Program to Develop Sustainable Agricultural Production (PPPAS)

This is an innovative program in the field of the dissemination of technological alternatives for sustainable production, based on projects presented by producers’ organizations that must meet the following conditions:

- Solve productivity problems associated with the technology applied.
- Adopt productive systems in response to changes in preferences in local or international markets.
- Introduce productive systems that make more efficient use of soil and water resources.
- Reduce the use of agrochemicals.
- Generate greater value added in primary production.
- Apply technologies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Main Technologies Promoted by The Program to Develop Sustainable Agricultural Production

- Planting of trees in pasture and crop-growing areas.
- Use of organic waste as an energy source and fertilizer in livestock, vegetable, and coffee systems.
- Protected cultivation systems for vegetable production.
- Efficient irrigation systems.
- Improvement of pastures, establishment of living fences and forage banks.
- Solar coffee drying systems.
- Water and energy savings in coffee processing.

More than 20,000 families who farm at least 70,000 hectares of land in different parts of the country have already benefited from the Program. Significant increases (of more than USD 2,000 per year) have been achieved in the net income of the participating families, as well as reductions of 50% and 80% in water pollution and soil erosion, respectively.

The Program includes an incentive for investments that have a positive environmental impact, known as the Recognition of Environmental Benefits, and training on model integrated farms, on which technical options for sustainable production are validated and disseminated.

1. For information and regulations, visit http://www.mag.go.cr/consultas?codigo=000002624
2. For a description, visit http://sistemas.mag.go.cr/proyectos/paul/Consulta.aspx

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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Tropical agriculture gears up for climate change
Costa Rica Carbon Neutral 2021

Family farming, integrated farms and climate change

A key factor in the social and economic life of Costa Rica, family farming is currently benefiting from projects and programs for the transfer of technologies that facilitate the adaptation of production systems to climate change and the mitigation of greenhouse gases. The initiatives in question form part of the 2010-2021 State Policy for the Agrofood Sector and Rural Development of Costa Rica.
Projects and programs underpin government strategies

It is estimated that the livelihoods of nearly 100,000 Costa Rican families are directly dependent on family farming systems.

Traditional farms that use little technology measure from 1-10 hectares, and have two or three productive subsystems. The combinations of crops and activities (subsystems) vary from region to region but are usually comprised of several components:

- Stock raising
- Perennial crops
- Annual crops

The management strategies of these systems are very varied. In some cases, the use of external inputs is limited and the systems entail the application of agricultural practices designed to promote the protection of natural resources. Other systems continue to be used in which the pressure on natural resources and the impact of climate change pose a major threat to the sustainability of the farms and food security.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) incorporated into the 2010-2021 State Policy for the Agri-food Sector and Rural Development of Costa Rica a key area of work entitled “Management of Rural Territories and Family Agriculture,” on which the 2011-2014 sectoral plan for family farming is based. The plan includes climate change as a cross-cutting issue, in order to promote alternative production systems such as organic agriculture, integrated crop management, silvopastoral systems, and sustainable production.

These government strategies have been underpinned by the progress made by concrete projects and programs focused on the transfer of technologies that facilitate the adaptation of systems to climate change and the mitigation of greenhouse gases.

Project “Development of local capabilities in low carbon and environmentally friendly agricultural technologies”

This project is intended to contribute to the protection of the environment, economic growth, and the food security of the communities concerned, through the promotion and sharing of low carbon agricultural technologies and the integration of the farmers as agents of change. It is being carried out under the South-South Cooperation Program (Costa Rica-Benin-Bhutan) supported by the Government of the Netherlands and administered by Fundecooparación.

The target group is located in the following subsectors: coffee, vegetables, organic pineapple, basic grains, roots and tubers, and livestock; and involves producers in the Zona Sur and along the Caribbean coast. The project also has the opportunity to share the knowledge and technologies generated with producers in other countries of the region, such as Panama (Chiriquí province), Honduras, and Mexico.

Main Technologies Promoted by The project “Development of local capabilities in low carbon and environmentally friendly agricultural technologies”

- Organoponics
- Organic agriculture
- Agroforestry systems
- Integrated farm management
- Sustainable pasture management
- Biogas
- Biochar and Terra preta

Data and figures of the project “Development of local capabilities in low carbon and environmentally friendly agricultural technologies”

Executing organizations:
- Instituto Nacional de Innovación y Transferencia de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA)
- Fundación para el Desarrollo Sostenible (FUNDECOOPERACIÓN)
- Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestación Comunitaria Centroamericana (ACICAPOC)

Duration: 12 months.
Project budget: USD230,000.