



## YEAR-END MESSAGE

*As the year comes to a close we look back and reflect on the momentous year that was both for the Institute and for Suriname. Both entities saw change in Administration.*

*In the case of IICA, Dr. Victor Villalobos assumed leadership of the Institute following his election in October 2009 and his swearing in as Director General in January of this year.*

*Dr. Villalobos paid a visit to Suriname in March, his first to a Caribbean Member State since his inauguration. During that visit he participated in a Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the inauguration of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).*

*During the year significant attention was given by the Office to Trade and Agribusiness Development with the publication of the “Handbook for the Export of Fruit and Vegetables” for exporters and a successful workshop on the Value Chain Approach to product development and marketing being two signal achievements.*

*The office also continued its focus on Food Security, Technology Innovation, Development of Rural Territories and the strengthening of producer groups. These achievements could only be realized with strong collaborative action between the Office and the many players in the milieu- be they public sector or private sector - input supplies, producers, processors, exporters, education institutions, NGOs, international entities together*

*with a motivated and committed team at the Office.*

*I wish to express my gratitude to the team at IICA Suriname and to the many collaborators who readily supported our efforts.*

*Worldwide, agriculture continues to face challenges and Suriname is no exception. However, by working together we can turn these challenges to glorious opportunities for the sector. In the New Year we pledge to continue working with our many partners with a view to seizing these opportunities and helping the country realize its agricultural potential.*

*In the spirit of the Season, I take the opportunity to wish the colleagues at IICA Suriname and across the hemisphere and our many collaborators and all their families a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Rewarding 2011.*



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture wishes you

*Happy Holidays*

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## IICA PROGRAMS 2010-2014 ACTIONS FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION



*Participants at the Annual Caribbean Regional Meeting*

*IICA Suriname's Representative, Cromwell Crawford, and John King, Project Coordinator, attended IICA's Annual Caribbean Regional Meeting, held in Georgetown, Guyana from September 8-10, 2010. The theme of this year's meeting was **Consolidating the Technical Cooperation Agenda of IICA in the Caribbean Region.***

Participants at the meeting included Representatives and Specialists from the fourteen (14) Caribbean offices and officials from IICA Headquarters, including Victor Villalobos, Director General; Deputy Director General Karen Lezny; and other senior staff members.

Discussions focused on introducing IICA's 2010-2014 Medium

Term Plan, reviewing the Regional Technical Cooperation Strategy for the Caribbean, and the implementation of IICA's technical cooperation program in each member country. Administrative and operational matters were also discussed at the meeting.

Sessions delved into many topics, such as agribusiness, agricultural health and food safety, natural resource management and food security. The Regional Meeting analyzed ways in which member countries could strengthen regional cooperation, foster a heightened level of innovation and productivity, increase opportunity for international trade, and reduce vulnerabilities facing rural populations.

Each representative gave a presentation on the challenges and

prospects facing the agricultural sector in their respective countries. Mr. Crawford highlighted Suriname's need to increase investment in the agricultural sector, the country's vulnerability to climate change, and the many opportunities which Suriname has to increase international trade especially to European and CARICOM nations.

The presentations by all of the Caribbean Representatives helped to create dialogue between member states and will contribute to increased horizontal partnership between the Caribbean IICA offices.

The 2010 Caribbean Regional Meeting insured that IICA's Caribbean offices will enter the new medium term with a unified vision for agricultural development in the region.



## *"Building a Single IICA"*

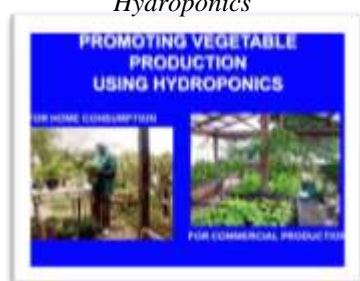
## IICA UTILIZES HORIZONTAL COOPERATION



The IICA Suriname office has drawn on the Institute's international resources and knowledge base to host two workshops to introduce low-cost technologies to Suriname and sensitize Suriname's agribusiness stakeholders to the value-chain approach of competitiveness maximization.



Presentation by M. Panday & G. Joseph on Biogester and Hydroponics



### INTRODUCING LOW-COST TECHNOLOGIES TO SURINAME

On November 4, 2010 the IICA Suriname office teamed with IICA Guyana specialists to host presentation on low-cost hydroponics and biodigester systems. Germaine Joseph, IICA Guyana Field Assistant, and Mansaran Panday, Farm Manager at the IICA-supported St. Stanislaus College Farm in Guyana, introduced the two technologies to stakeholders. This presentation was meant to initiate dialogue as to the potential for these technologies in Suri-

name. In addition to presenting the technologies, the Guyana specialists assisted the Suriname office in the initial assessment and development of a low-cost hydroponics program at two Paramaribo orphanages. This program is still in the development stage, but could be an effective means of teaching Suriname's vulnerable youth about agriculture while simultaneously improving their nutrition.

### VALUE-CHAIN WORKSHOP

IICA Suriname facilitated a visit by Robert Reid, IICA International Agribusiness Specialist, to present a workshop entitled "Enhancing the Competitiveness of Agribusiness in Suriname", which was held on November 12, 2010. Speeches by Cromwell Crawford, IICA Suriname Representative, and H.E. Hendrik Setrowidjojo, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and Arthur Zalmijn, Chairman of Samenwerkende Agrariërs in Suriname (SAS), began the workshop which sensitized private and public sector stakeholders to the value-chain approach of optimizing agribusiness competitiveness. This approach emphasizes dialogue and coordination between food-chain participants in order to maximize



L/R: H.E. Hendrik Setrowidjojo, Minister of Agriculture (LVV), John King, IICA Project Coordinator, Arthur Zalmijn, Chairman of SAS, Cromwell Crawford, IICA Representative, (Sheetal Sadal, Translator) Robert Reid, IICA International Agribusiness Specialist.

efficiency and create a "win-win" business environment.

Workshop participants took part in a simulated value-chain activity, where different groups represented different interests along the chain, including producers, processors, buyers, and banking and governmental interests. This simulation highlighted some of the real-life constraints to value-chain maxi-

mization.

Through the workshop and additional meetings with Mr. Reid, SAS was assisted and strengthened in their effort to unite agricultural sub-sector stakeholders to further the interests of the sector as a whole. IICA Suriname will continue to assist SAS in implementing the value-chain approach and strengthening their organization.

**Please contact the IICA Suriname office if you would like information on low-cost hydroponics, low-cost biodigesters, or the value chain approach to agribusiness.**



## SURINAMESE YOUTH ATTEND AGRICULTURAL YOUTH FORUM IN NEBRASKA



*Participants at the forum for youth*



*Anand Bhagoe*

*Fauziah Defares*

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Centre of Leadership and the University of Nebraska co-sponsored this year's Third Annual Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture. Unlike the previous two which were held at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, this year's forum was held at the University of Nebraska campus at Lincoln Nebraska, USA, from August 2 – 6.

Two young Surinamese represented the country at this year's forum, Anand Bhagoe who was sponsored by IICA and Fauziah Defares who received sponsorship from the Surinaamsche Bank (DSB).

The forum consisted of interactive sessions aimed at building the skills and knowledge necessary to be an effective leader in the agricultural community. Forum participants attended field trips for practical leadership training and an in depth look at agricultural extension programs and good farming practices. Furthermore, attendees participated in an agricultural discussion panel, "Opportunities for Youth in the Agricultural Sector of the Americas", which included former ministers of agriculture from the United States, Chile, Antigua and Barbuda, and Peru, as well as other distinguished members of the international agricultural community.

The sessions, field trips and panel, highlighted the major challenges related to agriculture which the hemisphere faces and helped create the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm necessary for the young leaders in agriculture to tackle these issues. Topics included the need for greater

investment and coordination in agribusiness, the impact of climate change on agriculture in the Americas, and agriculture's role in poverty alleviation and development throughout the region.

The Surinamese participants collaborated with their Caribbean colleagues and developed a set of targets for extending the impact of the forum. The Caribbean participants intend to: create an annual Caribbean forum for agricultural leaders; build a website to gather, store and exchange information, knowledge and expertise; and make an effort to promote agriculture and influence government policy in their home countries.

IICA Suriname recognizes that youth interest and involvement in agriculture is vital to the development of Suriname's agricultural sector. IICA will continue to promote and support the future leaders of Suriname's agricultural community.

## LOCAL WOMEN ATTEND SAINT LUCIA “TRAIN THE TRAINERS” WORKSHOP



*Participants at the “Train the Trainers” Workshop*

From June 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, Gerda Beckles and Ingrid Tuart attended the “Train the Trainers” Workshop, held in Saint Lucia and facilitated by IICA, under a UNIFEM-funded project entitled “Capacity Building for the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP)”.

The workshop was a step toward CANROP’s ultimate goal of achieving gender equality and empowering women entrepreneurs in member countries to better capitalize on business opportunities. CANROP believes that strengthening Caribbean women’s business acumen will directly aid in achieving the long-term Millennium Development Goal of ending poverty and hunger in the region.

The Saint Lucia workshop attendees heard various presenters who led interactive sessions which focused on developing entrepreneurship, financial management, strategic planning, social and networking skills. The

goal of the workshop was for participants to take the skills learned and transfer that knowledge to women entrepreneurs in their own countries. This “Training of Trainers” framework will maximize the impact of the workshop by spreading lessons throughout each member country’s business community. IICA Suriname will help facilitate this dissemination of knowledge by working with Ms. Beckles in organizing a workshop for the members of SUNROP, Suriname’s CANROP chapter.

IICA Suriname believes that empowering rural women in agribusiness and entrepreneurship is an important step in reaching Suriname’s overall development goals. With this in mind, IICA will continue to provide support by strengthening SUNROP and its membership.



## *Congratulations to Mavis Sabajo on Ten Years of Service!*



*The IICA Suriname Office would like to extend sincere congratulations to Mavis Rosita Sabajo, Secretary to the Representative, who on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 celebrated 10 years of dedicated service to IICA. The Office honored Mavis on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> with a pin and certificate presentation followed by a small reception.*

*Mavis joined IICA on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 as the Technical Secretary and then was elevated to the position of Secretary to the Representative in 2007. Beyond handling administrative duties for the Representative, Mavis acts as the editor for the Partnership and designs much of the Office’s promotional material and publications. Mavis continues to hone her secretarial skills by taking classes on various subjects, including Office Management and Business English.*

*The Institute thanks Mavis for her ten years of excellent service!*

# IICA Office in Suriname 2010 Highlights



*Accountability Seminar*



*Kwamalasemutu, Food Security Project*



*Value Chain Approach Workshop*



*Director General visits Suriname*



*Kninipaati, Food Security Project*



*Kayapaati Chicken Coop Project*



*Farewell dinner, Leo Sampai*



*Godolo, Food Security Project*



*Socializing with IICA Guyana Staff*



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