
The Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) has facilitated over $200 million in sales of local goods to the tourism sector over the last two years under its national linkages strategy.

“And this is not the full sales, as a number of business takes place which is not necessarily captured in our data,” said JAMPRO Export Manager, Marlene Porter.

For more information see page 12
Our Vision

To be the centre of excellence in the Caribbean for the provision and application of research and development in agriculture and rural enhancement.

Our Mission

To contribute to the sustainable economic well being of Caribbean people by the generation and transfer of appropriate technology through research and development within the agricultural value chain.

www.cardi.org
Cereals and Grains

**Soybeans end sharply lower** by Mike McGinnis, 1 May 2013
http://www.agriculture.com/markets/analysis/corn/cn-soybe-prices-turn-mixed_9-ar31232

**Full Article**

DES MOINES, Iowa (Agriculture.com)--Speculative selling, drier weather outlooks for the Midwest, and weak Chinese economic news pushed the CME Group corn, soybean, and wheat prices to a lower close Wednesday.

The July futures corn contract closed 3 cents lower at $6.46. The July soybean futures contract finished 26 cents lower at $13.73. July wheat futures closed 10 cents lower at $7.21 per bushel. The July soymeal futures finished $10.10 per short ton lower at $404.40. The July soyoil futures ended 37 cents lower at $48.65.

In the outside markets, the NYMEX crude oil is $2.96 per barrel lower, the dollar is lower, and the Dow Jones Industrials are 89 points lower.

Jack Scoville, PRICE Futures Group vice-president, says this weaker market is digesting the China POMI data and demand fears. "Spec money is leaving commodities as the commodity index keeps getting weaker. That is part of it. But the selling today seems tied to the release of the Chinese POMI data, showing a weaker Chinese economy. I think that is when the market started to break down," Scoville says.

The weekly ethanol data Wednesday, showing increased production, brought corn back to where it is now, Scoville says. "It is the way the market is these days. Smiley faces one day and frowny faces the next. That makes it real hard to trade," he says.

Meanwhile, Ken Smithmier, The Hightower Report market analyst, says the weak action in the agricultural commodity markets is mostly due to negative sentiment toward the broader-commodity complex. "This is the first day of May, so capital allocation and positioning will be active. The trade in corn and wheat is countervailed by positive weather influences such as cold temperatures in the west that may adversely impact wheat and wet conditions across the Corn Belt to end the week, which will shut down most corn planting," Smithmier says.

Keep in mind, planters have been rolling in Iowa, Nebraska, and parts of Missouri since last Friday, Smithmier says.
Cassava

NEXTGEN Cassava project sets precedent for open access data sharing in agricultural research.
News, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), 1 May 2013
http://www.iita.org/home
http://www.nextgencassava.org/news.cfm

Full Article

Six months after the launch of the $25.2M NEXTGEN Cassava project at Cornell University, scientists on the project have released Cassavabase, a database that promotes open access data sharing.

www.cassavabase.org features all phenotypic and genotypic data generated by cassava breeding programs involved in the NEXTGEN Cassava project, and makes the data immediately and openly accessible to all users prior to publication. It is being developed by Lukas Mueller, at the Boyce Thompson Institute in Ithaca, NY, adjunct professor of plant breeding and genetics at Cornell.

“In the plant breeding community, data sharing can be delayed until publication, which can limit the opportunity to use the knowledge by the international plant breeding communities,” said Mueller.

The benefits of open data sharing through Cassavabase is being lauded by cassava breeders across sub-Saharan Africa, who “currently share a significant amount of cassava germplasm,” according to Peter Kulakow, plant breeder at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA-Nigeria), a major contributor of data to Cassavabase. “Sharing information will create the opportunity for all African farmers to benefit from the best technologies available to improve the yield and quality of cassava that is needed for food and income.”

Cassavabase will be hosted at IITA-Nigeria by the NEXTGEN Cassava project, providing a “one-stop shop” for cassava researchers and breeders worldwide. In addition to phenotypic and genotypic data, Cassavabase offers access to all Genomic Selection analysis tools and phenotyping tools developed by the NEXTGEN Cassava project, as well as links to auxiliary genome browsers, ontology tools and social networking tools for the cassava community.

Chiedozie Egesi, assistant director and head of cassava breeding at the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Nigeria, and Katherine Kahn, senior program officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, co-presented about Cassavabase and the advantages of open access data sharing during the G8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture, in Washington DC, 29-30 April 2013.

“Open access databases such as Cassavabase enable better decisions based on good quality data by the global cassava breeding community,” said Egesi. “Cassavabase will lead to increased efficiency in agricultural research and ultimately improve the livelihoods of African cassava farmers.”

At the 2012 Summit at Camp David, G8 leaders implemented the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition with the aim of boosting agriculture production in six countries and lifting 50M people out of poverty in 10 years. Critical to food security in developed and developing countries was the implementation of policies and projects to make data readily accessible to users in Africa and worldwide.
“It’s great to see the cassava research community lead the way in sharing their data rapidly and openly to maximize opportunities for developing improved cassava varieties for small farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and indeed, globally,” said Kahn. She noted that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supports increasing open access to data in all its projects.

“Different versions of cassava genes can be found in all breeding programs. What one program learns about its genes can benefit everybody,” said Jean-Luc Jannink, lead scientist on the NEXTGEN Cassava project, research geneticist with the US Department of Agriculture and adjunct professor in the Cornell University department of plant breeding and genetics. “All our learning is leveraged by sharing.”

Data is publicly shared on Cassavabase through adherence to the Toronto Agreement on pre-publication data sharing (Nature 461, 168-170, 2009), by informing users on the data quality and standards, as well as plans for publication. Users are expected to respect etiquette and allow data generators to publish analyses from their data sets first.

Project partners and donors envisage Cassavabase as a tool that will serve the whole cassava community, and that it will last beyond the lifetime of the NEXTGEN Cassava project.

No other continent depends on cassava to feed as many people as does Africa, where 500 million people consume it daily. Africa’s small farmers produce more than half of the world’s cassava, or about 86 million tons from over 10 million hectares. The tough plant requires few inputs and can withstand drought, marginal soils and long-term underground storage. A cash crop as well as a subsistence crop, the storage roots of the perennial woody shrub are processed, consumed freshly boiled or raw, and eaten by people as well as animals as a low-cost source of carbohydrates.

Despite diverse growing conditions and multiple uses of cassava across sub-Saharan Africa, farmers face similar challenges fighting cassava viruses and drought conditions that adversely affect yield.

The NEXTGEN Cassava project aims to use the latest advances in breeding methodology to improve productivity and yield in cassava production, incorporate cassava germplasm diversity from South America into African breeding programs, train the next generation of plant breeders, and improve infrastructure at African institutions. NEXTGEN Cassava is supported by a $25.2M grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom.

For more information, visit www.nextgencassava.org

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Livestock

ILRI-BecA goat project harnessing ODK on smartphones for data collection and analysis by Peter Ballantyne. ILRI Clippings, International Livestock Research Institute, 30 April 2013
http://clippings.ilri.org/2013/04/30/odk/

Full Article

To harness genetic diversity to improve goat productivity in Africa, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is testing the open data kit (ODK) in Ethiopia as a tool to collect baseline data on production systems and phenotypic characterization of goats. It will also be tested in Cameroon.

The project is led by the Biosciences eastern and central Africa – International Livestock Research Institute Hub and financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

“ODK has the potential to transform the way we deliver our research, through smarter data management and use” – Tadelle Dessie, project coordinator

‘ODK Collect’ is an open source program to collect questionnaire information. It immediately digitizes data for analysis, allows for remote monitoring of the collection progress, and facilitates the gathering of data, eliminating the need for paper surveys and therefore significantly reducing survey times. In this test-employment, the ODK Collect program was installed on Samsung Galaxy SII smartphones and the questionnaires were written in xml format which are subsequently saved to the phone’s device memory.

The system allows users to ask questions with a predetermined ‘if-then’ logic system, relying on answers to previous questions. The program also supports the incorporation of GPS points, photos, videos, bar codes, and sound bites as attachments to surveys or as the basis of the questionnaire responses.

The results recorded on the phones are sent to ILRI servers in Addis Ababa and Nairobi where the ODK ‘Aggregate’ tool is used for analysis.

More on the goat project

This week the G-8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture takes place in the USA.
**Bright future for US poultry producers** by World Poultry, 25 April 2013

**Full Article**

More efficient land use, a stalled demand for corn ethanol and increased demand for meat in developing countries should help boost the livestock industry in coming years, according to a Purdue University agricultural economist.

Farzad Taheripour, a research assistant professor of agricultural economics, used Food and Agriculture Organization and US Department of Agriculture data, paired with Purdue's Global Trade Analysis Project model, to guide analysis of global economic issues.

"Due to consumer taste preferences, global growth in income and population, the livestock industry will grow, particularly toward poultry and pork," Taheripour said. "The demand for poultry and pork will increase significantly."

Taheripour said less land is being used for feed crops these days, but increased efficiency makes each acre more productive. More feed from those acres should help livestock producers manage their production costs.

Corn ethanol demand has also hit a wall. Over the past decade, diverting grains from food and feed to fuel has increased feed prices for livestock producers, Taheripour said, but the ethanol industry in the United States has now reached the Renewable Fuel Standard mandated level. This may mean little growth in corn use for ethanol in coming years.

An ethanol production byproduct, dried distillers grains, has been used for livestock feed, helping to somewhat mitigate feed price increases. However, this offset was not large enough to keep feed prices from rising sharply. In coming years, any new growth in corn production could go toward livestock producers, which will likely help them with feed prices.

"During the past 10 years, ethanol expansion contributed to feed price increases, but now it will not push feed prices upward," Taheripour said. "In the future, livestock producers may struggle with other factors that affect feed prices, but because of the lack of increased demand in the ethanol industry, they will likely see lower overall feed prices."

Taheripour said livestock producers would also face increased demand for meat in countries such as China and India, which have booming populations and are becoming wealthier. Those countries are expected to demand more pork and chicken since those products are cheaper than beef.

One issue that could affect livestock producers is cellulosic biofuels produced from dedicated energy crops. If that technology becomes economically feasible, Taheripour said there would be competition for land currently used to grow livestock feed. Converting some of that land to cellulosic biofuel feedstocks could once again drive up feed prices.
Herbals

Division of Agriculture provides support to Essential Oils Cooperative. Dominica Government Information Service, 1 May 2013

Full Article

The Division of Agriculture has partnered with the Dominica Essentials Oils Cooperative in the providing technical and plant support as part of the Cooperative’s diversification programme.

On Wednesday, the Division of Agriculture handed over 500 Ylang Ylang plants to the Cooperative which will be distributed to farmers involved in the movement.

The Ylang Ylang is an herb used in alternative herbal treatments to treat ailments and medical problems.

“What we have done is we have assisted them in the propagation of the planting material. They will now go and hand over these plants to the farmers and members of their cooperative,” Talithia Laudat, agriculture officer with the Division of Agriculture, said during a presentation ceremony at the Botanic Gardens on Wednesday morning.

The Dominica Essentials Oils Cooperative is an established cooperative in Dominica, playing a leading role in the production of Bay Oil.

Raphael Corriette President of the Dominica Essentials Oils Cooperative, who was present for the formal presentation of the Ylang Ylang plants, said in recent times, the production of Bay Oil has been faced with challenges which has resulted in a marked reduction of bay oil on the island.

Corriette said the cooperative is now moving to diversify into the production of other essential oils including ylang ylang.

“As everything faces difficulties, Bay Oil is no exception. Bay Oil is now faced with disease and it is time that we diversify into the production of other essential oils that are viable on the international market and Ylang Ylang is no exception,” Corriette said.

He added “We have had difficulty in propagating these plants and we are so grateful to the Agricultural Division for making this contribution in providing these plants for our diversification project.”

Corriette noted that there is a ready market for Ylang Ylang oil hence the decision by the essential oils cooperative to diversify in this area.

“Ylang Ylang oil fetches a good price on the international market and this is why essential oils has made it a point of duty to ensure that in our diversification project we identify Ylang Ylang as one of our main products,” he pointed out.
Dominica’s Acting Director of Agriculture, Ricky Brumant, told reporters on Wednesday that this assistance to the cooperative is part of the Division of Agriculture’s programme to assist farmers in their diversification efforts.

“This is a manifestation of the work of the Division in collaboration with the Essential Oils Cooperative and is part of a wider diversification drive by the Ministry to ensure that we are well diversified on the ground to get income from different enterprises, farmer activities and crop and livestock,” Brumant said.

Meantime Manager of the Dominica Essential Oils, Garnet Eloi, thanked the Government of Dominica and the Division of Agriculture for the much needed support.

“We are very grateful. It’s a historic moment for our society. Since 2007 we have been trying to embark on a diversification programme and today we are seeing the first phase of it, where the Government of Dominica has come on board and propagated some plants that we could distribute to our farmers to embark on this project”.

The Ylang Ylang plant has been used to boost sensuality and is considered an aphrodisiac. It can also reduce skin irritations and stabilize mood swings.

Food Safety / Sanitary and Phytosanitary or SPS measures - Pesticides

http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/e04602a5e7aa06068527b5f004a12d3!OpenDocument

Excerpt

Additional Research is Needed to Determine Risks Presented by Pesticides:

- The most pressing pesticide research questions relate to determining actual pesticide exposures and effects of pesticides to bees in the field and the potential for impacts on bee health and productivity of whole honey bee colonies.

Full Article

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health. The report states that there are multiple factors playing a role in honey bee colony declines, including parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.
“There is an important link between the health of American agriculture and the health of our honeybees for our country’s long term agricultural productivity,” said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. “The forces impacting honeybee health are complex and USDA, our research partners, and key stakeholders will be engaged in addressing this challenge.”

"The decline in honey bee health is a complex problem caused by a combination of stressors, and at EPA we are committed to continuing our work with USDA, researchers, beekeepers, growers and the public to address this challenge," said Acting EPA Administrator Bob Perciasepe. "The report we've released today is the product of unprecedented collaboration, and our work in concert must continue. As the report makes clear, we’ve made significant progress, but there is still much work to be done to protect the honey bee population."

In October 2012, a National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health, led by federal researchers and managers, along with Pennsylvania State University, was convened to synthesize the current state of knowledge regarding the primary factors that scientists believe have the greatest impact on managed bee health.

*Key findings include:*

**Parasites and Disease Present Risks to Honey Bees:**

- The parasitic Varroa mite is recognized as the major factor underlying colony loss in the U.S. and other countries. There is widespread resistance to the chemicals beekeepers use to control mites within the hive. New virus species have been found in the U.S. and several of these have been associated with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

**Increased Genetic Diversity is Needed:**

- U.S. honeybee colonies need increased genetic diversity. Genetic variation improves bees thermoregulation (the ability to keep body temperature steady even if the surrounding environment is different), disease resistance and worker productivity.
- Honey bee breeding should emphasize traits such as hygienic behavior that confer improved resistance to Varroa mites and diseases (such as American foulbrood).

**Poor Nutrition Among Honey Bee Colonies:**

- Nutrition has a major impact on individual bee and colony longevity. A nutrition-poor diet can make bees more susceptible to harm from disease and parasites. Bees need better forage and a variety of plants to support colony health.
- Federal and state partners should consider actions affecting land management to maximize available nutritional forage to promote and enhance good bee health and to protect bees by keeping them away from pesticide-treated fields.

**There is a Need for Improved Collaboration and Information Sharing:**

- Best Management Practices associated with bees and pesticide use, exist, but are not widely or systematically followed by members of the crop-producing industry. There is a need for informed and coordinated communication between growers and beekeepers and effective collaboration between stakeholders on practices to protect bees from pesticides.
Beekeepers emphasized the need for accurate and timely bee kill incident reporting, monitoring, and enforcement.

*Additional Research is Needed to Determine Risks Presented by Pesticides:*

- The most pressing pesticide research questions relate to determining actual pesticide exposures and effects of pesticides to bees in the field and the potential for impacts on bee health and productivity of whole honey bee colonies.

Those involved in developing the report include USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Agricultural Research Services (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as the EPA and Pennsylvania State University. The report will provide important input to the Colony Collapse Disorder Steering Committee, led by the USDA, EPA and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

An estimated one-third of all food and beverages are made possible by pollination, mainly by honey bees. In the United States, pollination contributes to crop production worth $20-30 billion in agricultural production annually. A decline in managed bee colonies puts great pressure on the sectors of agriculture reliant on commercial pollination services. This is evident from reports of shortages of bees available for the pollination of many crops.

The Colony Collapse Steering Committee was formed in response to a sudden and widespread disappearance of adult honey bees from beehives, which first occurred in 2006. The Committee will consider the report's recommendations and update the CCD Action Plan which will outline major priorities to be addressed in the next 5-10 years and serve as a reference document for policy makers, legislators and the public and will help coordinate the federal strategy in response to honey bee losses.


Contact Information: EPA, Molly Hooven (News Media Only), hooven.molly@epa.gov, 202-564-2313, 202-564-4355, USDA, Michelle Saghafi (News Media Only), Michelle.Saghafi@oc.usda.gov, 202-720-6959
Bees & Pesticides: Commission to proceed with plan to better protect bees. European Commission
Press release Brussels, 29 April 2013

Full Article

Today, EU Member States did not reach a qualified majority – either in favour or against - in the Appeal Committee which discussed a Commission proposal to restrict the use of 3 neonicotinoid insecticides.

Tonio Borg, Health and Consumer Commissioner, said: "Although a majority of Member States now supports our proposal, the necessary qualified majority was not reached. The decision now lies with the Commission. Since our proposal is based on a number of risks to bee health identified by the European Food Safety Authority, the Commission will go ahead with its text in the coming weeks." To conclude: "I pledge to do my utmost to ensure that our bees, which are so vital to our ecosystem and contribute over €22 billion annually to European agriculture, are protected."

15 Member States supported the restriction, 8 Member States voted against and 4 Member States abstained during the appeal committee vote.

Main elements of the proposal

The proposal restricts the use of 3 neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam) for seed treatment, soil application (granules) and foliar treatment on bee attractive plants and cereals.

In addition, the remaining authorised uses are available only to professionals.

Exceptions will be limited to the possibility to treat bee-attractive crops in greenhouses, in open-air fields only after flowering.

The restrictions will apply from 1 December 2013.

As soon as new information is available, and at the latest within 2 years, the Commission will review the conditions of approval of the 3 neonicotinoids to take into account relevant scientific and technical developments.

Next steps

In absence of an agreement between Member States, it is now for the Commission to decide on the adoption of the proposed restriction.

Background

Following the request of the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published, on 16 January, its scientific findings on the risks associated with the use of three pesticides, belonging to the neonicotinoid family, on bee health. On the basis of this opinion, the Commission tabled a proposal for discussion with Member States.
Experts representing the EU-27 met in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 15 March and failed to reach a qualified majority - either in favour or against – the proposal to restrict the use of three neonicotinoid. 13 Member States supported the restriction, 9 Member States voted against and 5 Member States abstained. The proposal was then referred to the appeal committee on 29 April.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/bees/neonicotinoids_en.htm

EFSA's website:


Follow us on Twitter: @EU_Consumer

Agricultural Development

Agriculture in safe hands, says Clarke by Oshane Tobias. Jamaica Observer, 29 April 2013

Full Article

MAY PEN, Clarendon — Roger Clarke says he is confident that Jamaica's agriculture sector is in safe hands with the crop of youngsters that the Jamaica 4-H Clubs continue to produce.

Clarke, the minister of agriculture and fisheries, was delivering the keynote address at the 73rd renewal of the Jamaica 4-H Clubs National Achievement Exposition on Friday at the Denbigh Showground in May Pen, Clarendon.

He said, having viewed the exhibitions from the 14 parishes, he has no doubt that the country is moving in the right direction.

"This crop of young people that I see here today gives me real hope that Jamaica will be a better place," he said.

"I want to tell the Jamaican people that we have a set of young people who are prepared to lead us into the future. And, as I went through the different booths, I can, with confidence, say the future of Jamaica is safe."

For this, he said, "the leadership of the Jamaica 4-H movement must be commended".
Clarke, responding to an earlier call from the custos of Clarendon, William Shagoury, also pledged to assist the young generation of farmers in realising their dreams.

"We know the difficulties that the young people face," the minister said. "They have no start-up capital and no collateral. They basically have their intelligence. We have always talked about getting our young people involved in agriculture, but we must now start to provide the assistance.

"The Government and the ministry are on a drive to lift production because at the moment we are importing over a billion US dollars of food, and that is not sustainable. Therefore, our research capabilities will have to be tapped into.

"But when I passed through those booths, I must tell you that I am confident that the young people have the answer, so we are going to work with you to achieve your dreams because without you there is no future," Clarke said.

Trade


Full Article

The Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) has facilitated over $200 million in sales of local goods to the tourism sector over the last two years under its national linkages strategy.

“And this is not the full sales, as a number of business takes place which is not necessarily captured in our data,” said JAMPRO Export Manager, Marlene Porter.

“The furniture sector has seen some tremendous growth. In agriculture, a lot of them (hotels) are virtually buying all of their vegetables locally,” she noted.

Ms. Porter was speaking to JIS News at the Montego Bay Convention Centre on Monday, April 29, where the three-day Jamaica Product Exchange (JAPEX) is being held.

She noted that since 2004, JAMPRO has taken on, in a very structured way, the promotion of local products.

“For the tourism sector we have developed a national linkages strategy and we are continuing to work with the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment and the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) to build the linkages within the local economy,” she stated.

She said over the years, there has been a steady rise in the use of local products in the tourism sector, citing furniture and agriculture as the areas benefiting the most from the collaboration.
“I am confident that there is a commitment from the sector to support local businesses,” she stated.

Come the end of September, JAMPRO will stage its business linkages event at the Montego Bay Convention Centre, which will run for about three days.

“This is the prime buying time for the hospitality sector, and this event will bring out local suppliers of goods and services, and the buyers from the hospitality sector, the purchasing managers, and owners of the gift shops,” Ms. Porter told JIS News.

“We match the buyers and suppliers together. We are encouraging the buyers to come out and support our business linkages event,” she urged.

The JAMPRO official said there are very good offerings in the local producing market, and persons should visit and utilize the agency’s Jamaica Business Opportunity Service (JBOS). They can obtain information by visiting www.jamaicabos.com, where there is a comprehensive on-line directory of suppliers and buyers, and up-to-date information for partnership opportunities for local firms.

JBOS is a powerful matchmaking tool that is designed to bring business opportunities to entrepreneurs, by systematically connecting them with local and international buyers and suppliers. It also facilitates a direct communication channel to suppliers for efficient purchasing decisions.

Turning to the business being conducted on the JAPEX floor, the Export Manager said the feedback from tourism stakeholders, indicate that are opportunities for local businesses.

“They (hospitality sector) are optimistic, they are seeing good business, and it is looking good for the hotel sector,” she told JIS News.

Caribbean Export invite to exhibit at German Trade by the St. Kitts and Nevis Information Service, 3 May 2013

http://www.gov.kn/node/1289

Full Article

BASSETTERRE, St. Kitts (SKNIS) -- The Caribbean Export Development Agency is inviting businesses in the agro-processing industry to take part in its Caribbean Pavilion at the ANUGA 2013 Trade Show that will be held from October 5 – 9, 2013 at the Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany.

Criteria For Participation
The product should be manufactured and marketed in the CARIFORUM, should fulfil the rules of origin for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the company must possess a sound managerial system and process of production. Key elements in the Caribbean Pavilion include the exhibition, business to business meetings, conducting and facilitating market research, networking and food taste testing.
Participants must provide their own airfare to and from Germany however Per Diem to cover hotel accommodation, meals and any local transportation expenses for the duration of the event in Cologne, Germany for one (1) participant per company will be covered by Caribbean Export.

Interested persons/businesses must complete an online Company Assessment Form no later than 4.30pm (AST) on May 3, 2013. All required supporting documentation (images) must be submitted to Caribbean Export Development Agency no later than 4.30pm (AST) on May 3, 2013 and should be addressed to:

Mr Sam Kruiner – Special Advisor, Export Development, c/o Caribbean Export Development Agency, 1st Floor Baobab Tower, Warrens, St Michael BB22026, BARBADOS

Submissions can also be emailed to Sam Kruiner at skruiner@carib-export.com and copied to Ms Ginelle Greene at ginelle.greene@giz.de.

To access the Company Assessment Form and for further information see website www.carib-export.com.

Information and Communications

Contributing to the global movement towards open data for agriculture. Consortium News, CGIAR, 2 May, 2013

Full Article

The CGIAR Consortium continues its journey towards transforming CGIAR into an Open Access organization. Making agricultural research, knowledge and information more widely available is part of a growing global movement, and CGIAR is committed to playing a dynamic role in the process.

This week, the CGIAR Consortium and several of its members and partners have been taking part in the G-8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture held in Washington D.C. from April 29-30. The conference’s mission is to obtain “commitment and action” for policies and projects that open access to “publicly funded global agriculturally relevant data streams, making such data readily accessible to users in Africa and worldwide.” The ultimate aim is to ensure that broader access to agricultural knowledge contributes to greater food security, especially in developing countries.

As part of the meeting, G8 delegations developed Action Plans that include commitments to move towards improved Open Data for Agriculture. Included in the Action Plan from the UK, was the statement: “The UK Government will support the implementation of the Open Data roadmap for CGIAR.”

The CGIAR Consortium is already well on the way to making Open Access the norm within its Research Centers and Research Programs. With CGIAR generating massive volumes of research and knowledge products for agricultural development, access is an issue of major significance. In March
2012, the CGIAR Consortium approved the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets, which stipulate open and free access to all research results and development activities.

Earlier this month, a meeting held at CGIAR Consortium member Bioversity International headquarters in Rome, discussed CGIAR’s Open Access policy (currently in draft) and plans for mainstreaming Open Access for CGIAR. Policy approval is expected later this year, with implementation guidelines due to be completed by June 2014.

The G8 Conference on Open Data for Agriculture is an important occasion for driving the open access for agriculture movement forward and shaping its development. It addresses one of CGIAR’s four research focus areas – increasing food security – and will promote concrete proposals for making more key data freely available online and improving transparency.

Read CGIAR’s Commitment to Open Data for Agriculture.

Innovative ideas

In the run-up to the event, the Agricultural Information Management Standards launched a call for ideas to identify initiatives or future projects which demonstrate the potential that open data can have for ensuring food security.

Among the wide range of innovative products and ideas put forward by CGIAR Consortium Members, the International Food Policy Research Institute’s (IFPRI) Food Security Portal was selected to be showcased at the conference.

This is a platform designed to provide detailed country-by-country information on food policy developments. Country profiles provide insight into indicators for livelihoods, food production, exports and imports and commodity prices. Datasets allow easy monitoring of price changes at global and country level and commodities graphs track global prices. A Terms-of-Trade Effect tool provides a quick and easy way to assess the country level impact of a change in world commodity prices, while a Short-Run Impact of Releasing Food Stocks simulator allows users to model the impact of a release of stocks of a particular commodity.

Other innovative information products submitted by the CGIAR Consortium range from the HarvestChoice Mapp – offering more than a hundred layers of agricultural data for sub-Saharan Africa to build up a picture of just about any location – to Insect Life Cycle Modeling (ILCYM), a tool to develop models for predicting insect build-up so as to prevent crop damage. These platforms were submitted by IFPRI and the International Potato Center (CIP), respectively, both members of the CGIAR Consortium.

Other notable ideas submitted were:

- The CGIAR Generation Challenge Program’s Integrated Breeding Workflow System (IBWS), an information system linking local and current breeding data to public crop information.
- The Iraq Salinity platform, developed by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). This platform brings together all information generated by the Iraq Salinity initiative – a research and advocacy project on approaches to reduce the effect of salinity on agriculture and food security, and make it more widely available as a public good.
- The Data Harvester – Test Bed. This platform, developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), is a test bed open agri datasets harvester. It
harvests metadata from institutional data repositories and aggregates them, offering choices of access points. For a full list of ideas submitted by CGIAR click here.


http://aims.fao.org/events/g-8-international-conference-open-data-agriculture


Following the commitment of the L'Aquila Summit, in 2012 leaders of the G-8 engaged with African partners to foster global food security. In this framework, G-8 members have agreed on the goals of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition G-8 initiative. Their goal is to increase public investment in agriculture, accelerate new investments and greater collaboration in agricultural research. This G-8 activity complements the ongoing activities of the Committee on World Food Security and other international organizations.

The conference held over the last two days is a direct result of a commitment made in 2012 by leaders of the G-8 to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. It is the next phase of realizing the shared goal of global food security. As part of that commitment, they agreed to share relevant agricultural data available from G-8 countries with African partners and convene an international conference on Open Data for Agriculture, to develop options for the establishment of a global platform to make reliable agricultural and related information available to African farmers, researchers and policymakers, taking into account existing agricultural data systems.

To assure further advancement of opening data globally, several countries have developed plans of action to make agricultural data streams available to users in Africa and world-wide. Today, we would like to announce the public release of those action plans. The implementation of these action plans is an important step in spurring innovation in the agricultural sector and ultimately supporting a sustainable increase in food security and the promotion of adequate nutrition around the world.

We encourage others to engage in the existing activities which complement this G-8 initiative. Among the action plans that have been publically released here today are several common implementation steps. In particular, each of the entities will open existing government-funded data sets to the public while also supporting further research that will be made publicly available in accessible, machine-readable formats. Each will promote capacity building in developing countries, particularly Africa, with respect to improving the collection of rural statistics and the creation of an open data infrastructure.

This Washington meeting is an initial step in a long-term process. Numerous topics need to be worked further between G-8 members with partner countries, international organizations, civil society and private sector, such as interoperability of platforms, capacity building to improve access to data, data property, and data confidentiality. To facilitate the emergence and accessibility of open data at large scale, the role of recognized international organizations, as "honest brokers", needs to be considered. These plans will continue to evolve to address these concerns, but with an end goal of democratizing data in order to spur the creation of new and novel applications that can help feed the world.

To hear an interview with USDA Chief Scientist Dr. Catherine Woteki concerning the outcome of the conference click here. For more information on the conference, please visit the conference website or email G8AGOPENDATA@osec.usda.gov
Upcoming Events

May 2013

Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) Global Consultation Stocktaking for Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations
Date: 6th - 9th May 2013,  
Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  

3rd Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century (GCP21) Strategic Meeting
Date: 6-10 May 2013  
Location: Bellagio, Italy  
Description: The 3rd GCP21 Strategic Meeting, which will take place in Bellagio, Italy, in May 2013, will be focused on a daunting question: Is it possible to eradicate cassava viruses in Africa? The select group of 32 scientists and developers from 24 institutions who attend that meeting will focus on the use of a range of technologies to efficiently control cassava viruses.  
Information: http://ciat.cgiar.org/gcp21/  

June 2013

10th International Mango Symposium
Date: 3-7 June 2013  
Location: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic  

Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century (GCP21) second meeting on cassava landraces
Date: June 2013  
Location: Tanzania  
Description: Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century (GCP21) second meeting on cassava landraces is scheduled in June 2013 at IITA offices in Tanzania. The meeting’s goal is to deliver products such as draft standard operating procedures to collect, evaluate, preserve and identify these landraces and a roadmap to start the work in East and Central Africa.  

49th Annual Meeting Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS)
Date: 30 June to 6 July 2013  
Location: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
Description: The 49th Annual Meeting will be celebrated 30 June to 6 July in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Trinidad. Joint meeting of the CFCS, Caribbean AgroEconomic Society (CAES) and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). Theme: Agribusiness Essential for Food Security: Empowering Youth and Enhancing Quality Products.
Contact: CFCS website  http://cfcs.eea.uprm.edu/

July 2013

International Conference on Tropical Roots and Tubers for Sustainable Livelihood under
Changing Agro-climate
Date: 9 -12 July 2013
Location: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
Website: http://isrc.in/internationalconference2013/

September 2013
Science Forum 2013
Date: 23-25 September 2013
Location: Bonn, Germany.
Description: Will focus on “Nutrition and health outcomes: targets for agricultural research”
Website: http://www.scienceforum13.org/