



THE IICA NATIONAL AGENDA FOR GUYANA

REVISED AUGUST, 2007

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ASSP	Agricultural Support Services Programme
CABA	Caribbean AgriBusiness Association
CACHE	Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture
CANR♀P	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDC	Community Development Council
CFF	Caribbean Fruit Fly
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
EU	European Union
GABA	Guyana AgriBusiness Association
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GFYA	Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture
GoG	Government of Guyana
GRDB	Guyana Rice Development Board
GSA	Guyana School of Agriculture
GUYSUCO	Guyana Sugar Corporation
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
IBH	Inclusion Body Hepatitis
IDB/MIF	Inter-American Development Bank/Multilateral Investment Fund
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPED	Institute of Private Enterprise Development
LEAP	Linden Economic Advancement Programme
MMA/ADA	Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary/Agricultural Development Authority
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoFCL	Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NBOS	National Bureau of Standards
NDIB	National Drainage and Irrigation Board
NGMC	New Guyana Marketing Corporation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PA	Producers' Association
PHMB	Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug
PRCSSP	Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project
PTCCB	Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board
PWSCA	Pomeroon Women's Small Cottage Association
RWN	Rural Women's Network
SSDTC	St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre
TLFA	Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association
UG	University of Guyana
USA	United States of America
WTO/SPS	World Trade Organisation/Sanitary and Phytosanitary
WUA	Water Users' Association

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THE IICA NATIONAL AGENDA FOR GUYANA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Guyana was established in 1975 and has operated continually since that time in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders. Since its separation from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1997, the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (MoFCL) was IICA's primary technical counterpart until 2006, when the Ministries were again consolidated under one Minister.

Over the years, IICA's activities in Guyana have been directed to non-traditional crops as well as livestock. Since late 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture has encouraged IICA to work closely with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), and currently this partnership is augmented with working ties with the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC), the Ministries of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, Health, Education, Amerindian Affairs, and Trade, Tourism and Industry, and a variety of local, regional-level, councils. For the years 1992-2002, IICA's activities were also mainly concerned with hinterland areas, with special emphasis on Amerindian communities.

- 1.2 In early 2002, following the assumption of a newly-elected Director General, IICA took the decision that the Institute, in collaboration with all significant stakeholders, would take the lead in fashioning an IICA National Agenda for each country, by way of a thorough process of public consultations. This National Consultation process was premised on the Ministerial Declaration approved by the Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture in July 2001, to which Guyana was a signatory. That Declaration was followed by the mandate issued at the Summit of Americas for the amelioration of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas.
- 1.3 As a first step in the development of the original IICA Guyana National Agenda, a matrix was prepared which compared the priority topics in agriculture identified by the Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture, as well as those already designated by the Government of Guyana (GoG) in three separate documents:
 - (i) the National Development Strategy;
 - (ii) the Poverty Reduction Strategy; and
 - (iii) the Government's priorities presented by President Jagdeo in early January, 2002.

- 1.4 As a second step, the matrix was expanded to include IICA's current and proposed activities, both at the national and regional levels, and these proposed activities were discussed with the Minister of Agriculture and other officials. The Government's response to the matrix, together with the response of each of the stakeholders groups, were incorporated into the finished Agendas. In the final step, the Agenda was presented to and accepted by the Government of Guyana.
- 1.5 The IICA Guyana National Agenda, once approved by the Government, became the base document from which activities over the period July, 2002 to July, 2003, were identified for implementation.
- 1.6 In September 2003, the National Agenda **was reviewed** by way of process of consultation so as to subsequently obtain the contents for the Plan of Action for 2004. The objectives of the review were:
 - (i) to report on IICA's activities in Guyana for 2002-2003
 - (ii) for stakeholders to consider achievement reports and to make suggestions for the inclusion of activities into the 2004 Plan of Action.

Based on commonalities of interest with IICA's activities, four stakeholder groups were identified for the consultations and review:

1. private sector, specifically agri-business or other businesses with direct concerns in the private sector;
2. rural producers, representatives from groups of small farmers, including Amerindians, cattle farmers, and others;
3. agricultural education institutions including the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), the University of Guyana (UG); and
4. representatives of major foreign donors.

Through the process described above, the IICA Guyana National Agenda was reviewed and was used as the basis for determining the elements of the Plan of Action 2004. In 2005, the Agenda was reviewed during the Presentation of the Office Report for 2004 to stakeholders and in 2006, a review session was held with public sector stakeholders. Inputs from that review have been incorporated into this current document.

2.0 RECENT CHANGES IN GUYANA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Guyana economy grew by 4.7 percent in 2006, in spite of various challenges faced by the country.

Major contributors to the real growth in the economy included a 5.5 percent growth in sugar production, expansion of 11 percent in the forestry sub-sector, which is the highest growth rate in recent history, and a rebound in the 'Other Agriculture', which grew by 7 percent.

The growth experienced in some areas of the agricultural sector revealed a level of resilience, in spite of severe challenges and setbacks.

The 36 percent cut announced by the European Union (EU) in 2005 in the price paid for sugar to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and other trade-related developments have caused the Ministry to intensify its efforts at agricultural diversification.

In December, an Agricultural Diversification Seminar was held to highlight the country's rich potential and to intensify efforts aimed at further diversifying the sector, thereby further reducing the nation's dependency on the traditional rice and sugar.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) continues to implement a number of initiatives in the sector. These include:

a) Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project (PRCSSP)

The main objective of this project is to provide efficient and sustainable support services to rural communities in Regions 2 and 3, with particular focus on poor rural households, Amerindian Communities and households headed by women.

b) Rice Competitiveness Project

This is an EU 11.5 M Euro-Funded Project, which aims at making the rice industry more competitive through water management works, provision of technical and institutional assistance, research and development, and extension services.

c) Agricultural Support Services Programme (ASSP)

This programme aims to rehabilitate Drainage and Irrigation structures, organise farmers to manage the operation and maintenance of rehabilitation structures, and support research and agricultural

diversification. Funding for this programme is provided by an IDB loan of US\$25 M.

NARI is the principal Agricultural Research Institution in the country. It focuses on research activities to benefit local producers. Its major activities in 2006 involved research on crops, genetic resources, pest management, post-harvest management, agro-processing and livestock production. The main crops of focus in 2006 were cowpea, sweet potato, carrots, organic pineapple, edible mushroom, papaw and bull-nose pepper.

Other activities of the Institute were launch of drip irrigation systems, pectin production, and experimentation with dehydration techniques for perishable crops.

The following were produced and marketed to the farming community: Ducklings, breeding rams, fruit plants, vegetable seeds and Acoushi ant bait.

2.1 Changes in Legislation and Policies on Agriculture and Rural Life

The issue of non-payment and late payment for paddy to farmers by millers was addressed through an amendment to the Rice Factories Act, which was tabled in December in the National Assembly. This amendment proposed that millers be licensed to export rice and that they must be indebted to farmers no more than 5 percent of the cost of paddy bought from them.

2.2 Institutional Reforms in Agriculture and the Rural Milieu

The appointment of the New Minister, in September, consolidated the administration of the sector under one Ministerial responsibility. Previously, there were two Ministries within the sector – the *MoA*, with responsibility for traditional crops – rice and sugar - and agricultural infrastructure, such as drainage and irrigation and land management, and the *MoFCL*, with major responsibility for the Non-Traditional Agricultural Sub-sector.

The new amalgamated Ministry has responsibility for a range of semi-autonomous Agencies and Departments, including the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO), Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB), Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), NGMC, NARI, Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary/Agricultural Development Authority (MMA/ADA), National Drainage and Irrigation Board (NDIB), Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB), Hydrometeorological Department, Fisheries Department and Crops and Livestock Department.

2.3 *Agri-food Trade and the Development of Agribusinesses*

Guyana's continuing efforts at diversifying the economy resulted in increased production and exports of non-traditional crops. Export volumes of non-traditional produce and products for the period January to November, 2006 reached 4,437 tonnes compared to 4,272 tonnes for the same period in 2005, and the value of exports for the same period was US\$6.0 M, which represents an increase in production and export earnings over the previous year.

In the traditional areas – rice and sugar – production and export of rice were better than in 2005. Paddy production in 2006 was 468,730 tonnes compared with 420,365 tonnes in 2005. Export volume in the same period was 204,296 tonnes compared to 182,175 tonnes in 2005. Export value of rice products sold in 2006 was US\$54.4 M compared to US\$46.1 M in 2005.

Actual sugar production in 2006 was 259,491 tonnes, which fell short of the revised target of 279,000 tonnes. However, despite the shortfall, GUYSUCO was able to fulfil both its local and foreign markets, including 173,000 tonnes to the EU and 22,400 tonnes to the United States of America (USA).

There was a significant increase in the production and marketing of packaged sugar over the years, from 500 tonnes in 2003 to over 4,700 tonnes in 2006.

2.4 *Agricultural Health and Food Safety*

Despite efforts to improve agricultural health and food safety in Guyana and to implement standards which are compliant with those set internationally, the Poultry sector was challenged with a “stunted growth syndrome” and “sudden death” on several of its large commercial farms. With the help of IICA, the farms were assessed, treatment was recommended and applied. By the end of the year, the sub-sector appeared to be recovering.

Joining in the fight of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States to prevent the occurrence of Avian Influenza in Guyana, Avian Influenza Prevention and Awareness Seminars were held in all Regions and information leaflets were prepared for distribution to technicians and farmers.

A Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and some diagnostic work has already begun in the facility.

Surveillance activities continued for several diseases, both in livestock and in crops. Of major importance is the Food-and-Mouth Disease on the border with Brasil and for Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) mainly in the Corentyne Area bordering Suriname, on the East Bank of Demerara and on the West Coast of Demerara. Data on these two major surveillance activities are being awaited.

2.5 Agricultural Innovation, Science and Technology

During 2006, work continued on the Skeldon Sugar Modernisation Project, which is scheduled for completion in 2008. This facility is expected to be utilised in diversification of the product base of the industry into areas such as electricity co-generation and bio-energy.

2.6 Sustainable Rural Development

Over 63 percent of Guyana's population live in rural communities, mainly along the North-eastern coast, but also in riverain and hinterland communities.

The riverain and hinterland communities comprise largely the indigenous population, who make up approximately 7 percent of the national population. These communities are gradually being integrated into the mainstream population.

Although the rural communities are mainly agrarian in nature, there are other economic activities in which they are engaged. These include artisans, small agro-processors, loggers and miners.

Nationally, there is no single entity with responsibility for rural development. However, several Ministries and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) provide services and support to these communities. The formation and strengthening of such units as Water Users' Associations (WUAs), Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Producers' Associations (PAs) provide opportunities for rural communities to benefit significantly from available services.

3.0 PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL AGENDA

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

During 2006, the Office continued to work with stakeholders in the public and private sectors and Donor Community in the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life. The Office was actively engaged with colleagues in the sector in support of the further development and implementation of the 'Jagdeo Initiative' – Strengthening Agriculture for Sustainable Development of the Caribbean. The Office participated in and supported meetings of the Core Group, and the Special Meetings of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) [Agriculture].

The Office supported and facilitated participation of the Minister of Agriculture and other Officials in various regional and hemispheric fora, including the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in the Bahamas.

The participation of a Specialist in Competitiveness from El Salvador in a GoG-sponsored Seminar on Agricultural Diversification was supported by the Office. The presentation made by the Specialist and the ensuing discussions reflected the usefulness of her participation. This activity demonstrated the real value of Horizontal Cooperation Activities within the Institute.

The members of the Local Chapter of the Alliance Groups continue to receive Office support in strengthening and expansion of their activities.

The Guyana AgriBusiness Association (GABA), which was temporarily housed at the Office, moved into alternative accommodation but continues to benefit from the coordination and networking activities facilitated by the Regional Association and the Institute.

Members of the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE) Chapter continued to actively participate. Five (5) University Students and one (1) Lecturer participated in a Faculty Student Exchange Programme in Trinidad & Tobago. Members participated in the meeting of the Board of Directors in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico in July and the Ninth Annual General Assembly in Bridgetown, Barbados in November.

The Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture (GFYA) continues to hold its fortnightly meetings at the Office. Their Bee Production Enterprise continues to show progress and members are engaged in other economic activities, including landscaping and mushroom cultivation.

The Local Chapter recently embarked on a country-wide membership drive.

The Guyana Chapter currently holds the Vice-Presidency of the Regional Forum.

The Rural Women's Network (RWN), Local Chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANR♀P), continues to be housed at the Office. In June, the Network hosted the CANR♀P Annual General Meeting, which received the Office's logistic and other support.

The RWN continues to conduct outreach programmes among its several membership groups in the various Regions.

3.2 Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

The Office continues to support the national efforts aimed at expanding trade in beef and beef products. In February, the Office facilitated a National Workshop on Beef Production Improvement, at which over fifty (50) farmers and technicians participated. Five (5) farms were targeted for improvement, and testing was carried out for Tuberculosis and Brucellosis. On-going activities are carried out to prepare these farmers for export.

GABA signed the Inter-American Development Bank/Multilateral Investment Fund (IDB/MIF) Project, which provides resources for strengthening of the Regional Association and its members.

During the year, the Office continued to support the participation of nationals in World Trade Organisation/Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO/SPS) meetings and other fora to assist in the process of providing greater understanding of and ensuring compliance with world trade standards.

The Office participated as a member of the Technical Advisory Board of the National Bureau of Standards (NBOS). Inputs were made in the identification, preparation and finalisation of production and marketing standards for several products and processes. Additionally, support was given to the Board in the process of adopting a few important standards prepared for the Region by regional accreditation bodies.

3.3 Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

International efforts to globalise agriculture and to encourage compliance with the WTO/SPS Agreement continue and IICA, Guyana continues to facilitate and support the MoA's efforts.

The Office collaborated with the MoA and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors to effect systems and execute activities which would facilitate Guyana's access to increased market share in CARICOM and elsewhere. One such activity is conducting surveys for plant pests and diseases, including Giant African Snails, Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug (PHMB) and CFF.

Surveillance efforts revealed that although the country was declared CFF-free in 2000, there was evidence of a resurgence of the fly. Joint activities between technical teams from Suriname and Guyana are planned for early 2007 to reactivate border surveillance and control activities and to prepare a project proposal aimed at re-implementing effective control programme in both countries.

Routine surveys indicate that the level of PHMB infestation is considerably reduced, occurring in extremely low levels as PHMB-ants complexes on a few organic pineapple farms, making it possible for the reopening of several export markets which were tentatively closed.

In the Livestock sub-sector, routine surveillance for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis was done. Testing of one hundred and twenty (120) animals for these two diseases was also done on three (3) of the six (6) farms identified as part of a project to upgrade and establish commercial entities for exportation of beef to CARICOM. Following the testing, animals that will be used as breeding stock will be identified and monitored.

As a result of the occurrence of a condition which resulted in “stunted growth” in chickens on a few large commercial farms, and another condition which caused sudden death in chickens on some of these and on yet other farms, disease investigations were conducted with the assistance of a Specialist from the University of the West Indies.

The results indicated that the chickens suffered from nutritional deficiencies which resulted in the stunted growth and Inclusion Body Hepatitis (IBH) which resulted in the sudden death. The recommendations of the Specialist as it related to feeding and vaccination were implemented and by the end of the year, some improvements were evident.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) were implemented on selected farms around Guyana to effect improvements in vegetable and livestock production. In Region 10, work continued in collaboration with the MoA, NARI and Linden Economic Advancement Project (LEAP). Farmers were also introduced to the Farmers’ Diary, in which they were encouraged to document their agronomic practices and production and marketing data.

GAPs registration also continued for farmers in the Pomeroon and other locations who export vegetables mainly to CARICOM.

Work continued on the finalisation of the HACCP document and the implementation of HACCP Pre-requisite Programmes for the Rising Sun Abattoir. By the end of 2006, the finalised document and relevant forms were handed over to the Managing Director of the establishment. Technical assistance will continue in 2007 to facilitate the complete implementation of all programmes required for

the effective functioning of the abattoir and the continued production of safe and wholesome products.

Facilitating Participation in Local, Regional and International Technical Fora

The Office continues to facilitate participation of technicians in regional and international fora. During the year, technicians participated in Pesticide Board Meetings and Meetings of Chief Veterinary and Chief Environmental Health Officers.

Guyana's participation in WTO/SPS meetings has facilitated its preparation to comply with requirements of signed WTO/SPS Agreements.

3.4 Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

Within the W.K. Kellogg-Funded Project “*Supporting the Expansion of Income-Generation Activities in the Lake Communities in Guyana*”, significant efforts were made in the sustainable management of natural resources. The use of compost was introduced to assist in maintaining soil fertility in the fragile, sandy soils existing in the community and contribute to plant nutrition. This practice seeks to reduce shifting cultivation normally practised by farmers in these communities and engender more sedentary production practices.

The project is currently planning an environmental landscape design management programme to control the activities related to the expansion of pineapple production.

The Hydroponics activities continue to promote the use of formerly discarded material, such as plastic bags and buckets, metal cans and paddy shells, which would otherwise cause pollution and clog drains.

3.5 Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

The Process of Testing the Territorial Approach continued in the Lake Communities of Mainstay, Tapakuma and Capoey, in which the Kellogg-Funded Project is being implemented. A socio-economic survey was conducted to determine the current status of the communities in terms of resource endowment, needs and problems, and the information was used to plan developmental activities.

A producer organisation – the Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association (TLFA) – was formed and training was provided to the membership in organisational management and in technical production skills.

The TLFA is actively engaged in the implementation of project actions.

Support continued to be provided to the Pomeroy Women's Small Cottage Association (PWSCA) in the improvement of the quality of their processed products and refurbishing of their recently acquired processing facilities.

Training in Hydroponics and Organic Production was provided to two groups in Region 2 (Vilvoorden and Charity) and to youth incarcerated at the New Opportunity Corps. Training was also done for groups at Regions 5 and 6, where participants cultivated and marketed a variety of crops produced under the two systems.

The Office continued to provide technical and monitoring supervision of projects which received Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) grants. The GFYA Beekeeping Project at Goed Intent was expanded with fifteen (15) additional hives. The Forum exhibited products under the IICA Banner at the Annual Agriculture Month Exhibition in October. The Farmers' Group at Lima Sands continued to produce and market poultry, and the Tilapia Aquaculture Project run by the Women's Group at Lake Mainstay has commenced marketing their catch.

3.6 *Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernisation of Agriculture and Rural Life*

The Office continued its activities in Enhancing Food Security, utilising the Hydroponics and Organic Techniques. Training workshops and expansion activities were conducted in collaboration with the St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre (SSDTC), NARI and MoA for eight (8) groups in Regions 2, 4 and 6. Over two hundred (200) participants, including women and youth, were trained and several have started to produce and market vegetables.

Technology for the rapid multiplication of pineapple planting material was introduced to the Mainstay Community under the Lake Communities Project. A nursery facility was set up and farmers were trained in the preparation and propagation of planting discs.

IICA Office Technicians were also involved in the transfer of technology using botanicals for the control of the Acoushi Ant, *Atta sp*, a notorious leaf-cutting ant. Neem and other local botanicals were utilised and farmers were trained in the formulation and application of baits.

4.0 THE NATIONAL AGENDA REVIEWED

The National Agenda was **reviewed** through the process previously described, and the **strategic actions** for IICA's collaboration thus determined:

4.1 Trade and Agribusiness Development

It was agreed that IICA would collaborate in assisting with the overall reorientation towards an entrepreneurial approach; the provision of international market information on modern agriculture and the rural economy, as well as on standard requirements for identified products, trade barriers and specific export markets; objective analysis of specific commodities targeted for external markets; and assist with the maturing of the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA); exposing farmers and technical personnel to transformation techniques; and providing support to agro-tourism initiatives. Specifically, IICA's intervention will be on:

- ◆ supporting the development of the beef industry in preparation for trade;
- ◆ examining the feasibility for development of the apiculture sub-sector;
- ◆ determining the potential for further aquaculture development;
- ◆ supporting the revitalisation of the swine industry;
- ◆ examining the potential of some plants for use in herbal medicine;
- ◆ provision of international market information – opportunities and requirements for trade;
- ◆ dissemination of information on modern agriculture and the rural economy through newspapers, radio, television and other media;
- ◆ training/information on trade barriers and standard requirements for specific products;
- ◆ actively promoting the maturing of CABA into an independent, functioning entity.

Collaborators and Stakeholders:

- Public Sector Business entities – Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI);
- Rural Group Enterprises (e.g. Rural Women’s Network, Rupununi Natural Cashew Enterprise, Mabaruma/Hosororo Organic Growers Association, North West Organics);
- Private Agri-business sector, including CABA, Amazon Caribbean, and Caribbean Chemicals, Amazon Caribbean (Guyana).

4.2 Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Within this area, activities will be focused on a continuing and wider implementation of training on good agricultural practices (GAP) to include technicians, farmers’ groups, the Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED) and the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC) personnel; expanded Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Training for fisheries, food and marketing facilities; and renewed efforts to fully operationalise the Plant Protection Unit.

More specifically, IICA will be concerned with:

- ◆ improving agricultural health and food safety systems to facilitate market access, improve technical capacity and develop human resources;
- ◆ enhancing the ability of member countries to respond to emergencies and emerging issues, e.g. Avian Influenza in Poultry;
- ◆ inclusion of the “start clean, stay clear” programme on broiler and layer farms;
- ◆ supporting monitoring of borders for diseases, such as Foot-and-Mouth, and pests, such as CFF.

Collaborators and Stakeholders:

- Staff of public sector institutions including, the Ministry of Agriculture, NARI, New GMC, the University of Guyana, the Guyana School of Agriculture, the Guyana National Bureau of Standards;
- Producer groups (cattle and dairy associations, farmers groups).

4.3 Sustainable Rural Development

In this area, IICA's activities will focus on:

- ◆ enterprise development through micro financing, with women and youth being targeted;
- ◆ continuing support to “pilot project” type initiatives, to test viability and emphasize results, incorporating student interns;
- ◆ expanding dissemination of information and articles of interest on topics germane to agriculture and rural development;
- ◆ provide linkage to various donors and advocate for development issues in agriculture and rural development;
- ◆ adoption of territorial approach to sustainable rural development;
- ◆ examining the potential for agro-tourism and implementing agro-tourism projects.

Collaborators and Stakeholders:

- Public sector agriculture institutions, especially NARI, Ministry of Agriculture and University of Guyana;
- National and international development agencies operating in Guyana;
- Rural groups identified through the Territorial Approach.

4.4 Agreed Priorities for IICA's Supporting Areas

4.4.1 Technology and Innovation

This supporting area would be instrumental in the context of specific production and processing pilot projects, once market opportunities and production systems were delineated. Introduce technology in areas such as Hydroponics, Vermiculture and Agroenergy Development.

4.4.2 Horizontal Technical Cooperation

Again, this supporting area would be invaluable in the context of on-going pilot projects or specific production interventions where outside intervention, based on previous or similar experiences, would be useful.

4.4.3 Education and Training

This supporting area is essential in a variety of contexts, from pilot projects, to the production of practical manual, to addressing specific topics where expertise was not already available in the country. Education and training form the centerpiece of virtually all of IICA's activities. Assessment of agricultural education provision and management in the country.

4.4.4 Information and Communication

Supporting area includes access to IICA Website. Knowledge and access to information at an international level, especially knowledge of external markets and market opportunities. The need for the establishment of both communication systems within the country and to outside knowledge sources is marked.

5.0 EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED

- 5.1 ***“Supporting the Expansion of Income Generation Activities in the Lake Communities in Guyana”***: This project is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2005-2007), and has as its goal the improvement of the standard of living of the Amerindian population in the Region Two Lake Communities in Guyana through the sustainable utilisation of community resources.

6.0 POTENTIAL AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- 6.1 Diversification of Agricultural Sector: Having regard to the problems currently experienced in the traditional crops and the Government of Guyana's focus on other products, there is ample opportunity for the Office's intervention.
- 6.2 The Government of Guyana has expressed an interest in the development of the beef, swine and apiculture industries. The Office has initiated support in all of these areas and this support will continue in the short and medium term.
- 6.3 The first phase of the Agro-Tourism Project, spearheaded by the Agro-Tourism Linkages Centre in Barbados, has been completed and the second phase is to be initiated.
- 6.4 Further collaboration in the area of organic agriculture is likely, given the earlier successes realised in the organic cocoa initiative in Mabaruma/Hosororo and the current activities in pineapple production and marketing at Mainstay and Tapakuma.
- 6.5 Continue the promotion of the Jagdeo Initiative (JI) by providing support for the design and implementation of interventions to alleviate Key Binding Constraints (KBC's) of the JI.
- 6.6 Assist with the training and preparation of farmers for organic certification and strengthen local technical organic certification capacity.
- 6.7 Re-activation of the MoA-IICA Technical Committee to enhance the collaboration and synergies between the MoA and IICA which will involve collaboration at all stages of cooperation activities – planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

7.0 CURRENT HUMAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR MANAGING THE TECHNICAL AGENDA

Current human resources available in the IICA Guyana Office are at full capacity.

- 7.1 The Representative retains responsibility for overall management of all office activities, as well as for pilot projects, project proposal developments and substantive liaison with other projects, agencies and strategic collaborating partners.
- 7.2 A Sustainable Rural Development Specialist will be available for activities under that strategic area.
- 7.3 The Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist will take responsibility for implementation of activities under that strategic area, including full participation in SPS and other related regional actions.
- 7.4 Consultants and other appropriate resource persons will be sourced to assist with matters related to evaluation of the apiculture sub-sector, agro-tourism development, aquaculture and the potential commercial development of herbs.
- 7.5 The human resources available in the Office, while fully extended, will be directly responsible for the implementation and/or coordination of all programmed activities, including those components for which consultants will be engaged.