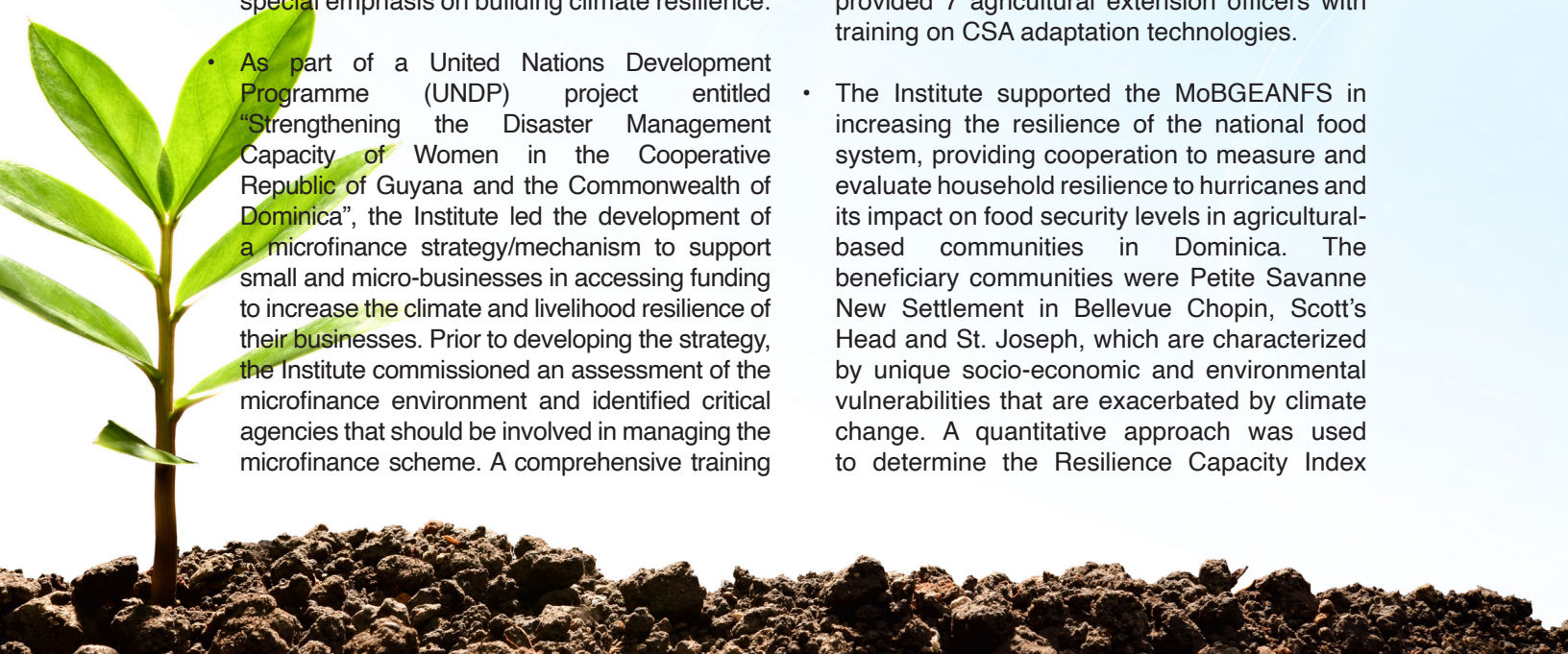


Significant Achievements 2021



Dominica

- As part of its project entitled “Institutional Support for the Enhancement of Service Delivery to the Agricultural Sector Post-COVID-19 in the Caribbean Region”, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) supported the Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security (MoBGEANFS) in formulating an agricultural policy through the engagement of experts in the field. In collaboration with the MoBGEANFS, IICA supported several consultation processes with government officials, including the Cabinet of Ministers, the Committee of Permanent Secretaries, senior and technical staff of the Division of Agriculture, international agencies, farmers, and other critical stakeholders. The policy was approved by the Government, and it now serves as the foundational document for the transformation of the agriculture sector with special emphasis on building climate resilience.
- As part of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project entitled “Strengthening the Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica”, the Institute led the development of a microfinance strategy/mechanism to support small and micro-businesses in accessing funding to increase the climate and livelihood resilience of their businesses. Prior to developing the strategy, the Institute commissioned an assessment of the microfinance environment and identified critical agencies that should be involved in managing the microfinance scheme. A comprehensive training plan was developed to aid the operationalization of the microfinance scheme.
- Through the UNDP project “Strengthening the Disaster Management Capacity of Women in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth of Dominica”, the Institute advanced efforts to boost sustainable livelihood resilience among women value chain producers in three parishes in Dominica. Among the key outcomes of the intervention were a market analysis of priority value chains, a broader understanding of the relationships between chain stakeholders and the identification of opportunities and obstacles in areas where livelihood and climate/disaster risk resilience can be sustainably and significantly enhanced. Additionally, IICA led the development of a Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Manual and provided 7 agricultural extension officers with training on CSA adaptation technologies.
- The Institute supported the MoBGEANFS in increasing the resilience of the national food system, providing cooperation to measure and evaluate household resilience to hurricanes and its impact on food security levels in agricultural-based communities in Dominica. The beneficiary communities were Petite Savanne New Settlement in Bellevue Chopin, Scott’s Head and St. Joseph, which are characterized by unique socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by climate change. A quantitative approach was used to determine the Resilience Capacity Index



- (RCI) and Resilience Structure Matrix (RSM), a framework promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The RCI and RSM evaluate various dimensions or pillars of resilience (access to basic services, assets, adaptive capacity, social safety nets and food security) as they relate to household variables, clusters, perception of recovery from hurricanes, coping strategies, and food security indicators. A geospatial representation of the resilience capacities of participating households was one of the key value-added products of the study.
- Together with the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), within the framework of a project funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) entitled “Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica; Strengthening Resilience of Agricultural Lands and Forests in Dominica”, IICA conducted a comprehensive assessment of farm certification systems in Dominica, which included GLOBAL GAP audits on 30 farms. The outcome of the assessments enabled IICA to provide technical recommendations to enhance the farm certification system implemented by the Dominica Bureau of Standards, with a view to improving access to regional and international markets. Efforts were undertaken to facilitate knowledge transfer among farmers and extension workers as well as build their capacities in sustainable land management (SLM) approaches and technologies, with a view to broadening the adoption of climate-smart practices and building the resilience of agricultural production systems. A series of manuals were prepared to improve knowledge transfer to target beneficiaries.
 - Three communities benefitted from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) project, in which the VS-VEEP model was introduced as a means to address land slippage and carry out remedial works on eroded landscapes using vetiver slips. The VS-VEEP concept, introduced by IAMovement, was administered by the Petite Soufrière and San Sauveur Village Council under the guidance of IICA and IAMovement. Remedial work was undertaken at thirty sites, including roadsides, backyards and agricultural production units. IAMovement provided over twenty persons with training in the VS-VEEP concept. Additionally, a half-acre vetiver nursery site was established in San Sauveur as a source of slips. However, given the scope of the work carried out, over 20 thousand vetiver clumps were purchased from the Kalinago Territory.
 - The CBF-IICA ecosystem-based adaption project provided twelve persons from the communities of Petite Soufrière and San Sauveur with the requisite skills to utilize vetiver to create handicraft products. IICA and the IAMovement jointly hosted an eight-week hands-on handicraft training workshop, which promoted the green business aspect of vetiver use and enabled participants to sell their handicraft items in their communities.
 - IICA assisted the Livestock Unit of the Division of Agriculture in establishing a demonstration composting unit on the Londonderry Station. The unit will strengthen the capacities of farmers and entrepreneurs who are interested in establishing commercial composting businesses; specifically, it will present the parameters that must be taken into account for proper composting, display various tools for measuring and collecting data, and exemplify the importance of monitoring for quality composting.
 - Together with the MoBGEANFS, IICA supported the use of green engineering and adaptive technologies to reduce soil erosion and land slippage on a vulnerable agricultural site in Sylvania, through an initiative that re-established a demonstration unit and expanded vetiver strips on an adjacent site. A team of extension workers from the agricultural district and a vetiver team from the Petite Soufrière and San Sauveur communities worked together to establish contouring methods and lay out the vetiver strip.
 - Through a four-day webinar organized by IICA's International Trade and Regional Integration Program within the framework of the project entitled “Facilitating the Trade Capacity of Caribbean Producers of Fresh and Value-Added Products to Capture Regional Markets”, 14 agro-entrepreneurs improved their knowledge of e-commerce and trade regulations as well as market access requirements, with a view to boosting intra-regional trade and improving their access to regional markets. Additionally, support was provided to six entrepreneurs through laboratory analyses of their products to ascertain their compliance with regional trading standards.