



## Component 1 of Flagship Project on Resilience and the Integrated Management of Environmental Risks

# Regional Competition Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): Stories from Farmers in the Eastern Caribbean States

## Rules and Submission Guidelines

### 1.0 Introduction

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency of the Inter-American System that provides technical cooperation on agriculture. With an office in each of its 34 member states, IICA promotes competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture that feeds the hemisphere and the world, while at the same time generating opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty among farmers and rural dwellers.

IICA has identified resilience and integrated risk management as a priority line of work for the Institute and recognizes the importance of coordinated action by all countries in the hemisphere to help farmers adapt to climate change impacts.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an approach to developing the technical, policy and investment conditions to achieve sustainable agricultural development for food security under climate change. The goal of CSA is to enable the sector to transition towards more climate-resilient production systems and more sustainable livelihoods in the presence of climate change stressors and climate variability. The three pillars of CSA interventions and practices are intended to:

1. Sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes (i.e. strengthen livelihoods and food security, especially of smallholders);
2. Adapt and build resilience to climate change;
3. Reduce and/or remove greenhouse gases emissions, where possible and appropriate.

Caribbean countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change related risks. The impact of these increased risks to agriculture vary by geography, and may include more prolonged and severe dry seasons leading to increased occurrences of drought and water shortages for rain-fed agriculture and irrigation, and heat and water stresses for livestock and spontaneous wildfires during summer months. The more erratic and unseasonal rainfall can increase flooding, landslides, and soil erosion. A serious threat for small states is the rising of sea levels combined with larger storm

surges that cause coastal erosion and alter salinity of coastal agricultural lands. Also higher average temperatures and humidity levels giving rise to increased occurrences of pests and disease outbreaks.<sup>1</sup>

As a response to climate change, Caribbean countries are actively seeking to develop agricultural production systems that are resilient to climate related risks and stressors and make efficient use of the limited natural resources available. In that regard, efforts are made to develop, identify, promote and disseminate innovative farming systems, farm technologies, strategies and measures that will help to build resilience and increase the productivity and viability of the agriculture sector in the region.

For these reasons, IICA and its partners are interested in documenting good examples where organizations, companies, platforms or farmers are implementing technologies and practices that contribute to their adaptation to climate change as well as to increasing food security and emissions reductions that can be successfully implemented in other countries. **This competition focuses on on-farm technologies and practices that respond to climate change risks and impacts.**

## **2.0 The Competition**

IICA, in partnership with the Ministries of Agriculture in the Eastern Caribbean States and others, is launching the competition entitled “Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): Stories from Farmers in the Eastern Caribbean States”.

This regional competition aims at identifying successful cases of innovative and replicable agricultural technologies or practices that contribute to farmers’ resilience and adaptation to climate change, making the agricultural sector more climate smart in the ECS.

The competition is open to any public, private, or civil society organization working to improve the adaptation of agriculture to climate change. Entries should focus on the resilience aspect of the story while indicating benefits for the productivity. Contributions to mitigation –when applicable- should be documented as well.

### **2.1 Objective**

The objective of this regional competition is to document and disseminate successful stories on the implementation of technologies and practices that are contributing to climate smart agriculture, then raise awareness and promote these technologies and practices in the Caribbean.

### **2.2 Eligibility**

**a. Countries:** The contest is open to the Eastern Caribbean States: **Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines.**

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2012. <http://climatechange.worldbank.org/content/adaptation-and-world-bank-facts>

**b. Organizations:** The contest is **open to any organization or organized group working in agriculture in the ECS**. This includes farmers groups, farmers' organizations, agro-processors, 4H Clubs, universities and other educational entities, NGOs, agricultural commodity boards, and agricultural research and development organizations.

**Government Ministries of Agriculture, international organizations (either for profit or non-for profit) and their employees are not eligible** to participate in the competition, however the organizations they support can submit applications.

**c. Technical areas: On farm technologies and practices that respond directly to risks resulting from climate change.**

**Practices further along in the value chain will not be considered (eg: processing or commercialization).**

Examples may include water conservation and management systems, actions to increase water use efficiency, intercropping, silvopastoral or livestock systems, diversifying, changing varieties, etc.

### **3.0 Competition Process**

The competition begins as soon as it is announced on Wednesday March 30, 2016 and participants can submit their stories from this point until Monday, May 30 at 12:00 PM ECS (please see timeline below).

Organized groups can submit more than one story. Each must be written in English and submitted using the online form designed by IICA (questions are available at the end of this document).

### **3.1 Submission guidelines**

Entry forms must be submitted online. The form is provided at the end of this document for your reference. **It is strongly recommended that you first complete the application in Word, then copy and paste your answers into the entry form online.** The online form does not permit you to save your answers as you go.

If you have questions or require support, you can contact any of the IICA staff in the region listed below.

Country	Contact	Address	Telephone	Email
<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b>	Craig Thomas	IICA Antigua and Barbuda	268-462-6119 268-724-0889	iica.ag@iica.int
	Tamisha Edgecombe-James	EMESA Corporation Building, Old Parham Road and Mahico Drive, Cassada Gardens #2, St. John's		
<b>Dominica</b>	Kent Coipel	IICA Dominica, c/o Division of Agriculture, Botanical Gardens, Roseau,	767-448-4502	iica.dm@iica.int
	Maureen Dominique			
<b>Grenada</b>	Derek Charles	IICA Grenada 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor – GCNA Commercial Complex, Kirani James Boulevard, St. Georges	473-440-5547	iica.gd@iica.int
	Merril St. Philbert-St. John			
<b>St. Lucia</b>	Brent Theophile	IICA St. Lucia 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Sir Stanislaus Anthony James Building, Castries	758-451-6760 758-451-6761	iica.lc@iica.int
	Valerie Donat			
<b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>	Augustine Merchant	IICA St. Kitts and Nevis La Guerite, Basseterre, St. Kitts	869-465-5104 869-465-9325	iica.kn@iica.int
	Ingrid Greene			
<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	Michael Dalton	IICA St. Vincent and the Grenadines Granby Street, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	784-457-2122	iica.vc@iica.int
	Rosette Bacchus			

All fields of the entry form must be filled out with concise and verifiable information written in a “simple” language, as if telling a story. Pictures, graphs and tables can be included in the document.

**Entries must be received on or before the deadline of Monday, May 30, 2016, by 12:00 hours (ECS time).** Entries received after this time will not be considered. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your submission.

*Please do not wait until the last minute to submit, in case any problem arises!*

Participants must agree to abide by the rules and conditions stipulated, and acknowledge the right of IICA and its partners to promote and publicize the practice or technology in any appropriate manner, with due credit to the parties involved. IICA will not benefit economically from the stories or innovations.

### **3.2 Evaluation of entries**

The entries will be evaluated by a four member judging panel composed of a representative of IICA, a member of the Caribbean Forum on Climate-Smart Agriculture and two independent international experts.

### **3.3 Criteria for selection for the competition**

To be eligible to participate in the competition the story should clearly identify the climate risk that the technology and/or practice addresses. Stories that fail to identify the climate risk will be disqualified.

Once it has been determined that the entry responds to a climate risk, the stories will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. The implementation of the technology or practice has contributed to agriculture adaptation to climate change by reducing climate risk (30 points)
2. The implementation of the technology or practice has demonstrated that it improves or stabilizes agricultural productivity (10 points)
3. The implementation of the technology or practice has contributed to generate and or increase income or food security (10 points)
4. The implementation of the technology or practice has helped to reduce emissions (5 points)
5. The implementation of the technology or practice has the potential to be replicated or scaled up (10 points)
6. The initiative is sustainable (socially, environmentally, economically) (10 points)
7. Co-benefits (water use efficiency, supports women and youth, etc.) (5 points)
8. Effective lessons learned and advice for other farmers (15 points)
9. Completion of full entry form (5 points)

A winner and one runner up will be selected.

### **3.4 Announcement of winning stories**

The winners of this competition will be notified by email within one month after the competition closes.

The winners of the competition will be also announced on national radio and television stations, and posted on the IICA and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

### 3.3 Awards

A regional winner and runner up will be selected. Each will receive:

- ✓ A professional documentary about their story
- ✓ A four page publication about their story
- ✓ Press exposure
- ✓ Recognition during an awards ceremony in the capital of their home country
- ✓ Travel to the regional awards ceremony in St. Lucia

In addition, there are various prizes at the national level for the top-scoring story from that country, courtesy of the generous partners listed below.

<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b>	Recognition at national awards ceremony; other prizes TBD
<b>Dominica</b>	<p>Recognition at national awards ceremony; plaque + \$500 EC</p> <p><i>Partner:</i></p> 
<b>Grenada</b>	<p>Recognition at national awards ceremony; plaque + \$2500 EC in technical support and/or equipment (depending on needs)</p> <p><i>Partner:</i></p>  <p>This is an initiative by the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (MALFFE) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies Programme (ICCAS), which is jointly implemented by the MALFFE, GIZ and UNDP and funded by the German Ministry for Environment (BMUB).</p>
<b>St. Lucia</b>	<p>Recognition at national awards ceremony; plaque + \$500 EC</p> <p><i>Partners:</i></p> 
<b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>	<p>Recognition at national awards ceremony; plaque + \$500 EC</p> <p><i>Partners:</i></p> 
<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	Recognition at national awards ceremony, other prizes TBD

#### **4 Contact for further information**

Any inquiries related to the competition and application process should be referred to the local IICA office in your country (see above for contact information) or be sent by email to Ms. Karol Alpizar at [karol.alpizar@iica.int](mailto:karol.alpizar@iica.int).

#### **5 Important dates** (please note these are subject to change)

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1	Competition announcement + opening for submission of entries	March 30
2	Information sessions	
3	Closing – submission of entries	May 30
4	Selection of winners	June 30
5	Regional exchange/ceremony	Early August
6	National Ceremonies	Early September



## COMPETITION

### Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): Stories from Farmers in the Eastern Caribbean States

#### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

(for reference only; all entries must be submitted using the online platform  
at <https://iicawash.typeform.com/to/feWelE>)

**Deadline: Monday, May 30, 2016, by 12:00 hours (ECS time)**

**It is strongly recommended that you first complete the application in Word, then copy and paste your answers into the entry form online.** The online form does not permit you to save your answers as you go.

Maximum of 2600 words

**Story name:** Give a name to the story that you are submitting including the name of the country. Make the title as short and attractive as possible. For example: *New technologies for nutmeg production in Grenada empowers women farmers.*

**Organization submitting the story:** clearly indicate the name of the organization submitting the story, and the type of organization it is (NGO, marketing platform, producers group, etc.).

**Contact person:** clearly indicate the name and title of the person submitting the story, his/her address, phone and email address.

**Location:** (75 words) where did the story happened (country, district, city, region, other important information, map if available).

**Background:** (150 words) please provide a short account of the initial situation that the story documents.

**Climate Change risk being addressed:** (350 words) Clearly indicate the climate risk that the farmers were facing and that prompted the implementation of the technology and or practice.

<b>Climate Change Related Risk</b>	<b>Check if applicable</b>	<b>Please describe what was happening. How has this risk increased in the area over the last several decades? What impacts was this risk having or how was it affecting production?</b>
Increased climate variability		
Increased temperatures		
Sea level rise /salinization of soils		
Changes in water availability or precipitation		
Increased floods		
Other (please name)		

**Describe the technology and or practice implemented:** (450 words) *describe clearly the technologies and or practices that were implemented to address the climate risk. What motivated the introduction of the technology and for how long has it been implemented? Who implemented it? (how many people are using it, of them how many are women, support received, etc.).*

**How does the practice contribute to the 3 pillars of climate smart agriculture?** (450 words)

- Adaptation/resilience:**
- Productivity/food security:**
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (if applicable):**

**Costs to implement:** (100 words) *provide an indication of the funding, labor, time and knowledge required to implement the practice or technology.*

**Results obtained:** (500 words) *clearly indicate the results or impact that have been obtained by implementing the technology and or practice and how this changed the initial situation described in the background section and climate risk sections.*

Please check the column if the technology or practice has additional benefits.

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Check if applicable</b>	<b>Please describe</b>
Maintained or increased Productivity or Production		
Mitigation or a reduction in greenhouse gases		
Diversification		
More efficient natural resource use		
Increased income		
Improved food security		
Supports women and youth		

**Beneficiaries:** (225 words) *clearly indicate and describe the beneficiaries of this technology and or practice, indicate the number of people or families, including the number of women and youth, and specify who they benefit from the technology and or practice.*

**Lessons Learned:** (300 words) *describe the lessons learned from implementing the technology and or practice in terms of adapting agriculture to the climate risks identified. What advice would you give to other farmers?*

**Links** – *Please put the link to any websites available for further information.*

**Photos:** *please include 2 or 3 photos if available, of the technologies, farms or beneficiaries. Please send to: [CSA\\_c1f9@sendtodropbox.com](mailto:CSA_c1f9@sendtodropbox.com)*

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I have read and fully understand and will comply with the rules and conditions of this contest. I further understand that IICA has the right to promote and make public the innovation/technology or practice entered in the contest.

IICA reserves the right to promote and publicize the innovation/technology in any manner that it sees fit.