF THE PROJECT	4,707	13,620	18,327
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS TO OPERATING COSTS			
Contributor: Cooperatives Department			
Contributor: Ministry of Agriculture			
GRAND TOTAL OPERATING COSTS			
	4,707	13,620	18,327