

Latin America and the Caribbean



Introduction

Economic Overview

Latin American and Caribbean economies fared quite well in 2003. After six consecutive years (1997-2002) of economic contraction, the region showed preliminary GDP growth of 1.5 percent in 2003. The export price of goods rose 15.9 percent, while trade profits soared to US\$4.1 billion. This rebound, however, was insufficient to fill the hole resulting for the previous six years of contraction. Nonetheless, it gave society a chance to catch its breath.

The region's economy is dominated by a combination of agriculture and manufacturing. With abundant natural resources and a favorable climate, agriculture is a natural source of continued wealth and remains the primary employer for a significant portion of the population—particularly among the rural underprivileged. According to the IDB, agricultural production accounts for 40 percent of all exports and 25 percent of the region's GDP.

However, the recent global economic downturn has hurt regional agricultural exports, with farmers now even more directly exposed to world market volatility due to trends toward trade liberalization. While Latin America and the Caribbean are primary suppliers of industrial raw materials, capital and technology limitations have impeded the evolution of the raw materials processing sector and labor-intensive industries, such as textile and garment manufacturing, to higher value added processing. Today, many countries find it increasingly difficult to compete with countries in Asia, where labor is also cheap and plentiful.

The two major economic development trends now in the region are to develop MSMEs and hasten the pace of regional integration. The economic development of many emerging industrialized nations confirms that MSMEs provide employment opportunities, raise output and increase incomes. As such, many countries

in the region offer preferential loans and credit guarantees to stimulate investment, especially in the information and technology industry and service sectors. Expanding economic integration agreements throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the five-nation Central America Common Market, the six-nation Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur), the 13-nation Caribbean Common Market, and the Free Trade Area of the Americas, are helping to confirm the trend toward trade liberalization and leading to growing intra- and extra-regional trade. Integration is making the economies in the region more open and more market based.

Social Overview

Although the World Bank classifies many Latin American and Caribbean nations as “middle-income,” inequality and social exclusion remain significant challenges to be overcome. In terms of income, many countries in the region rank among the most inequitable in the world. According to the recent World Bank publication *Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Breaking with History?*, the richest tenth among Latin Americans earn 48 percent of the total national income, while the poorest tenth earn just 1.6 percent. Approximately one third of the population of the region lives in poverty, with destitution most pronounced in the countryside.

According to *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2002-2003* published by the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, over the past decade, no significant progress has been made to solve the region's wealth gap. This fact discounts a large amount of the work already done aimed at reducing poverty in the region. The same report suggests that if each country were able to reduce the wealth gap significantly, most would be able to achieve, on a



national level, the UN's goal of reducing poverty in half by 2015. Balancing incomes is clearly an urgent task for countries in the region.

Wealth imbalances cause sharp disparities in access to food, sanitation, pharmaceuticals and educational resources. Fifty-five million people in the region remain malnourished, due to their country's lack of staple foods or to the high costs to the poor of obtaining adequate food resources. These people are also threatened by preventable diseases and suffer serious ailments caused by a lack of clean food and water. Furthermore, while the ratio of children attending elementary and secondary education in the region is high, graduating rates are significantly lower. The region's enrollment repetition rate of 16 percent in 2002 reflects the systemic problems within the educational system.

Gender issues also need to be addressed. Given sexual prejudice and the traditional division of labor, women in the region have historically had a weak economic role, which becomes apparent during periods of economic downturn. Research shows that for every 2.9 percent rise in unemployment among males, the unemployment rate among females rises 6.1 percent. As

a result, gender bears a certain relationship to poverty and eliminating gender bias will play an important role in addressing poverty.

Challenges and Opportunities

In his book *Managing for the Future*, Peter F. Drucker reminded American entrepreneurs not to neglect the economic development potential of Latin America. Drucker based this advice on Latin America's agricultural diversity and natural resources, high level of training, and labor resources that are immediately employable in numerous sectors.

While poverty certainly remains a major problem, generally speaking the region is on the road to stable growth. Economists have lauded the public and private sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean for undertaking financial, fiscal and monetary reforms during the most recent period of economic recession, which have largely improved the investment environment. Meanwhile, the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas and other important multilateral agreements have reduced obstacles to selling goods to other nations, especially the United States.

In the future, Latin America and the Caribbean

Investment and Lending Project to the Micro-credit National S.A. in Haiti—Phase II

Project Goals

The project aims to assist MCN in the growth of micro-credit operations. This includes diversifying MCN's operations, introducing new credit instruments, developing new markets, training local employees, and strengthening internal management. This project is expected to help reduce rural poverty in the countryside and raise the overall standard of living.

State of Implementation

1. The ICDF has provided a US\$1.9 million loan to serve as revolving and operational capital for MCN. This money will assist MCN in achieving its five-year operational objectives.

2. The ICDF works with Germany's IPC to introduce sustainable credit policies and professional risk management systems and to train local credit specialists to assist operations and management at MCN and expand micro-credit operations further.

Project Benefits

This project continues to provide financing for micro-enterprises, bolster economic activity in the private sector, and promote economic development in Haiti. The ICDF's capital injection also expands MCN's micro-credit operations, guaranteeing sustainable operations for the bank as well as promoting financial sustainability.



must promote the upgrading of industrial technology, boost the number of specialists in the information and telecommunications technology sector, expand product development and capital accumulation among MSMEs, reduce domestic investment barriers, and improve commercial financing options. Countries should also take steps to encourage women to enter the labor market. These measures should further strengthen the region in the global marketplace.

Regional Strategic Goals

The ICDF has cooperative projects with 15 nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Projects cover agricultural diversification, SME development, micro-credit, and international human resource development. Since most countries in the region already have the foundation for productivity and a certain level of economic development, the programs initiated by the ICDF focus on upgrading, in particular, (1) Industrial diversification and technology; (2) The development of micro-, MSME enterprises and strengthening economic systems; and (3) Strengthening human resources to boost the quality of operations and management.

In addition, the ICDF hopes to strengthen its

cooperation with international organizations. By expanding the benefits of international cooperation, Taiwan hopes to reduce wealth differentials in the region and raise the overall standard of living.

Implementation of Development Cooperation

Before implementing various assistance programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ICDF carefully analyzes geographical, cultural, and economic data for technical cooperation, investment and lending, and international human resource development projects.

Technical Cooperation

• Boosting Agricultural Diversification

The ICDF supports projects that contribute to the diversification of the agricultural sector. It has launched numerous rice, horticulture, aquaculture, and livestock projects in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

• Developing Market-Oriented, Cost Effective Programs

With the transfer of various projects to local agencies and private enterprises, the ICDF establishes agro-businesses to strengthen the effectiveness of

Central American Technology Integration Project

Project Goals

Following the lead of the education ministries in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic in focusing on the extension of information education as a key education policy, the ICDF and World Links in 2003 initiated a World Links project in these countries to help bridge the “digital divide” in the classroom.

State of Implementation

1. The second stage of seed instructor training has been completed in Costa Rica and El Salvador.
2. The project has invited Taiwan experts to coordinate tele-collaborative strategies. In addition, the Taiwan coordinator of the NGO I*EARN, Wu Tsui-lin, has

traveled to schools in the region to share Taiwan’s experiences and successes in collaborative education.

3. In El Salvador, school computer labs have been upgraded into community information centers for the use of community residents in the evenings and on holidays. This measure extends the benefits of the program to all segments of the community.

Project Benefits

The implementation of the project has promoted cultural interaction using the Internet among students and teachers of secondary schools in Taiwan and in cooperating countries. This strategy increases mutual understanding within these nations.



cooperation projects. This strategy ensures that technical assistance will meet the demands of the private sector, adding to the sustainable development of the cooperating country. Moreover, the projects gradually become financially independent, which reduces overall dependence on external assistance.

• **Guiding SMEs in Strategic Industrial Development**

The ICDF has many years of experience promoting SME development in the region as well as providing technical assistance for designated strategic industries. In recent years, the ICDF has cooperated with vocational training agencies in countries throughout the region by assigning industrial service missions and experts in production technology, management and marketing. Short-term workshops and seminars are held to strengthen human resources in the region. This process trains a new generation of local

specialists and instructors, strengthens grassroots assistance, provides diagnosis and guidance for individual factories, and assists in developing strategic industries.

• **Leveraging Regional Characteristics**

The region encompasses dozens of countries with a wide variety of natural, cultural and linguistic characteristics. Through its experience in the region, the ICDF has developed programs that are tailored to meet the needs and expectations of each country and region. The result increases the global competitiveness of cooperating countries. In addition, strengthened contact with regional international organizations and agencies helps achieve multilateral cooperation goals.

• **Cooperating with International Organizations**

In order to broaden the leveraging effect of international cooperation, the ICDF utilizes Taiwan's SME development experience, industrial development

The Superior Hog Breeding Extension Project in Nicaragua

Project Goals

This project is strengthening the level of technology used in hog farming in Nicaragua and is utilizing a revolving fund to provide capital for other experimental livestock programs.

State of Implementation

1. The ICDF Technical Mission in Nicaragua cooperates with GTZ and a Nicaraguan NGO FIDER in providing superior breeder hogs, hog-raising technology and hog breeding enclosures. They also provide artificial insemination technology and pig farm waste treatment facilities to improve the quality of breeder hogs and reduce pollution.
2. The goal is to replace 33 percent of breeder hogs each year and gradually replace older hogs that no longer produce satisfactory offspring. In addition, analysis of pig feed is being carried out. These measures ensure that farms are economically viable and remain in an optimal state of operation.
3. The ICDF has commissioned the raising of 1,100 breeder hogs each year at the Cofradia and Rivas

farms for distribution to 180 extension farms. In addition, 3,000 pigs have been provided to Managua's pork market.

Project Benefits

1. Promoting Scientific Hog Breeding Principles

The project adopts advanced scientific methods for breeding, construction, and waste treatment. Examples include procuring the sperm of American breeder pigs and importing machines to separate and treat hog waste. These measures reduce costs, raise output quantity and improve the overall environment.

2. Creating Sustainable Animal-Raising Operations

The ICDF helped establish the largest pig farm in Nicaragua-Confradia. Day-to-day operations on the farms have now been transferred to local Nicaraguans. Another pig farm established by the ICDF is also self-sufficient. A portion of profits is invested in hen and breeder ewe raising trial programs in preparation to extend the program to other animals.



advantages and technical mission experiences to expand cooperation with international agencies and NGOs.

Investment and Lending Operations

• Strengthening the Foundation for Development

The ICDF finances various infrastructure projects including the construction of roads, irrigation canals and ports to hasten regional economic development, to facilitate the movement of people and goods, to reduce production costs and to provide a foundation for stable development.

• Increasing Opportunities for Corporate Financing

Research indicates that the biggest obstacle to corporate development in the region is difficulty in obtaining financing. In light of this problem, the ICDF, along with the CABI, works closely with local banks and NGOs to provide beneficiaries in the agricultural, industrial and tourism sectors with SME financing, micro-credit, and small farmholder loans.

• Strengthening Trade Cooperation with the Region

Attracting foreign investment to increase foreign exchange income, boost employment opportunities and strengthen economic activity is one of the major economic priorities for local governments in Latin America and the Caribbean. To meet this challenge, the ICDF provides credit guarantees to encourage Taiwan factories to invest in and open factories in countries that have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, thus creating a win-win situation. The ICDF also has an Investment and Trade Service Mission in Latin America providing investment assistance and export promotion services.

International Human Resource Development

• Complementing the Needs of Industrial Development

ICDF international human resource development programs play a vital role in assisting allied and friendly countries in training specialists. Unless locals are able to utilize theoretical and practical knowledge in

Micro-Credit Experience Workshop and Seminar on the Sustainable Development of Microfinance Services

Project Goals

This workshop introduces the concept of micro-credit and promotes the creation of MSEs, serving as a means by which to create economic activity in cooperating nations.

State of Implementation

1. In September 2003, the ICDF held the "Micro-Credit Experience in Taiwan Workshop." Coursework covered Taiwan's policies toward corporate financing, and methods to create a vibrant corporate sector by utilizing public and private resources. One course focused on the corporate financing tools offered in the formal financial system and the state of the informal financial system, while another discussed the need for and benefits of micro-credit

in developing countries. People from 11 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean took part, accounting for nearly half of all participants.

2. During the workshop, the ICDF also held a "Seminar on the Sustainable Development of Micro-finance Services." Micro-credit experts from the Grameen Foundation, the IFC, and GAWFA were invited to give lectures and answer questions from participants.

Project Benefits

Taiwan has abundant experience in MSME financing. The project promotes replication of the "Taiwan experience" in other countries and establishes the ICDF as a specialist and authority on the development of the private sector.



cooperation projects, technical transfers are useless. The ICDF designs agricultural and business management seminars and workshops to meet the specific needs of each host country with the aim of instilling skills in creating companies in the agricultural sector, marketing agricultural products and operating micro-enterprises.

• Promoting Micro-Loans and Micro-Enterprises Through ICDF Workshops and Seminars

As micro-enterprises play a vital role in the economic development of host countries, the ICDF promotes micro-enterprises at every available opportunity. Furthermore, the ICDF uses the “Taiwan experience” as an example of successful micro-enterprise and MSME implementation.

• Integrating Technology Through Vocational Education

The ICDF assists educational organizations to improve their information platforms and software equipment. The Fund also supports the training of seed instructors. This training has grassroots support and helps train the local workforce. This strategy reduces the “digital divide” among countries in the region and boosts opportunities for Internet-based interaction between people in Taiwan and cooperating countries.

ICDF Projects in the Region

Belize

• Seed Rice Production and Technology Transfer Project

The ICDF Technical Mission is transferring rice seed production technology, establishing production systems and providing guidance to outstanding farmers and local technicians.

• Vegetable and Crop Production Improvement and Extension Project

This project is providing farmers with vegetable production techniques for planting market-oriented crops, decreasing the amount of vegetable imports and boosting the local economy at the same time. It is also creating production and marketing teams to provide fruits and vegetables to supermarkets, restaurants and cruise ships.

• Food Processing Project

The ICDF Technical Mission is helping to diversify the agricultural industry by developing value added products through food processing. The project is

Aquaculture Project in Honduras

Project Goals

The goal is to assist Honduras in developing an aquaculture industry and to raise the overall level of fisheries technology.

State of Implementation

1. The ICDF Technical Mission in Honduras has introduced tilapia cage culture at Lago de Yojoa and provided local fishing associations with superior fish fry and accessible loans. Mission members have also provided guidance on aquaculture management technology and marketing, helping to increase in-country fish sales.
2. After successful extension in this area, the ICDF

Technical Mission, the AECI in Honduras and World Vision are cooperating in extending freshwater and salt-water tilapia aquaculture in the southern reservoir and the Golfo de Fonseca.

Project Benefits

During the project period, the ICDF is gradually transferring fish fry propagation to the fish farmers. To date, 100 technicians and fish farmers have been trained. In addition, the annual output of fry has risen to over one million from an original 40,000. This achievement has strengthened the development of the fisheries industry, increased output, and boosted income for people in the industry and bolstered export competitiveness.



training local food processing technicians and upgrading the capacity of existing factories.

- **Food Processing Technical Assistance Project**

The ICDF is carrying out training courses in baking, in fruit processing technology, and in bee and soybean products. Local seed instructors and food specialists are also being trained to guide industry development.

- **Tourism Development Financing Project**

The ICDF is assisting in the development of tourism and in promoting Mayan cultural artifacts in an environmentally sustainable manner. This increases employment opportunities, foreign exchange and government income in Belize.

- **Small Farmholders' Financing Scheme**

This project is being implemented by the ICDF Technical Mission in conjunction with the Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology (BEST). A small farmers fund has been created in line with horticulture and crop extension projects. It is helping to provide working capital financing.

- **Taiwan Overseas Volunteers**

The ICDF has provided four volunteers for assistance in work related to computers, SMEs, pharmacology and nursing instruction.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

Two servicemen, who specialize in agricultural technology and horticulture, have been sent to Belize.



Costa Rica

- **Fruit Tree and Floriculture Project**

This project is providing guidance in fruit production, marketing, and processing, as well as in fruit tree extension. Specialists are being trained in cultivation

and field management. Floriculture breeding and extension activities are also being carried out to strengthen local output.

- **Atlantic Fisheries Production Improvement Project**

This project is assisting in the production of tilapia to address the insufficient intake of protein in mountainous areas. The ICDF Technical Mission organizes cooperatives, and offers assistance in joint procurement and transportation. Fishermen are also instructed on the use of new fishing equipment.

- **Bamboo Handicraft Development and Cultivation Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is assisting in the cultivation of bamboo forests. With the bamboo, mission members are helping to erect model constructions and are teaching locals about handicraft production.

- **Mold Industry Technical Assistance Project**

This project is providing training in computer-aided plastic injection molding, mold designs and various processing technologies. It also introduces mold design software, strengthens Taiwan–Costa Rica mold technology exchanges and trains seed instructors and specialists.

- **Highway Construction Project from Naranjo to Florencia**

This project is constructing a 40-kilometer highway to connect rural and urban areas. It is expected to be completed in six years.

- **Moin Port Expansion Project**

The ICDF is providing loans to the port of Moin for increasing the length of the pier and improving machinery and infrastructure.



- **Small Farmholders' Financing Scheme–Guava Pulp Processing Manufacturing Plant Project**

This project is providing financing and technical assistance for a guava pulp processing plant in Costa Rica.

- **Credit Project for Small Farmers**

In this project, the ICDF is providing financing for export-oriented enterprises. After a year, the project is being extended to small animal husbandry farms to assist in the development of that sector.

- **Taiwan Industrial Park Loan**

The ICDF assisted in the development of a 30-50 hectares export processing zone to attract more foreign investment.

- **Taiwan Overseas Volunteers**

The ICDF has provided eleven volunteers for assistance in work related to medicine, computer instruction, Chinese language instruction, orchid production and a publication on the history of Taiwan-Costa Rica relations.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

There are three servicemen providing assistance in agricultural technology and horticulture.



Ecuador

- **Vegetable Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is introducing superior varieties of fruits and vegetables through extension planting. Mission members are assisting farmers in organizing vegetable production and marketing teams, in providing production materials, and in offering guidance in production management. It is also holding training courses for farmers and government agricultural officials to raise production technology.

- **Rice Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is providing superior rice seeds to farmers for the cultivation of updated rice varieties. This project also raises farmer cultivation and harvest technology.

- **Bamboo Handicraft Development and Cultivation Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is assisting existing bamboo plantations in improving production technology and output. This project is extending bamboo varieties to those suited for furniture, floors and buildings. It is also staging courses that focus on bamboo cultivation and farm management and is holding training classes on bamboo handicrafts.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

The ICDF has provided one serviceman for assistance in horticultural work.



El Salvador

- **Vegetable Production Extension Project**

This project propagates high-valued vegetable seeds for future extension. The ICDF Technical Mission is organizing production and marketing teams and is establishing model family vegetable gardens at elementary schools in the countryside.

- **Fruit Tree Production Improvement Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is conducting fruit tree field trials, is performing seedling propagation and is extending overall fruit production.

- **Fish Breeding and Aquaculture Extension Project**

This project is demonstrating and teaching tilapia and saltwater shrimp breeding techniques and is also propagating tilapia fry to boost output. It is also providing training for aquaculture specialists.



- **Wood Furniture Industry Technical Assistance Project**

The ICDF is sending senior carpenters and furniture experts to El Salvador to provide instruction and train local instructors.

- **Environmental Pollution Control in Critical Areas**

This project is establishing environmental pollution prevention and control systems in three critical areas: air quality, water quality and integrated solid waste management. The project is helping to reduce the amount of environmental pollution generated by El Salvador's economic development. The financing is provided jointly with the IDB.

- **The Earthquake Emergency Relief Project**

This project provided emergency humanitarian assistance to Salvadorans affected by the earthquake in 2001. New homes and other important community infrastructure are still being reconstructed to the end of 2003.

- **Debris Flows Specialized Research Project**

This project is sharing Taiwan's eco-technology experiences to reduce debris flows and damaged slopes in El Salvador.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

The ICDF has provided three servicemen for assistance in fisheries technology, computers and horticulture work.



Guatemala

- **Peten Agriculture Production Project**

This project is helping to strengthen the management and breeding of fruit tree saplings for extension. The ICDF Technical Mission is creating demonstration fields to increase commercial output and continues to



1 The Costa Rica Fruit Tree and Floriculture Project 2 The Ecuador Vegetable Project 3 The El Salvador Fruit Tree Production Improvement Project 4 The Ecuador Bamboo Handicraft Development and Cultivation Project



introduce high economic value fruit trees whose produce can be exported, thus creating more jobs.

- **Horticultural Export Development Project**

This project is assisting in vegetable production and is establishing marketing teams to strengthen export diversity. It is improving the technology associated with dried fruit, jams and pickled items. The ICDF Technical Mission completed a survey analyzing and citing potential areas of development in the processing sector.

- **Bamboo Cultivation and Utilization Project**

This project is assisting in creating a bamboo cultivation and utilization center. The ICDF Technical Mission is holding training courses on how to build bamboo structures and greenhouses and is training construction specialists and bamboo farm managers.

- **Aquaculture Technology Improvement Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is establishing a regional tilapia-breeding center to provide superior fry and promote the development of this sector. The mission is also assisting in establishing freshwater aquaculture centers for tilapia cultivation and extension.

- **Wood Furniture Industry Technical Assistance Project**

The ICDF is sending senior carpenters and furniture experts to Guatemala to train seed instructors.

- **The Investment Extension Project**

Research and surveys have uncovered industries and projects that are attractive to foreign investment and these have been made available to industrial associations from Taiwan. The Investment and Trade Service Mission assists companies in the region to draft investment proposals that seek investment from international organizations. The project also assembles

Guatemalan market information and analyzes the current market conditions. It also assists companies from Taiwan in investing in Guatemala.

- **The Export Extension Project**

This project assists importers from Taiwan in understanding business conditions in Guatemala and also provides procurement services for them. The project assists traditional industry exporters from Taiwan in opening factories in Guatemala and developing export markets to regions besides Central America. Furthermore, the project also helps Guatemalan companies in designing export strategies, thus strengthening competitiveness and marketing at the local level.

- **Rio Polochic Region Recovery Program**

The ICDF provided financing and assisted in establishing medical stations, procuring medical equipment, reconstructing schools and building sanitation and water systems in the Polochic River basin after devastation by Hurricane Mitch.

- **Technical Education Project**

The ICDF is providing financing to FONAPAZ to build a three-year secondary vocational school in the south.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

The ICDF has provided two servicemen for assistance in agricultural technology, trade and horticulture work.



Honduras

- **Crop Production Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is assisting in establishing a seed rice propagation system and is carrying out rice cultivation extension through farm



loans and technical assistance. It has extended the production of high quality fruits and vegetables and trained DICTA technicians and farmers in various seedling propagation and cultivation techniques.

• **Hog Breeding Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is producing superior breeder hogs and piglets and is organizing production and marketing teams. The mission is also assisting small hog raisers in improving breeding and technology practices.

• **Aquaculture Project**

This project is assisting in the development of aquaculture activities, is raising technology levels, and is gradually transferring fish fry propagation to the breeders. The project has already trained 100 technicians and fish farmers. Annual tilapia fry stocks have increased substantially. The program has also helped to improve the living standards of fishermen and boost export competitiveness.

• **Food Processing Technical Assistance Project**

This project has been focusing on syrup, dehydrated fruit processing technology and food marketing. Training courses in manufacturing techniques, management, and marketing were conducted to train seed instructors and food industry specialists.

• **Shoe Manufacturing Technical Assistance Project**

The ICDF is providing training courses in shoe manufacturing technology, design, administration, and management. This project is also strengthening the Honduran shoe industry association to integrate industry efforts and expand the exports market. It has also strengthened the capacities of the Shoe Manufacturing Training Center.



Photograph by Hsieh Hai-yen



① The Guatemala Horticultural Export Development Project
② House building in the Guatemala Bamboo Cultivation and Utilization Project
③ The Honduras Small Farmholders Financing Scheme—Tilapia Raising Program
④ The Seed instructors receiving training in the Honduras Food Processing Technical Assistance Project



- **Small Farmholders' Financing Scheme–Rice Production Program**

This scheme is complementing the ICDF Technical Mission's rice cultivation extension project by providing revolving funds for extension farmers to purchase raw materials.

- **Small Farmholders Financing Scheme–Tilapia Raising Program**

To support the technical mission's tilapia raising project, the ICDF is providing fishermen with revolving capital for raw materials and loans for cage equipment.

- **Quimistan Valley Irrigation Project**

To improve water distribution, the ICDF is providing funding to establish irrigation and farming systems.

- **Housing Solidarity Reconstruction Program**

The ICDF is providing US\$6 million in loans to assist in the reconstruction of homes in disaster stricken areas.

- **Taiwan Overseas Volunteers**

The ICDF has provided one volunteer for assistance in computer-related work.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

Three servicemen are assisting in agricultural technology and horticulture work.



Nicaragua

- **Superior Hog Breeding Extension Project**

This project is raising technology levels in the hog farming industry and is utilizing a revolving fund to carry out other livestock experimental programs.

- **Horticultural Crop Production Improvement Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is breeding disease-resistant tomatoes for extension farms. It also helps to plan farming work at a model demonstration farm in Tipitapa. The work includes vegetable planting, the breeding of tomatoes, and relevant field trial demonstrations.

- **Oilseed and Rice Production Improvement Project**

This project is breeding superior rice varieties, carrying out extension work, and is organizing upland rice production and marketing teams. It assists in creating paddy rice production cooperatives to increase sales and marketing opportunities. The project also purifies soybean seeds, registers new varieties, and extends cultivation.

- **Agricultural Production Reactivation–Phase II**

This project aims to improve production and management technology for small and medium sized farms and farming organizations. It is holding training courses and is also improving and increasing the production infrastructure.

- **Food Processing Technical Assistance Project**

This project is providing advanced baking technology and courses in fruit processing technology, and in soybean and bee products. Local seed instructors and food industry specialists are also being trained to guide industry development.

- **Shoe Manufacturing Technical Assistance Project**

The ICDF is providing training courses in shoe manufacturing technology, design, administration, and management. This project is also strengthening the Nicaraguan shoe industry association to integrate industry efforts and expand the exports market. It has



also strengthened the capacities of the Shoe Manufacturing Training Center.

• **Small Farmholders' Financing Scheme**

This scheme is assisting in rice crop production and technology and is improving rice seed varieties to raise output. It is also providing training for cooperative members and is improving administration and management procedures within these groups.

• **Housing Solidarity Reconstruction Program –Phase II**

This project is assisting underprivileged Nicaraguans in the construction of homes. It is also providing technical training and job opportunities in the process.

• **Taiwan Overseas Volunteers**

The ICDF has provided three volunteers to teach the Chinese language at local universities and cultural centers.

• **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

The ICDF has provided four servicemen for assistance in agricultural technology, livestock, horticulture and computer work.



Panama

• **Fruit and Vegetable Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is producing and propagating fruit and vegetable seedlings and training local technicians and farmers. Mission members are also creating production and marketing teams and extending cultivation on superior varieties of produce.

• **Food Processing Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is establishing a food



①②Cultivation and improvement of eggplants under the Honduras Crop Production Project ③The Nicaragua Superior Hog Breeding Extension Project ④Nicaraguan farmers drying grains under the sun



processing research, training and extension center. The project is developing processing techniques for dehydrated fruits, fruit pulp, jam, fruit juice, and fried foods.

- **Fishing Village Development Project**

This project is providing guidance and new fishing technologies to fishermen. In 2003, co-marketing systems, improved refrigerators and processing equipment were introduced. A small fishermen's fund is provided for procuring production materials and for replacing old equipment in the boats.

- **Metal Machine Industry Technical Assistance Project**

This project is providing technical training on surface hardening and heat treatment welding technology, machinery failure analysis and repairs technology. It has introduced small scale welding equipment to the marine industry in the canal zone.

- **Small Fishermen Financing Scheme**

This project has established a fisheries fund, provided loans for fishermen, and assisted them in obtaining materials and equipment. It also provides loans to fishermen's cooperative organizations, assists them in procuring equipment, and strengthens the overall function of the cooperatives.

- **SME Re-lending Project**

This project is providing qualified financial institutions with capital and assistance for re-lending to target enterprises with less than 50 employees. The revolving credit line can be used for sub-loans and capital investment

- **Taiwan Overseas Volunteers**

The ICDF has provided 13 volunteers for assistance in work related to Chinese-language instruction,

computer instruction, tourism development planning, medical care and English-language instruction.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

Three servicemen are in Panama for agricultural technology, fisheries technology and horticulture work.



Paraguay

- **Agricultural and Livestock Production-Sales Center Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is establishing production and marketing teams to help farmers boost production and marketing technology. The mission also provides assistance for supermarket shipping and for expanding sales channels. Production and marketing team members received training at the extension centers and were given necessary loans.

- **Horticulture Project**

This project is extending the cultivation of flowers to meet market needs. The ICDF Technical Mission is holding cultivation-training courses to boost cultivation technology and raise the quality of flowers, thus improving the overall competitiveness of the industry.

- **Hog Raising Project**

This project is helping to produce superior hogs and improve hog raising technology. Superior breeder hogs, piglets, and raising technology are provided to farmers and several agricultural schools.

- **SME Re-lending Project**

The ICDF is providing the financing for this project, which is distributed to cooperating banks through the Central Bank in Paraguay. The project also provides technical assistance and services for businesses expanding or upgrading their operations.



- **Treatment of Ringworm Project**

This project was planned in response to a call by Vice-President Annette Lu to help improve public health in Latin America. The ICDF cooperated with the Department of Health in providing two million tablets for residents of a forested area where ringworm was endemic.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

The ICDF has provided four servicemen for assistance in livestock, horticulture and computer work.



Dominica

- **Crop Development Project**

This project is developing extension fruits and vegetables and is assisting in agricultural diversification. The ICDF Technical Mission is selecting crops with export potential and then providing extension to farmers for cultivation and exporting.

- **Aquaculture Extension Project**

This project is providing a stable source of shrimp larvae for extension farms and is assisting in conducting collection, cultivation, and breeding experiments on economically viable fish species.

- **Eastern Caribbean Agricultural Product Processing Project**

The ICDF is assisting in training seed instructors specializing in agricultural product processing. This project also shares Taiwan's successful experience and technology in processing.

- **Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Improvement Project**

The ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to upgrade and donate medical equipment for use in



Photograph by Hsu Hui-wen



①A factory in Central America utilizing ICDF credit guarantees ②The Paraguay Horticulture Project ③The Panama Fishing Village Development Project ④The ICDF Technical Mission in Dominica stages a papaya cultivation seminar



medical information systems, computer hardware and software and training programs.

- **Eastern Caribbean Computer Instruction Project**

The ICDF dispatches senior computer and information scholars and experts to train people in four Eastern Caribbean nations including Dominica. Officials and experts are invited to participate in training courses. Seed instructor training and educational communications are raising the quality of the local workforce.

- **Small Farmholders' Financing Scheme**

This project is carried out in tandem with the technical mission's agricultural cooperation extension project and aims to boost the effectiveness and sustainability of the project. It is providing loans to qualified small farms to assist in boosting output.

- **Micro-Credit Project**

The ICDF is cooperating with the NDFD to provide micro-credit to micro-enterprises. The project is also strengthening the lending mechanisms within the NDFD to improve outreach services.

- **Eastern Caribbean Scholarship Program**

To elevate the national educational standards and help develop human resources, the ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to train teachers and help students with tuition and textbook purchases.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

Two servicemen are assisting in horticulture and computer work.



Dominican Republic

- **Rice Seed Improvement and Yield Enhancement Project**

This project is increasing the seed yields for extension,

and is continuing efforts to purify, develop and extend superior rice varieties. The Technical Mission is coordinating research projects at Rice Research Center and is helping to organize rice production and marketing teams for cultivation extension.

- **Horticultural Crop Cultivation and Bamboo House Project**

This project is introducing new vegetable varieties, is staging trials and demonstrations, and is carrying out extension cultivation. It is also helping to establish vegetable production and marketing teams, and is providing concessional agricultural credits. The ICDF Technical Mission is also providing demonstrations on bamboo construction, training local specialists, and improving the quality of bamboo handicrafts.

- **Aquaculture Development Project**

In conjunction with local agricultural authorities, the ICDF Technical Mission is cooperating with local feed companies to develop high-quality low cost feed for freshwater fish and shrimp. The project also develops new freshwater fishing methods, establishes a database containing aquaculture information and cooperates with an aquaculture technology institute on arranging on-site coursework.

- **Fruit Tree Development Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is introducing new varieties of tropical and sub-tropical fruit trees and is establishing nurseries for seedling propagation. The project is also establishing model farms and is providing cultivation and management technology.

- **Industrial Technology Cooperation Project**

The Industry Service Mission is providing consultation and diagnosis to local factories and is holding technology conferences and workforce training



courses. The mission also assists Taiwanese firms in carrying out investment evaluations and is helping to train local specialists at community vocational centers.

• **Program for Modernizing the National Congress and the Office of the Comptroller General**

This project is being coordinated with the IDB to modernize the parliament, in order to strengthen its legislative and oversight functions. Technical assistance on information systems construction is provided as well.

• **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

The ICDF has provided three servicemen for assistance in agricultural technology and trade-related work.



Grenada

• **Horticulture Project**

The project is helping to develop the vegetable industry in Grenada. It also focuses on education, training, extension, pest control and organic farming. The project carried out an analysis of production costs and utilizes small farmer loans to boost productivity. It demonstrates organic orchard operations and has established a production and marketing network. It also has organized flower production and helped growers produce high-quality cut flowers in response to market demands.

• **Agricultural Product Processing Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is assisting agricultural authorities in developing fruit dehydration processing technology and is utilizing raw fruits and vegetables to develop new products. It is also assisting factories in the processing sector to apply for loans. It has also helped authorities to establish a dehydration center and provides guidance in processing technology.



Photography by Liu Shih-hung



Photography by Liu Shih-hung

① The Industry Service Mission in the Dominican Republic assists locals in textile and sewing technology ② The Dominican Republic Rice Seed Improvement and Yield Enhancement Project ③ The Grenada Small Farmholders Financing Scheme ④ Net fishing in Grenada



- **Trade Project**

This project paves the way for investment by Taiwanese companies in Caribbean nations to boost the region's economic development. It also seeks cooperative investment with overseas Taiwanese and entrepreneurs from other countries to expand economic and trade cooperation.

- **Eastern Caribbean Agricultural Product Processing Project**

The ICDF is assisting training seed instructors specializing in agricultural product processing. This project is sharing Taiwan's successful experience and technology in processing.

- **Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Upgrading Project**

The ICDF provides US\$100,000 annually to upgrade medical equipment. In 2003, the donated medical equipment was used in ophthalmology, surgery, laboratories and in patient rooms, improving the quality of medical care.

- **Eastern Caribbean Computer Instruction Project**

The ICDF dispatches senior academics and experts in computer and information technology train people in four Eastern Caribbean countries including Grenada. Officials and experts are invited to participate in training courses. Seed instructor training and educational communications are raising the quality of the local workforce.

- **Small Farmholders' Financing Scheme**

This project is carried out in tandem with the technical mission's agricultural cooperation extension project and aims to provide farming skills and financing to small farmers.

- **Micro-Credit Project**

The ICDF is cooperating with the NDFG to provide micro-credit, allowing micro-enterprises to have formal access to financing.

- **Eastern Caribbean Scholarship Program**

To elevate the national educational standards and help develop human resources, the ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to train teachers and help students with tuition and textbook purchases.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

One serviceman is assisting in computer-related work.



Haiti

- **Rice Yield Enhancement Project**

This project aims to produce high-quality rice varieties appropriate to local conditions, improve cultivation technology, and provide appropriate fertilizer to boost yields. Purified varieties are developed at experimental farms, at which demonstration and then extension is carried out.

- **Bamboo Cultivation and Handicraft Project**

This project is helping to collect and plant many bamboo species. Appropriate areas next to coffee fields will be selected for bamboo cultivation and will provide the foundation for the future bamboo industry. In the future, various products will be developed and training will be conducted in bamboo processing.

- **Drinking Water Distribution Project in Petion-Ville –Lot I and II**

The ICDF is co-financing this project with the EIB. The project is carrying out water system engineering and is improving the overall water quality and service in Haiti.



- **Lending Project to Micro-Credit National S.A.–Phase II**

This project fuses international capital, technical assistance and local financial institutions to assist Haiti in establishing a micro-credit institution offering loans ranging from US\$100 to US\$7,500. This provides commercial micro-loans and helps train professionals to review loan applications.



St. Christopher and Nevis

- **Fruit and Vegetable Project**

The project focuses on fruit and vegetable extension with improved vegetable varieties. In addition, management and production technology is provided in an effort to adjust and improve farming practices.

- **Eastern Caribbean Agricultural Product Processing Project**

This project is training seed instructors specialized in agricultural product processing. It is sharing Taiwan's successful experience and technology in processing.

- **Small Farmers Financing Scheme**

This project is carried out in tandem with the technical mission's agricultural cooperation extension project and aims to boost the effectiveness and sustainability of the project. It is also providing loans to qualified small farmers for assistance in boosting output.

- **Micro-Credit Project**

The ICDF is cooperating with the NFD to provide micro-loans and strengthen lending mechanisms, thus providing micro-enterprises with better financial services.

- **Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Upgrading Project**

The ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to



①The Haiti Bamboo Cultivation and Handicraft Project ②③The Haiti Rice Yield Enhancement Project ④An opening ceremony for seedling propagation training activities in St. Christopher and Nevis



upgrade medical equipment. In 2003, funds have been used to purchase two mechanical sweeping trucks, which have since helped improve sanitary conditions.

• **Eastern Caribbean Scholarship Program**

To elevate national educational standards and help develop human resources, the ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to train teachers and help students with tuition and textbook purchases.

• **Eastern Caribbean Computer Instruction Project**

The ICDF dispatches senior academics and experts in computer and information technology train people in four Eastern Caribbean countries including St. Christopher and Nevis. Officials and experts are invited to participate in training courses. Seed instructor training and educational communications are raising the quality of the local workforce.

• **Taiwan Overseas Volunteers**

The ICDF has provided four volunteers for assistance in computer instruction and medical care.

• **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

Two servicemen have assisted in horticulture and computer work.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

• **Horticultural Crop Development Project**

The ICDF Technical Mission is cultivating vegetables, tropical fruit trees and economic crops for extension. The project is carrying out field trials and market surveys. It also helps strengthen tissue culture technology to boost crop yields.

• **Livestock Extension Project**

At the request of the Department of Agriculture in St.

Vincent and the Grenadines, the ICDF Technical Mission is implementing a one-year sub-project to meet local demands for self-sufficiency in pork. It is also providing guidance in maintaining a sanitary environment at slaughterhouses to raise the quality and sanitation of pork. In addition, this project is assisting in establishing breeder chicken and incubation farms.

• **Eastern Caribbean Agricultural Product Processing Project**

This project is training seed instructors specializing in agricultural product processing. It is sharing Taiwan's successful experience and technology in processing.

• **Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Upgrading Project**

The ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to upgrade medical equipment. In 2003, funds were used to strengthen infant care. Other equipment, including electrocardiogram machinery and breathing machines have also been provided to improve the quality of medical care.

• **Eastern Caribbean Computer Instruction Project**

The ICDF dispatches senior academics and experts in computer and information technology to train people in four Eastern Caribbean countries including St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Officials and experts are invited to participate in training courses. Seed instructor training and educational communications are raising the quality of the local workforce.

• **Micro-Credit Project**

The ICDF cooperates with the NDFSVM to provide micro-credit as well as to strengthen lending mechanisms, thus providing micro-enterprises with better financial services.

- **Eastern Caribbean Scholarship Program**

To elevate national educational standards and help develop human resources, the ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to train teachers and help students with tuition and textbook purchases.

- **Taiwan Youth Overseas Service**

Two servicemen are assisting in horticulture and computer work.



Latin America and the Caribbean Region

- **Central American Technology Integration Project**

Implements the World Links project, transforming the digital divide into digital study. Assists countries in the region to understand global development using the Internet.

- **Micro-Credit Experience Workshop and Seminar on the Sustainable Development of Micro-finance Services**

The workshop and seminar are introducing the concept of micro-credit and promoting the creation of micro-enterprises, thus serving as a means to create economic activity in cooperating nations.



① Seedling propagation training in St. Christopher and Nevis under the Fruit and Vegetable Project ② The ICDF Technical Mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines hosts pineapple production demonstrations ③ The Horticultural Crop Development Project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines ④ Seminar on the Sustainable Development of Micro-finance Services