

DOMINICA

2005 Annual Report

The Contribution of IICA to
the Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

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WHAT IS IICA?

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the inter-American system, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to foster agricultural development and rural well-being in their territories.

Its presence in all of the Member States gives the Institute the flexibility it needs to move resources between countries and regions, in order to design and adapt cooperation initiatives intended to address national and regional priorities, facilitate the flow of information and improve the dissemination of best practices.

The 2002-2006 National Agenda provides the strategic framework for orienting IICA's actions during this four-year period. The general objective of IICA is to support the Member States in their pursuit of progress and prosperity in the hemisphere through the modernization of the rural sector, the promotion of food security, and the development of an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed, and socially equitable for the peoples of the Americas.

The Institute has its Headquarters in Costa Rica, and Offices in 34 countries of the Americas, as well as an Office for Europe located in Madrid, Spain. The Directorate for Strategic Partnerships works out of the IICA Office in Washington, D.C.

The Member States of IICA (comprising of five Regional Centres and Headquarters) are:

Andean, Central, Northern, & Southern Regions: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, The United States of America Uruguay, Venezuela

The 14 Countries of the Caribbean Region: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Its Permanent Observers are: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Communities, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania Federation, Russia, and Spain.

IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of Rural Communities in the Commonwealth of DOMINICA for 2005

1. Introduction

The Governing Board of the Pan American Union founded the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in 1942. IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture in the Western Hemisphere. The objectives of IICA are to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its member states to ensure sustained agricultural development and improved rural development. The IICA Office in Dominica completed in 2005 its 21 years of collaboration with Dominica's agricultural sector and rural communities.

In an effort to evaluate the progress made in executing the National Agenda and to report to national authorities, key stakeholders in agriculture and tourism, the private sector and civil society, a national report entitled "IICA's Contribution to the Agriculture and Rural Communities" was initiated in 2003 by the Director General of IICA, Dr. Chelston W. D. Braithwaite.

The national report is presented in the following sections:

- ❖ The state of agriculture and rural life in the Commonwealth of Dominica
- ❖ Summary of the national agenda
- ❖ Results of technical cooperation for 2004
 - Facilitating competitiveness and global trade
 - Promoting food safety and agricultural health
 - Strengthening rural communities
 - Hemispheric integration
 - Developing human capital
 - Environmental management
 - Institutional modernization
- ❖ Inter-Agency Cooperation
- ❖ Support provided in the development of national plans and strategies
- ❖ Future opportunities for cooperation

The IICA office in the Commonwealth of Dominica accomplished another successful year of collaboration with the public institutions and private institutions within the agricultural sector despite the many challenges confronting the sector as a result of internal and external factors.

2. Executive Summary

The IICA Office in Dominica continued in 2005 to aggressively promote the repositioning of agriculture and the development of an appropriate enabling environment to ensure the sustainability of the agriculture sector. The following highlights the significant achievements by the various Inter-thematic and supporting areas of action:

Facilitating competitiveness and global trade

The Office supported the establishment of the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA) to be affiliated to the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA) as the local chapter. This initiative will facilitate competitiveness within the herbal industry and was influenced from recommendations coming from the 7th International Conference on Herbal Medicine in the Caribbean by CARAPA and the 2nd AGM of the CHBA in St. Lucia in June, 2005.

Support for the development of agro-tourism continued with targeted national and institutional structures implementing Agri-tourism activities. National Consultation entitled “Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism”, undertaken in collaboration with the Programme Management Unit of the Eco-Tourism Development Programme in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Enterprise Development. IICA also hosted a seminar to improve technical capabilities of public technical extension officers in Agro-Tourism at the La Plaine Agricultural Training Centre. The Office organized and conducted the formal launching of the OAS/IICA project “**Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean**” in collaboration with the Agro-Tourism Centre in the IICA Barbados Office.

Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

IICA provided administrative support to the National SPS Committee (NSPSC) and selected to serve as the Secretariat for the NSPSC. Highlights of activities of the NSPSC included the adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPSM) as national standards, review of Dominica’s position paper for the 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (FICS), preparation of a Preliminary Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan for Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), and preparation of a preliminary Emergency Preparedness plan for Black Sigatoka.

Strengthening Rural Communities

IICA Office facilitated the implementation of three Caribbean Food & Nutrition Institute (CFNI) small grants projects in Fisheries, Organic Vegetable under Green House, and Small Scale Poultry Production. The Office also organized and conducted a workshop in collaboration with the Regional Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development to improve capacity of local community leaders, public sector institutions and international institutions working in the Carib Territory on the Methodology of the Territorial Approach.

Hemispheric Integration

The National Association for Youth in Agriculture (NAYA) and the Agro-Processors Association of Dominica (APAD), representing some of the key stakeholders in agriculture, was promoted as an important avenue for obtaining guidance on the requirements of the sector for the development of sustainable agriculture APAD continued to benefit from administrative support from the Office.

NAYA also continued to benefit from administrative support particularly to the hosting of the second Annual General Meeting; supporting the President of NAYA to participate in the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES), held in Braunwald, Switzerland, July 2005; and supporting three members of the Executive of NAYA to attend a Caribbean Agriculture For Youth (CAFY) workshop in Priority Setting, Organizational Development, and Introduction to Project Development and Management.

Developing Human Capital

The Office organised and conducted a five-day national workshop in Extension Methodologies in collaboration with the Department of Extension - University of the West Indies (UWI). Participants (30 extension officers) from both public and private institutions in the agriculture sector were exposed to the latest methodologies for Extension technicians.

Organic Farming for Entrepreneurs capabilities were enhanced through the efforts of the Regional Specialist in Education and Training. The Office facilitated staff of the Dominica State College (DSC) to attend a five-day Regional Course in Organic Agriculture (Training the Trainers) through the use of interactive techniques.

Environmental Management

The office collaborated with Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, FAO, CDB and the Regional Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development in the organization and conduct of a workshop "*Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture.*" Twenty-two (22) participants participated in the workshop which included participants from St. Lucia, Grenada, and from St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The workshop strengthened the skills of the participants in Vermiculture and particularly addressed the issue of organic fertilizer production for the expansion of organic agricultural production in Dominica and placed emphasis on the technique of Vermicomposting.

Institutional Modernization

Facilitated the exchange of a nine member team comprising of farmers and staff from National Properties Limited from St. Vincent to Dominica where they observed the agronomy of Dasheen and Hot Peppers, operational procedures of DEXIA and post-harvest handling of peppers and dasheen.

Quarterly press releases were published in various local newspapers, providing information on Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Avian Influenza, and activities of the Institute concerning workshops and seminars.

3. The State Of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Commonwealth Of Dominica In 2005

3.1 *Recent performance in the expanded agricultural sector*

The Agriculture sector continued in 2005 to make significant contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (16 % of GDP) and foreign exchange earnings (US\$12.6million) of Dominica. The overall performance of the agriculture sector in the Commonwealth of Dominica continues to be influenced by the performance of the banana industry despite the many efforts by the Government to diversify the sector. In 2005 the banana industry exported approximately 10,860 tonnes at a value of US\$5.8 million in comparison to 2004 when 12,975 tonnes was exported at a value of US\$6.4 million. Total agricultural exports decreased from US\$14.5 million in 2004 to US\$12.6 million in 2005 as a direct result of the decline in banana production from 12,975 tonnes in 2004 to 10,860 tonnes in 2005 (17% decrease) which led to a direct decline in foreign exchange earnings from US\$14.5 million in 2004 to US\$12.6 in 2005 (14% decrease). The continued reliance on bananas and the failure to develop systems that will achieve sustainable transformation of the public sector, increase investment by the private sector and improve the provision of financial services to the agriculture sector will continue to contribute to the vulnerability of the agricultural sector.

3.2 *Critical issues in the international and national context that impact Agriculture and rural life*

The progressive dismantling of trade barriers and preferences are the major challenges facing the Commonwealth of Dominica presently and may further suffer significant economic and social impacts. Dominica and the other islands in the OECS exporting bananas to the UK are relatively marginal trade partners for the European Union and the impact of the EPA on the trade and fiscal performance of the European Union will be minimal. For the OECS including Dominica on the other hand, the EU is a major trade partner. The EU already applies very low or zero tariffs on most of its imports from ACP countries and therefore the removal of EU trade barriers is expected to be a major obstacle for the market access of ACP States in general. Contrarily, ACP States who lower import tariffs will become more exposed to global competition and may also face loss of fiscal revenue. In Dominica, we face the challenge to modernize our economies and become more competitive. The transformation of the economy will imply major adjustment costs to ensure survival of the economy

In addition to the changes in international trading policies, the banana sector is seriously threatened by the confirmed presence of Black Sigatoka in the neighbouring sister island of Grenada. In the event of its entry into Dominica in a matter of time, several banana farms will be destroyed and the cost of control will make it extremely difficult to be competitive particularly as it relates to export.

Significant decline in market share of both regional and domestic markets have served to highlight the need and urgency for action in the agricultural sector in the Commonwealth of Dominica. The agriculture sector must position itself to exploit the benefits of the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME). The single market became officially operational on January 1, 2006 with an initial six member states (Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) to provide opportunities and markets for the movement of goods, services and factors of production (Capital and skills) under the CSME. The six independent OECS countries including Dominica are committed to be part of the process not later than the second half of 2006. Among the more pressing concerns of the OECS in relation to participation in the CSME, are trade concessions under the revised CARICOM treaty on commodities such as wheaten flour, beer and aerated beverages, as well as the speedy establishment of the proposed Caribbean Development Fund.

Despite the difficulties and challenges facing the agricultural sector, some farmers were able to resuscitate and revive their farms to stabilise production, particularly in the production and marketing of honey, potted plants, pumpkins and herbs and spices. A number of farmers were able to improve production with the introduction of improved farming techniques with the use of greenhouse technology, introduction of new plant varieties, development of an integrated pest management system, and increased establishment of off farm irrigation systems.

3.3. *The status of living conditions in rural communities*

The population of Dominica is currently around 71,700, virtually the same as in 1991 and little different from that in 1970. The fact that the population has hardly changed during the last 10 years despite the prevailing rate of natural increase indicates that there has been a high level of emigration. Migration has been a continuing feature of Dominican life over the last half century, almost always as a result of poverty and lack of employment. Without this safety-valve, it is difficult to see how most Caribbean islands could have coped with the living conditions particularly in rural communities on housing, land and services. Migration has also provided invaluable financial support to family members at home. Women as well as men have participated in this migration. However, migration also constitutes a brain drain and reduces support for elderly parents. Recent data has shown when men or women migrate from rural communities without their families, there is often a negative impact on family life with the following health concerns – lack of potable water and poor solid waste disposal, violence, drug abuse, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV) and incest. The major current concern is the fate of the banana industry. Since the announcement that preferential access to the EU (and particularly the UK) markets will be lost, acreage under bananas and output per acre have both fallen. Employment has followed downwards, “to compound the already unfavourable position, the morale of farmers has been at an all time low as reflected by the reduction in the number of farmers from 1,050 in 2004 to 810 at the end of 2005; the reduction in quality from being number one amongst the Windward Islands.

The IMF recommended the agriculture sector as the sector with the widest-spreading employment and income gains. Restructuring of the banana industry will improve export and foreign exchange earnings but will not substantially increase employment. This calls for an emphasis on crop diversification and agro processing equal to the emphasis on banana restructuring. Crop diversification can result in employment and income growth in the rural areas of Dominica. However, to be successful, diversification must be accompanied by a radical change in the infrastructure and marketing system for fruits and vegetables.

Rural poverty is a major challenge facing the sector. In an effort to achieve sustainable development of the agriculture sector, the promotion of linkages with the other sectors through various cooperation activities will be undertaken in Dominica for 2006.

4. Summary of the National Agenda

The National Agenda of Cooperation is a Planning document that provides the strategic framework for orienting IICA's activities in the Commonwealth of Dominica within the agriculture sector during the period 2002 – 2006. The priority issues identified for the period 2002 - 2006 are shown below:

- ❖ Develop National policies and strategies aimed at modernization and diversification of the agricultural sector with specific attention to production, product development, marketing, investment and sustainable management of natural resources.
- ❖ Establish mechanism for effective coordination between public and private sector agencies involved in agricultural and rural transformation.
- ❖ Generate and access improved appropriate technology for improved productivity in the agri-food sector.
- ❖ Develop national policy consistent with regional policy on GMO, and use of biotechnology in agriculture.
- ❖ Improve potential for commodity exports by meeting requirements for food safety, SPS and product standards through legislation and regulations, improved infrastructure and capacity building.
- ❖ Develop a national agricultural information system.
- ❖ Provide capacity building at all levels of the agric-food through training of the human resource with special emphasis on developing entrepreneurial skills and technical competencies required for modernization of the agricultural sector.

- ❖ Provide the enabling environment to foster growth and development of farmer organizations and rural based community groups involved in developmental activities such as agro-processing, agro-tourism/eco-tourism, commodity production and marketing.

5. Results of Technical Cooperation for 2005

The major results achieved by IICA in Dominica for 2005 can be highlighted as follows:

5.1 *Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade*

The Office supported the establishment of the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA) to be affiliated to the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA) as the local chapter. This initiative was influenced from recommendations coming from the 7th International Conference on Herbal Medicine in the Caribbean by CARAPA and the 2nd AGM of the CHBA in St. Lucia in June, 2005. IICA is appointed to serve as secretariat of Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA). Nine member executive presently manages the affairs of the DHBA.



Inaugural Meeting of the Executive Steering Committee of the DHBA

The Office organized and conducted the formal launching of the OAS/IICA project “**Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean**” in collaboration with the Agro-Tourism Centre in the IICA Barbados Office. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, and the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Private Sector actively participated in the launching. The goal of the project is to promote increased linkages between Tourism and Agriculture that will create economic opportunities, build resilience in rural communities and enhance the sustainable development of both the tourism and agriculture industries. Forty five participants from the various government ministries, including the Division of Agriculture, the Project management Unit (PMU) and the National Development Corporation (NDC) within the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministries of Finance and Community Development; participants also came from the farming communities; private sector including tour operators and hoteliers, national and international NGOs, as well as consultants and other stakeholders. They all indicated their willingness and commitment to collaborate at the levels of planning and implementation to facilitate the successful linkage between agriculture and tourism.

IICA also hosted a seminar to improve technical capabilities of public technical extension officers in Agro-Tourism at the La Plaine Agricultural Training Centre.

5.2 Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

IICA provided administrative support to the National Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Committee (NSPS) which presently acts as Sub-Committee to the single entity responsible for coordination of operations with regards to SPS measures. The office facilitated the development and submission of the terms of reference to operationally establish the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee. NSPSC is active and met six times and the following were highlighted: Review of reports of the 32nd and 33rd WTO/SPS meetings, technical assistance requested from WTO/SPS to Dominica, review of draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM's), adoption and implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures as national standards, review of Dominica's position paper for the 14th session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (FICS).



Active NSPS meeting in progress

Institutional capacities and capabilities of the private and public sectors to identify and respond to emerging situations were strengthened in collaboration with the Plant Protection Unit. Preliminary discussions were held with the Division of Agriculture, Dominica Banana Producers Ltd. (DBPL), Windward Island Farmers Association (WINFA), WIBDECO and Dominica Fair Trade to immediately implement actions of a draft Black Sigatoka Plan. The following components were discussed: a) Status: determine the status of Black Sigatoka on island by conducting a comprehensive survey of all districts. b) Prevention: minimize the entry by man by strengthening plant quarantine procedures at all ports of entry. In addition, the use of indicator plants in close proximity to ports of entry. c) Control: ensure a comprehensive Leaf spot Programme to successfully combat black Sigatoka and d) Food Security: ensure the availability of banana and plantain for local consumption in the event of an outbreak of Black Sigatoka. IICA Dominica developed and submitted the draft preliminary Terms of Reference to the Banana Technical Committee of the Dominica Banana Producers (DBPL) for the management of banana pests and diseases and procurement of inputs to ensure effectiveness in control. Information and technical support provided in four meetings of the Citrus Committee in the Division of Agriculture in the development of a management plan for Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV). Two consultations held with the

Animal health Unit and the Division of Agriculture to prepare and develop an Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan for Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) based on the model introduced by the Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services (SAQS) project executed by IICA/CARIFORUM.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) standards rationalized, harmonized and strengthened by facilitating the attendance of two agricultural technicians at the 32nd and 33rd WTO/SPS Committee meetings in Geneva.

5.3 Strengthening Rural Communities

IICA Office facilitated the implementation of three Caribbean Food & Nutrition Institute (CFNI) small grants projects in Fisheries, Organic Vegetable under Green House, and Small Scale Poultry Production. The Office acted as the liaison between the grantees of the Small Grants Program and CFNI, provided technical support and periodic monitoring. The fisheries project entitled “Fish Capture & Post Harvest Handling” for Fond St Jean Fisheries Cooperative was the most successful CFNI project implemented in 2005 with the following highlights: Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Construction Training Workshop, Selecting Mooring location of FAD, procurement of FAD Construction materials and preparation of assembled FAD.



FAD ASSEMBLED BY FISHERMEN

The office organized and conducted a workshop to introduce the Territorial approach methodology to sustainable rural development in the Carib Territory in Dominica.



Regional Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development introducing the Territorial Approach Methodology to stakeholders in the Carib Territory

The initiative brought the thirteen (13) agencies working in that rural indigenous community together to foster greater synergies in the conceptualization, design, financing and implementation of programmes and projects. The workshop is expected to improve capacity of local community leaders, public sector institutions and international institutions working in the Carib Territory on the methodology of the Territorial Approach. The Regional

Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development made a presentation on the key aspects of

the methodology, and in healthy interactive discussions, it was agreed that sustainable rural development in the Carib Territory ought to be seen in the context of a comprehensive rural development policy for the territory. Some 17 participants from the various government ministries, including the Department of Carib Affairs, the Ministries of Finance and Community Development, Division of Agriculture, Division of Forestry and national (Fair-Trade, Carib Tours and Sun Foundation Nursery), regional (WINFA and CREP) and international NGOs (UNESCO and GEF/UNDP), as well as the Carib Council and other stakeholders agreed to adopt the territorial methodology for sustainable development of the Carib Territory based on the following Strategy:

- Create inventory of stakeholders (primary, secondary and tertiary- inclusive of their programmes, roles and responsibilities) and time frame by MARCH 2006
- Identification of actions in various reports and prioritizing of the same - draft report already produced by Ministry of Finance and Department of Carib Affairs will be circulated to stakeholders for comment before finalization

5.4 Hemispheric Integration

Private sector institutions in the Commonwealth of Dominica were strengthened by the consolidation of the local chapter of Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) - APAD and Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) –DAIC. IICA facilitated the membership of APAD on the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC). APAD has attended as a result of its membership in DAIC, five national business forums. The Agro-Processors Association of Dominica (APAD), representing some of the key stakeholders in agriculture, was promoted as an important avenue for obtaining guidance on the requirements of the sector for the development of sustainable agriculture. APAD is in the process of increasing its membership to include all forms of agribusinesses. APAD continued to benefit from administrative support from the Office, particularly to the hosting of two seminars concerning the WTO/CSME and the impact in the introduction of VAT to replace consumption tax.

The office facilitated the second Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NAYA with a theme:



New Executive of NAYA elected at 2nd Annual General Meeting

“Entrepreneurial Development for Youth in Agriculture” The Executive was elected for two years at the AGM.

The Office supported the President of The National Association for Youth in Agriculture (NAYA) to participate in the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES),

held in Braunwald, Switzerland, July 2005. As a result, the President of NAYA met a diverse set of future leaders. In addition, the Office supported three members of the Executive of NAYA to attend a Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth (CAFY) workshop. The workshop improved the capacity of the NAYA members with tools in Priority Setting, Organizational Development, and Introduction to Project Development and Management. These tools will enable them to effectively reach organizational development goals and enhance long term benefits to the members of NAYA.

5.5 Developing Human Capital

In an effort to improve the quality and relevance of existing extension programmes at the national level, the IICA Office organised and conducted a five-day national workshop in Extension Methodologies in collaboration with the Department of Extension - University of the West Indies (UWI). The main facilitator was Dr. David Dolly, senior lecturer at UWI. Participants (30 extension officers) from both public and private institutions in the agriculture sector were exposed to the latest methodologies for

Extension technicians necessary for repositioning agriculture beyond the 21st century. Most trainees targeted were young (21-25years) with little or no formal training in Extension. Most officers have worked with minimum training for some or all of the past three years. Thirty copies of An Extension Methodology have been printed and disseminated at the five day



Minister for Agriculture and the Environment addressing participants at Extension Workshop

workshop. The workshop provided trainees with further exposure to current Extension practice as it relates to the needs of Dominica.

An Extension training course in 2005 was seen as very timely as endorsed by the Minister for Agriculture and the Environment. The workshop served



Active participation of participants and Facilitator during the Extension Methodology Workshop

to sensitize officers to popular Extension methodology, which is suitable for the island food system in Dominica in light of globalisation and the establishment of the CSME by March 2006.

In collaboration with the Regional Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development, terms of reference for developing a Landscaping plan was submitted to the Giraudel Flower

Group (GFG) for comments. The Giraudel Flower Group (GFG) has purchased a two and an half acre plot in the village of Giraudel, contiguous to the site of the annual flower show. The group is desirous of developing the land into an integrated site for the flower show to accommodate the main buildings and booths for the annual show. Additionally, the GFG intends to develop the land into a community gardens centre within the context of an overall agro-tourism

IICA Technical Specialist appointed on a Project Steering Committee (PSC) in June 2005 to implement a project entitled “The Young Farmer Program” financed by the EU-Agricultural Diversification Program (US\$135,000). The project is designed to improve the capacity of 70 young persons in entrepreneurship, project formulation and technical and business skills. The establishment of seven viable pilot projects to attract the youth into agriculture is the main component of the project

Organic Farming for Entrepreneurs capabilities were enhanced through the efforts of the Regional Specialist in Education and Training. The Office facilitated an employee of the Dominica State College (DSC) to attend a five-day Regional Course in Organic Agriculture (Training the Trainers) through the use of interactive techniques. The quality and relevance of the practical aspects of the agriculture programme in the DSC was facilitated and enhanced by attendance to the workshop.

5.6 Environmental Management

The Institute promoted technologies for enhancing local production and competitiveness in the areas of organics by supporting producers to be aware of potential for expanding trade in targeted markets. In this connection, the office collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, FAO, CDB and the Regional Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development in the organization and conduct of a workshop “*Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture.*” Twenty-two (22) participants participated in the workshop which included two participants from St. Lucia, two participants from Grenada, and one participant from St. Vincent & the Grenadines, all were supported by the respective IICA offices.

The workshop’s main facilitator was Dr. Sun Zhenjun, an organic fertilizer expert from the China Agricultural University, who specializes in Vermiculture. The workshop strengthened the skills of the participants in Vermiculture and particularly addressed the issue of organic fertilizer production for the expansion of organic agricultural production in Dominica and placed emphasis on the technique of



Dr. Sun Zhenjun presenting techniques of VERMICULTURE

Vermicomposting - the production of organic fertilizer using earthworm technologies. Members of Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement (DOAM) (7), NAYA (2), Giraudel Flower Group (2) and technicians from the Division of Agriculture (4) and the Division of Forestry (2) were strengthened through the skills developed at a workshop in Vermicomposting. Presentations and options were documented and disseminated to all participants.

5.7 Institutional Modernization

The office provided horizontal technical cooperation to the offices of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Grenada in the following respectively:

Facilitated the exchange of a nine member team comprising of farmers and staff from National Properties Limited from St.Vincent to Dominica where they observed the agronomy of Dasheen and Hot Peppers, operational procedures of DEXIA and post-harvest handling of peppers and dasheen.

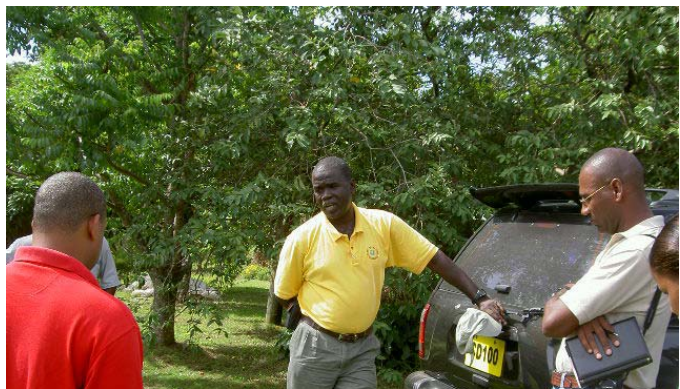
In collaboration with the OECS/EDU, the IICA Office in Dominica provided technical information to the Grenada office in the production of liquid herbal soap.

Quarterly press releases were published in various local newspapers, providing information on Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Avian Influenza, and activities of the Institute concerning workshops and seminars.

Twenty-seven (27) major stakeholders from both private and public sector institutions involved directly and indirectly with the agricultural sector and rural communities were presented with IICA publications for 2005: IICA News Bulletin; Access Bulletin; AgriView; and CARAPHIN Newsletter.

6. Inter-Agency Cooperation

The IICA Office participated in an exercise in collaboration with the Plant Protection Unit to provide information to flower producers on the requirements for cut flowers to enter the Barbados market. Information was obtained from the Plant Protection Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados. The information provided to flower producers provides an opportunity for expanding trade in cut flowers to Barbados. The restrictions preventing access to the cut flower market was removed by the



Officials from the Plant Protection Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture – Barbados on Flower Farm

development of a protocol to trade between Barbados and Dominica. The protocol also explored mechanisms for expanding trade to Barbados including pineapples, cut flowers, potted plants and organics.

Support for the development of agro-tourism continued with targeted national and institutional structures implementing Agri-tourism activities. Institutional modernization



Participants at Consultation “Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism”

for sustainable rural development was achieved by a National Consultation entitled “Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism”, undertaken in collaboration with the Programme Management Unit of the Eco-Tourism Development Programme in the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Enterprise Development. The Office organized and facilitated a presentation to 173 stakeholders in “Targeting Key Niche Markets for Dominica in agro

tourism/farm tours”.

A draft national policy for gender equality and equity for the agriculture sector was disseminated to the women’s bureau for review, consultation and adoption. The draft document prepared by IICA focused on the following: Historical Perspective of Agriculture in Dominica, Impact of Trade Liberalization, and Future of Dominica Agriculture concerning gender issues, Situational Analysis focusing on census data, education data, and access to resources, employment conditions and labour laws. Information obtained in developing gender policy will assist in the development of the Agricultural policy for Dominica. The study will inform appropriate gender sensitive policies, which would contribute to an overall National Gender Policy and Plan, including Agriculture.

In collaboration with the NGO- Agricultural Diversification Project Ltd. the office organized and actively participated in implementation of the project entitled “Managing Information For Greenhouse Farming in Dominica” funded by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA). IICA was selected to serve on the Project Management Committee (PMC) with the NGO-ADP Board Chairman, Project Manager, and Project Officer. The PMC was directly

Participants at Hydroponics Demonstration



responsible to plan, implement and evaluate the project activities. The PMC also actively participated in the design of a questionnaire administered to 98 greenhouse farmers and enthusiasts in rural communities entitled “Greenhouse Needs Assessment Survey”. The goal of the survey was to identify the training needs of farmers relating to greenhouse farming in Dominica In addition,

the PMC organized, conducted and participated in One (1) training session on hydroponics - two (2) day sensitization Workshop and a one (1) day field trip on Hydroponics. One (1) training session on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) conducted in a presentation by the Technical Specialist. Three (3) general training sessions of greenhouse farmers, agricultural technicians, and other greenhouse enthusiasts who highlighted the status of greenhouse technology based on the findings of the survey.



Participants at GAPS workshop for greenhouse farmers and technicians

In collaboration with CARDI and the Division of Agriculture, the office strengthened the institutional capacity of research and development in Dominica by the establishment of the National Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Research and Development (NCCARD). NCCARD held five (5) meetings in 2005 and developed the plan of action to be discussed with the stakeholders in the agriculture sector. The membership of NCCARD is as follows: CARDI, OECS/EDU, Dominica Export Import Agency (DEXIA), Division of Agriculture, Dominica Banana Producers LTD. (DBPL), APAD, IICA, WINFA and Dominica Hucksters Association. NCCARD was endorsed by the Board of Governors of CARDI in Jamaica. NCCARD has reviewed the list of research and development activities compiled by the major stakeholders in the agriculture sector. The list has been reviewed, rationalized and prioritized. In addition, institutions were designated responsibilities for selected activities. The implementation plan for R & D in agriculture for Dominica will be developed by the NCCARD for 2006

In collaboration with WINFA and the office of Disaster Preparedness, the IICA office strengthened the capacity of farmers, chairpersons of the District Disaster Preparedness Committee and technicians in disaster preparedness. The two day workshop with a theme “Disaster Preparedness; protecting our livelihoods for future development” improved the participants awareness in basic disaster management techniques and mitigation practices that will reduce risk and vulnerabilities.

7. Support Provided in the Development of National Plans and Strategies

In collaboration with the Consultant in Trade/ Policy, a preliminary draft Strategic Policy and Management Framework for Agricultural Development in the Commonwealth of Dominica was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment for comments including the Minister for Agriculture and the Environment. The main

components of the policy document submitted are the following: The Operating Environment, A new Policy Agenda For Agriculture – Building Blocks, A New Policy Agenda for Agriculture (Objectives and Instruments), Mechanisms for Implementation, and Complimentary Economic and Social Policy Frameworks. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment will have an improved Policy formulated for the agricultural sector built on consultation between and among all stakeholders and actors in the agricultural sector by 2006.

The office supported the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment for the dialogue and regional/national strategies on agriculture and rural life. The office provided technical and administrative support to the Jagdeo initiative adopted by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica in the improvement on policies and strategies that impact on agriculture.

8. Future Opportunities for Cooperation

An approved Agricultural Policy is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture after receiving comments from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment in 2007. At least six (6) consultations are planned for 2006 with private and public sector stakeholders to improve capacities on the process of policy design, formulation and implementation for the agriculture sector in Dominica. A series of consultations are planned for the wider stakeholders and actors in the agricultural sector and other sectors linked to agriculture (tourism) from September to October 2006. A Draft policy and management framework for agricultural development in Dominica will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment by December 2006.

APAD is in the process of increasing its membership to include all forms of agribusinesses.

Technical support will be sought from the Miami office in August 2006 to facilitate the visit of three (3) flower producers. The producers intend to visit nursery sites and would like to promote and develop strategic alliances in the US. Financial assistance is presently being sought.

A coordinated approach to the development of sustained linkage between agricultural and other economic sectors is being pursued in Dominica. In collaboration with the National Development Corporation (NDC) within the Ministry of Tourism an integrated Plan of action for linking agriculture and tourism and elements of same are being developed to be implemented.

The office will pursue the modernization of the agricultural sector and the enhancement of knowledge capacity, to enable stakeholders in the agriculture sector to compete in a liberalized market. Having access to technology is critical to increasing production and productivity and enhancing diversification while spurring entrepreneurial activities within

the sector. Ten Technicians in the Division of Agriculture will be strengthened through access to improved technology to enable organic production and marketing. This will be achieved by a field visit to the Dominican Republic.

The IICA Office in collaboration with the regional specialist in Sustainable Rural Development will support and promote the establishment of an inter-agency working group to spearhead assessment of critical aspects of development cooperation in the Carib Territory. The process will be led by the Department of Carib Affaires; feedback from the Department of Carib Affaires to inter-agency working group by end of February 2006.

ANNEX 1

FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE IICA OFFICE IN DOMINICA IN 2005

Official name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of Participants	Place and date of publication of the report or proceedings of the event
1. Meeting the Needs of the Farming Community Through Improved Extension Methodologies	July 18 - 22	La Plaine Agricultural Training Centre, La Plaine, Commonwealth of Dominica.	30	-
2. Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture	February 21 -25	Springfield Guest House, Springfield, Commonwealth of Dominica	22	-
3. Launching Ceremony of IICA/OAS Project: <i>“Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean”</i>	December 5	Fort Young Hotel, Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica	45	-
4. Introduction to the Territorial Approach	December 13	Sineku Community Resource Centre, Carib Territory, Commonwealth of Dominica	20	-
5. National Consultation entitled <i>“Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism”</i>	January 20 - 21	Garraway Hotel, Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica	173	-