



Delegation in Saint Lucia

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

SAINT LUCIA

IICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITIES



AT A GLANCE:

IICA'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SAINT LUCIA: 2015



IMPROVING THE PRODUCTIVITY & COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Strengthening the Pineapple and Small Ruminant Value Chains* pg 9
- Training on using a Cloud-based National Agricultural Market Information System* pg 9
- Support to a Capacity Building Programme in Greenhouse/Protected Agriculture Techniques and Technologies for Small Farmers* pg 10



STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS AND TO RURAL WELL-BEING

- Improving Socio-organizational and Agribusiness Management Capacities* pg 11
- Product Differentiation and Value-Added Strategy for Producer Organizations linked to Family Agriculture* pg 12
- Strengthening the Capacity of Small Ruminant Farmers for Improved Management of Herd and Forage Resources* pg 13
- Facilitating Capacity Building of Local Technicians* pg 14



CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Adapting ECS Agriculture for Food Security and Development in a Changing Climate* pg 16
- Building a more Climate-Change Resilient Small Ruminant Value Chain in Saint Lucia* pg 17
- Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Forum* pg 18
- Extreme Environmental Communication and Information System Guideline: Agriculture Sector in Saint Lucia* pg 19



IMPROVING AGRICULTURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SECURITY

- Promoting Dialogue between the National Quality Infrastructure and the Agriculture Sector in Saint Lucia* pg 20

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	i
Foreword.....	ii
Minister's Message.....	iii
Executive Summary.....	iv
Introduction.....	1
PART I: The State Of Agriculture And Rural Life In Saint Lucia In 2014.....	3
1.1 Understanding Agriculture's Situation.....	3
1.1.1 Agriculture in the Domestic Economy.....	3
1.2.1 Agricultural Production.....	4
1.3.1 Trade in Agricultural Products.....	5
PART II: The National Technical Cooperation Agenda for 2015.....	7
PART III: Results and Outcomes from the 2015 Technical Cooperation Agenda.....	9
3.1 Improve the Productivity and Competitiveness of the Agriculture Sector.....	9
3.2 Strengthen Agriculture's Contribution to the Development of Rural Areas and to Rural Well-Being.....	11
3.2.1 Productivity & Sustainability of Family Agriculture for Food Security and the Rural Economy.....	11
3.2.1 Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories.....	14
3.3 Climate Change and Natural Resource Management.....	16
3.3.1 Natural Resources Management and Adaptation to Climate Change for Agriculture.....	16
3.3.2 Comprehensive Management of Environmental Risks for Production.....	17
3.4 Improving Agriculture's Contribution to Food Security.....	20
3.4.1 Promoting Dialogue between the National Quality Infrastructure and the Agriculture Sector in Saint Lucia.....	20
PART IV: Partnership 4 Progress.....	21

ACRONYMS

Acronyms: Technical Terms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
CAFY	Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth
CANROP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
EC\$	Eastern Caribbean States Dollars
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTP	Medium Term Plan
US\$	United States Dollars

Acronyms: Institutions, Groups and Businesses

CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CRESIAP	Regional Centre for Integrated Services in Protected Agriculture
CFL	Consolidated Foods Limited
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MAFFPCRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development
MOSDEST	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
MTHCI	Ministry of Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
SAGARPA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
SLAFY	Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth
SLNRWP	Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers
SLRCS	Saint Lucia Ruminant Cooperative Society Limited (SLRCS)
UNDP GEF	United Nations Development Program Global Environment Fund
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Acronyms: Development Initiatives/Mechanisms

APP	Agricultural Policy Programme
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BAM	Banana Accompanying Measures
EDF	European Development Fund
FonTC	Technical Cooperation Fund
HOOPSS	Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools
NICE	National Incentive to Create Employment
SSDF	St Lucia Social Development Fund
YAEP	Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project

FOREWORD

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Delegation in Saint Lucia has the pleasure of presenting its Annual Report for 2015. The purpose of this report is two-fold: firstly, to reflect on the work of the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia and how it has contributed to the agriculture sector by highlighting the achievements realized; and also to demonstrate our commitment to being transparent and accountable to our major stakeholders. The agriculture sector in Saint Lucia is of strategic importance to economic stabilization and development.



As a specialized agency in agriculture and rural development we are keen to make interventions in ameliorating the challenges faced by the agriculture sector. Our unique technical cooperation model as defined in our Medium term plan 2014-2018 provides us with the opportunity to partner with a number of public and private organizations to strengthen national capacity in pursuit of a more dynamic and competitive sector. The four instruments for technical cooperation defined in this model are aimed at improving interventions that build competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural chains; support improved inclusion of stakeholders in the agriculture and rural milieu; build resilience of agri-food systems through comprehensive risk management; and which support improved productivity and sustainability. These instruments reflect IICA's strategic outlook for development assistance in Saint Lucia.

In 2015, the year under review, activities focused on a range of areas including access to capital, knowledge management, organizational development and networking, resource mobilization, entrepreneurial skill development and marketing. The IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia encouraged productivity growth in agro-enterprises, as well as in building capacities for generating sustainable livelihood options in agriculture. The Delegation is also implementing activities under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) projects the Agriculture Policy Programme and the Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Measures Project which will generate benefits to agricultural stakeholders by addressing constraints which presently hinder the formation of market linkages. We anticipate close, continued partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development (MAFPFCRD), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the private sector, farmer organizations, international agencies, and women and youth organizations in rolling out the programme of work for these interventions in 2016. The staff of the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia, who have been exemplary in their efforts in 2015, will be called on to advance this purpose.

The Institute under the leadership of Dr. Victor Villalobos, Director General of IICA, renews its commitment to all stakeholders in the agriculture and rural sector to continue to provide technical assistance and leadership in developing and promoting sustainable agriculture in Saint Lucia.

John H King

Representative in the ECS

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

In this my fifth year as Minister for Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development in Saint Lucia I applaud the Inter American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture for its partnership in making meaningful contributions to the well-being of our stakeholders in the agricultural and rural milieu.



In 2015 we collaborated on improving the use of greenhouse technology, building capacity of technicians in value chain development, accessing improved germplasm for the Coconut Replanting Programme, improving the agricultural market information system, and improving institutional and operational capacity through dialogue and training for adapting to climate change inclusive of improved use of water harvesting techniques. I express my personal thanks to Mr. John King, IICA Representative for the Eastern Caribbean States for the leadership that has enabled these actions.

Looking ahead, food and nutrition security, promoting agriculture entrepreneurship, and accelerating development of domestic and export market linkages for agricultural products remain high on the development agenda. The expansion of our partnership with the Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth (SLAFY) on the Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools (HOOPSS) project is of particular focus as it complements our efforts to make school gardens and the School Meals Programme more sustainable and beneficial to the curricular development of students. We will also seek deeper integration of tourism and agriculture, development of the livestock sector and improving farm irrigation.

These interventions are extremely important to realizing the strategic outlook of the Ministry for Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development (MAFPFCRD) for sustainable economic growth as evidenced in our Food Production Plan (FPP). The FPP serves as a roadmap guiding the actions of the MAFPFCRD and also supports improved partnership with development agencies. The expertise of IICA will be particularly valuable in this regards to strengthen partnerships with agricultural and non-agricultural agencies, groups and other Ministries.

On behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia, I thank all of the staff of IICA, especially **Dr. Víctor M. Villalobos, Mr. John King and all our partners for the success of our programmes.** I look forward to continued joint efforts that multiply benefits to our communities and economy.

Thank you.

Honourable Moses Jn. Baptiste

Minister for Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries,
Co-operatives and Rural Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IICA's work in 2015 focused on improving income-earning opportunities for stakeholders in the agriculture and rural milieu. This target was pursued through initiatives that improve the productivity and competitiveness of agribusinesses and is reflected in the 2015 Annual report in the socio-organizational and business functioning of stakeholder groups, building resilience to climate change impacts by promoting climate smart agriculture and building capacity to support technical interventions that make support and direct actions more productive and efficient. The predominant theme of building resilience in agriculture value chains, organizations and enterprises is in recognition of the present challenges to sustainable development as well as emerging opportunities for micro/small business development and employment creation.

In response, the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia continued to improve on existing mechanisms for delivering technical cooperation services as the vehicles for supporting partners and stakeholders in realizing shared agricultural development objectives of improving agriculture's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources; improving the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector; strengthening agriculture's contribution to the development of rural areas and the well-being of the rural population; and improving agriculture's contribution to food security. These objectives are in-turn directly aligned with the flagship project areas shaping IICA's work, namely: Competitiveness and Sustainability of agricultural chains; Inclusion in agricultural and rural territories; Resilience and comprehensive risk management; and Productivity and sustainability of family agriculture. The operational areas serve as the "backbone" for delivering IICA's technical cooperation for the 2014-2018 period.

In 2015, IICA implemented and contributed to a number of activities relating to its strategic objectives. These interventions were supported via three main mechanisms:

1. *Flagship Project resources* which are allotted from core funds through the management mechanisms for implementing the 2014-2018 MTP;
2. *Projects financed with external resources* are instruments financed entirely with external funds and designed or implemented to complement and expand IICA's actions under this MTP ;
3. *Technical Cooperation services* which represents the in-kind contribution of IICA technical and administrative resources to local projects and initiatives.

The IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia continued its collaboration with the MAFFPCRD; most notably in supporting access to improved coconut germplasm and the development of a capacity building programme in greenhouse/protected agriculture techniques. These actions support the development of a local coconut industry, employment and capacity building for enhancing productivity of farmers. The capacity building programme in 2015 also addressed important areas such as market information systems that support decision-making on agricultural development, small ruminant production management, integrating adaption to climate

change into development planning as well as training of 20 local professionals/technicians in various technical fields through the IICA-SAGARPA programme.

A focus on resilience of agricultural production systems in Saint Lucia contributed to the establishment of a Climate Smart Agriculture Forum for stakeholder dialogue and coordination on climate-change related issues affecting agriculture. Thus far, the forum has been a valuable learning and information-sharing mechanism. In addition, IICA worked on the production of communication guidelines supporting improved generation of value-adding information and knowledge products that can help make agriculture systems more resilient to climate change. It is expected that this resource will support the operationalizing of the MAFPCRD's Agriculture Disaster Risk Management Strategy.

The implementation of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Caribbean Actions under the '*Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) with focus on the Caribbean and the Pacific*' and the '*Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)*' also benefited local stakeholders in areas of institutional dialogue on coordination for the local quality infrastructure, and value chain profiling and actor dialogue. Creating these avenues for engagement of local partners and actors is an important factor in IICA's technical cooperation that enhances the quality of implementation to the benefit of stakeholders in Saint Lucia.

IICA also continued its programme of work in supporting the development of stakeholder representations/groups; most notably the SLNRWP, SLAFY and Mille Fleur Honey Producers Cooperative. Interventions focused on a range of areas including organizational development and networking, resource mobilization, entrepreneurial skill development and capacity building on value-adding processes. These interventions made meaningful impacts on the livelihoods of members of these groups and build capacity in members so that they are more self-reliant and entrepreneurial in their outlook.



Focused on people – promoting competitiveness and sustainable agriculture

- IICA Annual Report 2015 -

INTRODUCTION

While the current global economic context presents a number of challenges to agriculture and rural development in a Small Island Developing State like Saint Lucia, opportunities also emerge. These opportunities require that the country be in a state of readiness to profit from/capitalize on them. Some of the challenges facing agriculture in Saint Lucia are intrinsic, such as its small size and the scarcity of exploitable natural resources. However, many of the more significant challenges stem from Saint Lucia's insertion into the global economy and its vulnerability to natural disasters and external economic shocks.

Invariably, there are a large number of demands for development of the agricultural sector including *inter alia* the need for access roads and other critical infrastructure, capacity building, local and export market development, agricultural standards, sustainable access to water and arable land, critical support services, and laboratory services. This reality warrants following areas of intervention may be prioritized:

- Value Chain Development of Select High Value Agri-Industries of Strategic Importance;
- Building Resilience of the Agricultural Sector to Climate Change;
- Protected Agriculture;
- Integrated Soil and Water Resource Management;
- Agricultural Health and Food Safety as relates to Trade Facilitation;
- Strengthening Institutional and Technical Capacity of the Agricultural and Rural Sectors.

The message is clear: sustainable, long-term development requires development planning which maps development goals to actions and outcomes, and which seeks integrated solutions to effectively leverage available assets/resources as a whole and not in the traditional sectoral 'silo' approach. This transition requires a wide-ranging process of innovation that will develop new production, institutional, organizational and knowledge paradigms for meeting the challenges of competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability.

These insights are timely and relevant lessons for Saint Lucia as it continues to tackle the effects of the drastic decline in the banana industry, growing concerns over degradation of environmental and biodiversity resources, as well as developing sustainable livelihood options for its populace. These make a strong case for leveraging agriculture in the development context. What is then required is the strategic positioning of agriculture to perform this role.

This fact has seen a revitalized focus on and critical investment in to the agricultural sector contributing to several initiatives currently being undertaken by the Government of Saint Lucia to help boost productivity and growth. This includes making much needed capital investments, building a new generation of youth agri-entrepreneurs and promoting agribusiness value chain development utilizing funding under the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM). In addition, there has been increased collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Mexico to support agricultural innovation.

As a technical cooperation agency and partner in development for Saint Lucia, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) remains committed to building the institutional and productive capacities of the agricultural sector in order to enhance the benefits of increased employment (especially in rural communities) expansion of income generation opportunities and food and nutrition security. For IICA this especially means, *inter alia*, creating opportunities for youth and women participation and employment in agriculture, developing market opportunities for productive agriculture sub-sectors, and supporting the growing knowledge and innovation/technology intensity of agribusinesses to stimulate interest, investment and productivity in agriculture.

The proceeding report documents the contribution of IICA to the development of agriculture and rural life in Saint Lucia in 2015. The programme of work was executed in line with the IICA Country Strategy which in turn was guided by IICA's Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2010 – 2014 and IICA's Strategic Plan 2010 – 2020, in response to the priorities agreed upon by the Government of Saint Lucia. The results achieved highlight the combined efforts of primary stakeholders in the agriculture sector and strategic partnerships towards a holistic approach to the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in Saint Lucia.



Focused on people – promoting competitiveness and sustainable agriculture
- IICA Annual Report 2015 -

PART I: THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN SAINT LUCIA IN 2015

1.1 UNDERSTANDING AGRICULTURE'S SITUATION

1.1.1 Agriculture in the Domestic Economy

Agriculture's contribution to GDP is estimated at 2.8% for 2015; a 25% increase in contribution over 2014 (Figures 1.a and 1.b) which saw the sector's monetary contribution increase to estimated EC\$ 92.40 million.

Fig 1(a) and 1(b) Agriculture's Contribution to GDP 2014 vs. 2015 (Current Prices, EC\$ Millions)

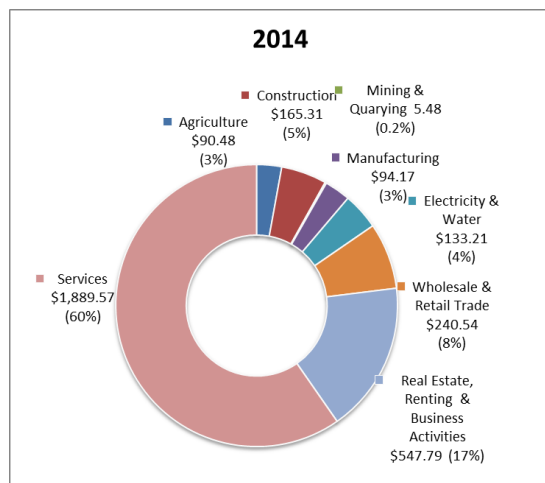
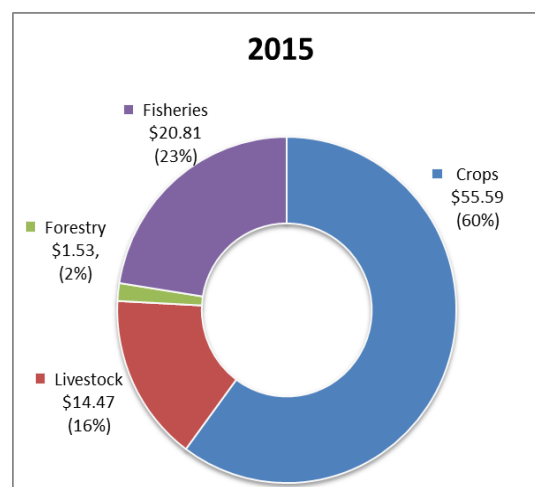
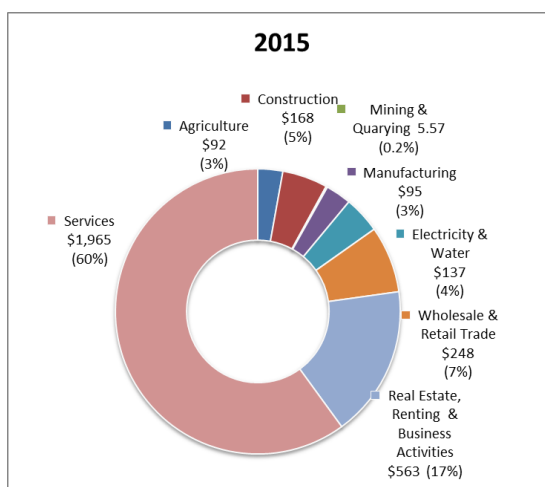
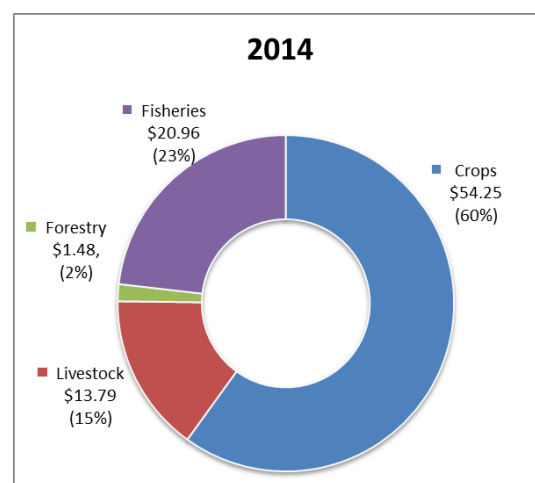


Fig 2(a) and 2(b) GDP Contribution of Major Agricultural Sub-Sectors (Current Prices, EC\$ Millions)



Source: Central Statistical Office and Ministry of Finance, Saint Lucia Projections, 2016

Crop production and Livestock production were the most productive sub-sectors for agriculture in 2015 generating 2.47% and 4.9% increases in contribution to the sector, respectively (Figure 2.b). Together with the modest 3.38% growth of forestry, agriculture saw an increase in revenue of EC\$ 2.52 million (Figure 2.a and Figure 2.b).

1.2.1 Agricultural Production

The productive sub-sectors in agriculture continued to demonstrate real growth in 2015 making a strong case for better harnessing them to promote agricultural and rural development.

1.2.1.1 Domestic Crop Production

A large number of commodities saw significant growth in production and value in 2015. The most notable commodities with improvements in production were hot pepper, sweet potato, breadfruit, mango, sweet pepper and okra (Table 1).

Table 1: Production Volume (tonnes) of Major Commodity Crops

Commodities	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 ¹	Avg.: 2011- 2015	% change in production: 2014-2015	% change in unit value [EC\$/kg]: 2014-2015
Vegetables								
Cabbage	261	256	214	177	192	218	15	-10
Cucumber	635	726	814	890	900	804	7	8
Carrot	11	13	11	20	15	14	-23	-16
Lettuce	116	179	200.8	200.9	204	179	4	-8
Okra	149	156	192	146	180	164	27	4
Sweet Pepper	141	178	180	200	258	192	27	4
Tomato	171	236	274	325	280	253	-8	-3
Condiments & Spices								
Hot Pepper	1	12	5	1	24	8	2383	-24
Ginger	12	15	15.05	15.4	14	14	-9	-3
Staples & Root Crops								
Banana	8157	14,011	51,303	12,774	17,452	13,970	28	1
Breadfruit	1,273	1,175	878	644	1,108	1,066	52	182
Dasheen	514	531	411	460	308	431	-21	-2
Plantain	1,531	1,355	1,430	1,944	2,193	1,715	14	-4
Sweet Potato	405	576	844	585	828	640	52	-19
Tannia	87	68	53	80	40	65	-49	12
Yam	402	545	645	648	197	470	-68	-0.24
Fruit & Tree Crops								
Avocado	239	168	251	369	191	228	-22	14
Grapefruit	415	693	971	828	937	763	18	11
Lime	269	274	325	360	377	316	12	-7
Mango	276	505	414	789	1,170	640	47	8
Pineapple	35	36	47	59	60	47	7	-4
Sweet Orange	746	601	575	542	454	523	18	-3
Sour Sop	17	73	70	139	188	104	17	-10
Source: Statistical Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 2015								

¹ Provisional estimates provided for 2015.

However, positive changes in unit market value (EC\$/kg: 2014-2015) is the more important indicator of commodities with improving market value (that is, implied market receptivity and price appreciation associated with greater demand). The top performers in value appreciation in 2015 were melon, breadfruit, avocado and tannia (Table 1).

1.2.1.2 Domestic Livestock Production

Domestic livestock production has been steadily growing in recent years. Utilizing livestock production indices² forecasted production for 2015 is estimated as a 1.25% increase over 2014. This trend is expected to continue into 2016 with a further 1.23% increase (FAO Stat 2016).

1.3.1 Trade in Agricultural Products

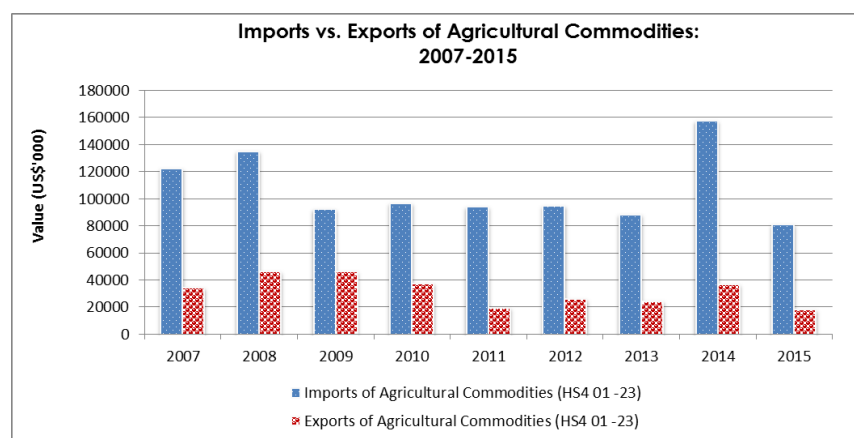


Fig 3: Import and Export of Agricultural Commodities (HS4 01 -23): 2007-2015

Source: ITC Trade Map, 2016

Indicative data for 2015 suggests that although trade imbalance for agricultural commodities remained significant (Figure 3), there was a 20% fall in agricultural imports as a percentage of merchandise imports (ITC Trade Map 2016). This suggests reduced net dependency on agricultural product imports (i.e. import

replacement/substitution). However, this was also accompanied by a 7% fall in agricultural exports as a percentage of merchandise exports (ITC Trade Map 2016). Together, these suggest that although agriculture's contribution to foreign earnings fell, it played an improved role in import replacement (that is, greater domestic utilization for agricultural commodities).

Table 3 presents summary trade data on the top five agricultural import and export commodities from 2009-2013 (ITC Trade Competitiveness Map, 2015). The major commodities in each category remained largely the same from 2014. In terms of growth in export value between 2014 and 2015, the best performers (% growth in export value per annum) were 0709 – Vegetables nes, fresh/chilled (16,533%); 0803-Bananas and plantains, fresh or dried (527%); 2005- Prepared or

² The Livestock production index is a measure of the relative level of the aggregate volume of agricultural production originating in the country for each year in comparison with the base period 2004-2006. They are based on the sum of the price-weighted quantities of different agricultural commodities produced after deductions of quantities used as seed and feed weighted in a similar manner. The resulting aggregate represents disposable production for any use except as seed and feed.

preserved vegetables nes, excluding frozen (500%); 0714-Manioc, arrowroot salep; yams (136%); and 0810-Fruits nes, fresh(74%). Banana and plantain (0803), remained the highest value earner for the agricultural sector in 2015, with 2203-Beer made from malt, 2202-Non-alcoholic beverages excluding water, fruit or vegetable juices and misc. and 2208-Spirits, liquors, other spirit beverages making substantial contributions.

Table 3: Top 5 Agricultural Imports and Exports for Saint Lucia (2009-2013)

Commodities	Trade Value (US\$'000)		
	2014	2015	% change in Trade Value: 2014-2015
IMPORTS			
0207 – Meat & Edible offal of poultry meat	14,258	11,327	-21
1101 – Wheat or meslin flour	10,258	2,035	-80
0402 – Milk & cream, concentrated/sweetens	6,984	3,767	-1.43
1905 – Bread, biscuits, wafers, cakes and pastries	6,811	2,557	-62
0406 – Cheese & curd	5,918	3,408	-42
EXPORTS			
2203 – Beer made from malt	14,164	4,945	-65
0803-Banana & Plantain, fresh or dried	1,271	7,964	527
2208 – Spirits, liqueurs, other spirits beverages, alcoholic preparations	7,165	1,160	-84
2103- Sauces mixed condiments & mixed seasonings	584	650	11
2202- Non-alcoholic beverages excluding water, fruit or vegetable juices and misc.	3,361	1,296	-61
Source: ITC Trade Competitiveness Map, 2015			

The import profile in 2015 showed significant decreases in value (% growth in import value per annum) in 2014's major import commodities (Table 3). Only 1701- Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose showed positive growth in spending (155%). The commodities showing greatest decrease in spending were 1101-Wheat or meslin flour; 2202- Non-alcoholic beverages excluding water, fruit or vegetable juices and misc.; 1905-Bread, biscuits, wafers, cakes and pastries; and 2208 - Spirits, liquors, other spirit beverages making substantial contributions.



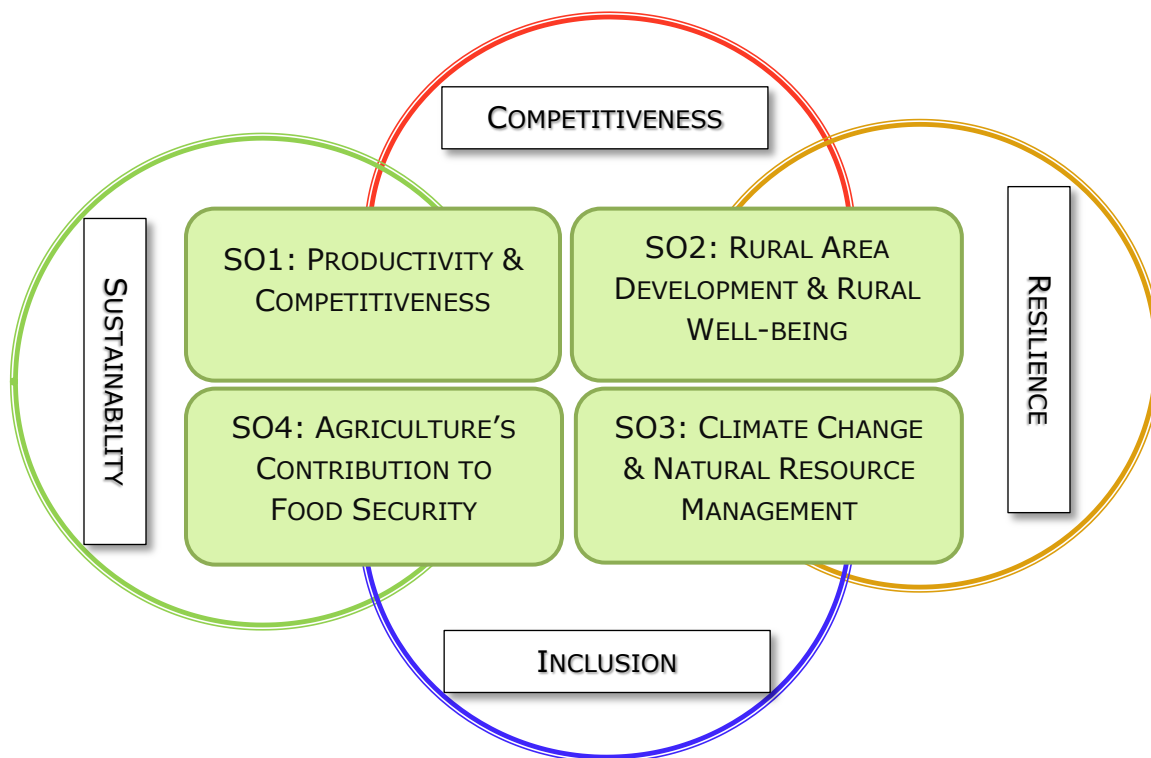
Focused on people – promoting competitiveness and
sustainable agriculture
- IICA Annual Report 2015 -

PART II: THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA FOR 2015

An illustration of IICA's National Technical Cooperation Agenda is presented below. It represents IICA's strategic outlook for development assistance in Saint Lucia. The nature and purpose of the development assistance is guided by four strategic objectives; namely, to:

1. Improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector;
2. Strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of rural areas and the well-being of the rural population;
3. Improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources;
4. Improve agriculture's contribution to food security.

Framework for IICA's Technical Cooperation Agenda in Saint Lucia



These objectives guide the specification of technical interventions which comprise the programme of work; a process that involves an intensive analysis of existing agricultural documents, statistics and policies, coupled with extensive consultations with agriculture and rural sector stakeholders including Government ministries, producer organizations, youth and

women organizations, rural service-provider agencies, private sector entities and international organizations.

These are defined by four broad and inter-related areas of:-

1. **Competitiveness** and *Sustainability of Agricultural Chains for Food Security & Economic Development* with focus on the capacity of an agricultural chain in all its links, to maintain sustained and lasting growth on domestic and international markets;
2. **Resilience** and *Comprehensive Risk Management* which aims to increase the resilience of the agricultural systems in the member countries in order to address climate change and other environmental shocks by strengthening the institutional framework for innovation and risk management based on the principles of sustainable adaptation;
3. **Inclusion** in *Agriculture and Rural Territories* where efforts are aimed at contributing to the creation of conditions for the design and participatory management of countries with focus on integrated area-based public policies for social, economic, and civic inclusion in relatively lesser developed rural areas where family farming is prevalent; and
4. *Productivity & Sustainability of Family Agriculture for Food Security and the Rural Economy* by which the sustainable development of family farming is promoted to increase its contribution to food and nutrition security and the rural economy.

These define IICA's technical work and form the framework within which impact is evaluated and reported on.



PART III: RESULTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE 2015 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA

The activities executed during the year were all designed towards the achievement of three key results at the national level. These are briefly detailed below:

3.1 IMPROVE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

3.1.1 Competitiveness and Sustainability of Agricultural Chains for Food Security & Economic Development

□ *Strengthening the Pineapple and Small Ruminant Value Chains*

<i>Impacts > Management of Chains and Agro-Entrepreneurial Capabilities > Access and Linkage of Agricultural Chains to Markets</i>	
Challenge(s):	Weak linkages between producers and their chain actors and markets
Intervention(s):	Support for commodity value chain development
Results:	1. Profile of value chain actors for pineapple and small ruminant to inform interventions
Lessons Learnt:	1. There is need for sustained, private-sector motivated dialogue on value chain development to promote better cooperation among chain actors

Implementation of activities under Component 3 of the Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) focusing on "Improving Market Linkages to Contribute to Agricultural Enterprise Development" started in Saint Lucia in 2014 continued in 2015 with the profiling of selected producer groups, buyers and service providers in the pineapple and small ruminant value chains. This information has been compiled into a Directory which gives details on major producers and chain support agents (technical and financial services) for 15 CARIFORUM countries.

□ *Training on using a Cloud-based National Agricultural Market Information System*

<i>Impacts > Access and Linkage of Agricultural Chains to Markets</i>	
Challenge(s):	Weak agricultural market information systems locally
Intervention(s):	Training in use of the of the MIOA cloud-based market information database to improve national agricultural market information system (NAMIS) in St Lucia
Results:	1. Capacity of 7 local technicians built in managing price data collection and input into the MIOA database 2. Actions for improving the functioning of the NAMIS in St Lucia identified
Lessons Learnt:	2. There is need to capture a larger information set to better represent price information in local markets (especially for shipping & retail points)

With support from the Marketing Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) a three-day training of technicians of the MAFPCRD was facilitated in November of 2015. The training was facilitated by Frank Lam, IICA International Specialist – Agribusiness.

The activity's scope included a context-setting meeting with MAFPCRD staff which focused on leveraging market information for improved decision-making, training for National Agricultural Marketing and Information System (NAMIS) database³ administration and data entry, and field visits to principal price points in the local ecosystem including St Lucia Marketing Board/SLMB, Belle Vue Farmers' Cooperative, Consolidated Foods Limited/CFL and the Castries Central market. These are some of the major actors in collecting and supplying price information which has been earmarked for inclusion in the NAMIS. Seven local technicians from the Marketing and Corporate Services Units were trained on inputting data into the cloud-based NAMIS database.



NAMIS training facilitator Frank Lam (foreground left) engaging trainees

The activity helped to identify core elements needed for a sustainable and functional NAMIS in Saint Lucia, as well as existing gaps/challenges that would have to be addressed such as better specifying the kind of information/information product(s) that end-users value, recognizing that this may change with changes in the market and identifying key supporters/contributors in the NAMIS ecosystem and improving their engagement for utilization, validation and also population of additional market information. Going forward, IICA will be supporting the incorporation of existing market information into the

NAMIS database and its utilization for decision-making on agricultural development.

- *Support to a Capacity Building Programme in Greenhouse/Protected Agriculture Techniques and Technologies for Small Farmers*

Impacts > Access and Linkage of Agricultural Chains to Markets	
Challenge(s):	Low levels of adoption and valuation of improved techniques and technologies associated with greenhouse production
Intervention(s):	Support the development and implementation of a training programme inclusive of the operationalizing of established greenhouses to facilitate the training programme
Results:	1. Supported development of approved project proposal
Lessons Learnt:	1. Public-private collaborations such as this intervention could be a sustainable mechanisms to increase farmer access to and capacity to utilize improved technologies

In support of efforts to promote the adoption of productivity-increasing technologies and farming systems by small producers/entrepreneurs in Saint Lucia, IICA in collaboration with the

³ The NAMIS database can be found at: <http://www.sima-amis.com/index.php?lang=es>

MAFFPCRD and the Embassy of the Republic of Mexico in Saint Lucia. The initiative aims at operationalizing a programme of training on greenhouse technologies, utilizing the established greenhouses situated at the Ebenezer Farm and at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. Operationalizing of the programme has continued into 2016.

3.2 STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS AND TO RURAL WELL-BEING

3.2.1 Productivity & Sustainability of Family Agriculture for Food Security and the Rural Economy

□ *Improving Socio-organizational and Agribusiness Management Capacities*

Impacts > Inclusive & Equitable Revitalization of the area-based economy > Knowledge Management & Development of Capabilities for Inclusion & Equity	
Challenge(s):	Weak practices and capabilities to manage and leverage knowledge
Intervention(s):	1. Build capacity of women producers/processors of the SLNRWP in organizational structuring the supports entrepreneurial and agribusiness development interests of members (individual and collective)
Results:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-learning guides/resources for enterprise planning and market/consumer research to inform on product development/specification 2. Better understanding and appreciation of women entrepreneurs on operations planning, as well as preparation for entering the market and building clientele
Lessons Learnt:	1. Closer attention to designing the value offering of products is needed to have better market/consumer reception



Supporting improved organizational and entrepreneurial processes with the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP)



IICA supported the participation of members of the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) in building understanding of financial management for small business/enterprise to support improved financial accounting capacities within groups. Two SLNRWP members, both being executive members of their individual Clusters as well as members of

the national executive, participated in a training course run by the Saint Lucia Youth Business Trust (SLYBT) in July of 2015. The knowledge and capacity built will be beneficial to governance of their clusters as well as their own small enterprises.

The second component of the project actions focused on evaluating existing operational practices and arrangements for the production of a priority product in three of the four national

clusters⁴. The priority commodities by Cluster were: local flours (green banana; plantain; macambou; breadfruit)-Babonneau; soaps – Canaries; and plantain and dasheen chips – Micoud. Each cluster applied an Operations Evaluation form which allowed for identification of strengths and weaknesses, as well as the level of readiness of existing operations based on key systematic and critical input needs to engage and/or participate in a targeted market. The assessment also allowed for planning to improve current operations as the basis for enhancing socio-organizational procedures/processes and required levels of governance/supervision to accomplish the same. Evaluation forms were adjusted to suit the specific product of the participating cluster.

Based on the evaluation and discussions on the specific products, evidence was found warranting a re-evaluation of the products to understand cost of production, pricing for entering targeted local markets, as well as product redesign to improve the value proposition. These surveys consisted of a few focused questions providing feedback on place of purchase, product preferences (including a product choice card presenting the offerings in question) and basic demographics. Similar consumer research surveys were prepared for the other participating Clusters with action to implement findings from the exercises slated for 2016.



Women of the Babonneau Cluster practicing use of the consumer survey.

□ *Product Differentiation and Value-Added Strategy for Producer Organizations linked to Family Agriculture*

<i>Impact> Strengthening of Family Farming associative processes for food security and rural economy</i>	
Challenge(s):	Limited capacity of family farmers to leverage low-cost product development and differentiation options
Intervention(s):	Training in Permaculture and use of the Perone Hive Body for increased honey production and product differentiation
Results:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity of 35 stakeholders in the local apiculture industry to build and adapt low-cost beekeeping technology and management system built 2. Capacity of beekeepers in Saint Lucia to improve hive management and honey production strengthened 3. Beekeeper understanding of available options for product differentiation linked to both product and production system enhanced
Lessons Learnt:	1. Improving hive management is a strategic priority for improving the productivity of apiaries in Saint Lucia

⁴ The Anse Kawet Cluster was not included in 2015 given a focus on service/experiential products for the tourist market which would require a different approach.

In August of 2015, the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia, with support from Dr. Manuel Sanchez of the IICA Delegation in the Dominican Republic, hosted a training workshop on the construction and management of Perone hives⁵ as a strategy for improving apiary health and differentiating honey.

Perone hives are a more natural hive structure that allows for differentiating honey as natural/organic which attracts higher prices. The activity focused on introducing the Perone hive technology, building an understanding of the required management and training on its construction. The training was conducted in collaboration with Mille Fleur Honey Producers Cooperative (MFHPC).

Discussion with participants focused on the advantages in comparatively lower cost for constructing the Perone hive and the ability of local beekeepers to produce the hives locally. There were several factors suggesting suitability of the Perone hive for beekeepers in Saint Lucia, including: ready availability of all material requirements for construction⁶; existence of suitably skilled and equipped carpenters/builders to produce the hives in sufficient numbers for local beekeepers; and comparative ease of construction versus traditionally-used hive bodies.



Participants learning to construct and manage the perone hive, as well as introducing brood to the new hives.

Photos: IICA Saint Lucia & R.Matthias, 2015

The constructed hives were situated at the apiaries of members of the MFHPC as the basis for observing the performance of the Perone hive in the local environment. Following from the training, participants from the training built Perone hives of their own for trial.

□ *Strengthening the Capacity of Small Ruminant Farmers for Improved Management of Herd and Forage Resources*

<i>Impact> Innovation and extension to achieve sustainable productive intensification and food security in Family Farming</i>	
Challenge(s):	Weak technical and managerial capacities of local stakeholders for improving small ruminant herd performance
Intervention(s):	1. Sensitization and factoring of climate-smart interventions to make the small ruminant value chain more resilient to climate change effects 2. Hands-on engagement/consultation on herd improvement and forage management for enhanced productivity
Results:	1. Capacity of small ruminant farmers in Saint Lucia to improve herd management and forage production strengthened 2. Portfolio of projects/activities supporting herd improvement and enhanced forage

⁵ For more information on the Perone hive, go to: (i) <http://goo.gl/854MNU> and (ii) <http://goo.gl/K1zvCa>

⁶ On the first day of the training two Perone hive bodies were constructed from White cedar/Powyè and Mabyè

<i>Impact> Innovation and extension to achieve sustainable productive intensification and food security in Family Farming</i>	
	management developed
Lessons Learnt:	1. Improving herd management and nutrition are strategic priorities for improving the productivity of small ruminant holdings in Saint Lucia

A field visit and consultation session for local small ruminant producers was facilitated by IICA's technician Dr. Manuel Sanchez at the GAPS farm of Irene and Gabriel. The purpose of the activity was to observe improvements in farm management, herd management and animal nutrition following from previous engagements and trouble-shoot options/solutions to new challenges. The activity was conducted in collaboration with the Saint Lucia Ruminant Cooperative Society Limited (SLRCS). The participants comprised of existing farmers as well as two other persons interested in becoming small ruminant producers.

With respect to nutrition, local producers were advised to improve the production and use of locally-available, high-quality forage species; namely: Mulberry (*Morus alba*); Leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*); Tithonia/wild sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia*) and Gliricidia (*Gliricidia sepium*). On the matter of herd management, the main concern was the overall poor herd records which prevented producers from evaluating the effectiveness of their breeding and also feeding activities. Producers were advised to enforce a more controlled breeding plan to better use already available breeds (e.g. Boer goats) in on-farm herd improvement. The consultation also identified farm-level interventions for climate change adaptation to mitigate effects of increasing mean surface temperature and rainfall variability.

With Dr. Sanchez' input the producers agreed to pursue a cooperative forage production programme (initiated in 2015) and a breeding plan and selection programme.

3.2.1 Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories

□ *Facilitating Capacity Building of Local Technicians*

<i>Impact> Innovation and Outreach Towards Sustainable Production Intensification and Food Security</i>	
Challenge(s):	Agriculture is a highly knowledge-intensive discipline requiring capacity building/enhancement
Intervention(s):	Build capacity in technical areas relevant to agriculture and rural development in the Caribbean
Results:	1. Enhanced capacities for planning and implementing technical interventions in agriculture and rural development;
Lessons Learnt:	1. Learning through exchange visits helps to increase the volume and quality of information that can be shared and helps to reinforce good practices learnt/experienced

In 2015 IICA supported the training of Table 4 below is a concise presentation of the number of persons trained and the areas of skill development. Training was facilitated through several supporting mechanisms, including technical cooperation agreements with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA).

Table 4: Subject Areas Supported for Capacity Building

Supporting Institution/ Mechanism	Number of technicians trained	Areas of Training
SAGARPA	5	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Ports, Airports and Borders <input type="checkbox"/> In vitro Clonal Propagation of Tropical Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Biotechnology and its application in Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Efficient use of Rainwater and Runoff in Agricultural Activities
10 th EDF Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Project	14	<input type="checkbox"/> Building Capacity for Compliance to the US Food Safety Modernization Act <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean International Food Safety Security Conference <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Plant Quarantine <input type="checkbox"/> Cochran Fellowship Training in Risk Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention <input type="checkbox"/> GIS for Animal Health Surveillance <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius (Colloquium, CCFFV19, CCFH47) <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th Meeting of Caribbean Plant Health Directors <input type="checkbox"/> 10 th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM10) <input type="checkbox"/> SPS Transparency Workshop and 64 th Meeting of the SPS
Flagship Projects	1	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management of Water Resources and Adaptation of Family Farming to Climate Change

A total of 20 technicians from Saint Lucia benefited from these opportunities to build/enhance their capacity to make interventions in these areas.

3.3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Natural Resources Management and Adaptation to Climate Change for Agriculture

- *Adapting ECS Agriculture for Food Security and Development in a Changing Climate*

<i>Impact> Member countries have improved knowledge on how to design and implement plans, policies and actions to increase the resilience of production systems to climate change</i>	
Challenge(s):	Inadequate institutional capacity of both public and private organizations which limit planning and action on climate change adaptation and mitigation
Intervention(s):	Training on Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Development Planning
Results:	1. More than 30 agriculture and non-agriculture Permanent Secretaries, Planners and technicians trained in climate-proofing methodology for planning
Lessons Learnt:	1. Climate-proofing methodologies have high synergy with traditional planning processes for technical actions and can be easily incorporated into methodology for technical cooperation

In collaboration with the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), IICA conducted a practice-oriented training on integrating climate change adaptation into development planning. The training course was held from September 8 – 11, 2015 and was based on the OECS Guidance which focuses on mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into agricultural planning. The specific objectives of the training were to:

1. Raise awareness of the importance of adapting the agricultural sector to climate change and the need to work in collaboration with other sectors;
2. Strengthen the technical and methodological capacities of sector ministries and IICA staff in the OECS for integrating climate change adaptation into development planning in the agricultural sector;
3. Strengthen relationships between selected key actors and regional exchange on climate change priorities, projects and actions.

The most telling element of the training was the extent to which cross-sectoral and multi-tiered technicians were integrated. Permanent Secretaries and technicians from Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, Planning and Trade were featured at the training and helped to underscore common interests and rationale for treating with potentially adverse effects of climate change on national development – not limited to agriculture, but recognizing inter-relations between the agriculture sector and other productive sectors. The activity was complemented by a Climate-proofing assessment of the small ruminant value chain in Saint Lucia, as well as the launch of the Caribbean Climate



The workshop was attended by a combination of technicians and senior decision-makers from several Ministries

Smart Agriculture Forum (CCSAF) as follow-up mechanisms supporting adoption and implementation of the training.

3.3.2 Comprehensive Management of Environmental Risks for Production

□ *Building a more Climate-Change Resilient Small Ruminant Value Chain in Saint Lucia*

<p><i>Impact> Increased knowledge, information and methodologies on how to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from environmental risks</i></p> <p><i>> Increased technical capabilities for understanding and implementing good practices to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from environmental risks</i></p>	
Challenge(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low capacity of public and private institutions to promote and implement measures for adapting agriculture to climate change and mitigating its effects, as well as promoting integrated risk management in agriculture 2. Limited adaptive capacity of small ruminant producers to climate-change effects
Intervention(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of the climate change adaptation needs and options for climate-proofing the small ruminant value chain in St Lucia 2. Development of a collaborative forage bank managed by the SLSRC to improve access to grass/pasture as well as boost the price competitiveness of production systems
Results:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased awareness of primary stakeholders/partners on climate-change related threats to value chain system 2. Enhanced capacity of local technicians in incorporating climate-readiness/resilience in agricultural planning processes 3. Technical report specifying adaptation needs and options for climate-proofing the small ruminant value chain in St Lucia 4. Climate-smart strategic plan (draft) for development of the small ruminant value chain
Lessons Learnt:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The methodology can be readily adopted and incorporated into capacity building and planning actions for stakeholders and personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture 2. Farmers are generally cognizant of climate-related threats and susceptibility to various bio-physical and socio-economic impacts but still rarely invest any resources into reducing exposure. This suggests that farmers are unconvinced that the investment in additional measures to reduce vulnerability is warranted on account of their perception of the cost-risk trade-off.

As follow-up to the adapting ECS Agriculture for Food Security and Development in a Changing Climate, the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia supported adoption of the learned principles and procedures for integrating climate change adaptation into planning. This was done through an assessment of climate-proofing options, a national dialogue to validate findings and support to the Saint Lucia Ruminant Cooperative Society Limited (SLRC) in establishing a forage bank in Beausejour.



Farm visits while conducting the climate-proofing assessment



Hosting the national dialogue on findings of the assessment



Establishing plantings of local, high-quality forage



Land-clearing to establish the forage bank

The findings of both a Value Chain Assessment (CARDI and the MAFFPCRD) as well as the Climate-proofing Assessment concluded that the production node of the small ruminant value chain – identified as the most important to overall value chain development - remains the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and thus warrants interventions that support climate-change resilience as a strategy to improve the value chain. The national dialogue gave an opportunity for hearing of both findings and identifying areas of synergy as the basis for focused interventions.

The forage bank activity focused on establishing a management plan for the forage bank and propagating material at the allotment provided to the SLRC by the MAFFPCRD in Beausejour. The draft management plan was prepared through a face-to-face meeting with executive members of the SLRC with support from livestock officers of the MALFFPCRD based at the Beausejour Agricultural Station. Follow-up engagements with livestock technicians are planned to finalize the feeding and thus forage planting regime.

□ *Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Forum*

<i>Impact> Active and informed participation by the agricultural sector in global initiatives to address climate change and manage natural resources</i>	
Challenge(s):	1. Absence of a strong platform on which agricultural sector stakeholders, as well as other relevant actors could exchange experiences and knowledge on climate change issues and options for adaptation and mitigation
Intervention(s):	1. Climate Smart Agriculture Forum as mechanism for stakeholder dialogue and coordination on climate change issues
Results:	1. Awareness and understanding of climate change adaptation and mitigation principles and actions enhanced for a cadre of 40 local agriculture and non-agriculture stakeholders
Lessons Learnt:	1. Many of the interventions needed for integrating climate change are well understood but require practical application in normal functions

Recognizing the urgency of adaptation, adoption of climate smart agricultural⁷ practices and the need for a stronger platform on which agricultural sector stakeholders, as well as other relevant actors could exchange experiences and knowledge, IICA in 2015 initiated the Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Forum (CCSAF).

The CCSAF exists as a neutral space where all can share, learn, plan and promote policies, strategies and actions towards more productive, low emission, sustainable agricultural systems that are well adapted to the regions changing climate. This approach allows for enriched national dialogue as well as exchanges within the Caribbean for learning and knowledge auctioning. In 2015, 2 webinars were hosted (Webinar #1: Launch – Climate Change Context in the Caribbean; Webinar #2: Integrated Soil Management for resilient agriculture to climate change) which engaged more than 40 local participants and close to 300 regionally.

□ *Extreme Environmental Communication and Information System Guideline: Agricultural Sector in Saint Lucia*

<i>Impact> Increased technical capabilities for understanding and implementing good practices to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from environmental risks</i>	
Challenge(s):	Limited availability of agriculture-specific information and knowledge products supporting primary stakeholder adaptation to climate change
Intervention(s):	Support the development of Communication and Information management guidelines for generating agriculture-specific information and knowledge products
Results:	1. Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) Guidelines for Saint Lucia
Lessons Learnt:	1. While much of the information needed to generate agriculture-specific products is already available the synthesis and coordination processes to generate it need support

As a follow-up to the assessment of agriculture's vulnerability to climate change conducted by IICA in 2014, the action on developing communication guidelines focused on generating value added information that supports the enhanced adaptive capacity of primary stakeholders. This intervention was a recommendation from the 2014 assessment.

Using a questionnaire designed after a knowledge management assessment instrument to identify/evaluate available institutional frameworks, knowledge management processes, internal and external stakeholders, and knowledge products and services. Local stakeholders and contributors to the generation of existing data, information and value-added information on climate change and extreme weather were engaged. This action yielded a number of insights on specific agriculture-focused products that can be generated in the short-run, as well as likely collaborators. These findings were then tabled at a national dialogue forum to validate

⁷ Climate smart agriculture is defined as agricultural practices/methodologies that sustainably increase productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduce/remove greenhouse gases (mitigation) and enhance achievement of national food security and development goals.

findings and to help prioritize next steps for the sustainable generation of targeted information and knowledge products. The developed guidelines provide recommendation on pragmatic and integrated approaches to meeting the information and knowledge demands of agricultural stakeholders in the event of a disaster. It advocates the use of utilizing traditional means of communication of audio, video and data augmented with GIS-based value-added information to the various stakeholders.

3.4 IMPROVING AGRICULTURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SECURITY

3.4.1 Promoting Dialogue between the National Quality Infrastructure and the Agriculture Sector in Saint Lucia

<i>Impact> Comprehensive Management of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary risks for resilient agriculture</i>	
Challenge:	Making quality and standards-related services more relevant to the demands/needs of clientele
Intervention:	Workshop on "Promoting Dialogue between the National Quality Infrastructure and the Agriculture Sector in Saint Lucia"
Results:	1. Workshop Report inclusive of prioritized quality infrastructure services and Framework for Action for developing/improving QI Services to Agriculture
Lessons Learnt:	1. There is need for clear cost-benefit evaluation of quality and standard application to demonstrate gains to intended stakeholders;

With the aim of strengthen the demand-orientation of QI institutions' services so that services are better aligned to private sector and consumer needs, and are more accessible through an improved and better coordinated national quality infrastructure, IICA in collaboration with the SLBS, CROSQ, GIZ and MAFFPCRD hosted the national dialogue which engaged 60 local participants on the importance of quality to the development of agriculture value chains and the sector. The dialogue helped in making quality and standards-related services more relevant to the demands/needs of clientele helped to raise awareness among primary actors on the value-added gains from adopting SPS and other quality requirements for more active trade and market participation. In addition, the forum informed on the methodology for providing quality and standards-related services used by the SLBS in other sectors that it serves.



The National Dialogue Forum was supported with funds under the project entitled "Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of Commitments undertaken under the EPA, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures



Focused on people – promoting competitiveness and sustainable agriculture

- IICA Annual Report 2015 -

PART IV: PARTNERSHIP 4 PROGRESS

Building partnerships and inter-agency collaboration is an important mandate for IICA and a strategic focus for delivering meaningful technical support. In 2014, IICA collaborated with a number of development partners to advance progress on agriculture and rural development. These are highlighted below.

□ *Supporting Improved Capacities of Agricultural Stakeholders*



IICA/CFL/SLAFY: SLAFY and CFL are proud partners with IICA on HOOPSS and have continued supporting the initiative into its fifth phase (2016). Their efforts are instrumental to making the initiative sustainable and meaningful to the lives of participating students, their schools and their communities.

□ *Supporting the Development of Agricultural Small-holders/Entrepreneurs and their Groups*



IICA/UNDP GEF: IICA's and the UNDP GEF's scope of work have a number of common areas which enable cooperation and collaboration. Joint cooperation between IICA and UNDP GEF are currently aimed at supporting the East-Coast Sargassum Project and the Chief Tree Initiative.



IICA/GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF MEXICO: IICA has positioned itself as the main facilitator/intermediary for the direct technical cooperation support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Mexico to the Government of Saint Lucia in the field of agriculture. The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Mexico in Saint Lucia is working with IICA to undertake interventions in areas of adapting greenhouse technology, germplasm management and improvement, as well as youth in agriculture development.

□ *Technical Cooperation*



IICA/CARDI: During the year CARDI and IICA collaborated on the Caribbean Action Agricultural Policy Programme in addition to a number of other initiatives under the IICA – CARDI Agreement.



IICA/FAO: IICA continues to partner with FAO on numerous regional and national programmes.



IICA/MAFPFCRD: The MAFPFCRD is IICA's main partner in Saint Lucia and the two agencies work jointly on a wide range of activities. During the year, the major activity was the operationalizing of the Mexico-IICA-Government of Saint Lucia, Triangular Cooperation Project in Protected Agriculture, including supporting capacity-building of staff and the introduction of adaptive measures for the installed greenhouses.



**Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Energy, Science and Technology** IICA/MOSDEST: Leveraging the Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Forum (CCSAF), IICA is building closer collaboration with MOSDEST and the MAFPFCRD for inter-ministerial cooperation on climate-proofed development.



IICA/MTHCI: IICA is collaborating with the MTHCI in developing agro-tourism opportunities for local producers and producer groups with a focus on creating sustainable livelihood options; particularly in rural territories.



IICA/OECS: IICA has an ongoing working relationship with the OECS Secretariat. During the year, IICA provided technical and secretariat support to the Meetings of the OECS Agriculture Task Force, preparation of strategic documents for the Meeting of OECS Council of Ministers for Agriculture, capacity building initiatives on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures, and advancing the implementation of the OECS Regional Plan of Action for Agriculture.

