



## Belize

### Significant achievements in 2011

- 1. Development and implementation of the Belize Rural Area-Based Development Project.** IICA assisted the country with the establishment and operation of the National Rural Development Coordinating Committee (NRDCC). This National Committee is supported by a Technical Working Group (TWG), where IICA supported the construction of a conceptual framework to guide the design of the National Strategy. Also, supported the first National Forum on Rural Development in Belize to obtain a status report. Active participation in the development of the Belize Rural Area Based Development Strategy (BRADS) and an implementation Plan.
- 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.** A strategic alliance has been formed with stakeholders and beneficiaries for the implementation of this regional project, under the support and guidance of IICA Office. An alliance including Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, CARDI, IICA, Help for Progress, TCGA and the US embassy have coordinated efforts to improve the livelihood of over 70 farming families in the Border communities of Jalacte and San Vicente. Corn and beans production has improved due to new production practices implemented and post harvest losses has minimized with the new technology in threshing, drying and storage introduced.
- 3. Development of a National Strategy for the Production and Marketing of Locally Produced Organic Products.** The Belize Organic Alliance (BOA) Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) was formed using the PGS scheme developed by the IICA Office in Belize and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The PGS scheme was developed along with three producer group as a farmer led initiative to provide an alternative form of organic certification for local products other than the Third Party Certification. The BOA group is now a registered company and is working with other organizations to promote this PGS certification scheme for local production. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Belize National Organic Council (BNOCC) was also formed. This was an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and IICA to have an entity to look into the matters of Organic agriculture in Belize focusing on standards, policy, strategy and general direction.