

**IICA**



*Delegation in Saint Lucia*

# 2019 - 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

### SAINT LUCIA

IICA's Contribution to the Development of  
Agriculture and Rural Communities

## AT A GLANCE:

### IICA'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SAINT LUCIA: 2019 - 2021

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#### INCREASE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Api-Caribe: Promoting the Development of the Apiculture Sector in the Caribbean (2019)* 5
- Support to the Development of the Cocoa Industry in Saint Lucia (2019)* 6
- Micoud Brand Chocolate: Upscaling Agro-processing Capacity for the Rural Women Agro-processors of Micoud (2019)* 7
- Economic Opportunities from Solid Waste Management (2020)* 9
- OECS Agriculture Plan of Action (2021)* 10
- Support to the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) in developing an Integrated Plan for the Dennery Farm (2021)* 10



#### CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL RURAL DWELLERS

- Supporting Community-based Rural Enterprise Development in Beausoleil, Saint Lucia (2020)* 11
- Socio-organizational Development of The Mushroom Collective (2021)* 12
- Caribbean Climate Responsive Agriculture Forum Country Project: Cocoa Regen, Saint Lucia (2021)* 13



#### IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE FOR COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

- Farmer Certification Framework for Standards Adoption (2019)* 14
- Saint Lucia Country Dossier for Fine Flavour Cocoa (2019)* 16
- Building More Efficient and Coordinated Production and Market Mechanisms for Stability of the Domestic Food System in Saint Lucia (2020)* 17
- Facilitating Trade Capacity of Caribbean Producers of Fresh and Value-Added Products to Capture Regional Markets (2021)* 19



**INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF RURAL AREAS AND AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TO  
EXTREME EVENTS**

*Building Capacity for the Rapid Response and Long-Term Management of Citrus Greening Disease in St Lucia (2019)* 20

*Caribbean Climate Resilient Agriculture Forum (2021)* 22

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms .....	i
Foreword .....	ii
Executive Summary .....	iii
Introduction.....	1
Part I: The National Technical Cooperation Agenda for 2019 - 2021 .....	3
Part II: Results and Outcomes from the 2019 - 2021 Technical Cooperation Agenda .....	5
3.1 Increase the Contributions of the Agriculture Sector to Economic Growth and Sustainable Development.....	5
3.2 Contribute to the Well-Being of All Rural Dwellers.....	11
3.3 Improve International and Regional Trade for Countries in the Region .....	14
3.4 Increase the Resilience of Rural Areas and Agrifood Systems to Extreme Events ....	20
Part III: Partnership 4 Progress.....	23

## ACRONYMS

### Acronyms: Technical Terms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
CAFY	Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth
CANROP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
EC\$	Eastern Caribbean States Dollars
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTP	Medium Term Plan
US\$	United States Dollars

### Acronyms: Institutions, Groups and Businesses

ARCTT	Alliance of Rural Communities in Trinidad and Tobago
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CRESIAP	Regional Centre for Integrated Services in Protected Agriculture
CFL	Consolidated Foods Limited
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JOAM	Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security
DOSD	Department of Sustainable Development
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
SALCC	Sir Arthur Lewis Community College
SLAFY	Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth
SLNRWP	Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers
SLRCS	Saint Lucia Ruminant Cooperative Society Limited (SLRCS)
Taiwan ICDF	Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund
GEF SGP UNDP	United Nations Development Program Global Environment Fund Small Grants Programme
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

### Acronyms: Development Initiatives/Mechanisms

APP	Agricultural Policy Programme
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BAM	Banana Accompanying Measures
EDF	European Development Fund
FonTC	Technical Cooperation Fund
HOOPSS	Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools

## FOREWORD

**T**he Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Delegation in Saint Lucia presents its Annual Report for 2019-2021. IICA is a specialized agency within the Inter-American System whose mandate is to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its member states to develop their agricultural and rural sector. In this regard, we stand with the countries to confront the challenges faced by the sector at the national and sub-regional level, understanding that our efforts must be connected to a wider agenda for development of the Caribbean Region.



The purpose of this report is to show transparency and accountability to our major stakeholders in the agricultural sector and provide an overview of the main achievements of 2018-2021. This annual report focuses on activities relating to productivity and growth in agro-enterprises, resilience, strengthening producer organizations, and agricultural health and food safety, in collaboration with local and international organizations. The Institute anticipates the continued close partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the private sector, farmer organizations, international organizations, and women and youth organizations in executing the Institute's programme for 2018.

Our support is guided by a comprehensive Medium Term Plan (MTP) for 2018 – 2022 and an Annual Country Strategy (ACS); processes initiated under the leadership of IICA's Director General Dr Manuel Otero. Both the MTP and ACS recognize the role that agriculture plays in the socio-economic and development process and reflect IICA's positioning as a specialized agency providing efficient technical support in agriculture and rural development. To that end, the Institutes' operational strategy in Saint Lucia is aimed at increasing the contributions of the agriculture sector to economic growth and sustainable development, contribute to the well-being of all rural dwellers, improve international and regional trade, and increase the resilience of rural areas and agrifood systems to extreme events.

This perspective takes on a more strategic view by involving the countries in preparing IICA's position in the sector to improve its performance. It also augers well for the positioning of the Institute as a leader in adopting new approaches in the development of agriculture in the hemisphere with differentiated strategies towards the Caribbean region and the Eastern Caribbean sub-region.

We would like to thank all our stakeholders for their cooperation, support and trust during the period under review. Your cooperation and collaboration validates and enhances our work. As the Institute embarks on programmes for continued technical cooperation, we look forward to the continued commitment of all stakeholders in agriculture and rural sectors in Saint Lucia.

**Gregg C.E. Rawlins**

Representative in the ECS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the course of 2019 to 2021, IICA directly implemented 15 major technical projects and activities relating to its strategic objectives, and provided technical cooperation products and services to another three local initiatives, including:

- Socio-economic and governance development of The Mushroom Collective;
- Support to the implementation of the project entitled "Integrated Ecosystem Management and Restoration of Forests of the South-East Coast";
- Support to the conceptualization and implementation of the first St. Lucia Honey Show in collaboration with Iyanola Apiculture Collective and UNDP GEF SGP.

Through these interventions IICA, in collaboration with its partners, helped realize gains in strategic thematic areas such as value chain integration and development, market development, improved market participation of micro-entrepreneurs (including women and youth), climate change adaptation, agro-tourism, sustainable livelihood development, and capacity building of primary actors in agricultural health and food safety, production coordination, group governance and enterprise management. The collaboration of the MoA, ARCTT, SLNRWP, GEF SGP UNDP, SLUNCF, The Department of Sustainable Development *inter alia* are highlighted for their value-adding partnership which was instrumental in the implementation of our technical work in 2018-2021. Facilitated collaborations for the Institute were made by the Taiwan ICDF for training in Local Characteristics Industries Development, and the UNDP for the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net).

The predominant themes arising from our work over 2019 - 2021 were supporting entrepreneurship and enterprise development, building value chain partnerships, improved group governance and managerial capabilities, as well as enhancing networking and collaboration with other support organizations and partners. This focus recognized the present challenges to sustainable development, socio-organizational and business functioning of stakeholder groups, as well as emerging opportunities for micro/small business development and employment creation. These are notable engines for economic development and require greater attention and collaboration to make effective and long-lasting interventions.

Technical cooperation was also an important element of the Institute's work in Saint Lucia in 2019 - 2021. Particular attention was given to improving on existing mechanisms as well as building new partnerships for delivering technical cooperation services. These support partners and stakeholders have realized a shared outlook on agricultural development objectives of improving agriculture's capacity to better respond to opportunities for job creation, enterprise development, mobilization of efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources; improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agriculture sector; strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of rural areas and the well-being of the rural population; and improve agriculture's contribution to food security.

Creating these avenues for engagement of local partners and actors is an important factor in IICA's technical cooperation that enhances the quality of implementation to the benefit of stakeholders in Saint Lucia.





Focused on people – promoting competitiveness and sustainable agriculture  
- IICA Annual Report 2019 - 2021

## INTRODUCTION

Invariably, there are a large number of demands for development of the agricultural sector including *inter alia* the need for access roads and other critical infrastructure, capacity building, local and export market development, agricultural standards, sustainable access to water and arable land, critical support services, and laboratory services. While the current global economic context presents a number of challenges to agriculture and rural development in a Small Island Developing State like Saint Lucia, opportunities also emerge. These opportunities require that the country be in a state of readiness to profit from/capitalize on them. Some of the challenges facing agriculture in Saint Lucia are intrinsic, such as its small size and the scarcity of exploitable natural resources. However, many of the more significant challenges stem from Saint Lucia's insertion into the global economy and its vulnerability to natural disasters and external economic shocks.

This reality warrants following areas of intervention may be prioritized including: value chain development of select high value agri-industries of strategic importance; building resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change; protected agriculture; integrated soil and water resource management; agricultural health and food safety as relates to trade facilitation; and strengthening institutional and technical capacity of the agricultural and rural sectors.

The message is clear: sustainable, long-term development requires development planning which maps development goals to actions and outcomes, and which seeks integrated solutions to effectively leverage available assets/resources as a whole and not in the traditional sectoral 'silo' approach. This transition requires a wide-ranging process of innovation that will develop new production, institutional, organizational and knowledge paradigms for meeting the challenges of competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability.

These insights are timely and relevant lessons for Saint Lucia as it continues to tackle the effects of the drastic decline in the banana industry, growing concerns over degradation of environmental and biodiversity resources, as well as developing sustainable livelihood options for its populace. These make a strong case for leveraging agriculture in the development context. What is then required is the strategic positioning of agriculture to perform this role.

This fact has seen a revitalized focus on and critical investment into the agricultural sector contributing to several initiatives currently being undertaken by the Government of Saint Lucia to help boost productivity and growth. This includes making much needed capacity-building and capital investments, fostering a new generation of youth agri-entrepreneurs and promoting agribusiness value chain development, and maximizing the use of available development financing in sustainable interventions.

As a technical cooperation agency and partner in development for Saint Lucia, IICA remains committed to building the institutional and productive capacities of the agricultural sector in order to enhance the benefits of increased employment (especially in rural communities) expansion of income generation opportunities and food and nutrition security. For IICA this especially means,

*inter alia*, creating opportunities for youth and women participation and employment in agriculture, improving the socio-organisational and governance development of producer groups, developing market opportunities for productive agriculture sub-sectors, strengthening strategic partnerships and institutional relationships, and supporting the growing knowledge and innovation/technology intensity of agribusinesses to stimulate interest, investment and productivity in agriculture.

The proceeding report documents the contribution of IICA to the development of agriculture and rural life in Saint Lucia in 2018. The programme of work was executed in line with the IICA Country Strategy which in turn was guided by IICA's MTP 2018 – 2022 and the Saint Lucia Delegation's Annual Country Strategy, in response to the priorities agreed upon by the Government of Saint Lucia. The results achieved highlight the combined efforts of primary stakeholders in the agriculture sector and strategic partnerships towards a holistic approach to the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in Saint Lucia.

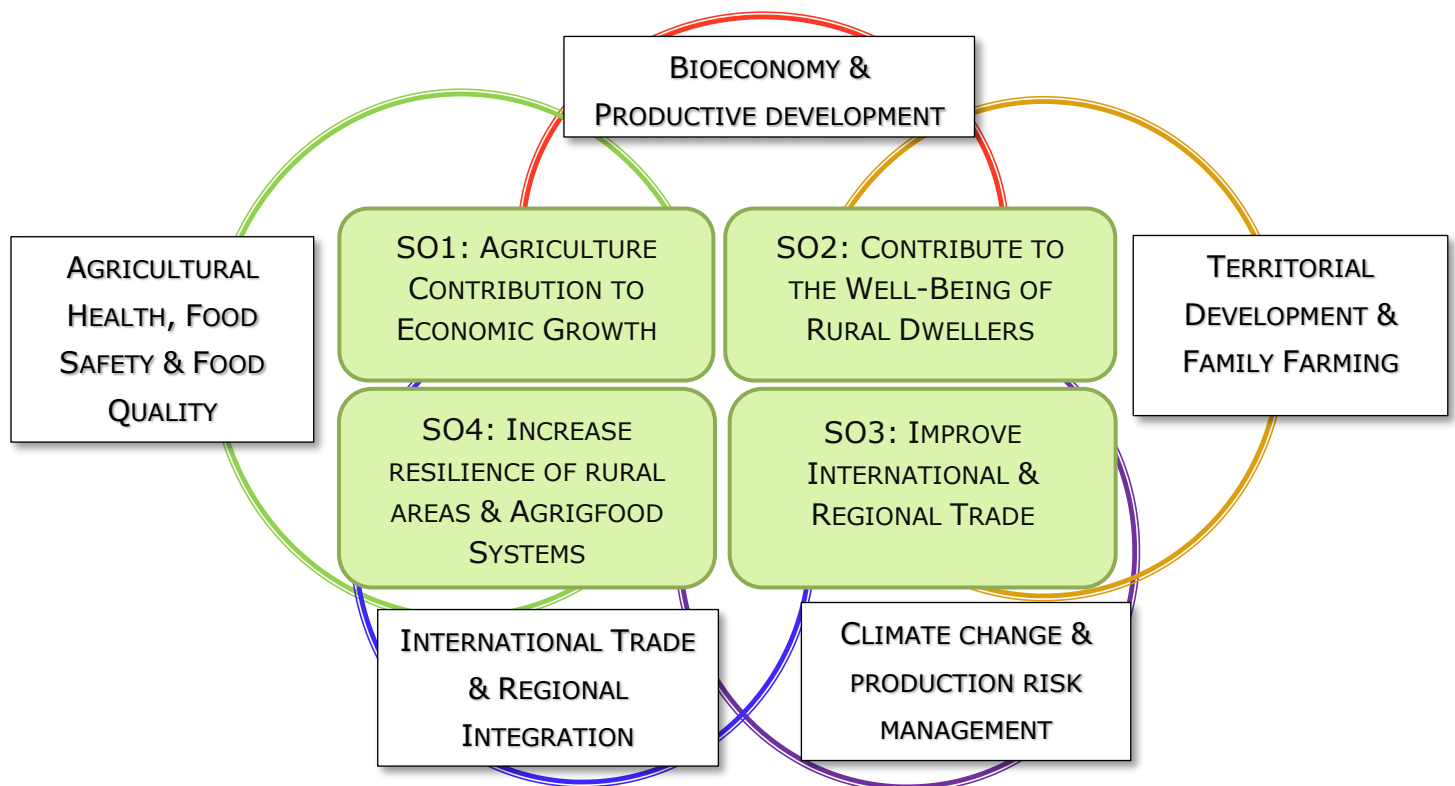


## PART I: THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA FOR 2019 - 2021

An illustration of IICA's National Technical Cooperation Agenda is presented below. It represents IICA's strategic outlook for development assistance in Saint Lucia. The nature and purpose of the development assistance is guided by four strategic objectives; namely, to:

1. Increase the contributions of the agriculture sector to economic growth and sustainable development;
2. Contribute to the well-being of all rural dwellers;
3. Improve international and regional trade for countries in the region;
4. Increase the resilience of rural areas and agrifood systems to extreme events;

### Framework for IICA's Technical Cooperation Agenda in Saint Lucia



These objectives guide the specification of technical interventions which comprise the programme of work; a process that involves an intensive analysis of existing agricultural documents, statistics and policies, coupled with extensive consultations with agriculture and rural sector stakeholders including Government Ministries, producer organizations, youth and women organizations, rural service-provider agencies, private sector entities and international organizations.

These are defined by five broad and inter-related areas of:

1. **Bioeconomy and Production Development** which addresses the need for modernization and growth of agro-industrial production as a primary strategy for economic development. It focuses on the utilization of biological resources, processes and/or intelligence to produce goods and services and represents an avenue for creating new sustainable sources of economic and social growth through agricultural production.
2. **Territorial Development and Family Farming** where efforts are aimed at contributing to the creation of conditions for the design and participatory management of countries with focus on integrated area-based public policies for social, economic, and civic inclusion in relatively lesser developed rural areas where family farming is prevalent; sustainable development of family farming is promoted to increase its contribution to food and nutrition security and the rural economy.
3. **International Trade and Regional Integration** with focus on the capacity of an agricultural chain in all its links, to maintain sustained and lasting growth on domestic and international markets;
4. **Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks** which aims to increase the resilience of the agricultural systems in the member countries in order to address climate change and other environmental shocks by strengthening the institutional framework for innovation and risk management based on the principles of sustainable adaptation;
5. **Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality** with the aim of strengthening and modernizing capacities for food health, safety and quality, effective implementation of international standards for market access and participation, and improving response capacity to emergency situations.

These define IICA's technical work and form the framework within which impact is evaluated and reported on.



## PART II: RESULTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE 2019 - 2021 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA

### 3.1 INCREASE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

□ *ApiCaribe: Promoting the Development of the Apiculture Sector in the Caribbean*

<i>Challenge(s)</i> > Low productivity of local apiaries and resulting income and welfare of beekeepers	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	Strengthen participatory association of family agriculture producers in sharing and building expertise
<b>Results:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sensitization of local beekeepers and industry support agents on a successful cooperative model for industry growth;</li> <li>2. Beekeepers capacity built with regards to Varroa mite identification and treatment good practices;</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The CAP example of industry coordination, value chain cooperation and industry planning is immediately relevant to Saint Lucia;</li> </ol>

The APICaribe Project is an initiative of the Embassy of the Republic of Argentina and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) that aims to develop apiculture as an integrated farming practice which promotes scientific beekeeping in the region with a view to increasing the productivity of crops through pollination support and production of honey and other beehive products, as well as to increasing the income and welfare of farmers/beekeepers and the wider society.

Saint Lucia, as a beneficiary country, is well positioned to develop the local apiculture industry. In addition to a high proportion of experienced beekeepers (> 5 years), strong local demand, as well as attractive prices (EC\$60/750 ml bottle), there is a productive history of collaboration with development partners like IICA on the industry. Collaboration with Argentina on the APICaribe Project follows from this vein of meaningful technical cooperation and is particularly valuable for knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices given Argentina's positioning in the global market for honey. In 2017, Argentina was the third largest exporter of natural honey in the world, exporting an estimated US\$183.2 million in honey.

Over the course of December 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2019, visiting technicians of the Cooperativa de Trabajo Apicola Pampero Limitada (CAP), Mr Elian Tourn<sup>1</sup> and Mrs Liliana Gallez<sup>2</sup>, collaborated with IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Cooperatives (MoA) for engagement with beekeepers in Saint Lucia as part of a fact-finding mission to first introduce the project as well as explore, through contextualizing the situation on the ground, areas

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ing. Agr. Elian Tourn, President of the CAP (Pampero Beekeeping Working Cooperative Limited) and LabEA researcher.

<sup>2</sup> Mg. Ing. Agr. Liliana Gallez, Director and Researcher at LabEA (Laboratorio de Estudios Apicolas, Universidad Nacional del Sur, Argentina).

for technical cooperation. CAP was founded in Argentina in 2012 from the associative and multi-disciplinary work of people involved in regional beekeeping.

The visiting technicians arrived on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and first participated in the launch ceremony for the APICaribe Project. The launch was attended by over 30 beekeepers, representatives of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards, as well as senior staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Physical Planning and Cooperatives (MoA). In addition to remarks by the IICA Representative for the Eastern Caribbean States, the Permanent Secretary in the MoA, Mr. Barrymore Felicien, offered the support of the MoA on the behalf of Minister Ezechiel Joseph, to work together with IICA and the Embassy of Argentina to develop the local apiculture industry.



Elian Tourn presenting on CAP and the Apicultur Industry in Argentina at the Project Launch



Gaining a better understanding of Apiary management practices



Beekeepers taking a closer look at samples of honey and hive products

Photos: IICA 2019

Site visits were conducted immediately after the opening ceremony and a networking-focused lunch break. In order to give a thorough representation of beekeeping in Saint Lucia, a number of diverse sites were visited ranging from independent beekeepers, small honey bottling stations, family-run apiaries, queen rearing units, as well as initiatives using apiculture for community and youth engagement and the preservation of mangroves. In total 2 consultations with beekeepers were held (6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019) and 9 apiculture sites visited island wide.

□ *Support to the Development of the Cocoa Industry in Saint Lucia (2019)*

<i>Challenge(s) &gt; Poor coordination among industry stakeholders in an environment lacking specific strategic guidance</i>	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	Development of a Situational Analysis to guide decision-making on industry development
<b>Results:</b>	1. Developed situational analysis of the cocoa sector in Saint Lucia; 2. Developed country profile for fine flavor cocoa recognition by ICCO;
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. Building local capacity for value-addition is a critical element of industry development

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development, IICA supported several strategic interventions for the articulation of an industry development plan for cocoa. Specifically, IICA led the preparation of a country dossier on cocoa to be submitted to

the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), contributed to technical planning sessions for an industry plan and produced a situational context on the cocoa industry to guide investments for increased productivity, and exploiting indicative opportunities in the local and export markets.



IICA National Specialist, Brent Theophile presenting the situational analysis.



Discussion groups exploring areas for industry development.

Photos: Dept. of Economic Development

□ *Micoud Chocolate Project: Upscaling Agro-processing Capacity for the Rural Women Agro-Processors of Micoud (2019)*

<i>Challenge(s)</i> > Access to suitable small-scale equipment to boost productivity and reduce operating costs	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	Procurement of cost-saving and small-scale equipment
<b>Results:</b>	1. Enhanced productive capacity of SLNRWP for chocolate and chocolate-related products; 2. Developed new market linkages for sale of products;
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. Specific capacity building of key stakeholders for managing market linkages/relationships is needed for MSMEs.

This project, funded by the New Zealand High Commission sought to support the upscaling of the agro-processing capacity of rural women of the Micoud Cluster of the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) to better meet increasing product demand. The Micoud Cluster manages a small agro-processing space in the community of Anse Ger, Micoud, which since 2017 has been producing Micoud brand chocolate, St Lucia's first rural community chocolate. This chocolate is produced by members of the group using cocoa produced by community farmers. This activity was an initiative of the Institute in collaboration with the Alliance for Rural Communities of Trinidad and Tobago (ARCTT) to create opportunity for rural women in the market for high-value agricultural products.



The intervention supported the scaling up of capacity for the group to meet new market interest in the developed chocolate brand.

(Photo: IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia 2019)

The brand chocolate is being sold through the group's networks and a few retail outlets. However, projections indicate that the current production capacity will be inadequate for meeting demand. In addition, the group has had initial interest in the hosting of chocolate-making sessions and chocolate tours to tourists which would offer additional opportunity for revenue generation. However, while their operating space meets food production requirements, there are a number of outstanding areas related to the Tourism Sites and Attraction Standard that need attention in order for the service to be authorized and promoted via the St Lucia Tourism Authority.

The specific purpose of the project was to enhance the operating and market-supply capacities of the Micoud Chocolate Team at the agro-processing facility in Anse Ger. In particular, the following were identified for intervention:

- Up-scaling chocolate production capacity to better meet estimated demand;
- Improve branding of the chocolate product
- Strengthen market linkages for improved earnings

A number of small equipment and tools that were needed to expand production as well as support greater engagement with the market (e.g. at events and trade shows) were purchased. A full listing of the items is provided in the financial report. Procurement was supported by the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia who facilitated purchasing with the suppliers (online and locally), helped with transportation costs, as well as customs clearance of the items which helped save on expenses that would otherwise be borne by the group.

Production capacity has gone up with the procurement of a refiner with higher capacity and new chocolate moulds. The new refiner means that batch sizes can increase from 2kg to 10 kg. This means that monthly production capability for chocolate bars have gone up from a maximum of 32 kg of products pre-project, to 160 kg post-project.

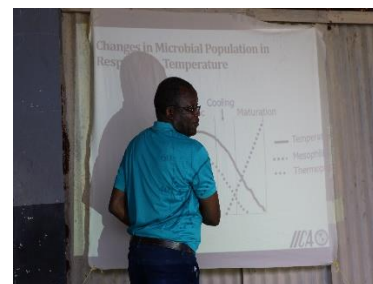
An estimated 48% reduction in operating costs is being realized through the introduction of the new refiner which has increased production capacity, as well as with the procurement of a new temperer which has reduced the number of times a batch has had to be re-tempered to meet product quality requirements. This represents a direct cost saving for the business in terms of both labour and utilities.



□ *Economic Opportunities from Solid Waste Management (2020)*

<i>Challenges</i> > Low utilization of organic wastes which contributes to in-country accumulation at landfills	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	Developed capacity of local public and private sector stakeholders in commercial utilization of organic wastes, including composting
<b>Results:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Built capacity of 12 public and private sector stakeholders;</li> <li>2. Developed technical cooperation relationship with the Taiwan Technical Mission, ICDF to support further in-country work.</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Composting options characterized by reduced labour demand and enhanced temperature and water management are key to improving on-farm application for smallholder farmers.</li> </ol>

The objective of this initiative was to strengthen the resilience of the economies through the adoption of innovative technologies and sustainable waste management systems in the Caribbean region.



Facilitator, Dr. Abimbola Abiola (top right) detailed options for economic use of wastes, as well as on how to produce good compost using the "Compost Calculator".  
(Photo: IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia 2020)

Saint Lucia was one of the key beneficiary states under this phase of the project alongside Belize, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. Dr. Abimbola Abiola, who served as IICA's Technical Specialist for Environmental Remediation and Reclamation under the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Productive Risk Management Program facilitated the two-day engagement that highlighted the necessary system, process and practical orientation required for generating compost products from organic waste. Twelve (12) public and private sector actors benefited from the intervention, with immediate application by one private sector actor, Funky Fungi Mushrooms, bearing fruit in collaboration with the Taiwan Technical Mission, ICDF (TTM ICDF).

Through this intervention, IICA advocated an approach towards solid waste management that can help protect the environment and public health, while creating value for stakeholders of the agricultural sector. Not limited to just composting, but inclusive of bioenergy generation, production of biomass and biomaterial inputs for industrial and agricultural applications, as well as the creation of biofuels, this field offers a number of entry points along the value chain for prospecting entrepreneurs. The relevance and importance of doing so was a matter specifically addressed at the most recent COTED meeting, where IICA's proposal to conduct this work was endorsed by CARICOM Secretariat and the member states as a matter of high priority. This activity

directly contributed to further capacity building of IICA technicians in 2021 through collaboration with Compost Canada.



Mr. Mario Cheng, Taiwan Technical Mission, ICDF (top left) at an on-farm capacity building field visit to Mr. Alexis William of Funky Fungi Mushrooms. The TTM ICDF intervention supported an improved composting operation at the mushroom farm.  
(Photo: IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia 2020)

□ *OECS Agriculture Plan of Action (2021)*

Challenge(s) > Outdated APOA	
Intervention(s):	Developed agricultural policy and action plan (2022 – 2026) through a sub-regional participatory approach
Results:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supported national and sub-regional dialogue on agricultural development priorities;</li> <li>2. Produced a stakeholder-endorsed action plan for agricultural development in the sub-region.</li> </ol>
Lessons Learnt:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sub-regional coordination mechanisms for joint action on agricultural development issues are needed.</li> </ol>

Over the course of 2021- 2022 IICA supported the OECS in the preparation of a vision and strategic action plan for agriculture in the sub-region. The OECS Plan of Action for Agriculture (APOA) serves as an evidence base for development of fit for purpose interventions targeted at spurring the Sustainable development of the Agricultural sector of the region. IICA funded and supported the contracting of resource persons to conduct the needed stakeholder engagements and preparation of the APOA. The consultants developed the APOA with the input from agricultural stakeholders across the ECS with the view to addressing the challenges facing the agriculture sector and its development, consistent with the goal and the commitment of Member States.

□ *Support to the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College in Developing an Integrated Plan for the Dennery Farm (2021)*

Challenge(s) > Poor coordination of farm operations to support curriculum enhancement and execution > Low profitability and self-sufficiency of the farm in an environment of low financial support	
Intervention(s):	Developed capacity of local public and private sector stakeholders in commercial utilization of organic wastes, including composting

<b>Results:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developed concept ;</li> <li>2. Developed technical cooperation relationship with the Taiwan Technical Mission, ICDF to support further in-country work.</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Composting options characterized by reduced labour demand and enhanced temperature and water management are key to improving on-farm application for smallholder farmers.</li> </ol>

The IICA Delegation through the National Specialist supported an internal planning activity of the Department of Agriculture at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (AgSALCC) to develop and integrated farm management and curriculum enhancement plan. This plan was developed on the principle of marrying a fully-operational and sustainable commercial farm with the curriculum, learning and skill-development needs of current and potential students. Through a participatory approach, objectives, operational priorities and the broad elements for learning and research to support curriculum enhancement were outlined.

### 3.2 CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL RURAL DWELLERS

#### □ *Supporting Community-based Rural Enterprise Development in Beausoleil, Saint Lucia (2020)*

<i>Challenge(s) &gt; Weak organizational systems for facilitating enterprise development for rural stakeholders in the agricultural sector</i>	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	1. Strengthen participatory and enterprise development mechanisms for rural agricultural stakeholders
<b>Results:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rural group constituted and registered;</li> <li>2. Commercial systems operationalized to support investment and employment.</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. A programmatic approach to rural enterprise development is needed to realize the potential for sustainable livelihoods and investment.

Over 2018 – 2020, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) supported the formation of the Beausoleil Sustainable Agriculture Business Group (BSAB) with the focus on utilizing local biodiversity to support the creation of economic opportunities for rural community members. Specifically, actions for group formation and enterprise development were undertaken to demonstrate approaches that incentivize sustainable utilization of biological resources in the rural milieu to generate new sources of economic and social growth through entrepreneurship and enterprise for rural stakeholders.

Field visits and assessments conducted between 15 August and 12 November 2018 with community stakeholders pointed to opportunities with cocoa, organic farming, apiculture and agro/eco-tourism as being those most in keeping with a community-based ecology management method (i.e. management approach that seeks to stabilize and preserve land, biodiversity and ecosystem services) coupled with elements of the associative internship methodology for peer-to-peer learning.

Through meetings and consultations with group/community members, content for a Statement of Intent and Constitution was developed to give entity and operating guidelines for the group. Given market opportunity, prior capacity built with partners SLNRWP in cocoa value-added/processing, and other avenues for technical and resource mobilization cocoa was settled

on as a most expedient opportunity for exploration. Specific examination of commodity offerings in the market was also done to inform product development leading to consensus on commodities for which there would be both local and foreign (i.e. tourist) demand, and for which local offerings in the commodity segment were as yet unavailable. This process led to consensus on drinking chocolate and couverture as products with attractive margins and regular demand. These would be the focal commodities for the group in creating market presence and generating cash flow. With support of partners at the ARCTT, capacity building engagements were hosted over 2018 - 2019. These focused on:

1. Group dynamics and coordination;
2. Business planning, specifically on product recipes, defining the minimal viable product for drinking chocolate (including market requirements for safety, labelling, etc.);
3. Establishing basic logistics/arrangements for raw material supply, processing, and operations management;
4. Procuring and installing cocoa fermentation box;
5. Developing prototype product
6. Market engagement with buyers on market acceptance for the prototype products;

At its outcome, the action led to the creation of the BSAB, the Beausoliel Chocolate Company (BCC), the development of three (3) drinking chocolate products, two (2) interested buyers and the establishment of cooperative relationship between the SLNRWP Micoud Cluster and the BCC.

□ *Socio-Organizational Development of The Mushroom Collective (2021)*

<i>Challenge(s) &gt; Absence of a stakeholder coordination mechanism to support inclusive development of a mushroom industry</i>	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	1. Support the creation of a civil society organization for industry-wide coordination
<b>Results:</b>	1. Development of constitution, by-laws and socio-organizational and governance documentation; 2. Development for organizational and business development plans; 3. Formal certification of The Mushroom Collective;
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. Participatory internal and external stakeholder consultations are valuable to the constituting of agricultural groups/organizations to inform the outlook on positioning for growth.

The Mushroom Collective (TMC) was officially constituted on May 12 2022 through IICA's support. TMC is an association created to support applied research, innovation, capacity building and enterprise development around mushrooms. This builds on IICA's work with Funky Fungi Mushrooms in profiling and diversifying the business model for growing oyster mushrooms.

Through consultations and a participatory approach, IICA supported TMC in developing its constitution, work plan for support to members, as well as fostering strategic linkages with key partners.



The Executive of The Mushroom Collective meet with Mr. Gregg Rawlins, IICA Representative for the ECS to present their constitution and outlook for technical cooperation.  
(Photo: IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia 2022)

□ *Caribbean Climate Responsive Agriculture Forum- Country Project: Cocoa Regen, Saint Lucia (2021)*

Impact> Access and Linkage of Agricultural Chains to Markets	
Challenge(s):	The lack of knowledge-sharing mechanisms supporting the adoption of climate resilient agricultural practices.
Intervention(s):	1. Demonstrate a low-cost option for the production of biofertilizers which could be incorporated into a regenerative cocoa production model.
Results:	1. Developed low-cost systems for on-farm production of biofertilizers; 2. Developed two biofertilizers;
Lessons Learnt:	The project provided valuable capacity building for the National Specialist in the prototyping of a low-cost system based on knowledge gained from the Commercial Organic Waste Management course supported under the Bioeconomy Programme in 2021. In addition, the experiment design will be useful to the partner CSO the BSA for future work with the Ministry of Agriculture and GEF SGP UNDP in developing other biofertilizers.

The Cocoa Regen project aimed to demonstrate a low-cost option for the production of two biofertilizers which could be incorporated into a regenerative cocoa production model for Saint Lucia focused on valorizing and leveraging available biomass on a cocoa farm to promote cocoa production and livelihoods. The biofertilizers of focus were a fish hydrolysate (using fish wastes from landing sites) and an aerated compost tea produced using the fish hydrolysate and compost. The actions were undertaken with the Beausoleil Sustainable Agribusiness Group (BSA) on the farm of Mr. Cuthbert Monrocq as part of the IICA Saint Lucia Delegation's Rural Enterprise Development Programme.





Top: Prepping barrels for producing the biofertilizers. Bottom: A locally-made pasteurizer for sanitizing and stabilizing the finished products.

Fish hydrolysate (top) and compost tea (bottom) set up

Sample of Fish Hydrolysate harvested.

Photos: IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia, 2021

Fish hydrolysate was produced under anaerobic conditions using a recipe comprised of fish waste (guts, fins, etc.), brown sugar, yeast and unchlorinated water provided by Mr. Thaddeus Constantine of the Ministry of Agriculture. A target time-frame of 3 months to being ready was set but due to on-farm tampering of the biofertilizer drum by unknown parties, the maturation process for the hydrolysate was delayed to December 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. The recipe used was derived from a presentation by Compost Canada (via the 2021 Bioeconomy Programme). For the compost tea, the recipe requires a compost soak in an actively aerated mixture of fish hydrolysate, unchlorinated water and molasses. One 32W air pump was used for active aeration. Samples of the aerated compost tea, once harvested were pasteurized for stabilization.

The fertilizers are currently being used for growing cocoa seedlings and as a foliar application for cocoa trees to observe response.

### 3.3 IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRADE FOR COUNTRIES IN THE REGION

#### □ Farmer Certification Framework for Standards Adoption (2019)

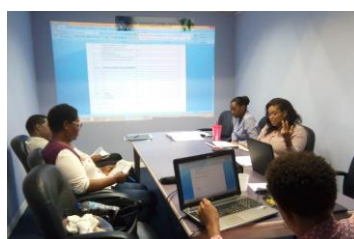
<i>Challenge(s) &gt; Promoting policies for the development of domestic markets that satisfy the needs of local consumers and facilitate regional integration</i>	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National consultations to specify core elements of the farm certification system and to formalize an Advisory Committee for the establishment of a certification system for food and food products;</li> <li>2. Creating a clear understanding of the functional components of Global G.A.P. and the operational requirements for certification</li> </ol>
<b>Results:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defined national procedures for adoption of Global G.A.P;</li> <li>2. Specified institutional arrangements to support operationalizing;</li> <li>3. Increased awareness of farmers and extension officers on cost-effective adoption of G.A.P.s.</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Actionable learning products that guide farmers/producers on the adoption of Global G.A.P. or local G.A.P. are needed.</li> </ol>

In 2019, the Delegations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent & The Grenadines received requests for support in adopting

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) to improve the adoption of these good practices and standards by farmers.

These requests had a common origin in weak mechanisms and capacity to objectively assure/verify the safety and quality of locally produced foods. This does not undermine the already demonstrated level of confidence of buyers but limits the ability of producers to effectively access and participate in markets with certainty. Moreover, with all ECS countries looking to better leverage both domestic and intra-regional market opportunities, having an easy to understand basis for defining quality and safety as well as the product offering, is an asset.

As a result of each of the participating countries being at different stages of developing operational systems, the workshop was divided into two components: (1) a Dominica/St Vincent engagement (August 12 – 13 2019) on clarifying GAP certification requirements and identifying suitable local arrangements; and (2) the Dominica/St Vincent and St Lucia engagement (August 14 – 15 2019) which allowed for sharing insights, designs, concepts and resources developed as inputs towards national certification systems. Sessions were facilitated by certified GlobalG.A.P. auditors Mr. Franlyn Magloire (Bureau of Standards, Dominica), Mr. Norman Alexander (Ministry of Agriculture, Dominica), and Mr. Kent Coipel, IICA Technical Specialist (Dominica).



Core Technical Team of IICA, Min. of Agriculture and SLBS drafting systems for the Certification Process. (Source: IICA, St Lucia, 2019)



Promoting Global GAP requirements with farmers in the northern district. (Source: IICA Dominica, 2019)



IICA supported national consultations for establishing the TOR and specifying action steps for an Advisory Committee to guide development of the certification system for food & food products. (Source: IICA St Vincent & The Grenadines, 2019)



Participants from Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent & The Grenadines. (Source: IICA St Lucia)

The initiative brought together over 30 technicians from IICA, the Bureaus of Standards and Ministries of Agriculture of Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent & The Grenadines to develop a common understanding on how GLOBALG.A.P. can be adopted in the various national contexts, as well as discuss approaches to operationalizing systems for certification and standards adoption.



Examples of cost-effective agro-chemical storage, sanitation and personal protective equipment (PPE) demonstrated and provided to benefiting farmers under the project. (Source: IICA Dominica, Saint Lucia; 2019)

In the first component, the focus was on national consultations to specify core elements of the farm certification system and to formalize an Advisory Committee for the establishment of a certification system for food and food products. The second component focused on creating a clear understanding of the functional components of Global G.A.P. and the operational requirements for certification. It also allowed participants to identify country-specific concerns and opportunities for operationalizing certification processes within the existing national quality infrastructure. IICA's

National Specialist in St Lucia, Brent Theophile, presented on efforts to define a functional certification system, and emphasized the importance of creating positive sum or value-adding relationships in the systems for standards adoption. There was universal consensus among participants on adopting approaches based on consultation and dialogue with actors in the value chains for voluntary adoption of the certification systems. The workshop also highlighted opportunities for greater multi-lateral collaboration in the ECS such as on equivalence for trade, developing learning resources, knowledge centers and platforms that can support other ECS and Caribbean countries who are also pursuing certification systems.

The workshop concluded with a walk-through on conducting a certification audit at the farm of Mr. Gideon Gilbert of Canaan. This was led by Mr. Magloire, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Charles of the Bureau of Standards, St Vincent & The Grenadines.



Farmers being trained in application of Global GAP to their farms. (Source: IICA Dominica)



Farmer, Gideon gives insights in to making standards compliance work during a site visit to his farm (Canaan, St. Vincent & The Grenadines). (Source: IICA St Vincent & The Grenadines)

		MY KNOWLEDGE LEVEL ON GLOBAL GAP			
BEFORE		Little	Fair	Good	Very Good
NONE					
1		1			
1		3	5	7	0
AFTER					

Participants' feedback of an improved understanding of requirements and capacity to enact GAP systems. (Source: IICA St Vincent & The Grenadines)



□ *Saint Lucia Country Dossier for Fine Flavour Cocoa*

<i>Challenge(s):</i> Market access and export potential may be hindered by absence of confirmed status of cocoa stock	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	Preparation of country dossier as supportive case
<b>Results:</b>	1. Completed country dossier 2. Confirmation of 100% fine flavor status
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. Ongoing cooperation with ICCO is important to ensuring that the achieved status is maintained and can be leveraged for sector development.

IICA led the preparation and submission of a country dossier for Saint Lucia to the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) meeting of the Ad Hac Panel on Fine or Flavour Cocoa in April 2019. The country dossiers are a requirement for the assessment of fine flavor stock for cocoa-producing and exporting countries (listed in Annex C of the ICA, 2010).

The dossier was presented by IICA Representative in Jamaica, Dr. Elizabeth Johnson as part of a Caribbean Cocoa Renaissance initiative aimed at improving cocoa quality and market access for Caribbean producers. As a result of these efforts Saint Lucia is now recognized as having 100% of its cocoa stock as fine flavor-category<sup>3</sup>. The expert panel concluded that “maintaining the country (Saint Lucia) as an exclusive exporter of fine or flavor cocoa. The Panel recognized the valuable information provided in the dossier and in the presentation to arrive at this recommendation.”

□ *Building More Efficient and Coordinated Production and Market Mechanisms for Stability of the Domestic Food System in Saint Lucia (2020)*

<i>Challenge(s)&gt;</i> Poor market coordination that hinders the utilization of locally available commodities	
<b>Intervention(s):</b>	Supported the improvement of operations for the operationalizing of the SLMB pack house
<b>Results:</b>	1. Institutional mechanisms for the operations of the Saint Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB) pack house developed. 2. PPE for safe operation of the pack house supplied. 3. Pack House Operations Manual developed. 4. Digital Point of Sale (POS) systems and scales with connectivity procured to enhance SLMB operations and data management to inform decision making.
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. The consultative process of engagement with producers, buyers and market coordination actors is important to defining functional processes supporting business development.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Delegation in Saint Lucia in collaboration with local partners the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural

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Resources and Cooperatives (MoA), Taiwan Technical Mission in Saint Lucia (TTM) and the Saint Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB) continues to support agriculture and rural development in Saint Lucia under the project entitled "Building more efficient and coordinated production and market mechanisms for stability of the domestic food system in Saint Lucia".



Facilitator Euthalia Philgence (far right) at participatory capacity building of SLMB staff on standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the pack house.

Source: IICA St Lucia 2020



Handing over of PPE, POS system and digital scales to the SLMB.

Source: IICA St Lucia 2020



Meeting with farmers to support coordination on production and supply of commodities.

Source: IICA St Lucia 2020

The project aims to improve market efficiencies in coordination of production, access to this produce and improved ways for farmers and buyers to do business in the market. The focus on market coordination is about keeping prices and the supply of produce stable so that farmers can earn a good income and thus continue investing in their farms and their capacity to improve production so that the rest of us can benefit from this supply of wholesome and nutritious local foods. This is especially important for Saint Lucia where COVID-19 has created a situation of potential to over-supply since the local tourist and some export markets have shrunk. By improving how well we know what and how much to produce and who will buy it, we can help to protect private and public investments for competitively producing and supplying food.

The project is supported under the IICA Single Fund which was created by IICA's Director General Dr Manuel Otero earlier this year to address priority actions for responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on the agriculture sector in IICA Member States. The project in Saint Lucia was by special request of the MoA and supports three key action areas:

1. Enhancing production and market coordination between farmers and buyers;
2. Supporting the operationalization of a pack house to enable structured procurement, aggregation and utilization of local produce (domestically and export); and
3. Strengthening institutional mechanisms for improved supply of safe and wholesome food commodities.

For the first action area, IICA is collaborating with a local youth technology company named Guru to make information on local, and in time, export markets available to buyers and farmers. The Guru Marketplace (<https://market.guru.lc>) is a free to use platform that provides market information to both farmers and buyers. There they can create profiles, see and communicate what each other is interested in buying and/or selling, negotiate terms for sales and process and finalize transactions digitally. The partners are currently meeting with farmers and buyers on how to use the market information and intelligence application to simplify business operations and procurement.

The second action area focuses on supporting the SLMB in getting their Odsan Pack house operational for receiving, aggregating and distributing fresh produce to buyers. IICA is collaborating closely with the TTM who is also supporting the SLMB for operationalizing the pack house. In the third action area the arrangements between actors in the supply chain will be strengthened to allow for better coordination in production, procurement and distribution to the market. This will be done in a way that allows the partners to be more aware of the safety and other requirements of the market and to have the necessary steps and procedures in place to do so.

To date the IICA Delegation in Saint Lucia has undertaken a number of actions with farmers and partners to inform and receive feedback on key elements related to Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) adoption on farms, distribution arrangements, and to design approaches to production and market coordination.

□ *Facilitating Trade Capacity of Caribbean Producers of Fresh and Value-Added Products to Capture Regional Markets (2021)*

<i>Challenge(s)</i> > Weak capacity of agricultural MSME's to navigate requirements for export trade and to engage directly with buyers in the export market.	
<b>Intervention:</b>	Capacity building and export market facilitation of agricultural MSMEs
<b>Results:</b>	1. Built capacity of 12 agri MSMEs in areas supportive of business development and e-commerce; 2. Supported several producer/buyer engagements and market linkages;
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. Actionable knowledge or resources to support greater agri MSME access and participation in export markets are needed.

This multi-country intervention sought to facilitate intra-regional trade in fresh and processed goods by beneficiaries in the six identified countries. Beneficiaries were supported to appreciate regional market opportunities (particularly in countries with high extra regional imports), be exposed to export strategies and tactics, supported to access testing for products, understand trade rules and standards for accessing export markets, utilize current technologies and platforms to facilitate trade in regional markets (Namely E-commerce), coaching on other issues of relevance to export oriented businesses and facilitate the participation of selected businesses in trade conventions/trade exhibitions (Buyer-seller linkages and trade promotion). The intervention also saw the development of national networks of entrepreneurs to allow for sharing of experiences and mutual support to facilitate trade. These networks built on the experience of an existing mechanism/network (Whats app group) already developed in Trinidad and Tobago.

In Saint Lucia twelve MSMEs benefitted from capacity building in important areas for export trade such as estimating costs and pricing, customer engagement and in managing an e-commerce presence. Further, IICA supported direct engagement with regional and international buyers which informed the local MSMEs on specific market opportunities for their products, as well as to understand areas for business improvement and scaling up to realize these opportunities.

### 3.4 INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF RURAL AREAS AND AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TO EXTREME EVENTS

#### □ *Building Capacity for the Rapid Response and Long-Term Management of Citrus Greening Disease in Saint Lucia*

<i>Challenge(s) &gt; Weak capacity and low knowledge of effective management actions for the control of Citrus Greening Disease (Huanglongbing/HLB)</i>	
<b>Intervention:</b>	Capacity building of both private and public sector stakeholders in identification, management protocols (field and nursery), propagation of clean planting material and guidance on the development of a certification program for citrus
<b>Results:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhanced capacity of 25 stakeholders (farmers, extension officers, crop protection, research and forestry officers and nursery operators) in the on-farm and in-nursery management of HLB</li> <li>2. Built capacity of 15 local technicians in shoot tip grafting procedures for propagation of clean planting material;</li> <li>3. Fostered collaborative relationship between Ministry of Agriculture of Saint Lucia and Jamaica.</li> </ol>
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An effective management programme is one that has to realize long-term certification of planting material while taking short-term measures on-farm/nursery to eliminate the disease vector and infected plants</li> </ol>

Citrus greening poses a threat to a EC\$5.12 million (2018) local industry. Since its official confirmation in 2016, the disease has spread in the major citrus-growing regions of Saint Lucia. Further, given that these areas also house a number of nurseries selling citrus planting material, the likelihood of rapid spread is high. Saint Lucia is therefore in need of support to build the necessary capacity/capabilities for early identification, rapid response and long-term management of HLB.

This project sought to undertake three (3) key interventions to address knowledge, sensitization and core capacity limitations to better control and limit the spread of HLB. Specifically:

1. Host a symposium with farmers, researchers and extension officers to share research findings, good practices from the Caribbean region on the early detection and rapid response protocols for control of HLB. The symposium will specifically draw on the experiences of Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada for the control of HLB. In so doing, it will foster harmonization of appropriate management protocols relevant to small island developing states (SIDS) and their resource and human capacity limitations;
2. Conduct field visits to identify areas of weakness and for the adoption of good practices in the control of the disease vector, as well as the removal of diseased plants/planting material(s). The aim of capacity building being to adopt recommended rapid response, and more importantly, long-term measures for control.

3. Define nursery protocols for the propagation of clean planting material to curtail the distribution of diseased material. This action was aimed at providing guidance on the requirements of a secure propagating facility.
4. Build capacity in shoot tip grafting (STG) as an alternative propagation method for clean planting material.

At its outcome, the project trained a total of 39 stakeholders over the course of two weeks. The first week targeted farmers, nursery operators, and officers of the Ministry of Agriculture's Forestry, Propagation, Extension and Research & Crop Protection units. These stakeholders learned how to identify the symptoms of the disease, the disease effects on citrus productivity as well as the disease vector.

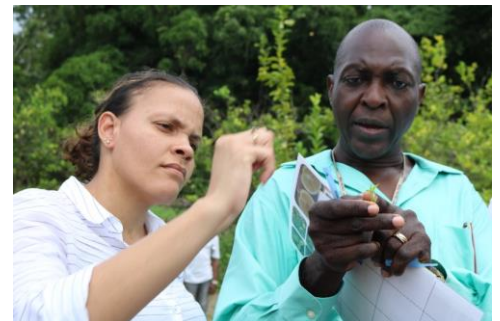
The project emphasized the need for sustainable, long-term actions for the effective control of HLB which warrant adopting an entirely new outlook on the citrus industry in Saint Lucia. In addition, the opportunities for bilateral/multilateral cooperation among Caribbean countries with shared interests on HLB management are clear. This may prove to be an effective short-term action with low capital costs to execute.



Facilitator Alfred Barrett engaging participants on HLB management



Reviewing nursery operations to identify options on the way forward



Conducting field exercises for identifying disease symptoms



Remarks by IICA Representative in the ECS, Gregg Rawlins at the awarding of certificates



The workshop facilitated knowledge exchange among stakeholders



Facilitator, Alfred Barrett presenting certificates of participation



Reviewing procedures and preparing material inputs



Facilitator, Kimone Richards guiding trainee on STG procedures



Putting training to practice in the lab



Completed shoot tip grafts.



Participant with completed shoot tip grafts



Awarding certificates of participation at the end of training on Shoot Tip Grafting

□ *Caribbean Climate Resilient Agriculture Forum (2021- 2022)*

<i>Challenge(s) &gt; Limited avenues for knowledge exchange among primary actors on the application of climate smart agriculture.</i>	
<b>Intervention:</b>	Virtual capacity building and multi-country exchange on the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices
<b>Results:</b>	1. Raised awareness among agricultural stakeholder of best practices promoting and supporting climate smart agriculture
<b>Lessons Learnt:</b>	1. Multi-stakeholder discussion forums on climate smart agriculture are a good impetus for supporting action on climate change adaptation and mitigation

The Caribbean Climate Resilient Agriculture Forum (CCRAF) is a regional forum that advances the dissemination of information and sharing of knowledge on topics related to climate smart agriculture. A strong focus is put on topics/issues that directly relate to on-the-ground issues, and which have direct relevance to the work of farmers and agricultural extension officers/technicians.

Topics covered included Techniques for creating high quality compost in an effort to reduce fertilizer costs, efficient low-cost irrigation and water saving techniques for increasing crop production, and addressing climate change impacts in the agriculture sector. The initiative is supportive of IICA's Living Solis of the Americas, Caribbean Soil-Centric Actions Programme, and the CBF Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project.



## PART III: PARTNERSHIP 4 PROGRESS

Building partnerships and inter-agency collaboration is an important mandate for IICA and a strategic focus for delivering meaningful technical support. Over 2019 – 2021, IICA collaborated with a number of development partners to advance progress on agriculture and rural development. These partners are highlighted below.

### □ *Supporting the Improved Capacities of Agricultural Stakeholders*



IICA/SLNRWP/ARCTT: Since 2017, IICA has brokered a relationship between the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) and the Alliance of Rural Communities in Trinidad and Tobago (ARCTT) to support capacity building and cocoa value chain development. Specific interventions have been made in developing group governance and business management capabilities, product improvement, and establishing market linkages. This work is done through technical cooperation and highlights the added value of cooperation.



IICA/BSAG: The Beausoleil Sustainable Agriculture Business Group (BSAG) is a community-based organization that is focused on empowering community residents around collaborative efforts for enterprise development. Supported by IICA's rural enterprise development programme, the socio-organizational and economic progress of the group has been the focus of initiatives to date.



IICA/TMC: The Mushroom Collective (TMC) is another product of IICA's rural enterprise development programme that seeks to attract and build on commercial investments in rural spaces. The TMC aims to build a regenerative and inclusive mushroom industry with focus on capacity building, actionable learning and knowledge creation, and enterprise development.

### □ *Supporting the Development of Agricultural Small-holders/Entrepreneurs and their Groups*



IICA/ GEF SGP UNDP: To date IICA has provided technical backstopping, in-kind technical contribution, brokered collaboration and led the implementation of a number of successful and highly visible projects with a number of established and new farmer/community/stakeholder civil society organizations. The GEF SGP UNDP remains a key strategic partner in support of rural enterprise development and the continued building of capacity among CSOs in Saint Lucia.



IICA/SLUNCF: IICA has been collaborating with the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF) on the establishment of a programme for mentorship and providing grant funding to farmer/community and stakeholder groups. The focus is on initiatives that support sustainable development of biological and natural environment resources while enhancing livelihoods.

□ *Technical Cooperation*



IICA/MAFFPCRD: The Ministry of Agriculture, is IICA's main partner in Saint Lucia and the two agencies work jointly on a wide range of activities. Over 2019- 2021, IICA contributed to programmes for capacity building of staff, improved operations of the St Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB), and horizontal technical cooperation.



IICA/Massy Stores: IICA and Massy continue to support value chain enhancements and the establishing of market linkages for local commodities with scope for market development. More recent collaboration has focused on the use of the Guru platform to support coordination with farmers for consistent supply of local commodities.



IICA/Taiwan Technical Mission ICDF: IICA signed a general technical cooperation agreement with the ICDF in 2019 to support closer collaboration on areas of common interest and relevance to agricultural development. Efforts to date have promoted greater exchanges and contribution to each organization's work programme.



IICA/CARDI: Under the scope of the IICA – CARDI Agreement the Institute actively explores areas for creating synergies with the work programme of CARDI and mutual support to each other's strategies for agricultural development in Saint Lucia.



IICA/FAO: IICA continues to support technical cooperation with the FAO for priority value chains in Saint Lucia including apiculture and coconuts, and the support of farmer organizations.



IICA/OECS: IICA has an ongoing working relationship with the OECS Secretariat. This has included technical and secretariat support to the Meetings of the OECS Agriculture Task Force, preparation of strategic documents for the Meeting of OECS Council of Ministers for Agriculture and development of the OECS Regional Plan of Action for Agriculture.



IICA/Export Saint Lucia: Over 2019 – 2021 IICA continued its support for the Bee City Project funded by the Compete Caribbean and implemented by Export Saint Lucia. The project has undertaken strategic interventions to promote the development of local and export markets for honey and other apiculture products.



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