

2006 Annual Report

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



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture



Our Mission

“ To cooperate with the Government of Jamaica, the private sector, national, regional and international institutions in order to improve competitiveness and promote the sustainable development of agriculture in Jamaica”

Our Goals

- To support better use and management of natural resources, particularly hillside and watershed areas
- To contribute to rural development, food security, poverty alleviation and social stability
- To improve middle management, technical capabilities and farmers skills
- To foster agribusiness development and private sector participation in agriculture
- To contribute to effective dialogue and coordination between public and private sectors and Regional as well as International agencies in agriculture
- To strengthen the linkages between Jamaica’s agriculture and that of the wider Caribbean and Latin America
- To support activities which enhance the competitiveness of the Jamaican agricultural Sector



**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Office in Jamaica**

**The Contribution of IICA to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in
Jamaica**

Annual Report 2006

Kingston, Jamaica

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Acronyms

CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDC	Community Development Committee
CPGCA	Christiana Potato Growers Co-operative Association
CRNM	Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
JAS	Jamaica Agricultural Society
JNRWP	Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
JPFA	Jamaica Pig Farmers Association
JSIF	Jamaica Social Investment Fund
MOA&L	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
OAS	Organization of American States
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
SDC	Social Development Commission
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



FOREWARD



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Jamaica is pleased to present this report on its contribution to agriculture and rural development in Jamaica during the year 2006. This annual report is a key component of the Institute's policy of accountability to Member States.

As the Institute continues to position itself to serve as a development agency in its Member States throughout the Hemisphere, the IICA Office in Jamaica prepared itself to provide more valuable development assistance in cooperation with national and regional agencies that influence agricultural and rural development in Jamaica.

With the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the sector's stakeholders, the Office further enhanced the process of reaching consensus on the National Technical Agenda so that it reflects the priority needs of the country. In keeping with the Institute's governing principles, the Office strengthened its monitoring, supervision and evaluation systems; adopted a new and innovative approach to the management of the human capital; and enhanced actions in the field of information and communication.

During 2006, the Office invested its resources in supporting the country's growth of agricultural trade and the trade integration processes; the adoption of agricultural health and food safety standards; promoting agribusiness; ensuring sustainable rural development; incorporating technological innovations into the production systems; and helping to develop a competitive agricultural sector based on a more intensive use of knowledge.

The Office acknowledges with pride, the tremendous support and guidance of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, the Hon. Roger Clarke, the staff at the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA). Their guidance and support to the work and programmes of the IICA Office in Jamaica were invaluable and contributed significantly to the successful implementation of the national technical cooperation agenda.

The Office also wishes to acknowledge the tremendous efforts and the contributions of all its stakeholders from the public and private sectors, national, regional and international developmental partners, farmers and farmers' organizations, to the achievements herein reported.

The IICA Office in Jamaica which has been serving Jamaica since 1975 wishes to assure the national community of its continued commitment in assisting with the national efforts at promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development. We, therefore, look forward to continued collaboration with members of the community of agriculture and rural life as we seek to implement the national plan of action for 2007.

Trevor W. Murray
IICA Representative in Jamaica



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

In accordance with the Institute's policy of transparency and accountability, the office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Jamaica, presents herein, its Annual Report for the year 2006.

The IICA Office, within the framework of the overall mission of the Institute and the National Cooperation Agenda, has focused its activities under the broad areas of Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life; Promoting Trade and Competitiveness of Agribusiness; Strengthening Rural Communities; Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems; and Introduction of Technology and Innovation.

The following is a bulleted summary of the progress made during 2006.



IICA Representative Trevor Murray presenting IICA's 2005 Annual Report to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands Hon. Roger Clarke.

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

- National Consultation with stakeholders in the agricultural sector to determine Jamaica's priority issues;
- Participation in the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Dialogue for Development Forum series;
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in implementing its Agricultural Development Strategy-Priority Investment Programs and activities such as. Veterinary Services; Root Crop (Sweet Potato) Research and Development);
- Active support for events that promote the sector, such as World Food Day Forum and Expo, "Eat Jamaica Expo", the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show, and RADA Exhibition.

Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness:

- In collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Lands and Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the IICA Office convened the 'Clearing House' Forum under the theme "*CARIFORUM/EC Economic Partnership Agreement and the Implications for the Jamaican Agribusiness Sector*";
- Facilitated the reconvening of the Pig/Pork Industry Committee which has representation from farmers, processors, input suppliers, research and development as well as policy officials;
- Presentation of the annual IICA Agribusiness and Youth Awards.



Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach:

- Training for the executive of the Elim Community Friendly Society in organizational management;
- Secured funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for second module of the Elim Community literacy programme;
- Technical training workshops for farmers in the rural community of Elim in St. Elizabeth;
- Technical training in ‘Honey Production’ for members of the Charles Town Bee Farmers Association as well as training in Conflict Management aimed at strengthening group dynamics;
- Support to the Social Development Commission in the Buff Bay area of Portland re: Community Development Planning;
- Support to the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) in upgrading its structure; implementing training opportunities for members, and reviewing of the performance of the JNRWP Credit Scheme.

Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems:

- Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MOA&L) and other agencies in the undertaking of a real-time simulation exercise of an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI);
- Collaboration with the OIE and the MOA& L in an assessment of the Veterinary Division.

Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life:

Collaboration with MOA&L, the Christiana Potato Growers Cooperative Association (CPGCA) and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) re: ‘*Sweet Potato Technology Research and Development Fund*’- to initially determine the presence and the identity of viruses that may negatively impact on sweet potato yields in Jamaica.

Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation:

- Organization of American States (OAS) funded project ‘*Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*’;
- Provision of technical assistance to seven (7) host organizations under the IICA/USAID/Partners of America *Farmer-to-Farmer programme*.

Development of Human Capital:

- Facilitated training of members of Farmer’s Associations e.g. Jamaica Pig Farmers Association (JPFA), the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association (JEFA), Santoy Farmers Cooperative etc.



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- IICA Award to the most outstanding (graduating) student of the College of Agriculture Science and Education (CASE);
 - Internship for Masters student in Sustainable Farming Development (University of Paris-SUD);
 - Training of IICA Staff in Spanish language.

Institutional Modernization:

- Upgrading of computer systems, communication equipment, furniture and transport facilities of the IICA Office;
- Representation of the Caribbean Region in IICA's selection of new accounting system.

The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Jamaica in 2006

The State of the Jamaican Economy

Following the negative effects of Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and the residual impact in 2005, the Jamaican economy experienced renewed growth in 2006. For the nine months ending in September 2006, Jamaica's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 2.5 percent, with the Goods Producing and Service Sectors growing by 0.4 and 3.3 percent respectively.

In spite of a shortfall in revenue inflows, the operations of the country's Central Government continued to show a primary surplus; interest rates continued on a downward trend; the overall inflation rate continued to be held at single digit levels;¹ and the country's stock of Net International Reserves (NRI) increased to over US\$ 3 billion².

This renewed growth of the Jamaican economy has been attributed to:-

- the recovery of domestic & export crop production, facilitated by very favourable weather conditions;
- increased capital investments and visitor expenditure in the Tourism sector;
- growth in the Transport and Storage sub-sectors, and;
- increased construction and other activities related to the country's preparation for World Cup Cricket in 2007.

¹ Recorded at 5.4 percent for the period January – September 2006

² Equivalent to over 17 weeks of goods and service imports



On the other hand, the country's economic growth was curtailed by a decline in the real GDP's contribution of the Manufacturing and Construction sectors, due mainly to the stoppage in the production of cement. Furthermore, Jamaica's External Trade performance continued on a downward trend contributing to a relatively poor Balance of Payment situation³.

Within this scenario, the cost of inputs into the production of meat, poultry and fish products increased steadily during the year. This in turn pushed up the CPI indices for food and drinks as well as household expenditures⁴. This raised concerns about poverty in Jamaica's rural communities which remained at 6.3 percent points higher than the national average of 14.8 percent in 2005⁵.

The Agricultural Sector

Approximately 250,000 Jamaicans directly earn a living from agricultural production. In 2004, with the passage of Hurricane Ivan and subsequent drought, then heavy rains in 2005, many of these persons experienced significant loss of income and employment, especially those in the southern part of the island. While saddled with much external and domestic debts as well as high unemployment, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) in collaboration with local and international agencies (including IICA) managed to address the challenges of hurricane recovery, including providing support to its farmers.

During 2006, the Honourable Roger Clarke was reappointed Minister of Agriculture under the new administration of the Prime Minister, the Most Honourable, Portia Simpson-Miller, and also given the additional portfolio of Lands within the 14-member Cabinet. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MOA&L) continued proactively with the implementation of its Agricultural Development Strategy and investment promotion activities, both of which embraced issues such as competitive agricultural production, improved efficiencies in commercial farming, technology driven research, integrated rural development and the involvement of young persons in agriculture.

To support implementation of the Development Strategy the GOJ for the fiscal year 2006/2007, increased its allocation to agricultural projects to J\$1.73 billion, with J\$400 million of this sum targeted at production related areas to assist farmers to increase their productivity; J\$414.2 million on the training of farmers, J\$154.4 M for research and development, and J\$58.5 million on crop and livestock development.⁶



Mr. Albert Shan; Executive Director of RADA receiving IICA's support for the National Youth In Agriculture Programme from IICA Representative Mr. Trevor Murray

³ Moving to negative US\$ 599.7 million as at July 2006;

⁴ Both together accounting for 76.6 percent of overall inflation

⁵ The national poverty average during the period 1999 to 2005 decreased from 16.9 per cent to 14.8 per cent

⁶ This increased allocation to the agricultural sector comes against the recorded average of 1.27 per cent of the national budget and a decline to 0.89 per cent in 2004/2005.



The GOJ also set up a Special Select Committee of the Senate to examine the use of prime agricultural lands and announced its intention to spend approximately \$2 billion over the next 5 years to implement seven new irrigation schemes. This is intended to impact positively on the productivity of some 3,000 hectares of farm land and consequently the production of domestic food crops. The GOJ also allocated J\$250 million from the National Insurance Fund to support loans to farmers (at single digit interest rates) and the Bank of Nova Scotia also launched an agricultural development facility via the Development Bank of Jamaica to offer farm loans at 7.8 percent per annum.

Not only was the repositioning of Jamaica's sector supported by the GOJ, but also the media. The Gleaner Newspaper in its monthly Editors Forum entitled: 'Reclaiming Agriculture' wrote:-

*"We would like to think that our own launch at the start of the year of a **Reclaiming Agriculture** series helped to influence the latest policy initiative. Indeed the Government must have been aware of the intense lobbying by the farming sector since January to remove the general consumption tax (GCT) from agricultural inputs and equipment...In our series on the state of the sector, there have been specific suggestions for tax incentives for companies to invest in rural areas by building factories to process agricultural produce"*⁷

Throughout the year other national organizations such as the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) continued to play very prominent roles in facilitating growth in the agricultural and rural sectors. RADA this year celebrated 15 years of service to the sector. One of the main activities of the organization during 2006 was the continued improvement in the technical component of its farmer's network programme i.e. the Agro Business Information System (ABIS).

Under ABIS over 90,000 farmers island-wide were registered.⁸ RADA continues to support the involvement of youths in agriculture and also began collaboration with the USAID-REACT project with respect to in-field demonstration greenhouses to promote the technology.

The JAS persistently lobbied the GOJ and the private sector respectively on matters related to praedial larceny and associated amendments to the Agricultural Produce Act⁹; coffee insurance payments as well as access to credit facilities.



⁷ Published in *The Gleaner*, Monday, May 1, 2006. In the second quarter of 2006, the GOJ again zero-rated a number of agricultural items from General Consumption Tax (GCT) which prior to this time stood at 16.5 per cent.

⁸ ABIS is funded by the GOJ, the EU, the Agricultural Support Services project and the Institute for International Cooperation and Development,

⁹ It is estimated that praedial larceny accounts for some \$ 5 billion loss of income per annum In the second quarter of 2006, the GOJ in collaboration with the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) stepped up the campaign to address the matter of praedial larceny with the issuing of receipt books which requires persons selling agricultural items to issue official receipts.



Against this backdrop of improving overall economic performance; increased budgetary infusion to support the activities of the MOA&L and RADA, coupled with favourable weather conditions throughout the year, farmer's production of domestic and export crops grew in 2006.

For the first nine months of 2006 (January – September) the agricultural sector consistently outperformed other sectors in the economy, growing by nearly 17 percent, the highest rate of growth of all economic sectors for the period.¹⁰

The performance of **Traditional crops** during 2006 was noteworthy. Gross output over the first three quarters more than doubled in comparison to 2005. In the case of sugar, the US Government in March 2006 increased the amount of sugar imported from Jamaica and Belize by 25 percent, taking the quota to nearly 20,000 metric tons. In spite of the pronounced EU market price cut of 36 percent over the next four years¹¹, and labour disputes in the second quarter of 2006, the country's production of sugar increased to 1.7 million tonnes. This was 400,000 tonnes more than the period following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

However, the matter of privatization of the Sugar Company of Jamaica (SCJ) remains to be addressed as there is great need for the infusion of capital to modernize the industry, improve productivity and diversify the product base. In light of the change in its sugar policy and the proposals received from the GOJ, the European Union in 2006 offered EU \$5M to assist in the repositioning of the local sugar industry. In this regard, note should also be taken of the move by the GOJ and the private sector to look at the area of bio-fuels and the start-up of a small-scale pilot project for using ethanol produced from sugarcane.¹²

Also experiencing improved production were the cocoa, coffee and banana sub-sectors. At the start of the new crop year in October 2006, cocoa farmers, stimulated by increased support services and 100 percent increase in farm gate price, increased their production output by 82 percent over the previous year's total of 238 tonnes. Turning to the world famous Blue Mountain coffee, between August 2005 and July 2006, production increased by 62 percent, bolstered by good weather and government's infusion of some \$100 million.

With significant investments in production technologies such as tissue culture and drip irrigation - to the extent that 90 percent of Jamaica's banana exporting farms now use drip irrigation - the production of banana also increased significantly to 32,500 tonnes, valued at US\$ 23.1 million. The sector continued to receive technical and financial assistance (approximately EU \$8 million) from the European Union through the European Union Banana Support Programme. This programme is aimed at increasing productivity, reducing operating costs and improving the quality of fruits entering the European market.

¹⁰ It is projected that for the entire year the sector would have increased output by 20.3 percent.

¹¹ Commencing with a 5 percent drop in June 2006

¹² The GOJ wants to move to 15 percent ethanol use in motor vehicle gasoline in 5 years. Also, in the last quarter of 2006, the Jamaica Broilers Group signed a deal with a Swiss firm to invest US\$ 17 million in establishing a 60 million gallon per annum ethanol plant at Port Esquivel in St. Catherine.



Domestic food crop production during the January to September period, registered a 6.8 percent increase in gross output with an associated 2.9 percent increase in the area harvested. Of the nine crop groups monitored, six recorded increases in production ranging from 91.9 percent in the case of plantains, to 4.4 percent in the case of yams. The production of hot pepper also received much attention from farmers, RADA and the European Union supported value-adding interventions to the tune of \$10.6 million. On the negative side, cereal and potato production declined by 27 and 14.6 percent respectively.

In terms of livestock production, a 5.1 percent increase was recorded mainly due to increase in poultry production to 23,800 tonnes compared to 22,000 in the similar period of 2005. The poultry industry however faced several challenges such as the flattening of consumption, increased electricity charges which accounts for 25 to 35 per cent of gross proceeds, steady increases in the price of animal feeds, and the threat of Avian Influenza virus.

The GOJ and the MOA&L have been concerned about the possible negative impact of the Avian Influenza virus on the local poultry industry. In the first quarter of 2006, \$13.5 million was allocated to financing a Bird Flu Surveillance and Prevention Plan for which an Emergency Disease Preparedness Simulation Exercise was conducted in November 2006.

Cattle which provided jobs for an estimated 7,700 persons continued to struggle for survival in 2006, with praedial thieves continuing to plague the sector and stakeholders continuing their call on the GOJ to fast-track the re-development and rehabilitation of the dairy and beef industries.

The production of in-land (tilapia) fish for export to the USA and Europe also increased significantly, with demand in the US growing at a rate of 10-20 percent per annum and prices increasing at a rate close to 5 percent per annum. Other noteworthy developments and events in Jamaica's agricultural sector during 2006 included:-

- The promotion of cotton production by the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation as an alternative to sugar cane. Cotton exports moving from \$27 million in 2002 to \$100 million in 2006;
- Resumption of exports of ackee to the United States in December 2006, after a one year stoppage imposed by the US Food and Drug Administration on the \$400 million industry. This was due to the presence of high levels of the toxin hypoglycin being detected in the fruit. The fruit is now being served at the world's best hotel, El Buli located in Spain;
- Commissioning of two agro-processing plants namely; a Flavour Extraction plant (operated by the St. Elizabeth/Manchester Vegetable Growers Association), and a \$16 million Honey Bottling plant (operated by the All Island Bee Farmers Association) to boost production for the local and export markets¹³;

¹³ This plant is the first of its kind in the English speaking Caribbean with a capacity to process 778 gallons per day. Honey production in Jamaica has doubled in the last 5 years to 117,000 gallons in 2005



- Over 400 persons graduated from the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) in 2006. An estimated 67 percent of these graduates should find jobs related to their area of study;
- The publication by Dr. Paul Jennings 'Livestock Production in Unfavorable Economic Environments' - a compilation of scholarly writings in scientific media and presentations at public forums on the Jamaican Dairy Cattle industry;
- The formation of the Jamaica Greenhouse Grower's Association under the auspices of the Christiana Potato Growers Cooperative Association Ltd;
- Implementation of a \$25.9 million Caribbean Hurricane Preparedness Project between the MOA&L and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to put in place mitigating strategies that would minimise the effects of natural disasters on agriculture.¹⁴

Results of the Implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in Jamaica

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

The IICA Jamaica Office in May 2006 hosted its National Consultation and Presentation of Annual Report. The event was attended by stakeholders from Jamaica's agricultural sector and rural life.

The National Consultation sought guidance from our associates in the sector toward the drafting of the Office's 2006 – 2010 National Agenda. The Consultation included a presentation of the results of the previous National Agenda (2002 – 2006), as well as a participatory break-out session to ascertain the priority areas for IICA's technical cooperation in the sector.



Participants at the IICA National Consultation 2006

A variety of activities and intervention were identified under IICA's five strategic areas of technical cooperation, namely Sustainable Rural Development: Agricultural Health and Food Safety: Trade and Agribusiness: Technology and Innovation: and Natural Resource Management. The presentation on the 2005 Annual Report informed stakeholders and development partners of the results of IICA's interventions during that year.

¹⁴ Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and Grenada are the countries involved in this project.



IICA also continued to participate in other major activities related to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life in Jamaica with the Institute was identified by the GOJ/MOA&L as one of the development agencies to assist in the implementing of the Agricultural Development Strategy (2005-2008). In this regard, the Office collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in its priority investment programs such as the Crop (Sweet Potato) Research and Development, upgrading of the Veterinary Services, participation in WTO/SPS negotiations, and crafting of its Sustainable Rural Development policy framework

During 2006, the Office maintained its participation in a number of shows and expositions. These included the premier Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) Exposition, the World Food Day Forum and Expo, the 'Eat Jamaica' Expo and the Dialogue for Development Series convened by the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

The 'Clearing House'

Under the Strategic Priority area of 'Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agri-business', the IICA office in 2006 continued its collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to convene another 'Clearing House' Forum under the theme "***CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement and the Implications for the Agribusiness Sector***".

Held in June 2006 at the Medallion Hall Hotel in Kingston, the Forum was attended by fifty (50) persons from private and public sector organizations as well as the media.



Participants at the IICA/MOA&L/MFA&FA 'Clearing House'

Speakers at the forum included Mr. Trevor Murray, IICA Representative in Jamaica; Mr. Donovan Stanberry, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands; Mr. Carlo Pettinato, Head of Section Trade, Economics, Politics and Information in the Delegation of the European Commission; Miss Marcia Thomas, Director, Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Mr. Nigel Durant, Agricultural Trade Specialist in the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery; and Ambassador Derrick Heaven, Chairman, Sugar Industry Authority.

Miss Marcia Thomas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade made a presentation entitled "*Overview of the CARIFORUM/EC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations – Objectives, Scope and General Progress*". In concluding her presentation she advised the meeting of the consultative mechanisms that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jamaica Trade Adjustment



Team had in place and urged local private agribusiness to take the initiative to meet the challenges and grasp the opportunities presented by the trade negotiations, specifically in the case of the CARIFORUM/EC EPA negotiations.

Mr. Carlos Pettinato, representing the Delegation of the European Commission made a presentation on ‘*The Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement*’ and highlighted therein the main elements of the proposed Economic Partnership Agreement, the development dimension; and the status of the negotiations so far. He also took the opportunity to answer some frequently asked questions and provided participants with electronic sources of information on the EPA.



Mr. Carlo Pettinato of the Delegation of the European Commission making his presentation at the ‘Clearing House’ Forum

Mr. Nigel Durant from the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) spoke on “*EPA Negotiations on Agriculture*” and therein made reference to the Cotonou Agreement and the leading objectives and principles for the EPA’s; who were the partners involved in the negotiating process; the structure of the negotiations; the positions taken in the negotiations re market access; the current status of the negotiations; as well as agriculture-specific issues for consideration.

Pig/Pork Industry Committee

The IICA Office in December 2006 reconvened the Pig/Pork Industry Committee which is in its fourth year of operation and has representation from pig farmers, processors, input suppliers, research and development as well as policy officials.



Members of the Pig/Pork Industry Committee meeting at the IICA Office

The central objective of the Committee is to foster dialogue between operators within the industry and to make proposals to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands with regards to the enhancing of its competitiveness and

sustainable development. The committee has requested IICA to draft a new set of Terms of Reference for the body as well as make recommendations on its structure and activities.

Agribusiness Awards

During 2006 IICA presented its annual Agribusiness and Youth in Agribusiness Awards at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show. The 2006 Agribusiness Award was presented to Jamaica Standard Products Company Ltd, a producer of coffee products and Jamaican sauces. Jamaica Standard Products Ltd. has been operating for over a half a century (since 1942) and has won numerous awards locally



and internationally for its products. A family-owned company, Jamaica Standard Product is the largest single grower of Arabica Coffee and the largest processor of roasted and ground coffee in Jamaica.

The Agribusiness Awards selection committee, which comprised representatives from IICA, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) and the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation (JADF), was impressed with the company's commitment to excellence and international standards as well as its contribution to the agricultural communities in which it operates. Jamaica Standard Products Ltd also scored high points for innovation, with its Baron Hall line of sauces and the incorporation of agro-tourism in the business operation.



Karen Tamasa (Youth in Agribusiness Awardee) and Anette Salmon (representative of Ja. Standard Products Ltd) at the IICA booth - Denbigh

The Youth in Agribusiness Award was presented to Ms. Karen Tamasa, who impressed the Agribusiness Awards selection committee with her strong initiative and spirit of entrepreneurship. At the youthful age of 19, Ms. Tamasa operates a grocery store in Highgate, St Mary, and produces coconut water, natural juices and fruits and vegetable packages. She also manages a farm in Esher, St Mary, cultivating a range of vegetable produce and rearing chickens. Later in the year, Ms. Tamasa was the recipient of the Prime Minister's Youth Award.

Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

Elim and Charles Town

The use of the Territorial Approach as an instrument to aid in the development of rural communities in Jamaica remained a major plank of the office's programme of work during 2006. In this process, IICA continued to provide assistance to two rural communities namely, Elim in St. Elizabeth and Charles Town in Portland. Both communities suffer from high levels of unemployment, low education levels and declining agricultural production.



IICA Representative Trevor Murray and the Minister of Agriculture Roger Clarke (second and third left) at the handing over ceremony for JSIF funded irrigation equipment in Elim, St. Elizabeth

Given the multi-sectoral nature of the territorial framework, IICA's work in these two communities was thus focused on economic and social empowerment; sustainable natural resource management; decentralized governance; and the development of vibrant community-based organizations.

Technical assistance in this strategic area was targeted at the organizational and financial development of the respective community groups, as well as facilitating training and technical guidance in Good Agricultural Practices.



In the case of Elim, IICA organized training workshops for farmers in Proper Irrigation Techniques; Equipment Maintenance Procedure; and Proper Chemical Usage. The workshops were aimed at strengthen the production capabilities of farmers who benefited early in the year from the acquisition of irrigation equipment through financing from the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).

The Office was also instrumental in facilitating a meeting between the farmers and a micro-credit agency to explore available financial opportunities. Social empowerment of the community continued with the securing of funding from the USAID for the second module of the literacy programme. This six month module was successfully completed during the year and a third module started, with the students in the programme taking the initiative of staging a fundraising event to finance the commencement of the third module.

The Elim Community Friendly Society (ECFS) executive also benefited from a joint IICA/Social Development Commission (SDC) training in Organizational Management. The executive has consistently shown strong cohesiveness and active lobbying on behalf of the community. During the year, IICA was also requested to guide the newly formed Elim Uprising Nursery Production group in registering as a legally binding organization.

IICA continued to provide assistance to the Charles Town Bee Keeping Association in 2006. This included regular guidance to the Association at its monthly meetings and preparation of the final report to the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), which funded the acquisition of bee-keeping equipment for the group.



Members of the Charles Town Bee Keeping Association at Training Session

The Institute also arranged technical training in honey production and a workshop series in Conflict Management for the group. During the year, the group hosted its Annual General Meeting, where the executive was able to demonstrate the growth and maturing of the group over its one year existence.

Support was also provided to the Social Development Commission (SDC) to promote activities in Charles Town and surrounding areas, particularly toward Community Development Planning and support to the Commission's community cricket competition. The Office also completed the Charles Town Agricultural Development Strategy, which was distributed to members of the Community Development Committee (CDC).



Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers

In 2006, IICA facilitated quarterly meetings of the executive of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP); organized four regional meetings for the Network’s membership across the island as well as organized in collaboration with the Jamaica Business Development Centre (JBDC) training in hand soap-making for members of the executive and Business Management for Network members in Portland.

The Office also assisted JNRWP in re-establishing contact with its membership and gathering up-to-date information on the individual members. A new electronic database was created to store and classify this information.



JNRWP members at Soap Making training workshop

IICA was also instrumental in facilitating a detailed review of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ)/ Organization of American States (OAS) – *Rural Women in Agriculture; Informal Credit Project*. The report which was prepared by Masters Intern Mr. Oliver Dionnet and focused on the performance of the credit scheme (providing payment history and status for each of the loans granted under the programme) was reviewed by the Network’s Credit Committee. Working alongside the JNRWP executive, the Office began the process of establishing official contact with delinquent loan beneficiaries and pursuing new arrangements to re-start the loan scheme.

Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

In 2006, the Office in Jamaica continued to facilitate the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands officials in meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) pertaining to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

With input from IICA’s Regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist, the Institute coordinated two important exercises aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MOA&L) in Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

The first exercise was an Avian Influenza simulation. Using a mock outbreak of the virus on a poultry farm, the simulation exercise sought to diagnose the country’s readiness to handle an outbreak of Avian Influenza caused by the H5 N1 virus. Participating organizations included the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Ministry of Health as well as officials of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). An evaluation team comprising representatives from the USDA and the Ministry’s Veterinary Division among others, have submitted a report to the Ministries responsible for Health and Agriculture.

The second exercise relates to an assessment of the MOA&L’s Veterinary Division toward enhancing its delivery of animal and plant health services. Responding to a request from the Ministry of



Agriculture and Lands, the IICA Office facilitated the evaluation of the Human and Financial Resources, Organizational Structure and Systems, and Customer Service of the Division.

This evaluation exercise was carried out by two auditors from the Organization for Animal Health (OIE) along with IICA's Regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands staff and officers from the Office of the Prime Minister. The exercise took place over a period of two weeks and employed an evaluation methodology developed by IICA and adopted by OIE for worldwide use. Two reports have been submitted to the Ministry: one focused on technical considerations and the other on financial, organizational and infrastructural issues.

Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

Sweet Potato Technology and Research Fund

In 2006, the IICA Office entered into an Agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Christiana Potato Growers Cooperative Association (CPGCA) to establish a Sweet Potato Technology Research and Development Fund to catalyze the Priority Investment Programme of the Ministry's Agricultural Development Strategy in the area of Root Crop production.



Dr. Janet Lawrence (CARDI) Mr. Don MaGlashan (MOA&L); Mr. T. Murray (IICA); Mr. F. Assidu (CARDI) and Mr. Alvin Murray (Christiana Potato Growers Co-operative Association), at the signing of Agreement establishing the Sweet Potato Technology Research and Development Fund

The Fund was established with initial seed money from IICA. The MOA&L (Research and Development Division), CARDI and the Scientific Research Council (SRC) provided technical services to CPGCA. The initial funds were used to determine the presence and the identity of viruses that may negatively impact on sweet potato yields in Jamaica. In December 2006, IICA received a jointly prepared report from MOA&L (R& D Division) and CPGCA entitled "*The Detection, Identification and Incidence of Sweet Potato Viruses in Jamaica*". The report indicated for the first time a virus complex on sweet potato germplasm in Jamaica.

Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation

Organization of American States

The year under review saw the commencement of several activities under the IICA-OAS Agro Tourism Project, '*Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*'.



Launched in Jamaica in late 2005, this Caribbean-wide Agro-Tourism Project seeks to promote increased linkages between tourism and agriculture therein facilitating the creation of economic opportunities, building resilience in rural communities and enhancing the sustainable development of both sectors.

To guide the project activities, the IICA Jamaica Office in 2006, convened a Steering Committee comprising representatives from the tourism and agriculture sectors. Two studies were completed to; (1) provide an inventory of the status of linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors and resources available to support such linkages; and (2) develop a methodology for delivering accurate and timely market data on demand and supply of available products and services. These studies have been further supported by video recording of the various local entities that portray the linkage between agriculture and tourism.

A third study on the products and quantities demanded by the tourism sector and the supply of agricultural commodities to the tourism sector was commissioned and an interim report completed. In 2006, the Steering Committee also identified the diagnostic tool to be used to classify and analyze the data that will be provided by the demand-supply study. The selected tool is a web-based information system developed by the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA).

The Office also facilitated the participation of local consultants and agro-tourism practitioners at two regional workshops held in Barbados to address issues relating the Agro-Tourism Project. The first workshop reviewed and compared the respective country studies and the second workshop sought to sensitize the practitioners to the data being gathered on agro-tourism linkages and the diagnostic tool for analysis of this data for decision-making.

USAID/Partners of America Farmer-to-Farmer Programme

During the year 2006, *twenty one (21)* volunteers traveled to Jamaica, under the IICA-Partners of America *Farmer-to-Farmer* Programme, to provide technical assistance to seven (7) host organizations.

An Impact Assessment was conducted among the stakeholder organizations that have already received volunteers. The most measurable impact of the Farmer to Farmer Project has been on the Sea Island Cotton Industry. The industry has reported increased yield of over 10% which represents revenues of US\$465,000 and reduction in the use of pesticides which has resulted in savings of over US\$16,000. The increased yields have made the industry more attractive to larger investors, therefore, the industry is now poised for even more significant growth.

While the positive environmental impact cannot yet be quantified, the Santoy Farmers Cooperative has been able to identify savings of approximately US\$5-7,000 due to the reduction in the use of pesticides.

The cooperative is now poised for growth and greater increase in yield and revenue with the introduction of greenhouse technology. This will allow the cooperative to grow crops all year round, resulting in better revenues.



Cotton Farmers receiving in-field training under the *Farmer-to-Farmer* Programme



Members of the Santoy Farmers Cooperative installing tunnel greenhouse for vegetable production

Farmer-to-Farmer Volunteers and Assignment (2006)

Volunteer	Organization	Assignment
Kamal Hyder	Ebony Park Heart Academy	Food Processing
Peter Wotoweic	Ebony Park Heart Academy	Green House Technology
Thomas Handwerker	Ja. Farms Ltd	Green House Construction
Dan Medlin	Ja. Farms Ltd	Green House Construction
Gene Casey	Ja. Farms Ltd	Green House Technology
Chris Kim	Ja. Farms Ltd	Crop Scheduler
Mark Hutchinson	Ja. Farms Ltd	Composting
Juliana Goodlaw	Ja. Farms Ltd	Curriculum Development-Green House Technology
Eric Natwick	Jamaica Cotton Growers/JADF	Integrated Pest Management
Ermson Nyakatawa	Jamaica Cotton Growers/JADF	Agronomy - cotton
Raviprakash Dani	Jamaica Cotton Growers/JADF	Genetic Engineering -cotton
Joe Ellington	Jamaica Cotton Growers/JADF	Pest Management
Mike Smith	Ja. Egg Farmers Association	Strategic Management
Wes Wood	Ja. Egg Farmers Association	Waste Management- Eggs
Larry DeJarnett	Ja. Egg Farmers Association	Strategic Business Planning
Earnest Jett	Ja Pig Farmers Association	Pig farm management
Morgan Morrow	Ja Pig Farmers Association	Electronic Record Management
Allen Harper	Ja Pig Farmers Association	Waste Management-Pigs
Morgan Morrow	Ja Pig Farmers Association	Electronic Record Management
Morgan Morrow	Ja Pig Farmers Association	Electronic Record Management
Juli-Ann Russo	Ornamental Fish Farmers Ass.	Fish Production
Ricardo Russo	Ornamental Fish Farmers Ass.	Curriculum Development
Martin Guarena	Santoy Farmer's Cooperative	Integrated Pest Management



The Jamaica Pig Farmers Association has reported that members are using the training in Record - Keeping to improve their operations. They are now better able to track feed cost, which is the major cost in their operation. They are also able to keep individual records on each animal which will assist them in tracking the performance of each animal. Training was initiated in the area of Improved Waste Management Practices and the need was identified for an agricultural engineer to assist them in the development of small scale bio-digesters. The effects of better Waste Management practices on the environment cannot be overstated as there will be long term effects on water quality and health across the island.

Development of Human Capital

Apart from facilitated training of members of the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association; the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association; and the Santoy Farmers Cooperative, the Office supported the development of human capital by way of facilitating the Internship for a Masters student, Mr. Oliver Dionnet, from the University of Paris-SUD. IICA also presented an Award to the most outstanding graduating CASE student in agriculture and continued the training of IICA Staff in Spanish language.

Institutional Modernization

During 2006, the Office in Jamaica upgraded its computer system with the acquisition of a new server and computers. The IICA VPN communication system was installed in the administrative office as well as that of the Representative. New furniture was also acquired for the conference room and a new pick-up motor vehicle purchased

Administration of the Jamaica Office

In 2006, the IICA Office in Jamaica lost as well as gained some new staff members. The total staff compliment at the end of the year was nine (9).

Special mention must be made of the passing of Mr. Aston Daley, Gardener who died on September 20, 2006. Mr. Daley joined the staff at IICA Jamaica on August 1, 1985 and served the Office for 21 years prior to his death

Ms. Shauna Brandon was appointed as the Rural Development Specialist in March 2006 and Mr. Robert Reid, Agri-business Specialist who resigned from the Office on January 6, 2006, rejoined the staff on November 15, 2006. Ms. Linette Bailey, Receptionist Secretary, joined the staff of IICA Jamaica on November 20, 2006.

Mrs. Andrea Marquis, Receptionist Secretary, was promoted to the position of Accounting Assistant and The Office's Administrative Assistant Ms. Donna Halstead represented the Caribbean Region at IICA Headquarters in the selection of new accounting system for the Institute.



Ms. Shauna Brandon helps Mr. Aston Daley to cut his birthday cake.



Mrs. Sherene Rochester, Accounting Assistant who joined the staff on May 10, 2000 resigned in September 2006 after completing 5 years of service to the Institute.



IICA Representative Mr. Trevor Murray presents gifts to Mrs. Leonie Simmonds at the end of her tenure

Ms. Leonie Simmonds, Office Attendant who joined the staff of IICA Jamaica on June 5, 1978, completed her tenure on December 31, 2006, after 27 years of dedicated service.

Conclusion

As it pursued its Mission to improve competitiveness and promote the sustainable development of agriculture in Jamaica, the IICA Office in Jamaica continued during 2006 to enjoy the support and confidence of the stakeholders in Jamaica's agricultural community.

The Representative and staff take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to all our colleagues within the IICA family who continue to support our work here in Jamaica. Many thanks to the Director of Operations, Caribbean Region for his insightful advice and guidance as well as to the Director General for his strong and visionary leadership and encouragement and to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Jamaica and his staff, our sincere appreciation for the support provided over the last year. We look forward to continue serving you in 2007.



IICA STAFF IN JAMAICA



From left to right: Shauna Brandon; Robert Reid; Rosemary Copeland; Trevor Murray; Linette Bailey; Dorritt Murphy; Andrea Marquis; Henry Powell; Donna Halstead



APPENDIX II

Collaborators/Strategic Partners

- Caribbean Agribusiness Association
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Caribbean Community Secretariat
- Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
- College of Agriculture, Science and Education
- Christiana Potato Growers Co-operative Association Ltd
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Jamaica Agricultural Society
- Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
- Jamaica Pig/Pork Industry
- Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- Organization of American States
- Partners of America
- Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority
- Social Development Commission
- Scientific Research Council
- United States Agency for International Development



APPENDIX III

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY IICA OFFICE IN JAMAICA - 2006

Event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants
IICA National Consultation	May 4, 2006	Terra Nova Hotel; Kingston	57
Clearing House	June 15, 2006	Medallion Hall Hotel; Kingston	50