

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ON SMALL FARMS IN LANGLEY PARK, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



Code: 5397-00

**Country: St. Vincent
and the Grenadines**

Starting year: 2024

Year completed: 2024

Objective

To support the adoption of circular strategies in vegetable production by the use of mechanical weed control methods and the use of farm waste for composting as part of an overall strategy for soil amelioration and to improve productivity on 30 small farms.

NBS ANSWERS

How has IICA integrated NbA into its projects?

1. By always consulting with beneficiaries on incorporating sustainable practices into the design of new projects being developed for them by IICA.
2. Consistently promoting soil health and encouraging the recycling of farm waste through practices such as composting and providing training for beneficiaries in composting techniques.
3. Promoting water management on farms and establishing model rainwater harvesting systems on farms to encourage adoption.
4. Education and training on climate change and strategies for adaptation and mitigation through various fora such as the Climate Resilient Agriculture Virtual Forum organized by IICA's Climate and Sustainability Program in which local stakeholder participate.
5. Providing Capacity building support for more macro-level institutional building such as the recently concluded CARICOM AGReady Project - the multi-country program for capacity building funded by the GCF under the readiness mechanism.

What lessons learned can you share about working with farmers to implement NbS?

1. Farmers are very receptive to new ideas about NbS based on their own experiences of the impacts of climate and other natural phenomena on their farm operations and the need to adapt to survive.
2. Farmers in large part trust technical institutions to provide solution to challenges they are encountering.
3. There is growing awareness among small/family farmers that some of the conventional practices from the time of the green revolution, with high dependence on inorganic inputs, are not sustainable.

What examples of innovation in NbS can you share from your experience at IICA?

1. Our establishment of rainwater systems for farm and school garden irrigation, for vegetable production under a UNDP project funded through the Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (JCCP) which UNDP was implementing with funding from the Government of Japan. Five model systems established with farmers belonging to a women's organisation, a young farmer and a preschool.
2. Encouraging composting to contribute to improvement of soil health through various grassroot projects funded by organisations such as Australian Government Direct Aid Program (2024) where we would have trained farmers in composting, established model composting sheds and/or provided small machinery to facilitate composting operations. Other projects which would have included some of this work include collaboration with FAO (AMEXCID Project - 2022) and a collaboration with Farmers organisation for composting funded by the Government of New Zealand - 2022- (latter project written and implemented by IICA with funds received by the beneficiary farmers organisation)

How do you promote education and training on SbN among farmers?

1. Through engagements at the institutional level with partners in agricultural development.
2. Through engagements with farmers organisations and their general membership.
3. Through General outreach to media on issues related to climate and sustainability.