

NATIONAL AGENDA

FOR

BAHAMAS

Original: August 6th, 2002

Revised: October, 2003

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADLC -	Agricultural Distance Learning Center
BAPA-	Bahamas Agricultural Producers Association
BCLL-	Bahamas Cooperative League Limited
CABA-	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CERO-	Caribbean Emergency Relief Organization
COB-	College of The Bahamas
FAO-	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FAVA/CA-	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action Inc.
HACCP-	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
IDB-	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA-	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MCOA-	Ministerial Committee on Agriculture
MAFLG-	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government
OAS-	Organization of American States
PAHO/WHO-	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
SIDALC-	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for America
USA-	United States of America
WTO-	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bahamian economy is a stable macro economy characterized by low inflation. The proximity to the United States of America (USA) a large economy with a favorable economic climate supports the overall good performance of the Bahamian economy. The economy grew by between 2 and 3 percent in 1998 and by 3.5 percent in 2000. Growth in 2001 was constrained by the low growth rate in the US and the negative impact of the events of September 11th, on the US economy. The important sectors contributing to economic performance in the Bahamas are Tourism, the Offshore Financial sector and Construction. The Tourism Industry is concentrated on New Providence and Grand Bahama. While there has been an expansion in investment in tourism facilities in some of the Family Islands, agriculture and fisheries remain important economic sectors in those rural communities.

The Central Bank report for the quarter ending March 2002, indicates a continued weakening in the tourism sector, a slowdown in construction output and reduced domestic financing opportunities and foreign investment led activities. These factors emphasize the need for economic diversification and an enhanced role for agriculture and the rural sector. However, there are severe problems affecting the development of the rural sector including low populations and a continuing drift to the greater economic activities offered in New Providence, limited infrastructure and poor inter-island transportation. These factors increase the cost of operating businesses and adversely affect competitiveness.

The authorities are mindful of these problems as well as the need to encourage viable communities in the Family Islands so that the drift to the urban centers can be reduced and the attendant rise in poverty and crime minimized. In order to achieve these objectives, the approach to the development of the rural sector has to be selective and focused.

IICA's National Agenda for the Bahamas reflects this approach and was developed through a process that was consultative and reflects the views of a wide range of stakeholders that included representation from rural communities of several of the Family Islands. The high point of this consultative process was the joint hosting of "National Consultation – 2001" between the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and IICA.

The activities of the National Agenda involve all the strategic areas as well as the supportive areas that define IICA's strategic approach. The fact that elements of the National Agenda are supported by Bahamian institutions and personnel as well as other international Technical Cooperation agencies bode well for its successful implementation.

1. BACKGROUND

The Bahamas is an archipelago of over 700 islands and cays stretching from the southeastern tip of the United States of America (USA) to the northwestern side of Cuba. The capital Nassau, is located on the island of New Providence, the most densely populated island. The second most densely populated island is Grand Bahama. The other islands are called Family Islands and make up most of what can be defined as the rural community.

The Bahamas can be divided into three distinct geographical regions. The northern islands comprise New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and North Andros. The central portion includes Eleuthera, Long Island, Cat Island and Exuma and the southeastern region is made up of Acklins, Crooked Island, San Salvador, Mayaguana and Inagua.

The population of the country is concentrated on the island of New Providence. According to the Census of Population 2000, the population density on New Providence was 2,655.4 persons per square mile. This compares with 31.9 for Exuma and 2.2 for Acklins. The skewedness in population due to rural-urban migration has meant that few islands have the critical mass necessary for development. See Table 1.1

Table 1.1 TOTAL POPULATION AND POULATION DENSITY BY SELECTED ISLANDS 2000

ISLAND	POPULATION	DENSITY (PER SQ. MILE)
All Bahamas	304,913	56.7
New Providence	212,432	2,655.4
Grand Bahama	46,954	88.6
Abaco	13,174	20.3
Acklins	423	2.2
Andros	7,615	3.3
Cat Island	1,548	10.3
Eleuthera	8,114	43.4
Exuma	3,575	31.9
Long Island	2,945	12.8
Mayaguana	262	2.4
San Salvador & Rum Cay	1,028	11.1

The Bahamian economy is a stable macro economic environment characterized by low inflation. The proximity to the USA a large economy with a favorable economic climate supports the overall good performance of the Bahamian economy. The economy grew by between 2 and 3 percent in 1998 and by 3.5 percent in 2000. Growth in 2001 was constrained by the low growth rate in the US and the negative impact of the events of September 11th, on the US economy. The important sectors contributing to economic performance in the Bahamas are Tourism, the Offshore Financial sector and Construction. The Tourism Industry is concentrated on New Providence and Grand Bahama. While there has been an expansion in investment in tourism facilities in South Andros,

Abaco, Exuma, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Acklins, Crooked Island and San Salvador, agriculture and fisheries are important economic sectors in the rural communities.

The agricultural sector can be divided into poultry, crops, livestock, fishing and forestry. The poultry sub-sector comprises broiler and layer producers and is the largest sub-sector in terms of dollar value but has the smallest number of participants. The value of the poultry sub-sector was estimated at \$20.92 million or 48% of total agricultural production in 2000. The broiler industry is concentrated on New Providence and Grand Bahama with smaller operations on Abaco and Long Island. The layer industry is also concentrated on New Providence and Grand Bahama. In 2000, production was estimated at \$4.33 million. Domestic broiler meat production has been facing pressure since the early 1990s from imports of leg quarters from the USA and from illegal imports of chicken. Recently this latter has contributed to the closure of one of the larger enterprises within the industry. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government (MAFLG) regulates imports of chicken into the country through a permit system. The layer industry produces enough eggs to supply the domestic market except during Easter and Christmas when imports are allowed.

The crop sub-sector is divided into export and domestic production. The export sector is concentrated on Abaco where there are about 3,000 acres of citrus (grapefruit, lime, lemon and orange) planted for export. Limes and avocados are exported from Grand Bahama. Depending on prices and temperatures in Florida, winter and leafy vegetables such as tomato, cucumber and lettuce are exported from Andros, Abaco and Grand Bahama. The USA is the principal destination for exports although there is some re-export of citrus to Europe and Japan. In 1998 crop exports were valued at \$8.38 million or 42% of the total value of crop production. Exports from the crop sub-sector rose to \$17.7 mn in 2001. Table 1.2 provides details of the value of the agriculture sector in 2000.

Table 1.2

Value of the Agricultural Sub-Sectors, 2000 (B\$'000)

SUB-SECTOR	VALUE
Crops	21,200
Broilers	16,590
Layers	4,333
Beef	77
Mutton	211
Chevon	73
Pork	957
Cascarilla	126
TOTAL	43,567

Source: Department of Agriculture

There is a pronounced change in topography, vegetation and rainfall from north to south. While some form of agricultural production is possible on all these islands, low populations, limited infrastructure and poor inter-island transportation have limited agricultural and rural development.

The islands of the northern Bahamas are mainly pine forest and have an average rainfall of 62 inches per year. Land and sea transportation links are reasonably developed. Large scale commercial and export agriculture are concentrated on these islands. There are generally fewer farmers on these islands compared to the central Bahamas and the average size of the farm tends to be larger.

Most of the farmers in the country are concentrated in the islands of the central Bahamas. They tend to have smaller farms and more diversified agricultural production systems that range from mixed farms to monocultures. Within this spectrum, there are semi-commercial and subsistence farmers.

2. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 Methodology adopted

The methodology used was consultative, diagnostic and participatory. The process started in August 2001 when the Bahamas, like other Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) member countries of the Hemisphere commenced work towards National Consultation- 2001, whose objective was to prepare a National Declaration and Plan of Actions for the Agricultural and Rural Sector and as an input into a Regional and Hemispheric Declaration and Plan of Action for The Bahamas. In the Bahamas, the initial steps were the administration of a questionnaire to personnel in the public and private sectors to get their views on the challenges, issues and opportunities that exist and affect the rural sector. The findings of this survey were considered in the drafting of the Declaration and Plan of actions. At the same time, a Ministerial Committee on Agriculture (MCOA) was set up to guide the process. The MCOA is co-chaired by the MAFLG and IICA. The MCOA was broad based and in addition to MAFLG and IICA, included representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Environment, the Department of Lands and Surveys, Producer Groups and the Distributive Trade.

The National Consultation-2001 was held on September 20, 2001 in New Providence and was attended by sixty persons including participants from New Providence, Grand Bahama and nine of the Family Islands. The issues raised influenced the final version of the Bahamas Declaration and Plan of Action. These issues and those raised in the Caribbean Region and Hemisphere Declaration and Plan of Action define a framework of ideas, which the National Agenda addresses.

The draft National Agenda was formulated by the broad based MCOA and reflects the earlier consultations. In July 2003, the MCOA was reconvened to discuss the Annual Report for 2002, of the Office in The Bahamas. In so doing, the MCOA deliberated on plan implementation and reaffirmed the continued relevance of the National Agenda.

2.2 Issues considered in building a National Agenda.

2.2.1 External environment of the IICA office

The external environment of the IICA office in The Bahamas is seen as comprising the Public Sector, Private Sector, the wider population of The Bahamas and other agencies providing Technical Cooperation activity in The Bahamas. The Public Sector activities include:

The MALFG- The MALFG includes, the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Local Government and being the body that is represented on IICA's Board is naturally our closet collaborator. There is a high level of trust and mutual respect between the two entities. The MAFLG is responsible *Inter Alia* for food production and marketing, quality control of food and beverages, protection of wildlife and the environment, fisheries development and cooperative development. See Table 1.3 for details of Public Sector entities.

Table 1.3

Public Sector Agencies With Selected Areas of Responsibilities Relevant to the Agricultural and Rural Sector

Agency	Responsibilities
MAFLG	Food Production and Marketing, Quality Control of Food and Beverages, Protection of Wild Life and the Environment, Fisheries Development and Cooperative Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Service	CARICOM Affairs, Coordination of Applications for Technical Assistance and the Law of the Sea.
Office of The Prime Minister	Lands and Survey and Disaster Preparedness.
Ministry of Transport and Aviation .	Inter-Island Passenger Freight and Mail Service, Ground Transportation, Ports and Harbours and Relations with the Airport Authority.
Ministry of Finance	The Central Bank of The Bahamas, the Bahamas Development Bank, Banks and Trust Companies, Development of Electronic Commerce and Economic Development and Planning.
Ministry of Trade and Industry	Small Business Development, Relations with the BAIC, LOME, NAFTA, WTO and Consumer Welfare, Protection and Education.
Ministry of Tourism	Tourism Development

Ministry of Health	Quarantine Health, Dangerous Drugs, Public Analyses Laboratories and Environmental Control.
Ministry of Education	Distance Learning, College of the Bahamas, University of the West Indies, Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute and Youth Development.
Office of the Attorney General	Law reform and revision
Ministry of Labour and Immigration	Manpower and Employment, Labour Relations and Labour Education, Inspection and Safety and work and Residency Permits.
Ministry of Financial Services and Investments	Copyrights, Patents and Trademarks
Ministry of Works and Utilities	Public Infrastructure, Drainage, Physical Planning and land Use and Town and Country Planning.

The Private Sector Agencies include:

- (a) The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce. This is useful source of information on agribusiness potential and development in The Bahamas.
- (b) The Bahamas Agricultural Producers' Association (BAPA).- This is a fledging umbrella organization with potential for links with the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) and the development of member associations in the Family Islands.
- (c) Producers and Processors- The former supplies fresh produce and raw material for use in value adding by the latter.
- (d) Distributors- These include importers, wholesalers and retailers who provide the link between the producers and consumers.
- (e) The Communication Media-They play an important role in getting information out to all participants in the system.

Other Agencies engaged in Technical Cooperation Activities in the Bahamas include the Pan American Health Organization/World Trade Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). All except the FAO has offices in the Bahamas. The FAO serves the Bahamas out of its sub-regional office in Jamaica.

2.2.2 The Internal Environment of the IICA Office

The IICA Office in The Bahamas has a full time staff of three including the Representative. In support are a Local Professional and a Secretary who also performs administrative and accounting functions.

The MAFLG/IICA Library/Communication Center is adjacent to the IICA office and was established with IICA's support and is jointly managed by the MAFLG and IICA. The MAFLG has provided an officer with direct responsibility for operating the center. That officer is at the center at least two days per week and lends valuable support to the IICA operations in The Bahamas.

Because of the small staff, small budget and the relatively ambitious programme to be executed, the office has embarked on a strategy of working with the Bahamian personnel and utilizing strategic alliances which already exists (e.g. the IICA/FAVA-CA alliance) and forging new alliances where possible.

2.2.3 National Priorities identified during the consultation Process

The issues identified and comments made during the consultation process were recorded. However, at the time it was not deemed necessary to link the issues and comments to particular individuals or groups of individuals. Listed below is a summary of the issues identified and comments made. These issues and comments are categorized in Table 2.2 under nine headings. The headings are (a) Modernization/Reorganization, (b) Financial, (c) Human Resource Development, (d) Policies, (e) Infrastructure Development, (f) Land Reform, (g) Research, (h) Trade and (i) Labour.

Table 2.2

National Priorities by Identifying Sector

National Priorities	Identifying Sector		
	Public	Private	Academic
(a) Institutional Reorganization/Modernization			
i. Improvement of the Management of the Agricultural and Rural Sector through the modernization/reorganization of the MAFLG to better respond to the modern day requirements for development.	X	X	
ii. Make public a listing of the roles and functions of key agencies operating in the rural sector so that perspective entrepreneurs do not become frustrated.		X	

National Priorities		Identifying Sector		
		Public	Private	Academic
iii.	Review, update and harmonize the laws governing the agricultural and rural sectors as they relate to the development of those sectors.	X	X	
iv.	Develop information systems and databases in support of those who wish to engage in activities in the sector		X	X
v.	Establish a national forum for the regular exchange of ideas between the government and stakeholders		X	X
vi.	The MAFLG should be able to provide technical information and services such as soil testing in support of persons involved or interested in becoming involved in agriculture. The response time for the delivery of these services should be quick and should meet the needs not only of New Providence farmers but those of Family Island farmers as well.		X	
vii.	Need to establish a Crop Insurance facility.		X	
viii.	Need to improve the marketing of agricultural products possibly through the establishment of a National Marketing Board.		X	
ix.	Establishment of hygienic slaughter facilities to serve rural communities.	X	X	X
x.	Disperse the extension service to support agricultural activities in the Family Islands. Support to the southern islands of the Bahamas was cited as a special area for focus.		X	
(b) Financial				
i.	The MAFLG needs additional financial resources to support the private sector and the development process in general.		X	X
ii.	Financial institutions need to establish mechanisms to facilitate their increased involvement in the rural sector.	X	X	
iii.	Develop a credit regime that can more effectively deliver credit services to farmers and at the same time not be harmful to the credit delivery institution. The regime should look at creative ways of dealing with collateral given that many farmers do not own the land on which they produce.	X	X	
(c) Human Resource Development				
i.	Introduce agriculture in schools as part of a broader initiative to attract young people to the sector.	X	X	X
ii.	Educational information programmes for farmers should be regularly carried by the media so that technology may be promoted and information disseminated.		X	X

National Priorities	Identifying Sector		
	Public	Private	Academic
(d) Policies			
i. A national agricultural and rural development policy should be developed and publicized to guide the actions of investors and perspective investors in the sector	X	X	X
ii. The Agricultural census provides useful information on the sector and should be conducted and completed on a timely basis.		X	
(e) Infrastructure Development			
i. The development of an appropriate transportation system for the movement of perishable cargo (Includes roads, shipping and ports). Transshipment facilities must also be addressed.		X	
ii. Establishment of a mechanism to assist small farmers in the clearing of lands especially in the Family Islands.		X	
iii. Availability of efficient and cost effective irrigation systems and access to water especially in those Family Islands which experience low rainfall.	X	X	
(f) Land Reform			
i. Need to carry out a study of the various types of ownership as exists in the Bahamas with a view to rationalization.		X	
ii. Establish a system where persons can own lands including the ownership of lands after having made substantial investments in approved agricultural activities.	X	X	X
iii. Make arrangements for Leases with improved conditions to persons interested in farming		X	
iv. Enforce zoning regulations.	X	X	
(g) Research			
i. Establish a focused research programme and provide the required resources for improving sector performance in specific areas.	X	X	X
ii. Revitalize the Gladstone Road Agricultural Complex and the Bahamas Agricultural Research Center.		X	
(h) Trade			
i. Mechanisms should be in place to control imports of those commodities whose importation result in negative impacts on domestic production.		X	
(i) Labour			
i. Rationalize the immigration process to allow an orderly flow of labour to the agricultural sector.	X	X	

3. THE NATIONAL AGENDA

3.1 Agreed goals, priorities and strategic actions that are in line with IICA's proposed strategic actions

The Government of the Bahamas recognizes the weakness of pursuing a policy whereby the economy is being driven by a limited number of sectors. It is also mindful of the need to support economic development in the Family Islands so as to restrict the migration of the population to the more densely populated Islands of New Providence and Grand Bahama. However, development of the rural sector on several islands can be costly and therefore the strategies and actions to achieve the goal of economic diversification will require a measure of selectivity. The sector will engage in activities that are consistent with IICA's four strategic areas.

3.1.1 Policy, Trade and Integration- The Government of The Bahamas has only recently requested membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is in the process of meeting the requirements of membership. Their intention of establishing a mechanism for facilitating trade and encouraging linkages between sectors can have positive implications.

The IICA Office in The Bahamas supported a workshop with public and private sector participation to develop sub-sector profiles for advancing the process of obtaining membership in the WTO.

3.1.2 Agribusiness Development- In this area, the focus will be on developing industries and improving industry performance in areas where there are good market prospects and the chance to produce a diversified product.

Support will be provided to the fledgling BAPA. The BAPA has now been registered and will serve as a focal point for intensified collaboration with agri-business personnel. The BAPA could in time become a member of CABA.

The Office in The Bahamas has agreed to provide Secretariat support and a venue for meetings of the BAPA.

3.1.3 Sustainable Rural Development- The rural space in the Bahamas can be identified as being the Family Islands. On some of these islands can be found the cultivable lands, large scale farming and in certain areas small-scale subsistence farming. The main markets for produce are either the export market or New Providence. However constraints of limited infrastructure and unavailability of labour makes development of these islands a major challenge.

The emphasis for achieving Sustainable Rural Development is on improving the competitiveness of commodities with market potential and for the smaller operations, encouraging the diversification of sources of incomes.

The reorganization of the Ministry responsible for Agriculture to provide optimal support is critical.

3.1.4 Agricultural Health and Food Safety- Most of the Islands of the Bahamas are flat with the source of water for multiple uses being underground. Protecting human health through the management of waste disposal and preventing contamination is important.

There is also a need to prepare industries to compete on food safety bases. In this regard the office participated in a committee for the introduction of Hazard/Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) in Meats and Poultry and a report on the food safety status in those industries with recommendations for improvements had already been submitted by IICA.

The strategic actions, beneficiaries and possible areas of support that are consistent with IICA's strategic areas are detailed in Table 3.1

Table 3.1

Strategic actions, beneficiaries and possible areas of support

Strategic Actions	Beneficiaries/Client	Support Agencies
Policy, Trade and Integration		
Support the development of a Trade facilitation unit to identify opportunities for expanding trade.	Ministry of Trade, other Ministries responsible for productive and export sectors, entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs.	Ministries responsible for Agriculture, trade and Economic Development. IICA's Trade and Integration Specialists.
Support programmes that promote linkages between the Tourism and Agricultural sectors.	Ministries responsible for Tourism and Agriculture, private entrepreneurs and rural people.	The Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action, Inc. (FAVA/CA)
Agribusiness Development		
Support to the development of the Orchid Industry in The Bahamas	The Ministry responsible for Agriculture and private entrepreneurs.	IICA's Technology and Innovation Specialists and private consultant.
Analysis of the performance of producer/supplier co-operatives with a view to making recommendations for improved performance	The Bahamas Co-operative League Ltd.(BCLL), Ministry responsible for Agriculture and individual co-operators.	The Department of Co-operatives, the BCLL and FAVA/CA.
Support to the development of the BAPA.	The BAPA and individual member enterprises.	The CABA.

Commodity chain analysis of the Pork, Poultry and other Industries.	The Ministry responsible for agriculture, entrepreneurs engaged in the specific industries and consumers.	IICA's Policy, Trade and Integration and Agribusiness specialists.
Sustainable Rural Development		
Conduct Commodity Chain Analysis on a few select commodities with a view to commercialization eg. Guava, Plantain and Pigeon Peas.	Ministry responsible for Agriculture and entrepreneurs engaged in the specific industries.	IICA's specialists in Policy, Trade and Integration and Technology and Innovation.
Support to programmes aimed at the diversification of rural incomes.	Rural communities.	IICA's specialists in the area of Technological Innovation.
Assess the agricultural credit situation in the Bahamas and recommend options for promoting the delivery of credit to the rural community	The commercial and development banks, the farming community and the wider rural community.	Private consultant.
Modernization of the MAFLG	Technical officers of the Ministry responsible for Agricultural as well as operatives who depend on the services it provides.	Management and staff within the Ministry responsible for Agriculture.
Agricultural Health & Food Safety		
Assist in the Development of a Framework/Regulations for the sustainable use of water by the agricultural sector under the Water and Sewage Act.	The agricultural sector and the community at large.	IICA's Specialists in Sustainable Rural Development.
Identify options for waste management and disposal given the height of the water table and that the majority of the water comes from under ground.	The ministries responsible for Health and Agriculture and the community at large.	IICA's specialists in Sustainable Rural Development.
Development of HACCP programme for Poultry and Meats	The Ministry responsible for Agriculture and operators within the poultry and meat sub-sectors.	IICA's specialists in Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

3.2 Agreed goals, priorities and strategic actions that are in line with IICA's supporting areas

The complementary areas of the National Agenda for The Bahamas are important for successful implementation of the agenda and are consistent with IICA's supporting areas.

3.2.1 Training and Education- The training identified for the period is mainly in the area of Agricultural Health. Discussions have already been entered into with the College of the Bahamas (COB) for developing a distance learning facility. The COB has a keen interest in this area as the CD ROM driven programme will compliment their proposed web-based facility.

It is expected that the course selection will be supportive of all the strategic areas.

3.2.2 Information and communication – This area is mainly devoted to carrying out studies and analyzing information that will pave the way for the strategic actions to be implemented. The Communication Center, which is managed and operated jointly by the MAFLG and the IICA Office in The Bahamas, will be pivotal for this area.

Staff of the center received additional training in electronic document preparation earlier this year, their workshop report has identified the equipment required for upgrading the center. Staff also attended a workshop where the establishment of an IICA Agricultural Libraries System was discussed.

3.2.3 Technology and Innovation- Appropriate technology has been identified as a major constraint to achieving competitiveness along the commodity chain.

Some commodities have been identified as candidates for value adding through further processing and the choice of technology will be critical in identifying those which should be promoted. Technology for production systems will have to be identified as well.

3.2.4 Horizontal Technical Cooperation- This has to do mainly with IICA's strategic alliances with other international agencies. There is already collaboration ongoing with PAHO/WHO on the establishment of an Agricultural Health and Food Safety system. There has been preliminary discussion with the OAS office on a youth training programme as well as the possibility for collaboration with the FAO. As the FAO Representative is not resident in the Bahamas, intense collaboration is more difficult.

Details of the strategic actions, beneficiaries and perspective supporting institutions that are consistent with IICA's supporting areas are shown in Table 3.2

Table 3.2

Strategic Actions, Beneficiaries and Possible Areas of Support (for supporting areas)

Strategic Actions	Beneficiaries/Clients	Support Agencies
<p>Training & Education</p> <p>Promote Distance Learning Programme tailored in such a way that the agricultural producing islands’ needs are addressed</p> <p>Training in the identification and control of Pests and Diseases. Hibiscus Pink Mealybug/Black Sigatoka.</p> <p>Training in the conduct of Risk Assessment and analysis. Database development and management Staff training;</p>	<p>Ministry responsible for Agriculture, COB, students and the rural communities.</p> <p>Technicians of the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and the farming community.</p> <p>Technicians of the Ministry responsible for Agriculture and the farming community.</p>	<p>Agricultural Distance Learning Center (ADLC) in Barbados and the COB.</p> <p>IICA’s specialists in Agricultural Health and Food Safety.</p> <p>IICA’s specialists in Agricultural Health and Food Safety.</p>
<p>Information & Communication</p> <p>Develop a situation and outlook report on the economy and the agricultural sector in the Bahamas.</p> <p>Development of an electronic database to capture the value of investments and assets in the sector</p> <p>Continued development of the</p>	<p>Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Planning authorities in the public sector and entrepreneurs and perspective entrepreneurs in the private sector</p> <p>Planning Authorities.</p> <p>Technicians of the Ministry responsible for</p>	<p>IICA’s Policy, Trade and Integration specialists.</p> <p>To be led by the communication center with support from the IICA office in Bahamas & the Ministry responsible for Agriculture.</p> <p>IICA’s SIDALC</p>

<p>MOAF/IICA communication center under the SIDALC programme</p> <p>Carry out a Study of the impact on the agricultural sector of Trade Policies, subsidies and incentives.</p>	<p>Agriculture, entrepreneurs and the rural communities.</p> <p>Ministries responsible for Agriculture, Economic Development and private sector entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>programme and specialists in the area of information and communication</p> <p>IICA's Policy, Trade and Integration specialists.</p>
<p>Technology & Innovation</p> <p>Support to the agro-industrial development of priority commodities such as Broccoli, Citrus, Tomatoes and Thyme.</p> <p>Promotion of the use of Integrated Pest Management Systems.</p>	<p>The Ministry responsible for Agriculture, entrepreneurs engaged in the specific industries and the rural communities.</p> <p>Extension services personnel and the farming community.</p>	<p>IICA's Specialists in the area of Technology and Innovation.</p> <p>IICA's specialists in the areas of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Technology Innovation and Sustainable Rural Development.</p>
<p>Horizontal Technical Cooperation</p> <p>Support the Formulation of a protocol for preparation for Disasters by Agricultural Industries.</p> <p>Participation in the OAS/CARICOM project through the Agricultural Distance Learning Center in Barbados.</p> <p>Interaction with The College of the Bahamas and the 4-H movement with a view to providing support.</p> <p>Collaboration on proposed initiative with FAO to improve</p>	<p>Agri-business entrepreneurs and the rural communities.</p> <p>The COB, Ministry responsible for Agriculture, students, technicians and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The COB, youth and the rural communities.</p> <p>Rural communities and Ministry responsible for</p>	<p>Caribbean Emergency Relief Organization (CERO) and private consultants.</p> <p>Technical support from the ADLC in Barbados.</p> <p>Support from the OAS' project with youths in schools and communities.</p> <p>Involvement with the FAO is still to be defined.</p>

agricultural services to the rural sector. Including Diagnostic and Quarantine Services.	Agriculture.	
Development of an Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programme.	The Bahamian Community.	Involvement of PAHO/WHO.

4. MATRIX FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC AREAS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Based on the National Consultation 2001 and subsequent discussions within the MCOA, the agenda for IICA in the 2002-2006 period is presented in Annex I

5. EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS THAT CAN SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGENDA

There are two types of externally funded projects viz, those that have a truly regional scope and those that are limited to a particular country or sub-group of countries of the region.

Those externally funded projects that are regional in scope can be of great benefit to the Bahamas National Agenda. An example of this is the Distance Learning initiative out of the Barbados office. Another example is the Caribbean Agribusiness Association. The IICA Office in the Bahamas is working with these initiatives and will continue to do so with these and other similar activities that exist.

Other externally funded projects such as the Carambola Fruit Fly Project have their activities restricted to certain countries. However lessons can be learnt from the implementation of these projects and the experiences of the personnel working with them tapped to support similar initiatives in The Bahamas.

6. ADJUSTMENTS REQUIRED AT THE NATIONAL OFFICE IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL AGENDA

The National Agenda for The Bahamas is skewed towards Sustainable Rural Development among the strategic areas and Horizontal Technical Cooperation and Technology Innovation among the supporting areas. On this basis and taking into account the range of skills available within the office, a Local Professional with competence in the areas of Sustainable Rural Development has been recruited. This should enhance the delivery capabilities of the office.

7. POTENTIAL AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION THAT CAN BE SHARED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

At the present staff complement of the Office in The Bahamas, the office is in a position to offer support to other offices in the areas of:

- a) Agribusiness Development
- b) Training and Education;
- c) Institutional Modernization;
- d) Information and Communication; and
- e) All aspects of project development and management.

8. CURRENT HUMAN RESOURCE OF THE OFFICE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA

The Office in The Bahamas has the following Human Resources base:

- a) Representative (1);
- b) Local Professional (1);
- c) Secretary (1);
- d) Information and Communications resource person available from the MAFLG two days per week for managing the MAFLG/IICA Communication Center

9. POTENTIAL ROLES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA.

At the present time the Office in The Bahamas has a strong working relationship with PAHO/WHO. This is reflected in the on-going efforts at establishing a National Health and Food Safety System. The effort is directed at expanding the concept of food safety from a focus on Hotels, Restaurants and food processing to one that includes farm and raw material sources.

IICA is represented on a multidisciplinary committee that is charged with the development of a Logical Framework that will define the Agricultural Health and Food Safety system for the Bahamas.

The Office in The Bahamas has also discussed with the FAO representative who resides in Jamaica as well as with the MAFLG, the possibilities for joint endeavors. This initiative has been well received.

The IDB and the OAS also have offices in the Bahamas and there is potential for collaboration as well.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Agenda for The Bahamas has been developed through a truly consultative process and its consideration in the definition of IICA's Medium Term Plan augers well for the latter's relevance and acceptance.

The Office in The Bahamas has a small staff but has established strategic alliances with public and private sector personnel, international organizations that serve The Bahamas as well as organizations located outside the region.

The following recommendations are being advanced in support of the thrust for the development of the rural sector of the Bahamas.

- a) Representative to continue the dialogue at the national level on the basis of the National Consultation, National Agenda and other perspectives that may emerge;
- b) IICA to consider the National Agenda and allocate human and financial resources appropriate to its successful implementation.

Annex I

Matrix for implementation of the Strategic Areas at the National Level

Instruments for Implementation	STRATEGIC AREAS			
	Policy, Trade & Integration	Agribusiness Development	Sustainable Rural Development	Food Safety & Agricultural Health
Training & Education			Promote Distance Learning Programmes tailored in such a way that the agricultural producing islands' needs are addressed	<p>Training in the identification and control of Pests and Diseases. Hibiscus Pink Mealybug Black Sigatoka</p> <p>Training in the conduct of Risk Assessment and analysis. Database development and management Staff training;</p>
Information & Communication	<p>Develop a situation and outlook report on the economy and the agricultural sector in the Bahamas.</p> <p>Development of an electronic database to capture the value of investments and assets in the sector</p>		<p>Conduct Commodity Chain Analyses on a few select commodities with a view to commercialization eg. Guava, Plantain and Pigeon Peas.</p> <p>Continued development of the MAFLG/IICA communication center under the SIDALC programme.</p>	
Technology & Innovation		Support to the development of the Orchid Industry in the Bahamas	<p>Support to programmes aiming at the diversification of rural incomes.</p> <p>Support to the agro-industrial development of priority commodities such as Broccoli, Citrus, Tomatoes and Thyme.</p> <p>Support the formulation of a protocol for preparation for Natural Disasters by Agricultural Industries.</p>	<p>Promotion of the use of Integrated Pest Management Systems.</p> <p>Assist in the Development of a Framework/Regulations for the sustainable use of water by the agricultural sector under the Water and Sewage act.</p> <p>Identify options for waste management and disposal given the height of the water table and that the majority of the water comes from under ground.</p>

Instruments for Implementation	STRATEGIC AREAS			
	Policy, Trade & Integration	Agribusiness Development	Sustainable Rural Development	Food Safety & Agricultural Health
Institutional Modernization & Planning	<p>Support the development of a Trade facilitation unit to identify opportunities for expanding trade.</p> <p>Carry out a Study of the impact on the agricultural sector of Trade Policies, subsidies and incentives.</p>	<p>Analysis of the performance of producer/supplier co-operatives with a view to making recommendations for improved performance.</p> <p>Support of the development of the BAPA.</p> <p>Commodity chain analysis of the Pork, Poultry and other Industries.</p>	<p>Assess the agricultural credit situation in the Bahamas and recommend options for promoting the delivery of credit to the rural community.</p> <p>Modernization of the MAFLG.</p>	<p>Development of a HACCP programme for Poultry and Meats.</p>
Horizontal Technical Cooperation	<p>Support programmes that promote linkages between the Tourism and Agricultural sectors</p>		<p>Participation in the OAS/CARICOM project through the ADLC in Barbados.</p> <p>Interaction with The COB and the 4-H movement with a view to providing support.</p> <p>Collaboration on proposed initiative with FAO to improve agricultural services to the rural sector. Including diagnostic and Quarantine Services.</p>	<p>Development of an Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programme.</p>

