

IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of Rural Communities in the Commonwealth of DOMINICA for 2006

1. Introduction

The IICA Office in Dominica completed in 2006 its 22 years of collaboration with Dominica's agricultural sector and rural communities.

In an effort to evaluate the progress made in executing the National Agenda and to report to national authorities, key stakeholders in agriculture and tourism, the private sector and civil society, a national report entitled "IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of the Rural Communities in Dominica" is presented in the following sections:

- ❖ The state of agriculture and rural life in the Commonwealth of Dominica
- ❖ Results of implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in the Commonwealth of Dominica during 2006
 - IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life.
 - Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness.
 - Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems
 - Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment
 - Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach
 - Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life.
- ❖ Inter-Agency Cooperation
- ❖ Horizontal Cooperation
- ❖ Future opportunities for Technical cooperation

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

2. Executive Summary

In 2006, the IICA Office in Dominica promoted the repositioning of agriculture to enable a positive contribution towards eradication of poverty, empowerment of women and youth, environmental sustainability and improved incomes of rural communities. The following highlights the significant achievements by the various Inter-thematic and supporting areas of action:

IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life.

In order to increase the contribution of agriculture and agribusinesses to the Dominican economy, the IICA Office facilitated and supported the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment in improving the capabilities of public and private sector stakeholders to pursue and implement an improved policy framework to reposition agriculture. Two(2) workshops were conducted with the public stakeholders (technicians – economic sectors) and two(2) with private stakeholders (youth, women, agribusinesses, NGOs and farmers) on the process of policy design, formulation and implementation, based on the needs and recommendations from the consultations between and among all stakeholders and actors in the agriculture sector. As a result of the workshops, a revised draft National Agricultural Development Policy for the Commonwealth of Dominica 2006 – 2015 formulated by the Regional Specialist in Trade and Policy Development in line with the Agro Plan 2003 – 2015 was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment for scrutiny. The national agricultural policy will ensure the creation of a new institutional framework that includes rationalizing the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment in a manner that will allow efficient administrative and technical management of the agricultural growth and development process for 2007 – 2017.

Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness.

IICA Office Supported mechanisms to strengthen private sector involvement in the planning and development of agriculture to diversify the agricultural product base and stabilize the decline in the agriculture sector. Two consultations were held with 13 agribusiness associations to facilitate the consolidation of all agribusiness as a single entity as opposed to Agro-processors and 13 other associations. The draft constitution for establishing and operating the Dominica Agribusiness Association (DABA INC.) was submitted to members and technicians for comments to facilitate adoption in 2007. The constitution shall promote an active, professional, profitable and environmentally sound agribusiness industry to respond to issues which constrain its growth. The consolidation of Dominica Foundation of Herbal Researchers and Practitioners (DFHRP) and Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA) to local chapter of CHBA was supported by IICA.

A coordinated approach to the development of sustained linkage between agricultural and other economic sectors is being pursued in Dominica. The Office successfully

implemented the OAS/IICA project “**Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean**” in collaboration with the Agro-Tourism Centre in the IICA Barbados Office. An Inventory of existing and potential agro tourism products and services was developed and documented. Activities of formal and informal networks in support of agro tourism were also documented. The office also facilitated the conduct of a survey to determine the quantity and value of agricultural products traded with the tourism sector. In addition, video documentation of success stories in agro tourism implemented with stakeholders in tourism, agriculture and rural communities. The videos will be used for public relations of the enterprises and marketing of agro tourism in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

IICA Dominica provided support towards the rationalization, development and upgrading of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems in Dominica by actively participating and providing administrative support to five regular meetings of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NSPSC). The Office also supported harmonizing and rationalizing the National AHFS legislation and standards concerning safe agricultural products being offered to consumers in domestic and export trade in Dominica by being appointed to serve on the National CODEX Committee as chairman with responsibility for the overall management of the committee. The Committee has the mandate to develop a Food Safety Strategy to include the procedures of a GAPS certification scheme for fresh produce in trade to be adopted by farmers and exporters. Priority areas to focus efforts and resources for the Division of Agriculture with regards to the Veterinary Services were identified through assessment using the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tools developed by IICA and OIE. Provided financial and administrative support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment to ensure agricultural technicians attend and actively participate at the 35th, 36th and 37th WTO/SPS Committee meetings in Geneva under the initiative of the Americas Programme. As a result of such initiative, stakeholders in the agriculture and related sectors in Dominica have increased their understanding and adoption of the operations and requirements of international setting bodies.

Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

IICA Dominica supported efforts of Clemson University in capacity building in applications of biotechnology for conservation and utilization of Dominica’s rich biodiversity. Archbold Tropical Research and Education Centre (ATREC) on behalf of Clemson University, and the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), at the request of the Government of Dominica, organized and conducted a three day national consultation on Biodiversity Prospecting and Access to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge. The consultation improved the awareness of the participants on the political, legal and technical issues related to bio-prospecting in Dominica, from exploring a number of case studies on biodiversity prospecting from Costa Rica and Peru. Providing “added value” to raw genetic material (e.g. through development of good taxonomic information, skills in collection and preparing samples

and extracts, etc.) is a well-accepted strategy in Costa Rica. Opportunities will be explored for increasing the relative value of Dominica's genetic resources and traditional knowledge by participation in a USAID funded project to be implemented 2007. Twenty-eight (28) participants from public, private, traditional healers, indigenous and non governmental organizations strengthened their knowledge towards acceptance and participation in new technologies and processes adapted for expanding business opportunities in the sustainable utilization of Dominica's genetic resources and traditional/indigenous knowledge.

Strengthening Rural Communities

IICA Sustainable Rural Development Regional Specialist has provided technical support and guidance in the finalization of the Integrated Development Programme for the Carib Territory based on follow up meeting with the two key stakeholders, the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of Carib Affairs. At that meeting the draft document prepared by the Carib Affairs Office was critically reviewed and technical input provided by the IICA Rural Development Specialist, including changes to the budget, enterprise development, highlighting the special needs of women and youth. The revised document was sent to the **Sustainable Rural Development Unit** at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica for comments and feedback.

Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural life.

IICA and The National Association for Youth in Agriculture (NAYA Inc.) collaborated with The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), a non-profit corporation affiliated with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in organising and conducting the first Business Labs Training of Trainers Workshop focusing on Small and Medium Enterprise Development with emphasis on Rural Tourism. The workshop improved capacities and capabilities towards acceptance, adaptation and participation in appropriate Business Lab Training to a select group of 18 participants from Trinidad, St.Vincent, Guyana, St. Lucia and Dominica. The participants were trained as lead trainers developing the Business Labs Rural Tourism content and a "learning by doing" entrepreneurial skills methodology that later will be adapted and replicated, training not only young entrepreneurs but also more trainers through its replication process.

IICA Dominica in collaboration with the EU Agricultural Diversification programme provided administrative and financial support to facilitate a **one week technical exchange visit** by five (5) technicians and four (4) farmers to access information and technologies of organic production, processing, marketing and certification in the Dominican Republic. IICA Office in the Dominican Republic provided administrative and technical advisory services by experienced and knowledgeable staff from IICA, the Ministry of Agriculture, established organic farms, agribusinesses and institutions involved in the organic sector in the Dominican Republic.

3. The State Of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Commonwealth Of Dominica In 2006

The Commonwealth of Dominica is the most northerly of the sub-regional Windward Islands grouping, with a total land area of 750.6 km² and a population of 71,079¹. The country experienced average, but relatively stable economic growth during the mid-eighties to early nineties. Between the periods 1986 to 1993 real growth averaged 3.67% per annum, mainly as a result of the banana industry, the main source of the country's exports and the largest contributor to agricultural employment. However, with the advent of the phased elimination of preferential access to the European Union (EU) for banana exports, the positive growth experienced during this period was not sustained and the annual growth rate decreased to 0.52% per annum² over the 1994 – 2003 periods. Decline and/or stagnation characterized the major productive sectors, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism, and Dominica suffered from a cumulative output loss of 10 % from 2001-2003. In an effort to halt this economic decline the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica (GoCD) embarked on an Economic Stabilization and Adjustment Programme (ESAP) supported by a Stand-by Arrangement with the IMF in 2003. In 2004, real GDP grew by 3.5 % as the unused capacity in the economy was reactivated. Output growth in 2004 was broad-based, with transportation, agriculture, manufacturing and construction all showing signs of a robust recovery from the 2001-03 collapse. In 2005, real GDP grew by 3 %, however the overall performance of the agriculture sector in the Commonwealth of Dominica continued to be influenced by the performance of the banana industry despite the many efforts by the Government to diversify the sector. In 2005 the banana industry exported approximately 10,860 tonnes at a value of US\$5.8 million in comparison to 2004 when 12,975 tonnes was exported at a value of US\$6.4 million.

3.1 Factors in the national context

Macroeconomic conditions - The Dominican economy continued to grow in 2006, with real GDP growing at about 4.1 percent to yield the second straight year of higher-than-average growth. This was evidenced by strong domestic demand, high consumer imports, higher than projected tax revenues, and an increase in credit provided by commercial banks. The financial services sector is estimated to have grown by 5.0 percent while electricity and water production grew by 2.7 percent. Output in the manufacturing sector is estimated to have increased by 1.5 percent. The Agriculture sector continued in 2006 to make significant contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (16.7 % of GDP) as seen in table 1. As indicated in Table 1, the relative share of primary agriculture in economic activity has maintained an average annual contribution of 17%. Crop production is still the primary foreign exchange earner in agriculture for 2006, accounting for 74 % of all agricultural production. The contribution of livestock production to overall agricultural production was maintained at 10%, while forestry and fishing contributed 4.5% and 12.1% respectively to overall agricultural production in 2006. Given its dominance in the sector, the economic performance of

¹ CSO 2001 Population Census

² CSO 2004 Economic Indicators

primary agriculture and value-adding, rests on performance in crop production. The livestock, fisheries and forestry sub-sectors contribute very little to foreign exchange earnings, their economic significance mainly in the areas of food security, employment in rural communities, and in the case of fisheries and livestock, a vital source of meat for home consumption (protein).

**Table 1: Percentage Contribution of Agriculture to GDP by Economic Activity
(In Basic Constant Prices)**

Sub-Sector	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Agriculture	17.96	17.51	18.33	17.69	17.67	17.09	16.71
Crops	13.76	13.08	13.60	12.90	12.99	12.48	12.21
Livestock	1.63	1.71	1.82	1.84	1.79	1.76	1.71
Forestry	0.75	0.79	0.84	0.84	0.81	0.79	0.76
Fishing	1.83	1.93	2.07	2.11	2.08	2.05	2.03

Source: Central Statistics Office – Dominica note: 2006 figures are preliminary

Bananas are the dominant crop in the sector. Export production volume of 2006 is estimated at approximately 12,827 tonnes, representing a slight increase of 7.4% from 2005 of 11,953 tonnes. In addition to bananas a wide range of non banana crops are produced for both local consumption and export, these include: roots and tubers; citrus fruit; coconuts; and vegetables. The main non-banana crops exported and the value of these exports in 2006 are shown in the Table 2 below - the data shows that the value of non-banana crop production at approximately US\$5.4 million is still lower than the US\$7.5 million earned from banana exports in 2006.

Table 2: Value of Banana and Main Non-Banana Crop Exports (2004 - 2006)

EXPORT COMMODITY	FOB US \$ 000,000		
	2004	2005	2006
BANANA	7.2	6.4	7.5
AVOCADO	.74	.9	.8
CITRUS	1	.8	.7
BAY OIL	.5	.5	.8
PLANTAIN	1.6	1.4	1.3
ROOT CROPS	1.7	1.5	1.4
VEGETABLES	.5	.4	.4
TOTAL	13.2	11.9	12.9

The major current concern is the fate of the banana industry. Since the announcement that preferential access to the EU (and particularly the UK) markets will be lost, acreage under bananas and output per acre have both fallen. Employment has followed downwards, “to compound the already unfavourable position, the morale of farmers has been at an all time low as reflected by the reduction in the number of farmers from 1,050 in 2004 to 790 at the end of 2006

Climatic Factors Impacting On Agricultural Performance

Over the years, Dominica’s natural environment has remained in a state which can be described as pristine. The benefit of this aspect of Dominica’s history (its unsuitability to certain types of development) is that Dominica’s eco-systems have remained intact. Environmental and eco-system integrity is again being recognized as critical to

sustainable agricultural production, as well as the basis of the rapidly expanding herbal industries. However, the pristine environment is being increasingly threatened by global warming, climate change, pesticide residues, fresh water and marine pollution, land degradation, and deforestation.

For example, it is anticipated that global warming and climate change will bring about an increase in the intensity and frequency of weather events in the Caribbean region, leading to potentially significant impacts on Dominica's biodiversity, including: -

- Intensification of storms, as a result, will increase erosion and sedimentation in coastal waters, thereby affecting the resilience of natural systems.
- High energy waves will result in increased coastal erosion, allowing the sea to encroach further inland and also causing severe loss of biodiversity.
- Increase in temperature and increase in intensity of ultra-violet radiation will affect sensitive species.
- Sea level rise will affect low-lying towns and villages and result in extensive economic loss and greater development pressure on natural system.

3.2 Changes in policies on agriculture and rural life.

In 2004, the World Bank/IMF approved a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for Dominica to address the serious economic situation and stemming from increasing fiscal deficits and difficulties in servicing the public debt. The PRSP was subsequently integrated into a Medium-term Strategy for the period 2005/06 to 2009/10. The Growth and Social Protection Strategy Paper (GSPSP) provides the macroeconomic framework, growth and sectoral strategies and poverty reduction and social protection programs for Dominica over the medium term. The GSPSP asserts that the public debt has been managed by structural adjustment program (SAP). However, it recognizes that structural weaknesses that constrain the emergence of private enterprise and competitive industries remain. In a changing international environment, this poses a significant challenge to achieving national development objectives.

In 2006, the priority of national growth strategies was to maintain the gains made in macroeconomic stabilization while laying the foundation for higher growth. This higher growth, projected at between 2.5% and 3%, over the near to medium term, is premised largely on the implementation of large, public sector driven construction projects. The GSPSP's growth strategies are being promoted in order to alleviate un/under-employment levels, mostly in rural areas and reduce the number of 'working poor' mostly in urban areas. The need to maintain and enhance the natural environment is also a key pillar for sustainable development.

In keeping with the national objectives '**towards economic growth and job creation**', the GOCD simultaneously sought to establish national policies for agriculture in 2006. As advised in the 'Rationalization of the Public Services Organization, Function and Structure MoAE' Final Updated 23 May 2005 Report', agricultural policy must adopt a strategic perspective for the sector as a whole and not for individual sub-sectors,

industries or development projects as has been the policy history. The policy process started in 2005, and continued in 2006 with the technical assistance from IICA, will contribute to create the new institutional framework that includes rationalizing the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (MoAFE) in a manner that will allow for efficient administrative and technical management of the agricultural growth and development process for 2007 - 2017.

The draft National Agricultural Development Policy developed in 2006 for Dominica strongly advocates the need for a multi-sectoral, inter-Ministerial approach to the policy dialogue and consultation process for achieving consensus with regards to an official state policy for agriculture that defines the goals, priorities, responsibilities and functions among multiple stakeholders.

Policies adopted to foster agricultural exports: The major instruments of policy aimed at supporting the agricultural sector have been fiscal in nature. Government has sought to actively promote desired types and levels of agricultural production through budgetary expenditures on relevant infrastructure (roads, pack-house facilities etc.), services (extension, plant propagation, plant protection, technology and information generation, credit delivery and marketing support).

Direct production subsidies in the form of fertilizer and pesticides were provided in 2006, but price subsidies have never been popular due to budgetary constraints. Trade concessions in the form of export duty waivers and the lifting of import duty on supplies, materials and equipment, meant for use in agricultural production, were also frequently adopted in 2006.

3.3. Institutional reforms in agriculture and the rural milieu.

Privatization of functions and services/Producer Organizations: In the early 1980's and 1990's there was a culture of group formation, association building pervading the sector and there was a multitude of local and national level farmer groups and associations. The extension service worked actively with the farmers in facilitating the formation and operation of the groups. While the number of active farmer groups operating in the industry has declined tremendously, the more resilient groups have remained, including the Essential Oils and Spices Cooperative and Nature Isle Pineapple Producers Association (NIPPA). Within recent times, new groupings, such as, the Fair Trade District groups, National Fair Trade groups, Windward Island Farmers Association (WINFA), Agro Processors Association of Dominica (APAD), and Poultry Producers Association have emerged to meet the specific needs of farmers. The banana industry has undergone some reorganization over the last 5 years. The more significant have been the elimination of most of the incompliant and uneconomical producers and the emphasis on efficiency in the marketing operations with the replacement of the Dominica Banana Marketing Corporation (DBMC - a statutory board) by a private limited company, the Dominica Banana Producers Ltd. (DBPL) mandated to operate in a purely commercial manner. Output has been showing slight signs of increase since 2004 with some cautious degree of optimism among producers and administrators despite the continued threat to the protection of the EU market.

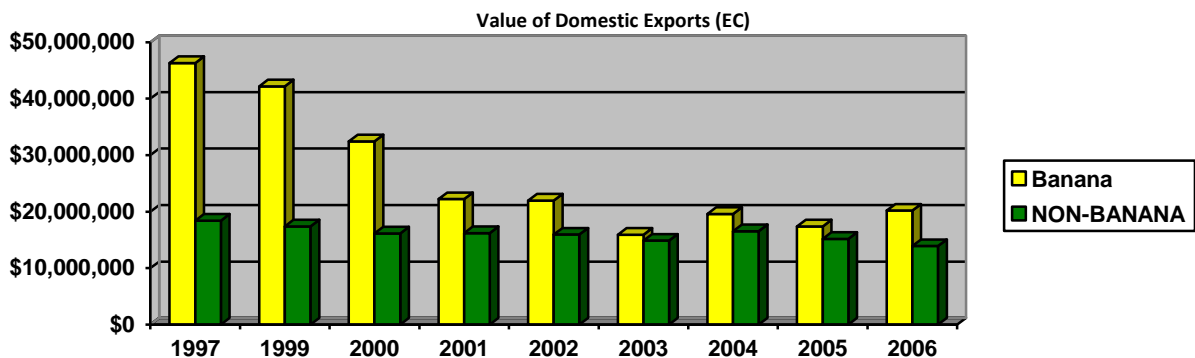
3.4 Agrifood trade and the development of agribusiness

Exports have steadily declined over the period falling from a high of approximately forty four (44,000) thousand metric tonnes in 1997 to approximately sixteen (16,650) thousand metric tonnes in 2006. This is due in the main to a reduction in the level of banana exports. The non banana export levels have remained on average fairly constant over the period, though registering some decline thereby not compensating for the serious decline in banana exports.

Table 3- Volume (MT) of Selected Agricultural Exports by Category

CATEGORY	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
BANANA	37,366	30,679	29,519	28,788	19,061	18,379	11,956	14,484	11,953	12,827
CITRUS	1,566	1,673	1,195	1,235	1,328	1,255	1,082	956	830	644
CUT FLOWERS	10	9	13	7	13	4	5	3	4.4	3.7
FRUIT CROPS	77	136	135	164	139	120	149	160	121	156
PLANTAIN	2,006	2,056	2,104	1,824	1,490	1,461	1,443	1,569	1,383	1,230
ROOT CROPS	1,232	1,323	1,230	1,136	872	990	741	1,008	874	789
TREE CROPS	1,040	878	1,046	965	889	935	962	1,054	937	731
VEGETABLES	420	305	308	370	339	278	355	307	239	270
TOTAL	43,717	37,059	35,550	34,489	24,131	23,422	16,693	19,541	16,341.4	16,650.7

Similar to the situation regarding the volume of exports, the value of crop exports over the period 1997 to 2006 has registered a precipitous drop of approximately eleven (11) million US dollars moving from a high of approximately twenty-four (24) million US dollars in 1997 to approximately thirteen (13) million US in 2006. The most significant contributor to this decline is the drop in banana earnings from approximately seventeen (17) million US in 1997 to about seven (7) million US in 2006, representing a 44% decline. Significant declines in export earnings were also registered for a number of non banana crops including: citrus; plantains and tree-crops, as indicated in table 3 above.



Total agricultural exports increased from US\$12 million in 2005 to US\$13 million in 2006 as a direct result of the increase in banana production from 11,953 tonnes in 2005 to 12,827 tonnes in 2006 (7% increase).

The food import bill has increased significantly over the years, climbing from US\$10M in 1990 to US\$ 19.2M in 1994, an increase of 105% over the period. The major imported items being poultry products, mainly broiler parts, beef, cereal and cereal products. In 2005, (total imports were valued at US\$165M) food and live animal imports accounted for 15.8 % (US\$26M) of total imports, with meat and meat preparations valued at US\$6.1Million, cereals and cereal preparations US\$4.8 and Dairy Products US\$4.1 million respectively.

3.5 Agricultural health and food safety (AHFS)

Exports of other fresh, non-traditional agricultural products face significant entry difficulties in the US and some regional destinations, arising from technical barriers to trade (TBT) and other license arrangements. The regional market accounts for 70% of Dominica's fresh produce trade. In recent times, increasing competition from regional producers such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic has led to decreased demand for Dominican produce. Additionally, due to the poor quality of Dominican fresh produce, resulting from poor packaging, processing and transportation methods, Dominica has lost significant market share to its competitors. The bulk of trade in such products occurs among 'hucksters' who are responsible for moving a significant volume of fresh agricultural produce from Dominica to regional markets. These hucksters are however, facing a widening range of new international regulations and standards governing fresh produce handling and transportation that restrict the smooth flow of such trade.

As a signatory to the CARICOM and OECS harmonized trade instruments Dominica, is not constrained to move both fresh and processed products into regional markets, except in instanced governed phyto-sanitary restrictions. Access to extra-regional markets has become more difficult as increasingly entry conditions in the EU and overseas territories markets will require application of licensing requirements. Since 2001, the US has already instituted a zero-tolerance policy with respect to AHFS issues making entry and access conditions more difficult, complicated and expensive for Dominican exporters.

The scope of agro-processed foods has been significantly more extensive than that of the fresh produce. This is evidenced in the diversity of sales, locally as well as regional and extra-regional export destinations. Over 75% of processed products of Bello, the largest food processor on the island, are exported to other Caribbean countries and extra regional markets. Other food processors, including Benjo's, manufacturer of seamoss beverages, also exhibit a similar pattern of export market diversity. With the advent of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) issues, Dominican food processors face extreme challenges in exporting products to developed country markets. Some of the response strategies used have been production relocation to countries that have improved AHFS systems and to facilitate better access to markets.

3.6 Agricultural innovation, science and technology

CARDI as an institute is mandated to carry out research in support of the Division of Agriculture (DOA), thus the DoA does not have a research arm. Nevertheless, some level of adaptive research is undertaken by individual staff members in collaboration with CARDI. The main areas of research being pursued are agronomic (hot peppers/ pineapple/ yams), livestock, plant protection and quarantine. Some research is also undertaken with private seed distributors – varietal trials on a wide range of commercial vegetable varieties. Research in organic agriculture: specifically organic fertilizers (vermi-composting); organic production and management systems to include pest and disease control were attempted in 2006. The Chinese Mission (PRC) is currently doing research on oriental Chinese vegetable (including sweet corn) and papaya varieties.

The Fisheries Division does research into new and improved fishing technologies, fish processing and quality and assurance, aquaculture, fish disease management. The Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division conduct research in the fields of forest, wildlife and national parks management. Wildlife research is being conducted on parrots (Sisserou and Jaco) and the crapaud; and in the sustainable use of game species (crabs/agouti/manicou). Natural forest management research involving bois bande (*Richeria grandis*), and blue mahaut (*Tectona grandis*) has been constrained by financial difficulties. There is also ongoing research observation on invasive species such as the “Puerto Rican” lizard and lemon grass. Research is also carried out on the documentation of native palms; and the buccaneer palm (mero); precipitation; stream gauging and beach profiling/ monitoring of beach erosion. Recent studies have been done on the National flower Bois Carib (*Sabinea carinalis*). The Department also works collaboratively with overseas research institutes and universities. Construction of a Molecular Laboratory to conduct research on the status of the amphibian population in Dominica was completed at a cost of US\$60,000 and is fully functional in the amphibian research programme.

One of the main challenges affecting the adoption of science and innovation throughout agricultural sector is the decline in the number of young persons involved in agriculture and related activities. This is reflected in data from the 1995 Dominica Agriculture Census, which indicated that only four percent (4%) of all farmers at that time were under the age of twenty-five (25), while thirty-six (36%) were over the age of fifty-five (55). In a recent sample survey of fifty (50) farmers, none were under the age of fifty-five (55). The data also indicates that the majority of our farmers have not gone beyond primary education. At the same time, youth in Dominica are part of a vibrant and creative culture and if engaged can offer innovative strategies and solutions for the sustainable development of the country as a whole. Reinvigorating agricultural development through the creative vision of youth and the development of vibrant leadership in the country is critical for the way forward, if agriculture is going to be perceived by the youth as a “innovative and scientific to be prosperous and entrepreneurial” profession.

3.7 Sustainable rural development

A total of approximately US\$270,000 was spent on farm access road rehabilitation for the 2005/06 financial year. Of this amount, US\$160,000 was spent on rehabilitation of twelve major farm Access Roads Island wide, and US\$111,000 on a direct farm access road programme aimed at improving the access to individual small farms. Over 300 farmers have benefitted from these road improvements. The Young Farmers' Programme has provided support in the amount of US\$30,000.00 to several young persons to begin businesses in agriculture ranging from vegetable and horticultural production, poultry and livestock production, sea moss cultivation, commercial wildlife farming, banana ripening and herbal products for medicinal purposes. That Programme has also provided training to all project beneficiaries and interested young persons and has made US\$55,000 credit available through the National Development Foundation to several young persons for additional projects.

It is anticipated that the new Central Livestock Farm at Londonderry will commence operations early in 2007 to provide improved breeding stock for the livestock sector and to enhance production of small stock such as rabbits. The rehabilitation of the Hillsborough Propagation and Demonstration Centre is progressing satisfactorily with the imminent implementation of green house production and irrigation systems which will serve as training and demonstration systems for farmers, through the Technical Cooperation arrangement between the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment. The ultimate goal is to transform the station into a modern agricultural training and demonstration centre for the benefit of the rural communities in Dominica

Some of the major projects completed during the year 2006 which facilitated the reduction of poverty and promoted the sustainable management of the natural resources of Dominica included the following: *The Social Protection Programme* – With assistance from the EU, approximately US\$407,000 was spent during 2006 to provide short term employment, skills training and micro credit, benefitting many persons primarily in the rural communities. *Agriculture and Tourism/Site Upgrading Project* - Under this project, the Carib Model Village, now known as the Kalinago Barana Aute at a total cost of US\$1.1 million was completed and opened. This project was aimed at the diversification of Dominica's tourism profile and the showcasing of the indigenous culture of the Carib people. It has also provided the Caribs with much needed employment options. The Soufriere Sulphur Spring and Fresh Water lake roads were also completed under this project at a cost of US\$400,000. *Dominica Rural Enterprise Development Project* (DREP) - The DREP project came to a close with the completion of the Petite Soufriere Breakwater facility. This facility will permit fishermen in the area to land their boats with limited disturbance from the rough seas. This also results in improved safety for the fishermen.

4. Summary of the implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda

The National Agenda of Cooperation is a Planning document that provides the strategic framework for orienting IICA's activities in the Commonwealth of Dominica within the agriculture sector during the period 2006 – 2010.

The major results achieved by IICA in Dominica for 2006 can be highlighted as follows:

4.1 IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life.

The IICA Office facilitated and supported the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment in improving the capabilities of public and private sector stakeholders to pursue and implement an improved policy framework to reposition agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment endorsed the process and reiterated the



Public and Private stakeholders on reviewing the draft National Agricultural Development Policy for Dominica 2007 - 2017

importance in completing the process in 2007 to facilitate an increased contribution of agriculture to the economic recovery of the Dominican economy. The importance of the policy framework to guide the restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture, fisheries and the environment to enhance capacity to foster repositioning of agriculture to meet the demands of the globalized world also highlighted by the Minister. Two (2) workshops were conducted with the public stakeholders (technicians – economic sectors) and two (2) workshops with private stakeholders (youth, women, agribusinesses, NGOs and farmers) on the process of policy design, formulation and implementation, based on the needs among all stakeholders and actors in the agriculture sector in the Commonwealth of Dominica. As a result of the workshops, appropriate recommendations from the various stakeholders and from the Rationalisation of Public Services document on: Organization, Function and New Structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, fisheries and the environment were incorporated in the policy framework. A revised draft National Agricultural Development Policy for the Commonwealth of Dominica 2007– 2017 formulated by the Regional Specialist in Trade and Policy Development in line with the Agro Plan 2003 – 2015 and in line with the governments external obligations with

regards to trade agreements, multilateral Environmental Agreements and implications for the policy and strategic plan was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment for review, scrutiny and reformulation of the strategic priorities and their elements. The workshops also contributed to the identification of the various types of policy tools and instruments that can be used effectively, individually and/ or in various combinations to facilitate achieving the vision of the policy to enable the Agriculture sector to contribute in a direct and meaningful manner to:

- preserving biodiversity and sustainable environmental management
- building resilience to natural disasters;
- balancing growth by widening the base of productive activities;
- stimulating vitality in rural areas and reducing the rural to urban drift;
- enhancing household food and nutrition security;

4. 2 Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness.

IICA Office facilitated the promotion, organization, integration, strengthening and coordination of the private sector by supporting mechanisms to strengthen private



sector involvement in the planning and development of agriculture to diversify the agricultural product base and stabilize the decline in the agriculture sector. Two consultations were held with 13 agri-



business associations to facilitate the consolidation of all agribusiness as a single entity as opposed to

Agro-processors Association of Dominica (APAD) and 13 other associations (Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA); Dominica Poultry association; Dominica Pig Producers Co-op Society Ltd.; Dominica Rabbit Association; Dominica Honey Bee Association; Dominica Greenhouse and Vegetable Association; Nature Isle Pineapple Producers Association (NIPPA); Dominica Essential Oils and Spices Co-op Ltd (DEOSC); National Fisheries Cooperative; Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement (DOAM); Dominica Horticulture Society; Giraudel Flower Group; and Dominica Banana Producers Ltd). The draft constitution for establishing and operating the Agric -Business Association of Dominica (ABAD INC.) was submitted to members and technicians for comments to facilitate adoption in 2007. The constitution shall promote an active, professional, profitable and environmentally sound agribusiness industry to respond to issues which constrain its growth, while developing solutions for its survival and sustainability. ABAD Inc seeks to develop and assist members in increasing the revenue generated and value-added from agro-industrial and agricultural investments

so that they may enter or enhance their position in the local, regional, and extra-regional input or output market place. In Dominica, the office supported APAD to attend and participate in at least three Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) meetings, signalling a noticeable improvement in the relationship between the agribusiness group and the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce.

The consolidation of Dominica Foundation of Herbal Researchers and Practitioners (DFHRP) and Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA) to local chapter of Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA) was supported by IICA in the formal launching of DHBA in June 21st, 2006, at the Archbold Tropical Research /Education Centre Inc. (ATREC), Springfield Plantation, Dominica. The launching was endorsed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, Dr. John Collin McIntyre and by the Honourable Minister of Legal Affairs and Immigration, Mr Ian Douglas.



Dr. Gail Defoe - CEO Nature Fresh gave the feature address. Demonstration of Initiatives of ATREC on the Physical Herbarium located at Springfield Plantations, Springfield and Herbal Products Display were also featured in the launching ceremony of DHBA.

Herbarium on display

The products displayed represented at least five established herbal companies supplying local supermarkets and hotels.



Herbal Products on Display

A coordinated approach to the development of sustained linkage between agricultural and other economic sectors is being pursued in Dominica. The Office successfully implemented the OAS/IICA Project “*Strengthening of the Tourism Sector Through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean*” in collaboration with the Agro-Tourism Centre in the IICA Barbados Office. IICA office in Dominica contracted a national consultant to develop an inventory of existing and potential agro tourism products and services. In addition, activities of formal and informal networks in support of Agro tourism were documented. The consultant conducted desk research and field interviews by means of surveys and interviews. The work and projects of community groups (NGOs,) and entrepreneurs involved in agro tourism in Dominica were identified and documented. The extent of linkage of agriculture with the tourism sector was partially determined. Agro tourism development possibilities and technical assistance needs at the individual level and at the national level was identified. The office also facilitated the conduct of a survey to determine the quantity and value of agricultural products traded with the tourism sector by contracting a National Consultant



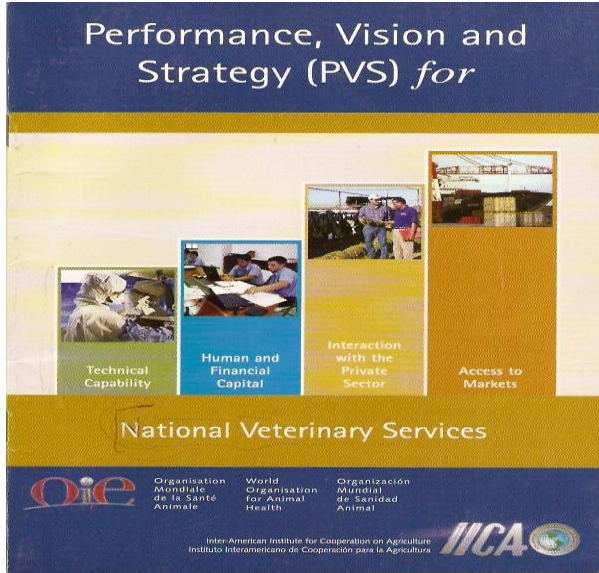
Bellevue Chopin – Organic Farm Experience

to design a survey instrument and conduct surveys of suppliers of agricultural and agro-processed products to determine actual quantities and value of agricultural products traded with the tourism and foodservice sector in Dominica. The actual and potential demand for agro products and services from a survey of hotels, restaurants and tour guides in Dominica documented and available to both planners and implementers within the

agriculture and tourism sectors. In addition, video documentation of success stories and best practices in agro tourism implemented with stakeholders in tourism, agriculture and rural communities. Twelve (12) sites were identified and visited in the rural communities of Dominica where footage was captured. In addition, interviews were conducted with stakeholders in tourism, agriculture and rural communities of Dominica. Blank DVDs were purchased for the reproduction and dissemination of video to be made available to all sites visited in the rural communities for individual, national, regional and international promotion and exposure of agro tourism products and services available in Dominica

4.3 Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

IICA Dominica provided support towards the rationalization, development and upgrading of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems in Dominica by strengthening the Animal Veterinary services. Priority areas to focus efforts and resources for effective functioning of the Veterinary Unit were identified through assessment using the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tools developed by IICA and OIE.



The assessment of the Veterinary services in Dominica was submitted to the regional specialist in AHFS to strengthen regional efforts at improving technical capacity within the Veterinary services to develop science based regulatory mechanisms as well as sustainable institutional structures, particularly in light of growing international requirements to combat the Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). Assessment will guide capacity needs for the veterinary services unit in the

restructuring of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the environment.

An official forum for private/public sector interaction to analyse decisions and obtain national positions on relevant agricultural health and food safety issues is operational in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Two committees provide the forum to adopt the harmonized international standards developed by the IPPC, OIE and CODEX. The National Sanitary and Phytosanitary (NSPS) committee applies the WTO agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures guided by the international reference organization (IPPC) and OIE, and the National CODEX Committee (NCC) applies harmonized international standards developed by the CODEX Alimentarius, or the food code, the global reference point for consumers, food producers, national food control agencies and the international food trade.

Provided financial and administrative support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment to ensure agricultural technicians attend and actively participate at the 35th, 36th and 37th WTO/SPS Committee meetings in Geneva under the initiative of the Americas Programme. As a result of such initiative, stakeholders in the agriculture and related sectors in Dominica have increased their understanding and adoption of the operations and requirements of international setting bodies. The NSPS committee reviewed the Avian Influenza; assessed new pest of quarantine importance; impact of food safety and agricultural health standards on developing countries; specific trade concerns re: issue of EurepGAP requirements from St. Vincent with specific reference to bananas; invasive alien species; implementation of special and differential treatment; and tolerance levels for soil content on potatoes.

The Office also supported harmonizing and rationalizing the National AHFS legislation and standards concerning safe agricultural products being offered to consumers in domestic and export trade in Dominica by being appointed to serve on the National Codex Committee as chairman with responsibility for the overall management of the committee. As a result, efforts of the Dominica Bureau of Standards to develop standards and rules, leadership skills and technical expertise on the area of food safety throughout the agri-food chain are supported by IICA Dominica. The Committee has the mandate to develop a Food Safety Strategy to include the procedures of a GAPS certification scheme for fresh produce in trade to be adopted by farmers and exporters. Provided technical and administrative assistance to three (3) National Codex committee (NCC) meetings where decisions with regards to determination of national priority areas in food safety with relevant sub-committees; criteria considerations for selecting national delegate to formulate international standards and to formulate national positions to ensure effective participation in Codex sessions; endorsement of the TCP/FAO project proposal submitted to FAO for strengthening the NCC and the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) to enhance the food control systems in Dominica; reviewed national position to Codex committee on Food Import and Export Certification Systems (CCFICS) concerning Guidelines for Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food inspection and Certification; and reviewed various documents from the NCCP.



IICA Dominica also provided technical support to the Plant Protection Unit in the Division of Agriculture in anticipating the emerging issue of the entry of Black

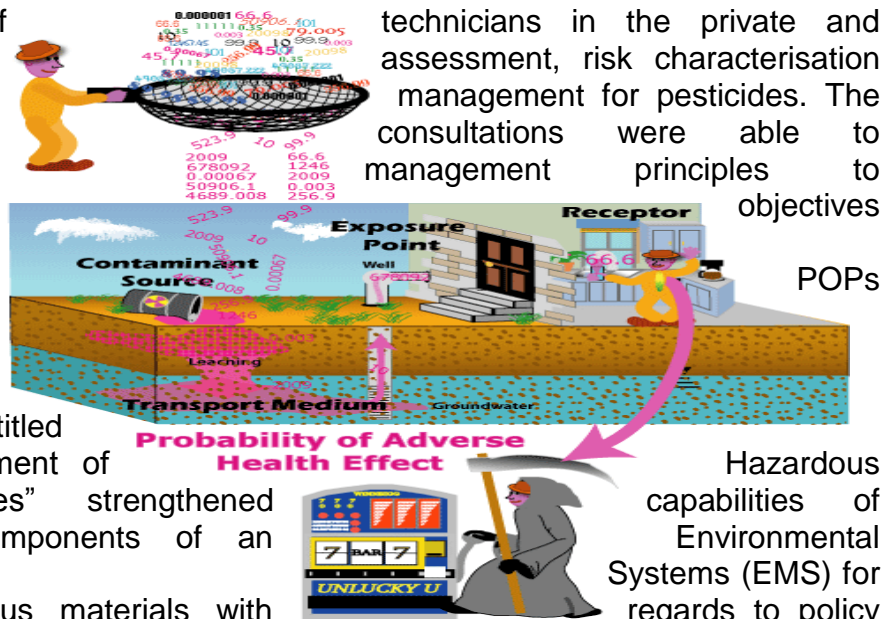
Sigatoka into Dominica from the neighbouring territories that constitute a potential agricultural health threat that places the banana industry at risk. The office facilitated the conduct of a Black Sigatoka Training Workshop to enhance the technical capabilities of technicians in the division of agriculture, custom and excise division, port authority and Dominica Banana Producer Ltd. (DBPL) to identify and manage Black Sigatoka and Moko Disease in anticipation of a plant protection risk. The workshop also strengthened field technicians in the implementation of a field survey to determine the presence of Black Sigatoka and Moko disease in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Survey Methodology used was based on the fundamental effect and differences between Black Sigatoka and Yellow Sigatoka (Commonly referred to as "Leaf Spot"). IICA is represented on the Citrus Committee in the Division of Agriculture in the development of a management plan for Citrus Tresteza Virus (CTV).



Leaf Spot Disease in Dominica. Major Threat: Abandoned fields in close proximity to Productive Fields

4. 4 Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

IICA Dominica collaborated with the Environmental Coordinating Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment in promoting information sharing and capacity building of technicians in the private and public sector in support of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental services. IICA facilitated the hosting of two (2) national consultations and a panel discussion under the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Enabling project. One day national consultation entitled “Use of Risk Assessment and Risk Management in the Setting of Priorities for the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Other Pesticides and Hazardous materials and Wastes. IICA facilitated the consultation to improve the capabilities of public sector in risk and the principles of risk participants of the incorporate risk determine priorities and for the National Implementation Plan for and other hazardous chemicals. The three day national consultation entitled “Environmental Management of Materials and Wastes” strengthened technicians in the components of an Management Pesticides and hazardous materials with framework, implementation and operation, checking and corrective action, management review, concept of continual improvement circle. Also facilitated an improvement in capacities concerning pesticide use with specific emphasis on chronic exposure and long term effects; health risk of pesticide use; controlling exposure by the user; management of risk of exposure by others; environmental risk; long term bio accumulation regarding pesticide use and storage/disposal.



IICA Dominica appointed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment to serve on the National steering committee to execute project entitled “Preventing Land Degradation in the Caribbean through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)”, under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). IICA provided support to improve capacity of technicians, strengthen public awareness on linking integrated management of natural resources with rural development initiatives and improve site rehabilitation of selected catchments areas.

4.5 Strengthening rural communities

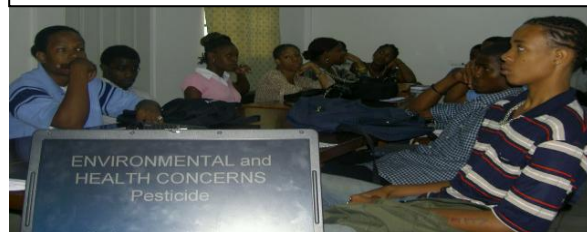
In order to enhance investment in the Carib territory, a Territorial approach to development of the Carib territory is being pursued in the Commonwealth of Dominica. IICA Sustainable Rural Development Regional Specialist has provided technical support and guidance in the finalization of the Carib Territory Community Development Programme based on a follow up meeting from 2005 territorial workshop with the two key stakeholders, the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of Carib Affairs. At that meeting in 2006, the draft document prepared by the Carib Affairs Office was critically reviewed and technical input provided by the IICA Rural Development Specialist, including changes to the budget, enterprise development, highlighting the special needs of women and youth. The revised document was sent to the **Sustainable Rural Development Unit** at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica for comments and feedback. It was also agreed to submit the revised Community Development Programme for the Carib Territory from Headquarters and stakeholders to Cabinet for approval. In addition to the formulation of the Development Plan, the Carib Affairs Office took on the responsibility to create an inventory of stakeholders (primary, secondary and tertiary- inclusive of their programmes, roles and responsibilities) responsible for rural development and empowerment.

IICA Dominica has improved the private sector involvement, particularly the empowerment of youth and women in the planning and development of agriculture and the rural communities. **National Association for Youth in Agriculture Inc.**

(NAYA) has seen an improvement in the socio economic and educational status of NAYA members over the past year as highlighted by the following activities:

Training – NAYA Camp 2006 on Farm Management, establishment of four (4) passionfruit demonstration plots and establishment of one green house. **Education** - Plant protection Workshop in collaboration with the Dominica State College on Environmental and health Concerns in pesticide use, Caribbean civil society meetings and in collaboration with CABA, identified a unique learning opportunity for the participation of a young female journalist from the OECS to pursue an introductory audio-visual training course for two weeks. The Video/Film training provided to Ms. Marie of SAT telecommunications provided an introduction to Audiovisual and Film techniques, structures and processes for technically and creatively minded youth, particularly women of the Caribbean. NAYA hosted the second Secondary School Elocution contest and provided technical and financial assistance to two primary schools to establish vegetables under green house conditions. **Information and Communication** - NAYA has also embarked on development and implementation of a NAYA website and a Membership database.

Students from the Dominica State College



4. 6 Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life.

IICA and The National Association for Youth in Agriculture (NAYA Inc.) collaborated with The Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), a non-profit corporation affiliated with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in organising and conducting the first Business Labs (BL) Training of Trainers Workshop focusing on

Small and Medium Enterprise Development and Agro-Tourism. The workshop improved capacities and capabilities towards participation in appropriate Business Lab with one select group of 19 participants from Guyana, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and 15 participants from Dominica.



The Dominica participants were drawn from NAYA (5), the YES Corps (3) the Dominica State College (3), Ministry of Agriculture (1), Dominica Hotel & Tourism Association (1) and two (2) participants from the private sector. The participants were trained as lead trainers developing the Business Labs



Rural Tourism content and a “learning by doing” entrepreneurial skills methodology that later will be adapted and replicated, training not only young entrepreneurs but also more trainers through its replication process. The participants were divided into two groups.

Group A formed themselves into **GD Enterprises Ltd.** and manufactured and sold indigenous Dominican confectioneries under the brand name *Granny’s Dainties*. This company was an excellent representation of a BL company. The group worked well together, brainstormed and problem-solved effectively, and produced some really outstanding products. The initial old-fashioned confectioneries that were produced were:
- Coconut Cheese, Loga, Coconut tablets

Group B was the complete antithesis of Group A. Some invaluable lessons were learnt by all the group members. There was no clearly defined leader from the start and the company was allowed to drift without strong positive direction. The group formed **Caribbean Creative Concepts Ltd.** a marketing enterprise. The success of the Dominica BL can also be measured by the enthusiasm of those participants who wish to incorporate the BL methodology into the entrepreneurial teaching programs in their own countries. It should be mentioned that **GD Enterprises Ltd.** one of companies formed

during the Dominica BL has been offered a couple of contracts to produce their confectioneries *Granny's Dainties*.

5. Inter-Agency Cooperation

IICA Dominica supported efforts of Clemson University in capacity building in applications of biotechnology for conservation and utilization of Dominica's rich biodiversity. Archbold Tropical Research and Education Centre (ATREC) on behalf of Clemson University, and the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), at the request of the Government of Dominica, organized and conducted a three day national consultation on Biodiversity Prospecting and Access to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge. The consultation improved the awareness of the participants on the political, legal and technical issues related to bio-prospecting in Dominica, from exploring a number of case studies on biodiversity prospecting from Costa Rica and Peru. Consultation discussions were considerably enriched by the presentations and participation of Mr. Alejandro Argumedo of Peru, and Mr. Jorge Cabrera of Costa Rica (InBio), both internationally-renowned experts with extensive experience concerning genetic resources/traditional knowledge Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) issues. Presentations were also delivered by Dr. Charles Barber (USAID), as well as the principal research scientist from University of Louisville Dr. James Wittliff. The discussions on issues concerning the USAID project from Dominica's point of view were enhanced by the presentation of Mr. Lloyd Pascal of the Environmental Coordinating Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment. Providing "added value" to raw genetic material (e.g. through development of good taxonomic information, skills in collection and preparing samples and extracts, etc.) is a well-accepted strategy in Costa Rica. Opportunities were explored for increasing the relative value of Dominica's genetic resources and traditional knowledge by participation in a USAID funded project to be implemented 2007. Questions concerning the USAID-funded feasibility study included the following:

Why Dominica?

Clemson representatives noted that the existence of ATREC, and Dominica's rich biodiversity and traditional knowledge heritage – unique in the Caribbean region – were the main reasons for interest from Clemson and its research partners.

What Benefits to be derived in the Use of Traditional/Indigenous Knowledge?

Use of plants that are traditionally used for medicine raises the question of equitable benefit sharing for use of traditional knowledge. The Access and Benefit-sharing system is applicable similarly to the traditional knowledge (TK) of indigenous and local communities associated to genetic



resources. In such cases, indigenous and local communities are to be involved in the process. The type and amount of benefits should be negotiated with traditional healers through a farmer/agribusiness organization such as the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA). The indigenous knowledge should be negotiated with the Carib council.

What is the role of Trust? What is the status of prior collections in Dominica and research done on them in the US?

Alejandro Argumedo saying, “Benefit sharing is like waking up and finding your house being robbed and on the way out the robbers say don’t worry we will give you a share of what used to belong to you. Resources were exported, developed for commercialization without the consent of the countries that provided them, and without enabling them to partake in the resulting benefits”. In order to prevent this “biopiracy” and create a climate of mutual trust, which is essential for research in the long term, the community of states undertook to regulate the handling of genetic resources in the Convention on Biological Diversity. This convention is a binding international agreement. Its implementation is not only a moral obligation for the Contracting Parties – which include Dominica – but also a legal one. The goal of the Convention on Biological Diversity is to conserve biological diversity and to promote its sustainable use in conjunction with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from this use. Regardless of their particular views on the merits and problems of the USAID-funded feasibility study, participants in the workshop were united in their view that development of a coherent national policy and legal framework for international scientific research collaboration regarding genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is a high priority for Dominica.

Twenty-eight (28) participants from public, private, traditional healers, indigenous and non governmental organizations strengthened their knowledge towards acceptance and participation in new technologies and processes adapted for expanding business



Participants at three (3) day National Consultation on Access to genetic resources

opportunities in the sustainable utilization of Dominica’s genetic resources and traditional/indigenous knowledge. Many participants noted that in developing its policy framework, Dominica should learn from the mistakes and successes of other countries, and many praised the concrete examples provided by the two



international participants from Costa Rica and Peru, two countries with a wealth of experience,

both positive and negative, with bio-prospecting and the development of policies and laws to regulate it. The Biodiversity Convention’s



provisions on access to genetic resources pave the way for national legislation governing access to genetic resources. It is left to each country to determine its future legislation and policies on access to genetic resources and traditional/indigenous knowledge. This legislation should lay down which institutions should have the authority to grant access to the nation's genetic resources and traditional knowledge and on what terms. They will thus be able to set conditions for bioprospecting activities and also be able to monitor them. Important issues that have to be taken into consideration are: the perceived value of the resources; regulatory agencies; assigning land for conservation; the capacity to add value to genetic resources; and the technical, administrative and financial capacity to create and oversee a regulatory program. In assigning institutions to process applications for access to genetic resources, it is important to consider the different sectors of government, especially Health and Education in addition to agriculture, tourism and legal entities. Awareness-raising for the issues at stake and identification and prioritisation of capacity needs at the local, national, sub-regional, and regional levels, drawing upon a range of existing expertise in academic, industrial and government sectors and indigenous and local communities should be pursued immediately.

6. Horizontal Cooperation

IICA Dominica in collaboration with the European Union (EU) Special Framework of Assistance 1999, Agricultural Diversification Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment of the Commonwealth of Dominica, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Dominican Republic, provided administrative and financial support to facilitate a **one week technical exchange visit** by five (5) technicians and four (4) farmers from the Commonwealth of Dominica to access information and technologies of organic production, processing, marketing and certification in the Dominican Republic. IICA Office in the Dominican Republic provided administrative and technical advisory services by experienced and knowledgeable staff from IICA, the Ministry of Agriculture, established organic farms, agribusinesses and institutions involved in the organic sector in the Dominican Republic.

Visit to IDIAF, institute for Agro-forestry investigation. On farm visit of germ plasm material in Dominican Republic



This farmer to farmer exchange visit was in support of the agricultural sector in developing Certified Commercial Organic Farming systems, by means of exposing producers and technicians alike to the Management of Certified Organic Systems of Production to strengthen farmers and technicians participation in appropriate technologies relative to organic agriculture. In addition, the impact of technology transfer through “hands-on” experiences was explored.



Experiment to evaluate the Effect of Bokashi on String Beans

The specific objectives were as follows:

1. To assist farmers and technicians alike in efforts to diversify the agricultural sector and promote organic agriculture through the adoption of certified organic production technologies and practices.
2. To improve the capacity of farmers and the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and affiliated institutions and agencies to manage organic production systems, including farm production practices, inspection and certification criteria, market access and regulations.
3. To improve the capacity of farmers to add value to their production by adopting certified organic production technologies both at commercial and farm gate levels, as a marketing strategy to achieve premium prices.
4. To understand the role organic agriculture plays in the preservation of Bio-diversity in working towards sustainable development.



Participants visiting Vermicomposting heap and Vermicomposting Facility in La Vega, DR

7. Future Opportunities for Technical Cooperation

Improved capacities of members of Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA), technicians and students of the Dominica State College (DSC) in Bio-prospecting – access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and benefit sharing.

IICA will promote new technologies and processes to ensure improved acceptance, adaptation, and participation of young farmers, (members of NAYA and DSC) towards the adoption of appropriate technologies relative to green house production with specific reference to the economics of green house production.

Improved capacity of public and private sector stakeholders from the tourism, rural and agricultural sectors in defining the national agro- tourism strategy and action plan.

Improved capabilities of technicians in the public sector in the management processes of Agricultural Health and Food safety as reflected in the reports of participation. IICA will support the Plant Protection Unit in the Division of Agriculture to enhance capacities of technicians in both private and public sector with regards to the identification and management of Emerging Pests and Disease of economic importance.

The technical capacities and capabilities of technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment strengthened to aid the modernization process of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment.

IICA will promote and support improved collaboration for investment along the food chain among private and public sector stakeholders in agriculture. Improved technical, entrepreneurial and administrative capacities of ABAD, NAYA and DHBA will also be pursued.

Improved capacities of technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment in the incorporation of natural resource management concerns in the planning process of developing the Agricultural policy.

The IICA Office in collaboration with the regional specialist in Sustainable Rural Development will support and promote the establishment of an inter-agency working group to spearhead assessment of critical aspects of development cooperation in the Carib Territory. The process will be led by the Department of Carib Affaires; feedback from the Department of Carib Affaires to inter-agency working group by end of February 2007. Stakeholders in the Carib Territory strengthened to participate in the planning and implementation of the Territorial Approach to facilitate improved development of programmes and projects

ANNEX 1

FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE IICA OFFICE IN DOMINICA IN 2006

Official name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	No. of participants	Place and date of publication of the report or proceedings of the event
1) National Consultation on National Agricultural Development Policy for the Commonwealth of Dominica, 2006 - 2015	August 31	Public Service Training Center, Bay Front, Roseau	Twenty-seven (27)	IICA Office, Report available from November 2006
2) Dominica Genetic Resources and Traditional/Indigenous Knowledge Access and Benefit Sharing Workshop	May 3-5	Public Service Union Conference Center, Valley Road/ Garraway Hotel, Dame Eugenia Charles Blvd., Roseau	Thirty-one (31)	IICA Office, Report available from July 2006
3) Business Labs "Training of Trainers" Regional & National Workshop And Small and Medium Enterprises Development in Agro Tourism.	October 9-13	Public Service Training Center, Bay Front, Roseau	Nineteen (19)	IICA Office, Report available from October 2006
4) An Understudy of the Management Systems of Certified Organic Production in the Dominican Republic	May 21 - 28	Dominican Republic	Nine (9)	IICA Office, report available from September 2006
5) AGRO TOURISM VIDEOGRAPHY	September 19-23	GIRAUDEL, Pond Casse, Concorde, Canefield, Carib Territory, Bellevue Chopin, Roseau	Fourteen (14)	DVDs available from March 2007