



Technical Cooperation

IICA resources projects: 1

External resources projects: 1

Saint Lucia

Main contributions during 2013

- Productive and knowledge capacity in the vegetable sub-sector was increased through the installation and entry into operation of two fully automated protected agriculture structures with a joint surface area of 2,720 m². The project¹ was supported by the Government of Mexico, represented by the Secretariat for Foreign Relations and COFUPRO, with contributions from IICA, the Government of Saint Lucia and the two main beneficiaries, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) and Ebenezer Farms. The main idea was to have a basis for performance evaluation at the level of the private farmer, while at the same time having the benefit of exposing tertiary level agricultural science students to protected agriculture technology. A total of six specialized training sessions in protected agriculture were held in Saint Lucia and at the Regional Centre for Integrated Services for Protected Agriculture (CRESIAP), based in Guadalajara, Mexico, for twenty seven agricultural technicians and twelve vegetable farmers.
- Production and marketing systems were enhanced for pineapple agribusinesses through the establishment of a Dialogue Platform among stakeholders in the pineapple industry, and a strategic development plan was put in place to oversee the management of the pineapple value chain for the next five years.
- The knowledge capacities of twenty-two members of the Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth were strengthened through training in project proposal writing and funds procurement to improve access to funding sources for their development projects.
- The knowledge capacities of forty members of the Saint Lucia Network for Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) were strengthened through training in business skills. Additionally, the business activities of twelve members were expanded through access to funding from an IICA small loans revolving fund. The funds provided have enabled the members of the SLNRWP to overcome one of their immediate constraints, which was ready access to affordable short-term financing to assist them in the expansion of their product lines and in undertaking activities such as packaging and labeling to improve product quality and standards. The loan scheme has also afforded them the opportunity to procure semi-industrial equipment which has not only positively impacted quality but has also led to increased productivity for members of the Network.

1. The total Project investment to date is estimated at: US\$534,569.00 which includes, installation of the greenhouse structures, crop production materials and inputs costs, training courses in Saint Lucia and Mexico, and labor contribution from IICA, Ministry of Agriculture, SALCC and Ebenezer Farm.



- Participation of youth in agriculture was significantly enhanced through the hosting of three panel discussions and a lecture series for secondary school students and teachers on emerging issues critical to agriculture and rural development in Saint Lucia. This was achieved through implementation of the third phase of the Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools (HOOPSS)² Project. The main concept behind the initiative was to target primary and secondary schools to transmit valuable agricultural knowledge to them, so that youth membership in agricultural clubs could increase, and ensure the creation of a cadre of agricultural leaders to drive the development of agriculture in the country. In essence, the concept of a youth project was a direct mitigating response to the decreasing participation of youth in agriculture. Another important component of HOOPSS was to address the nutritional concerns of school feeding programs through the encouragement of cultivation and consumption of fresh, wholesome foods. The last two phases of the HOOPSS Project have been financed jointly by Consolidated Foods Limited (CFL), the largest supermarket chain in Saint Lucia, and IICA.
- The knowledge capacities of three agricultural and environmental technicians were enhanced through a training course on methodologies for integrating climate adaptation into development planning, with the aim of building local and regional capacity for climate-proofing the agricultural sector.

2. The HOOPSS Project is an initiative of the St. Lucia Forum for Youth (SLAFY) as a means increasing the engagement of youth in agriculture.