

# IICA



## Activities in Guyana

Year 1 No. 3, June, 1994

### PARTICIPATORY ACTION PLANNING

The Ministry of Agriculture convened a Task Force on Agricultural Technology (TFAT) as part of a joint MOA, NARI and IICA effort to design a more responsive system for responding to farmers needs. The role of TFAT is:

- to design appropriate policy for the development and transfer of technology, and
- to develop an improved coordination mechanism for the work of agencies involved in agricultural technology.

Local IICA consultant, Leslie Simpson, completed the document 'Review of the Delivery of Agricultural Research, Extension and Training Services in Guyana.' This Review was circulated to members of TFAT for their information and comments.

### STRENGTHENING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Work continued in the 9 Amerindian communities of Region 2. Problems identified by the community participants were prioritized, as were the

necessary actions to resolve the constraints.

Errol Brewster, of Heritage Television Productions, has initiated work on a video to document the on-going Participatory Research Methodology being pioneered under the IICA/FUTURES Project in Region 2.

Two local female consultants have completed their respective studies on Rural Women Food Producers in Guyana. The studies deal with policies, technology and marketing.

The draft evaluation report on the Integrated Rural Development Project at Moraikobai was received from the interdisciplinary team headed by John Clowes, Assistant Chief Crops and Livestock Officer, MOA.

Technical support was provided to the inter-institutional Mabaruma school feeding and school gardening project in Region 1. This project is now getting underway as most of the funding has been committed.

### SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

One manager of the Guyana Defence Force farm at Garden of Eden was trained at St. Stanislaus College Farm. A record system was installed at GDF farm and the dairy herd was evaluated. An economic projection of the herd was prepared in collaboration with CARDI.

Ten CXC-Agriculture Science Teachers from Region 6 received in-service training during three days at St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Center. IICA provided the customary assistance.

A joint activity was initiated with NDDP to assist farmers and the main milk collector in Region 5 in improving milk quality by improving cow and milk handling practices.

A field level Action Plan for transfer and validation of dairy production technology to farmers was prepared in collaboration with CARDI.

A request for volunteer technical assistance in the formulation of a project for Milk and Beef Processing and Marketing in Guyana was prepared and presented to VOCA, via IICA Headquarters.

Continued

## SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TROPICAL FRUIT CROPS

MSA Faroze completed an evaluation of the agro-processing industry in Guyana. The results of the survey were presented at a workshop for fruit processors.

Mrs. Judith Francis (CARIRI), who visited Guyana from June 12 to 15, 1994 participated in this workshop of 20 persons from the sub-sector.

The project participated along with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC) and NARI in the establishment of a working group on Research and Development of Selected Fruits, on June 30, 1994 at NARI, Mon Repos. Several assignments, responsibilities and deadline dates were agreed upon.

In the analysis of their common problems the decision was made to form an association of agro-processors so that lobbying government and resolving common problems could be made more effective.

## STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH SERVICES

The second phase of the Agricultural Health project was completed and submitted to the MOA for comment and approval. The new project is called, "Improving Agricultural Health Services in Guyana to Facilitate Trade." It seeks to assist Guyana in building the capability to monitor and control the health status of livestock and crops.

Funding approval was received from the French Interministerial Fund for Caribbean/French Guiana (FIC) for the multinational project "Hemoparasite Information Network for the Guianas". This project is a collaboration between IICA, CIRAD-EMVT in French Guiana, and the veterinary divisions of the Ministries of Agriculture in Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

A survey of hemoparasites of cattle has been initiated in Guyana and Suriname, and is ongoing. MoA personnel in Guyana and Suriname collect blood and demographic data, and conduct some laboratory analysis. Local processing includes making and reading stained blood smears, capillary centrifuge technique, card agglutination test, centrifugation, harvest and freezing of serum. Serum samples are split in two; one sample remains in the country,

creating a serum bank for future use. Guyana will send samples to PANAFTOSA for Foot and Mouth Disease testing. The other half is sent to the CIRAD-EMVT laboratory in Cayenne, for ELISA and Western blot testing for Trypanosomes, Anaplasma and Babesia.

The government veterinary service of French Guiana conducted some Brucella and Bovine Leukosis tests on the same samples. Results are returned to the Chief Veterinary Officers. Data analysis is done by the IICA epidemiologist, in collaboration with CIRAD-EMVT and the Ministries of Agriculture.

An interview on IICA's involvement in agricultural health activities in Guyana was aired on Radio Antilles. The discussion focussed on the hemoparasite project, bovine tuberculosis and the Carambola Fruit Fly prevention program.

Animal health instruction was given to ten (10) CXC agriculture teachers from Berbice at the St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre. Topics covered were clinical signs, treatment and prevention of common diseases of dairy cattle, sheep, poultry and swine.

*IICA Activities in Guyana is a monthly bulletin with information on actions considered important to the agriculture development process. Editor-in-Chief: Jerry La Gra; Editors: Aletha Isaacs & Atma Shivbarran. 18 Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana.; Phone 592-2-68347/68835 Fax 592-2-58358*

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System. It was founded in 1942 with the objectives to encourage, promote and support cooperation among its 33 Member States, in pursuit of agricultural development and rural well-being. The Office in Guyana was opened in March 1975. Five complementary projects are on-going: Participatory Action Planning; Strengthening Rural Development; Supporting Development of Livestock Systems; Supporting Development of Tropical Fruit Crops; Strengthening Agricultural Health Services. The Office presently includes two international and four national professionals and nine general services staff.