



Significant achievements in 2017

Agriculture Opportunity for development in the Americas



- Under the EU 10th EDF Intra ACP SPS Project and with support from IICA staff in Barbados, logistics support was provided for the enrolment of one senior staff member within the Ministry of Agriculture to pursue a Master's Degree in Food Law at the Michigan State University. This initiative forms part of the improvement of the technical capabilities within the country to advise on legislative modernization, harmonization and implementation in matters relating to Agricultural Health and Food Safety.
- Through a FAO externally-funded project, IICA provided administrative and technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to conduct clean-up and land restoration activities, as well as a series of training events on disaster risk management and land husbandry. Under the project, IICA provided administrative and technical support in the implementation of the rehabilitation project. With this effort, nine farm roads were cleared and rehabilitated, to include building of wheel tracks, earth removal, building of drains, removal of debris and fallen trees. Twenty forest/eco trails were cleared and rehabilitated. This included the repair of infrastructure along the trails, widening and clearing of debris, construction of foot paths and steps, and reinforcing of trails. Three ecosites were improved, including the replacement of benches, gazebos, rails, stone works, signage and improved access. Six training sessions were conducted in various communities to strengthen the capacities of extension personnel and farm workers in disaster risk management and good land husbandry practices. A total of 143 persons participated in the training sessions. A two-day workshop was hosted to improve the capacity of forestry technicians and trail maintenance workers in the use of small equipment and maintenance of trails.
- Through a horizontal cooperation effort, IICA in Dominica and in St Vincent and the Grenadines worked closely together to support the development of the coffee subsector in the respective Islands. The Institute engaged a team of three experts, including one technician from the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and two technicians from the Costa Rica Coffee Institute (ICAFÉ) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the coffee subsector and to provide strategic guidelines in developing the coffee subsector in Dominica.
- In advancing recommendations outlined in the assessment report, IICA supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in sponsoring a team of three technicians (two technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and one technician from IICA) to participate in a 5-day study tour to understudy the coffee industry in Costa Rica. The study tour was geared toward providing participants with a strategic focus for the planning and implementation of activities and actions required for the development of viable coffee industries. The objective of the mission was hinged on the technical assessment conducted by IICA and the recommendation for the short, medium and long term development of the technical capacities in the countries to support the emergence of viable coffee sub-sectors.
- In an effort to support the strengthening of producer organizations, IICA undertook an assessment of three producer groups to identify their strengths and weaknesses relating to governance, leadership and financial prudence. With the use of an Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool, a number of management and governance issues were identified among the groups. Consequently, a governance-training workshop was hosted and facilitated by IICA on

leadership, conducting meetings, governance and effective communication. Thirty persons from two producer groups benefited from the training.

- Under IICA's projects, a national consultation was held with twenty-eight representatives from the public and private sectors, including the Ministry of Agriculture (MOAF), the Ministry of Commerce, DEXIA, Bureau of Standards, CARDI, agro-processors, exporters, and producers. The objective of the event was to validate with the different interest groups the results achieved by a study that analyzed the dasheen (*sp. Colocassia esculenta*) value chain, carried out by CARDI in 2016, and to propose a plan of work that demonstrates the extension needs in the roots and tubers chain, with an emphasis on dasheen.
- IICA, through its technical cooperation programme and solidarity contribution from its staff, supported the rehabilitation and recovery process following the passage of Hurricane Maria by providing materials and equipment to reestablish and build resilience to production units. Over fifty farming families and five producer groups involved in various agricultural subsectors benefited, and a number of farm enterprises were restored including the replacement of five bee hives and the provision of bee supplement to service 215 hives; reestablishment of five acres of vegetables through the provision of seeds, fertilizers, chemicals and

hand tools and equipment; and rehabilitation of 25 rabbit cages and 3 sheep pens.

- Through an IICA-CARDI initiative in support of the recovery and rehabilitation process following the passage of Hurricane Maria, the Government of Dominica was assisted in improving seedling nursery infrastructure through the provision of three water pumps, seeds and seeding materials as well as technical support to quickly restore vegetable production. Eight communities and five producer groups were targeted and support was provided for rebuilding and rehabilitation of their productive capacities. The initiative provided equipment, seeds, plant nutrients and materials to repair sheds, livestock units and agro-chemicals.
- The Institute hosted two Caribbean climate smart agriculture webinars to raise awareness on best practices in promoting and supporting Climate Smart Agriculture under its resilience project. The capacities of twenty-five agricultural professionals were strengthened in climate smart agriculture and more specifically in the areas of ecosystem-based adaptation, such as on-farm actions for addressing climate change and sub-sectoral climate change impacts, livestock and fisheries subsectors. The webinars have identified, developed, promoted and disseminated innovative technologies and strategies aimed at building resilience in the agriculture sector in Dominica.



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

www.iica.int

