

# Agriculture Policy Programme

An Action funded under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) between the European Commission (EC) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with partners Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the CARICOM Secretariat.



in Brief



promoting the development of small holders

## Building sustainable capacity for the development of viable agricultural systems

IICA, CARDI and the CARICOM Secretariat have all learnt and recognize the importance of coordination of policies and strategies at the regional level to ensure needs and requirements of small holders, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSEM) are incorporated and addressed.

These needs include providing critical support services, such as improving access to marketing information, innovative financing schemes and risk mitigation facilities, developing entrepreneurship, as well as

strengthening interaction and institutional organization of producer associations and networks.

This APP Action contributes to providing the critical support to enhance rural incomes and livelihoods, food security, and develop rural communities. Success in this Action will have positive benefits for the large numbers of small producers/entrepreneurs, including women, youth and marginal groups whose livelihoods depend on agriculture.

## Introducing the APP

The overall objective of the APP Action is to contribute to enhance the regional and interregional capabilities of the agricultural sectors in eradicating poverty. The APP is ultimately aimed at ensuring that small producers in CARIFORUM countries are more effectively integrated into national, regional and international markets.

The specific objective is to increase the capability of Regional Agricultural Development Organizations to address the development needs of smallholder agriculture. This recognises the need to strengthen the institutional environment that supports agriculture development and

hence, adds value at the regional level through actions aimed at strengthening capacity to implement regional initiatives

The APP is designed as a multidimensional programme – tackling critical yet inter-related policy and technical issues, related to an enabling policy and institutional environment, appropriate research, technology and innovation and market development, with a specific focus on delivering benefits to small producers. This approach also fosters integration and allows for wider results and longer-term impact.



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## Key Facts:

- Euro 8.6 Million over 48 months, starting 15 March, 2013
- Comprises 3 inter-related components designed to enhance the capabilities of agriculture to eradicate poverty
- Implementation built on partnerships - IICA, CARDI and CARICOM
- Successful delivery depends on sustaining existing and establishing firm partnerships with active community and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)



Youth and women - priorities for the APP



Callaloo exclusion cage, Jamaica



Mulatto Forage

## Stakeholders and Beneficiaries (Who and Where)

- ▶ small producers/entrepreneurs particularly producer organizations and other organised associations/networks, including but not limited to CaFAN, CABA, JAD, CANROP, CAFY and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- ▶ public officials, in Government Ministries and agencies, including but not limited Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Tourism.
- ▶ regional agricultural development institutions, including, but not limited to CARICOM Secretariat, CARDI, IICA and key Universities in the Caribbean.

Given the level of investment in agricultural development through this APP Action, the issue of sustainability cannot be over-emphasized. Hence sustained effort will be placed on ensuring stakeholder engagement, involvement and participation in all activities including but not limited to capacity building

### Beneficiary Countries

- CARIFORUM
- Antigua and Barbuda
  - Barbados
  - Belize
  - Dominica
  - Dominican Republic
  - Grenada
  - Guyana
  - Haiti
  - Jamaica
  - St. Kitts and Nevis
  - St. Lucia
  - St. Vincent and the Grenadines
  - Surinam
  - The Bahamas
  - Trinidad and Tobago

## APP: Main Actions (What?)

### Action 1:

#### Regional Policy and Strategy

“Strengthen implementation of regional agricultural development policy and strategy”

#### Focus:

Supporting an enabling, efficient & coordinated regional policy environment for small producers/entrepreneurs

#### Expected Results:

1. more effective representation of small producers/entrepreneurs in policy & decision-making processes;
2. more efficient, equitable & enabling national policy, strategies & incentives
3. enhanced regional policy coordination & coherence

### Action 2:

#### Technology, Research and Development

“Improve the transfer and adoption of applied agricultural production and processing research results and technologies and where appropriate, generate new technologies for target commodities”

#### Focus:

Building human capacity, improving stock of genetic material & transforming to ‘climate smart’ agriculture systems

#### Expected Results:

1. small producers/entrepreneurs more innovative, productive & resilient in food production
2. more innovative, science-based, climate-smart primary & value-adding production systems at national level
3. more efficient & effective regional agricultural development institutions

### Action 3:

#### Enterprise and Market Development

“Improve market linkages to contribute to agricultural enterprise development”

#### Focus:

Building capacities and enabling networking and effective engagement with markets of small producers/entrepreneurs

#### Expected Results:

1. small producers/entrepreneurs have improved entrepreneurial, marketing, organizational capacities & integration into value chains;
2. Public/private stakeholders have improved capacity to deliver more effective support & services to small producers/entrepreneurs

### Implementing Partners



Euro 2,517,370



Euro 2,703,160



Euro 1,986,350

Implementing Partners will promote and foster a ‘working together’ approach with the direct beneficiaries and importantly with strategic partners who already have established links with these implementation agencies and with presence and/or experience in working within countries of the Caribbean.

## What will the APP mean to you?

There are great expectations of this EU Caribbean Action:

- among the institutions charged with guiding its implementation, which must seek to ensure equity in all partnerships and representations, performance and sustainability of all actions and coordination and coherence at the regional level, towards an integrated and stronger framework for development actions in and for agriculture

IICA, CARDI and CARICOM Secretariat, are well aware that no one institution can implement the various components of this Action on its own. These institutions have a history of collaboration and are involved in a number of agricultural development projects in the three broad Actions. Such collaboration will only benefit implementation of the Action.

- among CARIFORUM countries who have a key role to play in ensuring that the actions add value to their priority development needs and in grounding these actions so that genuine benefits accrue to the ultimate beneficiary - small producers

Countries must get fully engaged to ensure that the needs and priorities of beneficiaries, including women and youth, are well integrated to lead to the identification of opportunities in project implementation which will strengthen the project and the overall impact.

- among the other key players in regional agriculture and rural development, who will be expected to work more closely with the partners, and hence derive benefits for their own organisations from institutional integration and collaboration

The APP emphasizes the need to involve other organized players in the private sector and NGOs for more effective coordination of policies and strategies at the regional and national levels to ensure that the needs and requirements of small holders, micro, small and medium enterprises are incorporated and addressed.

- amongst the target beneficiaries – small producers/entrepreneurs - who will have the greatest expectations of all and who should expect to be placed in a more favourable position to improve the productivity and profitability status of their agricultural enterprises

Agricultural activity in the Caribbean, both at the small holder and small-scale enterprise level, tends to be dominated by a large number of small and disperse producers. Sustainable development interventions occur when the needs and priorities of all community members are taken into account.

## Some Success Factors:

- ▶ that the economic and political environment at the national and regional levels is supportive of such actions at the highest level of decision-making.
- ▶ that mechanisms are developed and integrated into project management to ensure the APP complements, reinforces and benefits from ongoing efforts at building capacities and linking small producers/entrepreneurs to markets.
- ▶ that the beneficiaries themselves have an expressed interest in improving their situation and will participate in the detailed planning and implementation of the interventions.
- ▶ that the larger private sector entities support the process to mobilize resources and efforts at linking small producers into value chains and markets.
- ▶ that the annual natural events, such as hurricanes, cyclones, drought, earthquakes/tsunamis, volcanic eruptions – are not so severe so as to disrupt economic activities and cause a shift of focus from development to disaster relief and recovery.



## APP Log: (What has/is/will happen?)

### What has happened?

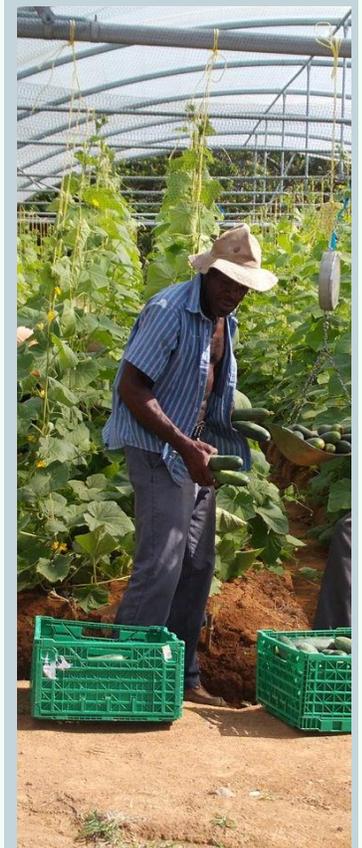
- March 15, 2013, Contribution Agreement signed between the European Commission (EC) Guyana Delegation and IICA, the implementing agency, signaling the effective start of the 48 month long APP. Why IICA? Because in 2010, IICA passed the four pillar institutional assessment by the EC which establishes that IICA's rules and standards offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards.
- The partners – IICA, CARDI and CARICOM Secretariat – have established a regular meeting schedule to manage activities associated with the inception phase, i.e., pre-implementation matters that are essential for operationalizing the APP.

### What is happening?

- Partnership Agreements between IICA and implementing partners, CARDI and CARICOM Secretariat are being prepared and negotiated to guide the implementation of the action. They provide the legal framework for the partners to implement their individual Components consistent with the main principles of implementation developed and practiced by IICA as the implementing agency.
- IICA is in the process of establishing a Project Management Unit (PMU) under the direct management and supervision of the IICA Representative located in the IICA office in Trinidad and Tobago. The PMU will comprise three members – Project Coordinator (PC), Financial Coordinator (FC) and Administrative Assistant (AA) based in the IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago the focal point for the coordination and administration of this project.
- The process for establishing a Project Steering Committee (PSC) has started. The PSC is one aspect of the governance arrangement for the APP. It will comprise several key regional stakeholders, including representatives from Farmers' organisations, who will provide the overall policy direction for the APP and review annual action plans and the results achieved.
- Detailed Year 1 Activity Plans and budgets are being finalized by IICA, CARDI and CARICOM Secretariat to guide implementation of the Action. These plans will also highlight actions to be taken at a national level.

### What will happen next?

- Partnership Agreements should be signed by June 2013
- The Project Steering Committee will be installed by July 2013
- PMU will be installed in IICA-TT and operational by August 2013
- The APP will be officially launched in September 2013
- Official National kick-off events will take place between September and October, 2013



Issue #2/June/13 will provide more information and updates on:

- the programme management structure
- the proposed strategies to ensure maximum stakeholder involvement
- the type of activities to be undertaken in Yr.1



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