



# Grenada and FAO

## *Partnering to build food security and resilience*

Grenada has benefitted over the years from FAO's Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) both nationally and regionally. FAO's support has focused on capacity building, assistance in the formulation of policies and management programmes, agriculture planning and the development of legislations related to the agriculture sector. In addition to the TCPs, FAO and Grenada also worked on telefood projects for cassava development, maximizing the returns from the production of carrots and strengthening the agro-processing capability of the River Salle Processing Group.

### **Strengthening of the small ruminant sector**

The development of the small ruminant industry in the Caribbean is considered a priority by the Ministries of Agriculture and other stakeholders of the sector. Sheep and goats are particularly important mainly because of their ability to utilize marginal land for grazing, including land that is poorly suited for human food production, and their ability to tolerate unfavourable climatic conditions.

Although their numbers are increasing across the region, a corresponding increase in productivity has not taken place. In this context, the Ministries of Agriculture of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Suriname, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts & Nevis requested FAO's assistance in the development and strengthening of the small ruminant industry by building the capacity of farmers involved in small ruminant production and by enhancing the production and productivity of the sector leading to increased food and nutrition security.

This project helped build farmers' capacity in numerous areas of small ruminant production. FAO provided assistance in nutrition and feeding of small ruminants, pasture and fodder bank development and management, the use of local forages and by-products in small ruminant nutrition, reproduction and breeding, small ruminant housing, preventative veterinary medicine and health care, record keeping, market development and the development of the small ruminant value chain. The project strengthened

### **Matching FAO's expertise to Grenada's development priorities**

FAO assistance in Grenada is shaped by the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2016-2019, which is centred on three priority areas that reflect the Caribbean situation as well as national priorities and proposed outputs.

- **Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries production**, supporting farmers' organizations by developing public purchasing policies and programmes to link farmers to national institutions, supporting family farmers given their role as suppliers of safe food, strengthening the inclusion and productivity of small livestock farmers and emphasizing on market access, including fair, inclusive and equitable markets and value chain development.
- **Food and Nutrition Security**, building on the successes of the ZHC initiative launched in the latter stages of the previous CPF period. FAO's support will further build on the work of the multi stakeholder group that is leading the Zero Hunger Challenge to strengthen the policy process and governance framework for FNS.
- **Climate Change resilience and disaster risk management**, with a focus on sustainable disaster and environmental management, improved institutional capacity for water resource management and pest and disease management in the agricultural sector.

Jointly developed with the Government, the CPF is well-aligned with the national development agenda, as reflected in both national level planning and sectoral plans of key ministry partners, and with the current focus of FAO work in the region and therefore will fully benefit from the programmes of work, available resources and capacity of the Organization to deliver effectively.

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the small ruminant farmers' association that currently exists across the region, leading to sustainability for long term development of the sector. It also enhanced the countries' capacities to address the constraints to small ruminant production and some of the root causes of low productivity of the sector.

## Battling Black Sigatoka disease in the banana industry

Banana and plantain production play an important social, economic and cultural role in the lives of rural communities in many of the countries of the Lesser Antilles, including Grenada. Between 2008 and 2012, the Black Sigatoka disease (BSD) spread rapidly through Guyana and the main banana producing countries of the Lesser Antilles, affecting farmer livelihoods and the very sustainability of the already-weakened banana and plantain industries of these countries.

In 2011, Grenada and four other countries in the area requested technical assistance from FAO to develop comprehensive national and regional management plans to battle the fungus. It was considered critical that mitigation, adaptation and control measures be identified and

implemented against BSD in the earliest possible time period.

In an effort to effectively coordinate the delivery of technical assistance requests from the five affected countries and avoid duplication, several regional/international institutions including FAO,

the CARICOM Secretariat, the InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), worked together to develop a coordinated response.

One of the first activities undertaken by the FAO was the production of a draft technical manual on the Integrated BSD Management Programme. FAO also facilitated a regional consultation, where country representatives and participants from regional agencies were able to provide input into a Caribbean-wide strategy for controlling the disease. A Regional Management Programme and Action Plan developed in collaboration with the five countries and regional partners and a six day training workshop (for two participants from each country) were held in June 2013 to help the countries in appropriate selection and application of fungicides. These steps are crucial to preventing the development of resistant fungus populations and to prolong the effective life of the pesticides currently in use.

*“Innovation and investment in agriculture research and production is crucial in the fight against hunger.”*

José Graziano da Silva,  
FAO Director-General

## Support in growing the cassava industry

FAO launched a regional project to support the development of the cassava industry in early 2015. Seven countries – Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – were direct participants in the US\$500 000 project. All other CARICOM member countries benefited from the project outputs, which aimed to replace up to 30 percent of wheat flour with cassava in baked products and incorporate cassava in feed products and other industrial and household products.

Cassava has the potential to become a new pillar of economic development and agricultural revitalization and increased use of this crop may also contribute to a reduction of the food import bill. Cassava is a climate-smart crop, as it tolerates drought and some degree of flooding. It is also gluten-free and has other attractive health benefits.

While the regional project focuses on processing and market development of the cassava crop, FAO is also supporting work to improve field production systems and yields. This work is being done in collaboration with partners such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI) and the Ministries of Agriculture. In addition, FAO is working towards the implementation of a regional cassava policy in close collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

According to FAO, cassava has the potential to replace 400 000 metric tons of wheaten flour in CARICOM countries. It can also substitute up to 30 percent of the corn in poultry rations as well as a portion of other animal feeds, and contribute to a reduction of the Food Import Bill by approximately 5 percent.

