

CARDI Antigua and Barbuda Work Programme Highlights for 2005 – 2007

CARDI's work programme in Antigua and Barbuda focuses primarily on seed technology. Seeds of various crops of economic importance are produced for the national and regional farming communities. Over the past three years, some 130 kg of hot pepper seeds were produced for farmers throughout the region. Of this amount 45 kg was Jamaican Scotch Bonnet seeds produced at the request of the Jamaican Government after Hurricane Ivan decimated seed production capabilities in Jamaica. This effort typifies off-shore and diverse location for production of planting material to aid disaster recovery in the CARICOM Region.

As part of the ongoing effort of the hot pepper industry group to tap into the array of indigenous varieties of hot pepper, the indigenous "Peggy Mouth" hot pepper variety of Antigua and Barbuda was stabilised and 1 kg of seed produced. This will assist the industry to return to the original blend of the world famous "Susies" Hot Sauce, as well as to conserve this pepper which was becoming extinct.

Indigenous cucurbits are also being conserved in order to obtain and maintain enough high quality planting material that can be used as the foundation in recovery efforts after natural disasters.

Another noteworthy activity was this Unit's contribution to a Pineapple National Task Force of Antigua and Barbuda. CARDI specifically assisted in conducting a review of the industry, formulating short and medium term plans and implementation strategies. The Unit, together with other stakeholders on the National Task Force, successfully engaged farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture Station at Cades Bay, to accelerate pineapple production. This enabled the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to fulfil its promise to provide a sample of fresh pineapple to every person who visited during the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup Cricket matches played in Antigua.