

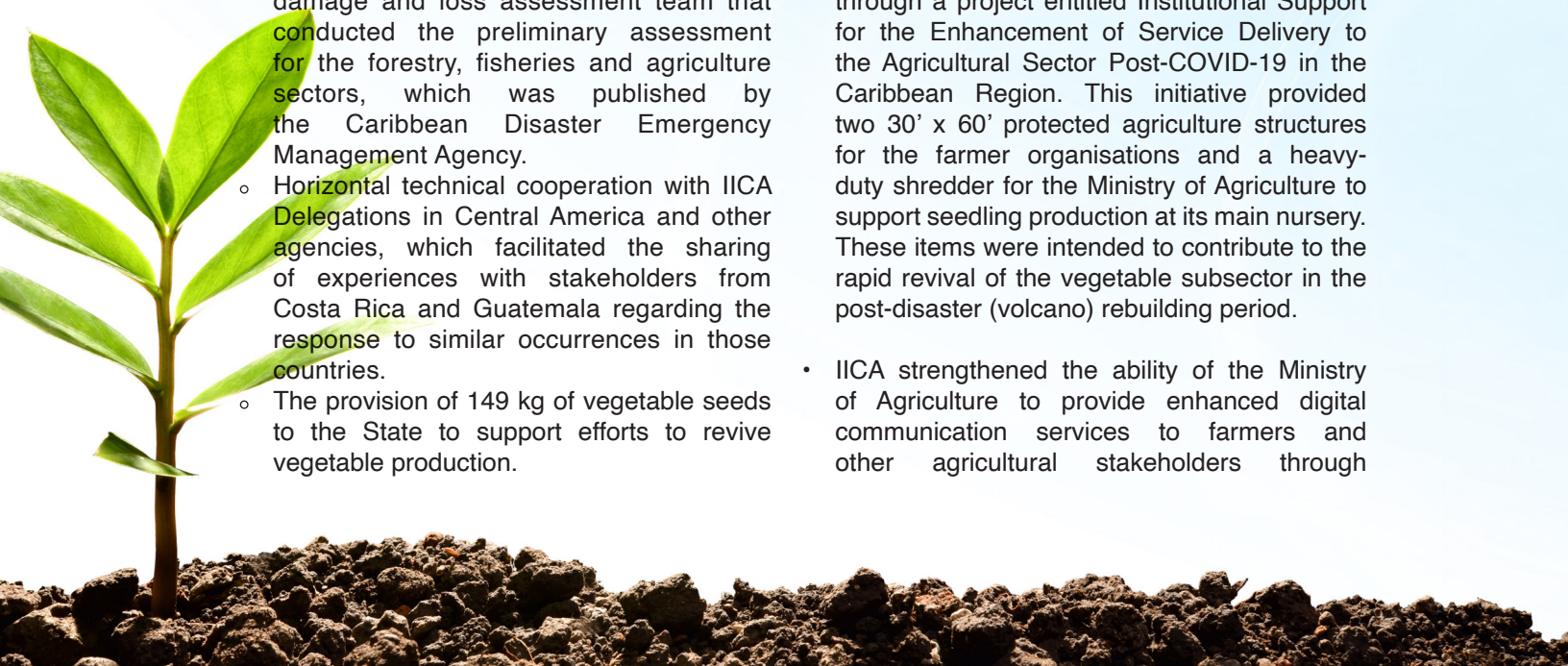


Significant Achievements 2021



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Technical and material support by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer organisations to rapidly respond to and recover from the eruptions of the La Soufriere Volcano in Saint Vincent. The activities of IICA, which contributed to the response and rebuilding efforts, during and after the disaster, included:
 - Provision of 30 tons of livestock feed to support the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture to assist farmers to feed their livestock.
 - Technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, through leadership of the damage and loss assessment team that conducted the preliminary assessment for the forestry, fisheries and agriculture sectors, which was published by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.
 - Horizontal technical cooperation with IICA Delegations in Central America and other agencies, which facilitated the sharing of experiences with stakeholders from Costa Rica and Guatemala regarding the response to similar occurrences in those countries.
 - The provision of 149 kg of vegetable seeds to the State to support efforts to revive vegetable production.
- The development of a soil management framework for the country, to guide the management of soils impacted by the disaster over the next four years.
- The development of two project proposals for four cooperatives, seeking assistance from donors for material and technical support for vegetable production. One project subsequently received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada.
- IICA strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and two producer organisations to produce vegetables, through the provision of material support to enhance production and productivity. This initiative was undertaken through a project entitled Institutional Support for the Enhancement of Service Delivery to the Agricultural Sector Post-COVID-19 in the Caribbean Region. This initiative provided two 30' x 60' protected agriculture structures for the farmer organisations and a heavy-duty shredder for the Ministry of Agriculture to support seedling production at its main nursery. These items were intended to contribute to the rapid revival of the vegetable subsector in the post-disaster (volcano) rebuilding period.
- IICA strengthened the ability of the Ministry of Agriculture to provide enhanced digital communication services to farmers and other agricultural stakeholders through



the Agricultural Extension Digital Application developed by the Institute in 2020. In 2021, IICA supported the institutionalization of the application, by promoting and supporting the formation of a Quality Assurance Committee (QAS), which provides quality assurance for information products developed for the website. The QAS led efforts to develop information products for vegetable production, which were uploaded to the site to complement other information products developed in 2020.

- Sixteen producers strengthened their capacity to produce compost to improve farm production and productivity, and in the process to reduce farm waste, through a series of theoretical and practical training sessions on composting. IICA also provided equipment and tools to the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer organisations to further enhance their capacity to engage in the production of compost.
- The Institute also strengthened the capacity of ten agri-food producers (MSMEs) in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to understand regional trade regulations and trade facilitation mechanisms,

thereby improving their ability to pursue regional trade opportunities. This included the delivery of four training sessions to develop the business knowledge of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), while securing their participation in hemispheric and regional trade fairs to expose them to opportunities to buy or supply products. IICA also conducted product testing for two businesses to improve their capacity to provide information to their buyers.

- IICA expanded the knowledge of sixteen agriculture sector stakeholders, including farmers, technicians and other stakeholders on climate change and the use of mitigation and adaptation strategies to transform the agriculture sector. This was achieved through the hosting of four Caribbean Climate Responsive Agriculture Forums (CCRAF), which provided information on practical solutions for on-farm management of soil and water; the use of climate data to increase agricultural yields; the use of high-quality forages to build climate resilient livestock production systems; and the sharing of experiences to enhance climate responsive agriculture in the Caribbean.