

CROWDFUND

IICA COVID-19 Response for the Caribbean



Antigua & Barbuda

A. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

PROJECT NAME

Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 through the supply of fresh food to rural households.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Antigua and Barbuda is a small island developing state located in the Leeward island chain of the Caribbean with a population of 100,000 thousand persons living in the twin island state. Although agriculture constitutes 29.5% of total land area in the dual-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda, the sector contributes only 2.3% to the GDP mostly through the fisheries subsector, and accounts for 2.8% of the total workforce. Compared to tourism, which accounts for 60% of GDP, agriculture does not generate much foreign revenue. However, the domestic market continues to rely on food from local subsistence and small-scale commercial type agricultural production.

Through a joint stakeholders meeting coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture amid the COVID-19 crisis, it became evident that for the country of Antigua and Barbuda the country agriculture sector is facing challenges of food supply to the local markets. In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country is also experiencing climate change related effects and is in the throes of prolonged drought conditions.

The agricultural sector in Antigua and Barbuda were only now emerging from the devastation of Hurricane Irma in 2017, and is faced with supply restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic. Farmers are forced to produce their own planting materials at their home however without the proper facilities, know-how and inputs. COVID-19 has negatively caused an income reductions and loss of employment as well as the reduction of the availability of staple foods in local market. The livelihoods and food security of

farmers in the south-central farming district and surrounding communities in Antigua have also been heavily affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic along with the prolonged drought conditions which the island is currently experiencing. These farmers collectively provide food for nearby communities as well as supplying hotels, restaurants, and the local market. The proposed project will give direct support to rehabilitating production activities in the country and strengthen the food security position of the Country.

DEFINITION OF THE SOLUTION

It is well documented that to achieve this, interventions of agricultural investment in irrigation and climate smart protected structure would provide the avenue for reliable food production for the markets,

While irrigation use has become more widespread among the farming communities, demand for additional water supply has become increasingly more important. Prolonged droughts are becoming more frequent in Antigua and Barbuda, and the higher demand for local food as a result of disruptions to conventional food supply chains brought about by COVID-19, means that urgent local action is required to assist farmers in increasing short term food production to compensate and avoid food shortages in the country. Farmers are largely low-resourced and rely on rain-fed systems of production, which is becoming more and more risky due to climate change. Small water harvesting infrastructure can go a long way mitigating these challenges being experienced by farmers. Healthy planting material is another challenge and the installation of a centralized low-cost seed nursery facilities can significantly improve the capacity of farmers to meet the new demands placed on them for increased supply of local foods. This initiative aims to support the farming community in Codrington Barbuda to boost food production, generate rural employment, stimulate economic activity, which has significantly slowed down due to COVID-19. A critical component for improving the competitiveness of the agriculture sector will be reducing the cost of production through increased productivity. As such, this project will collaborate with the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Ministry of Agriculture to transfer sustainable production technologies and good agricultural practices to producers for productivity enhancement and reduction of post-harvest losses.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the local production infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on national food and nutrition security in Antigua and Barbuda.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To provide direct support to small-scale farmers for sustaining and boosting local food production through the improvement of irrigation and improved planting material, in rural communities in Antigua and Barbuda.

MAIN BENEFICIARIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

Beneficiaries

Number of women: 35

Number of men: 45

Number of young: 15

PROJECT BUDGET

25,000.00 (USD)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs to be achieved at the end of the project are as follows:

- Increased farm productivity in selected rural communities as a result of increased supply of irrigation water and improved planting material;
- Small scale farmers trained in good agricultural practices and sustainable production technologies;
- Increase storage capacity for water for agriculture and increased resilience to drought;
- Improved nursery facilities for healthy seedling production for small-scale farmers.
- Increased income generating opportunities for rural agricultural households.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT

IICA is the specialized agency in agriculture within the Inter-American System that provides technical cooperation and supports the efforts of the Member States to achieve a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive agricultural sector in the Americas and to improve rural well-being in its 34 member states. IICA's current technical cooperation

model consists of five technical hemispheric action programs: Bioeconomy and Productive Development; Territorial Development and Family Farming; International Trade and Regional Integration; Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks; and Agricultural Health and Food Safety and Quality. There are also two cross cutting program areas: Gender and Youth and Innovation and Technology

IICA will have direct responsibility for the management of the fund and will serve as the executing agency for the project. The Barbuda Council will collaborate with IICA in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project, in collaboration with other government offices (mainly the Ministry of Agriculture) and the community of Codrington. CARDI will provide technical support to the project towards the construction of the multiplication bin. IICA will submit regular progress reports on the implementation of the project and a final report upon completion.

B. ACTIVITIES, INDICATORS AND GOALS

Description of Activities	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Procurement of inputs and supplies	●	●				
Construction multiplication bin		●	●	●		
Installation of irrigation system		●	●	●		
Farmer training in GAP and Nursery management		●	●			
Project Management, Monitoring and evaluation		●	●	●	●	●
Interim and final report submission				●		●

C. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY

Description of Inputs	Crowdfunding Contributions (USD)
Material & Equipment	
Irrigation Materials	13,000.00
Seedling Trays	1,000.00
Seeds (varieties TBD)	2,500.00
Farmer training	2,500.00
Promix (potting médium)	1,000.00
Materials to construct Multiplication bin	3,000.00
Freight and shipping charges	1,000.00
Transport	1,000.00
TOTAL	25,000.00

(Prices are US Currency at an exchange rate of 2.6882 XCD = 1.00US)