



## Saint Lucia

### Significant achievements in 2011

- The capabilities of selected agribusinesses and technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries have been strengthened and they have increased their knowledge capacity and improved operating systems through training. In 2011, the IICA office held 9 major workshops and trained some 88 entrepreneurs and 7 technicians from the Ministry. Workshops were hosted in various disciplines and include “*Propagation Techniques for Selected Commercial Crops*” to assist the Superior Broom Producers to expand their product range and income base from their Nursery facility. Training was also delivered for rural women agricultural producers and agro-processors, in “*Agricultural health and Food Safety Guidelines for the Small Scale Producers and Processors*”, and semi-industrial processing equipment were provided to the St. Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) who are engaged in agro-processing. The training and equipment are expected to greatly increase productivity and quality, as well as ensure standardization of their products and processes to meet agricultural health and food safety regulations.
- The use of appropriate and adaptable technology in the agricultural sector was advanced through the continued introduction and installation of the low-cost biogas digesters. IICA repaired one damaged biodigester, and installed two new units with support from IICA’s Director General, following his commitments from his visit to St. Lucia in September. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF), these digesters are to serve as training/ demonstrations models for pork producers in an effort to curb the indiscriminate dumping of effluent into rivers and streams. The IICA Office also identified 6 new farmers for biodigester training, and signed an agreement with CEHI (Caribbean Environmental Health Institute) for training of 100 farmers in water quality and waste management. IICA has also begun the establishment of rainwater harvesting systems in schools on the island to promote rainwater use for agriculture and to serve as teaching instruments for agricultural science programmes in the schools.

- Leadership, networking and participation of youth and women in rural organizations were strengthened and increased through the continued engagement of schools and organizations with the Saint Lucia Agricultural Forum for Youth (SLAFY), and the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers. Major output of this engagement was the request from five new secondary and primary schools to become affiliated to SLAFY and the development and approval of a logo which was designed by a ten year old primary school student. The Logo will be used to brand all marketable produce reaped from the school farms thereby enabling them to receive premium prices at the various marketing outlets on the island. The networking ability of women across various disciplines and social and economic strata was also enhanced through the official launch of the two UN Women Projects and the hosting of a luncheon on International Women's Day 2011. This activity allowed the members of various clusters affiliated to the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) to interact with women from other organizations, the Government departments and institutions in rural development in Saint Lucia.