



Excellence . Sustainability . Relevance

Supporting the sustainable development of agriculture and rural communities within Jamaica

Welcome to this special edition of Inside IICA Jamaica designed to celebrate the office's 35th year of operations in Jamaica, which was officially launched in June.

This Issue brings greetings from from our headquarters and some of our local stakeholders. We will continue to highlight the anniversary in subsequent newsletters.

This milestone is a tribute to the many persons who have worked diligently in our office over the period. It is through the staff that our standard of competence has been passed down throughout the years.

We must similarly give thanks to the many supporting agencies that have walked with us along this journey. IICA Jamaica is a small office and as such these partnerships are dear to us as they greatly facilitate the work of the office.

We also salute the beneficiaries of the various programmes and projects we have executed. They are the flag-bearers of our work and we look to them to build on the foundations that we have laid.

These are exciting times for the agricultural sector and we are enthused to be part of its development.

Shauna Brandon
Officer in Charge



Anniversary
1975-2010





Víctor M. Villalobos
 Director General, Inter-American Institute for
 Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

In 1975, we established our first Office in the English-speaking Caribbean in Jamaica. It was undoubtedly a pivotal moment in the history of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. We could even say that was the moment when IICA became a truly hemispheric organization.

This island in the Greater Antilles became a bridge for understanding between the mainland countries and the Caribbean nations. The states of both geographical areas share a colonial past but it was, naturally enough, following independence that they sought closer ties with each other, as the sovereign nations they are; so much so, that the language barrier has not been an obstacle to collaborative initiatives for their mutual benefit. Agriculture is a case in point.

TWO-FOLD CHALLENGE

As my Administration endeavors to identify the most important issues for the agricultural sectors of Jamaica and the other Caribbean countries, the challenge is twofold: firstly, to help the sector increase its contribution to national and regional development; and secondly, to find areas of convergence for joint action by countries in the region.

Jamaica has hosted meetings of the Inter-American Board of



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JAMAICA THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Encouraging Hemispheric Cooperation in Agriculture

Agriculture (IABA) - the Institute's highest-level governing body - on two occasions, reflecting its strong commitment to our organization.

I must say that the meeting held in October last year means a great deal to me personally, as it was during that event that the member countries honored me by entrusting me with the leadership of our Institute. Therefore, Jamaica has a very special place in my heart.

NEW AREAS OF FOCUS

As the IICA community is aware, we are currently working on the design of a new Medium-term Plan that will serve as a frame of reference for our technical cooperation activities for the next four years. We have proposed four main areas of work:

COMPETITIVENESS, PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS. Because agriculture is a complex system of value chains that links production with consumers in agricultural markets supplied by competitive agribusiness that includes small-scale agriculture.

AGRICULTURE, TERRITORIES AND RURAL WELL-BEING. Because agriculture plays a vital role in the economies and societies of rural territories that transcends the productivist dimension to include the different social dimensions that are part of rural well-being.

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Because agriculture depends on natural resources and the environment to carry out its production activities; and also has an impact on the condition and availability of those resources (their use and enjoyment by both present and future generations).

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY.

Because agriculture has to provide an adequate supply of quality food; and has to generate sufficient employment and income to afford rural people access to food.

I believe that by concentrating IICA's technical cooperation on these areas we will be better placed to help Jamaica's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to meet its targets for the development of a modern, efficient and internationally competitive agricultural sector; and to promote food security and safety, in the interest of the well-being of the inhabitants of this beloved country.

As the Minister in charge of the sector, the Honourable Christopher Tufton has been doing an excellent job, as has been widely recognized, and we have done our best to help him. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture for his proactive attitude in performing his duties, as was the case during the disaster that struck the sister people of Haiti. We will never forget his support for IICA's efforts on behalf of that country.

I would also like to thank the team of the IICA Office in Jamaica, led by Cynthia Currie, for their dedication and determination to support this country's agricultural sector. And allow me to pay tribute to all those who have helped IICA to make a useful contribution during the last thirty-five years. In 1975, we began with a single project; since then, we have carried out over thirty.

Finally, on behalf of the Institute, I wish to thank the Government and the people of Jamaica for giving us the opportunity to collaborate in your development efforts, allowing us to share your dreams and hopes, and permitting us to share in your achievements. I sincerely hope we continue to do so for at least another 35 years.

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries



Dr. the Honourable Christopher Tufton

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is pleased to congratulate the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on its 35th year of assisting our farmers and agricultural communities.

Often, when we speak of the development of the agricultural sector we forget to recognize those hardworking international development partners such as IICA who have worked tirelessly and frequently behind the scenes, providing much needed support in the form of grants, technical cooperation, training, infrastructural development and other critical assistance package.

For the Ministry to have achieved a record of seven consecutive quarters of growth in the Domestic Crop sub sector is no ordinary feat. We could not have done so without the contribution of IICA and other partners.

As we embark on our 2030 vision of transforming the agricultural sector, into one that is sustainable, research-oriented, market-driven, and geared at revitalizing rural economies, national development and our food security agenda, we fully acknowledge the importance of your organization to realizing this transformation.

Your long-standing work with the Ministry since I took office and most importantly since the 1970's, have no doubt been mutually beneficial and has impacted positively on the country's production and productive levels and the income earning potential of our farmers. As such, your service must be commended.

As Minister with responsibility for Agriculture and Fisheries, together with the agencies of the Ministry; my heartiest congratulations to the management and staff of IICA, for your dedication and hard work in the development of the agricultural sector. We look forward to another 35 years of partnership, as we keep pace with the changing needs of our farmers.

Messages



IICA'S CELEBRATION OF THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF COMMITMENT IN JAMAICA



Mr. Trevor Murray

Director of Operations and Integration - Caribbean Region

It is a very special honour and privilege for me as IICA's Director of Operations and Integration for the Caribbean Region to offer

heartfelt congratulations to our office in Jamaica on the celebration of its 35th Anniversary of operations in Jamaica.

In any endeavor of life, the achievement of thirty five years represents a very significant milestone. No doubt, this achievement in Jamaica must be considered in that light. In reflecting on this worthwhile journey, IICA always recognized the critical role which it had to play in working with the newly independent nation of Jamaica in the development of its agriculture sector and by extension, the economy and the country.

The Institute acknowledges that agriculture is not only a way of life for a very large segment of the people of Jamaica but that it also makes a significant contribution to the economic, social, and political development of Jamaica. At this critical time in our development in the Caribbean region, when food security is such a major challenge for the Caribbean region, the Institute has been redoubling its efforts in providing the necessary support to our member countries in the region with technical knowledge, plans,

programs and projects to contribute to a region where there is food and nutrition security for all the peoples of the region.

Through the IICA office in Jamaica, the Institute pledges to continue providing the necessary technical cooperation and support to the Government and the people of Jamaica in the areas which have been identified by the Government as its priority for agriculture development in the country. The Institute reaffirms its commitment to the Government and people of Jamaica and will continue to work steadfastly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the other stakeholders in the country's agriculture sector to promote the development of the rural sector in Jamaica.

In conclusion, please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the IICA Representative Ms. Cynthia Currie and the staff in the office in Jamaica for their dedication and commitment to the task at hand in providing the necessary technical support to the efforts of agriculture development in Jamaica over the last 35 years. I wish to also recognize the contribution of all our partners and stakeholders in the agriculture sector who have assisted us with our work here in Jamaica over the last 35 years. We gladly look forward to their continuing collaboration.

Once again, let me express my sincere congratulations to all and best wishes for continued success over the next thirty five years and beyond.



Opposition Spokesman Agriculture Land & Rural Development



Hon.. Rodger Clarke

It has been an honour and privilege for me to have been intimately involved with IICA for over 12 years. The contribution of IICA to the growth and development of agriculture in the Americas is immeasurable and Jamaica has benefited tremendously. Well do I remember the many initiatives launched by IICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture:

1. The establishment of the Alliance with considerable assistance from Dr. Arlington Chesney.
2. The launch of Rural Women and Youth Organizations in Agriculture.
3. The Caribbean Week of Agriculture to showcase the region's agribusiness.
4. The study of tourism and agriculture linkages.
5. The many projects launched in the rural areas to enhance production and productivity in the sector.

All these attest to an organization that takes its mandate seriously.

On a personal note I will cherish the personal association and friendships forged with Directors General Dr. Aquino and Dr. Brathwaite, all the members of staff of the Institute and the many ministers of agriculture I interacted with over time.

I am most grateful to my CARICOM counterparts who enabled me to lead the alliance from its inception in 2001 to 2007 when I demitted office as Minister of Agriculture.

So as the Institute prepares for the next 35 years in a most challenging period for agriculture, I am confident that it will face those challenges with confidence knowing that for it, failure is not an option. Long live IICA. Long live the association with IICA and Jamaica's agriculture.



Fertiliser and other inputs help farmers to quickly get back in production after hurricane damage.



Local farmers are assisted to cultivate Hot peppers on reclaimed bauxite lands in St. Ann for distribution to Walkerswood processing plant.

INDIVIDUALS

IICA has a long tradition of assisting individual farmers and producers. Through close collaboration with local agriculture agencies the office has provided much needed technical support to individual farmers and producers. In the '90s the office introduced the IICA Agribusiness awards to recognize and applaud entrepreneurship in agriculture. A similar award has been hosted annually for youth in agriculture which has become a staple at the annual Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial show.

PROJECTS

In its 35 years of operation in Jamaica the office has with funding from international donor agencies and with the assistance of both local and international development entities implemented over 30 agricultural projects to improve issues such as watershed management, goat production, cultivation of mined-out bauxite lands, hurricane recovery, agro-tourism and most recently the expansion of greenhouse production and the sustainable management of small-scale marine fisheries.



35 years
**EXTENSIVE
REACH**

Agriculture's True Contribution

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries commissioned IICA to conduct a study to determine the true or expanded contribution of agriculture to the country's economy. Widening the spectrum of indicators to capture the backward and forward linkages between primary agricultural production (such as farm outputs) and other productive and service sectors of the economy, the study has shown that local agriculture contributes twice as much to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as traditionally recorded.

Armed with this information the MOAF has proposed to the government that greater prioritization and resources be committed to agricultural development as growth in the sector would inevitably spark a spiral effect within the economy. The results of the study further underscores the need to create a more enabling environment for primary producers to ensure their competitiveness both with imports in the local market and within the region and wider communities.

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Elim residents are trained in proposal writing.



35 years
**EXTENSIVE
 REACH**



A Model Pig pen is presented to the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association to guide local farmers in the standards established for improved production practices.

COMMUNITIES

Strengthening rural communities to improve economic activities, create local employment, reduce rural poverty while enhancing the capacity of residents in good agricultural practices, business management, governance and the various skills is a major focus of the office's work programme in Jamaica. The office has implemented rural development activities in the communities of Mocho, Elim, Charles Town and the Buff Bay Valley.

PRODUCER GROUPS

IICA Jamaica has developed a reputation for facilitating the development of agricultural producer groups. The office in the 1990s launched the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP). In early 2000 identifying the need for greater expansion into protected agriculture improve productivity levels the Institute launched the Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association. IICA works closely with the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association and is currently assisting the group and other members of the pig pork industry to develop a cost of production and cost points for the sale of pork. Several other producer groups have benefitted from training and technical assistance activities

Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association

Over the years IICA has played a significant role in the growth and development of the JGGA. IICA spearheaded the formation of the association and facilitated the setting up of our office. They have assisted in several greenhouse training programs and supported us in the Hurricane Dean Recovery Program, by repairing damaged green houses and giving new ones where the damage was extensive.

For the past three years IICA has accommodated us at their booth at Denbigh and has never missed an association meeting. We just want to use this medium to say a big thank you to IICA for contributing their time, expertise and resources to this association. We give special acknowledgement to Mr. Robert Reid and Mr. Ainsworth Riley who have given yeoman services to our organization.

Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers

Jamaica is one of the countries that ratified the CEDAW convention and based on this, in the late 90's the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), partnered with IICA to research how best to make rural women life sustainable. Out of this the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) was founded by IICA and registered as a NGO. IICA nurtured and guided JNRWP providing technical, financial, and hand holding support for eight years, before JNRWP became independent in 2007. Along our journey IICA support has included:

- Assisting to implement good governance practices.
- Providing opportunities for JNRWP to participate in regional dialogue relevant to rural women
- Endorsing the launch of our Website, jnrwp.com and the official opening of the Office.

In 2008-2009 IICA facilitated and funded a capacity building/governance activity that allowed JNRWP to produce a Strategic Plan. Most recently, IICA provided input in our Institutional Strengthening Project that has produced an operational manual and information brochures.

Jamaica Pig Farmers Association

The Jamaica Pig Farmers Association was established in 2002 and since then we have had a very close relationship with IICA. In fact it was IICA that sponsored our first Executive Training in Association Management in 2003, and also assisted the JPFA in developing a Strategic Plan for its first five years of operation.

That was the beginning of a very fruitful and rewarding relationship and over the years IICA has sponsored and supported the JPFA with several of its projects.

This year IICA celebrates its 35th anniversary in Jamaica, and the JPFA wishes to express its gratitude for all the support IICA has given over the years and look forward to more collaborations in the future. Once again many thanks.

Erica Daley to Represent Jamaica at IICA's Youth Leadership Forum

The young lady who was instrumental in the early detection of the pink hibiscus mealy bug in Portland will represent Jamaica at the 3rd IICA Youth Leadership Forum in August.

Erica Daley, a marketing officer with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), was selected based on her strong leadership acumen and clear commitment to contributing to the development of the agricultural sector having worked in agriculture for over 13 years.

Growing up in a farming community and with farmers as parents, Erica says she was always hands on and from an early age was intent to find ways to enhance farming practices and bring it to another level. This led to formal studies in general agricultural practices at the local college of agriculture and later a degree in professional business management. All this laid the foundation for her 14 year career in the sector, first as an extension officer for 12 years and now as a regional marketing officer for the parish of Portland.

She has implemented well over 12 agricultural projects - some from concept to wide scale adoption. In her current capacity as a marketing officer, she links farmers to markets and collects data weekly, to help them target production and better meet market demand.

Recounting the distress call from a farmer in 2008 about an invasive pest she said she immediately went in, took samples and forwarded it to the lab in Kingston for verification. The Ministry of agriculture was grateful for her swift action and indicated that had the pest not been detected so early over 150 local species including citrus, ackees, and a range of export crops could have been wiped out by this pink hibiscus mealy bug. Thanks to Erica that disaster was averted.

In August she will join counterparts from 34 countries in the hemisphere at the University of Nebraska, USA. The experience is intended to strengthen participants' leadership capabilities from the perspective of having a global vision and dealing with issues related to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

"I am enthused and look forward to hear what other young people are doing in their countries and to see what lessons we can learn and incorporate," she said.



Members of the EU touring party and the media at the herb gallery in Charles Town, Buff Bay.

Buff Bay Valley Attracts Growing Interest

Word of the agro-tourism enterprise launched in the Buff Bay Valley of Portland by IICA with funding from the European Union is drawing interest from both the government and the private sector.

In April a delegation from the European Union and the Minister of Agriculture visited the area to see what was done. EU Ambassador Marco Mazzocchi Alemanni expressed satisfaction with the infrastructure created to facilitate agro-tourism businesses in the community. While Agriculture Minister offered suggestions for expanding the services of the cold storage facilities for farm produce to become a central distribution centre.

Hearing of the project and with a renewed thrust to expand community tourism across Jamaica, the Ministry of Tourism and the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) requested a visit of some of its key decision makers to the Valley. Executive Director of TPDCo Earl Patrick said he was impressed with what the team had seen and would like to consider ways to offer support.

The team also offered some suggestions for improvement in the short and long term.

The visits of the tourism agencies was shortly followed by a visit from other potential partners including the nation's premier skills training organization, HEART-NTA, Jamaica National (JN), National Commercial Bank (NCB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), University of Technology (UTECH) Hospitality Department among others.



Ministry of Tourism and TPDCo staff purchasing honey from the Honey Bar in Charles Town.

Their visit is strategic as the programme looks towards partnerships to help the community groups successfully operationalize the attractions.





A completed greenhouse in production in the 1st cluster in St. Elizabeth



Edith Chedda in her new greenhouse.

FIRST Cluster of IJAP Greenhouses phases into Production

It is projected by the Green House Unit of the MOAF that produce from greenhouse farming will increase 40% this year with capacity swelling to another 15%.

The estimation is in part due to the increase in greenhouse capacity facilitated by the addition of 40 new 4000 sq. ft. houses being constructed by the Improving Jamaica's Agricultural Productivity (IJAP) project.

Earlier this year the first cluster of 18 houses located in St. Elizabeth were completed. At the end of July, six were in full production with tomatoes, lettuce and sweet peppers.

The additional 22 houses to be built in the Manchester cluster are under construction. When these are in full production it is estimated that local greenhouse output will go up by some 40%.

To ensure optimal productivity, both new and existing greenhouse farmers are being given technical support by a greenhouse specialist from the Dominican Republic employed by the IJAP project. Fabio Bello has hit the ground running providing training to the RADA extension officers, and growers and offering technical assistance to the growers. He is covering such essentials as nutrient formulation to ensure they are knowledgeable of plant requirements and are more guided in the science.

"I am so grateful for Fabio," said Edith Chedda one of the new greenhouse beneficiaries. "He has come in and given me lots

of guidance and has shown us what we're doing wrong and how to correct it she said proudly pointing to nodes on her plants to show the noticeable improvement in her vines having adopted his advice.

The farmers are also being prepared for the hurricanes season. In July the project conducted a Disaster Mitigation Exercise to sensitise farmers in the proper dismantling and reassembling of the new greenhouses so as to ensure minimal damage is sustained during the impact of a hurricane and that production can quickly resume.

The new greenhouses are constructed with a locking profile that facilitates easy removal of the antiviral covering that is susceptible to wind damage. The material fits into a metal groove that can be locked and unlocked for easy removal. A mix of 87 new and existing greenhouse farmers from the project's five target areas participated in the simulation exercise. A training video was produced for further distribution to a wider number of greenhouse farmers.

Packing House UPDATE

The Hounslow Post Harvest and Packing House is near completion and will be ready for handover to the Government of Jamaica at the end of July. The packing house was designed with three cold storage rooms, two receiving rooms and will be the primary outlet for the two new greenhouse clusters.

One Down Five More to Go!

Users of the Calabash Bay Fishing beach need not leave the beach to access proper sanitary facilities anymore. In May, construction of new sanitary conveniences including washrooms and shower facilities for the fisher folk was completed by the IJAP project. The keys were handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who has final responsibility for it and an official opening of the facilities was hosted for the community in late July.

A much larger construction at the Old Harbour Bay Fishing beach is in advance stages of completion. At the second of six south coast fishing beaches earmarked for upgrade by the CIDA funded IJAP project, paint is going on the freshly expanded fish vending market. New sanitary facilities and proper drainage has been installed, while 40 gear sheds will be refurbished, enforced with new concrete roofs and repainted.

In Black River, the first leg of construction activities are in train. The foundation has been dug and elevated to overcome the high water table at the site. New gear sheds and a market will be constructed in the coming weeks.

On the research side of the fisheries component of the IJAP project, three sites have been selected for placement of the lobster condominiums subsequent to consultations with the Cuban lobster specialist and the Centre for Marine Science. These will be deployed at Old Harbour Bay, St. Catherine, Discovery Bay St. Ann and Blue Fields, Westmoreland.

CMS and the Fisheries ecologist contracted to the project have finalized the research and selected appropriate artificial reefs for the placement at the recommended sites. The condominiums are to spur breeding of spiny lobster and facilitate long-term observation and research of the crustacean breeding habits.

On the capacity building side of the project, just over 1400 fishers and community personnel have participated in a series of training covering, fisheries management, safe handling of fish from catch to sale, sanitation, safety at sea, conflict resolution, food safety and health and literacy.





Four for IICA Youth in Agribusiness Awards



YIAB 2010 Awardees

TOP: LARGE-SCALE CATEGORY
1st place - Sheldon Williams
2nd place - Terriann Hanniford-Cole

BELOW: SMALL SCALE CATEGORY
1st place - Swanson McNaughton
2nd place - Vanessa Fullwood

Every year local agriculture groups nominate shining young stars from their ranks to vie for the IICA Youth in Agribusiness Awards. The rules of the competition are such that winners must stand out in areas such as innovation, contribution to employment and show great potential to develop new markets.

The objective of the competition is to recognise excellence among young entrepreneurs who choose to invest in the sector and to encourage their commitment to advancing agriculture.

This year there were 18 nominees, seven were short listed from which four emerged as the 2010 winners in the small and large-scale categories.

A previous entrant to last year's competition showed immense improvement to his pig farming business and was selected the 2010 first place winner in the large-scale category. In addition to 496 pigs, Sheldon Williams rears 7000 chickens and 3 bee colonies. In the open field the 30 year old

farmer cultivates 3.2 hectares of pineapples, 6 hectares of coconuts and 0.4 hectares of oranges.

The farm provides employment for six persons. Williams has tried to automate as many processes in his mixed operation. A de-feathering machine and a scalding tank increases the quantity of poultry he can slaughter and supply weekly.

The pigs are housed in quarters separated for the various stages of maturity. The animals are watered and fed through an automatic dispenser system that Williams engineered. A concrete loading shoot allows the effortless loading and off loading of both animals and feed bags. He has also built in a proper drainage system and processes waste from the chickens for manure for his crops.

Runner up in the large-scale category is UWI psychology graduate Terriann Hanniford-Cole. The 27 year old says she has found her niche, growing scotch bonnet and West Indian Red peppers in open field and

bell peppers in two greenhouses. From her nursery she retails pepper seedlings. This is her 5th year in the business and she now employs 10 part-time and 3 full-time staff.

The very innovative Swanson McNaughton who makes most of the equipment for his apiary copped 1st place in the small-scale category. He builds hive bodies and frames, boxes, bottom and top boards, wiring boards, embedding boards, foundation and uncapping drums. These are also sold retail.

With just over 70 colonies he is able to harvest 450 gallons of honey per crop. This is sold to the five-star Sandals hotel chain under McNaughton's Nature's Honey Farm label. Making his own labels is another cost saving of his operation. He is assisted in the business by his wife.

Twenty-one year old Vanessa Fullwood is the small-scale category runner-up. Assisted by her father, Vanessa cultivates a 3 acre plot of West Indian Red peppers that is sold directly to Grey's Processing.

To ensure a steady supply of water for the farm, a pump is used to draw water from a close-by river. Nutrient and water supply to the crop is monitored by a drip irrigation and fertigation system for optimal development and output of the crop.

Vanessa and her colleagues will receive their award at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial show on July 31.