IDENTIFYING KEY Policy POSITIONS, STAKEHOLDERS AND MECHANISMS FOR GERMPALSM AND INFORMATION SHARING RELEVANT TO THE CARIBBEAN

WORKING GROUP #2
KEY POLICY POSITIONS

• RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (ITPGRFA)
  – A good legal framework moving forward
  – Cost vs. the benefit of ratification is low
  – Improves access to funds
    • Enables improved benefit sharing and germplasm exchange among countries
  – Mandates and supports the need for documentation/inventory of PGRFA
KEY STAKEHOLDERS

• Farmers
• Farmers’ organizations
• National Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Meteorological Services, Education, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
• Regional and international agencies such as CARDI, FAO, IICA, CIMH, CCCCC, CFNI
• Research agencies and institutions
• Academia – Regional Universities
• Civil Society
MECHANISM FOR GERMPALSM AND INFORMATION SHARING

• ITPGRFA as a legal framework
• Functional network at the national and regional level
  – CARDI could facilitate/coordinate the operations of national networks
  – Assign a focal point in the Ministries of Agriculture: this person should have the competence and experience of working with PGR
• Need for a Regional Transit Centre for the safe transfer and certification of planting material
MECHANISM FOR GERMPLASM AND INFORMATION SHARING

• External funding for the network to get it up and running and show impact for eventual government buy-in

• Communication strategy
  – In parallel with other mechanisms for buy-in at different levels – policy makers, technicians, general public
  – Including the use of social media such as blogs, virtual meetings etc.