

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

Cassava

Cassava as animal feed in Ghana. Justin Chisenga, FAO Ghana. FAO News, 1 October 2013
<http://www.fao.org/highlights/from-the-field/detail/en/c/202220/>

Full Article

Cassava has the potential to transform access to livestock feed for poor farmers according to an FAO study focused on Ghana, released by the Sub-regional Office for West Africa. Processing of raw cassava into pellets, chips and feed meal can directly boost the Ghanaian livestock sector by reducing production costs.

The high costs of feed has been a major constraint in expanding the livestock sector, maize based feed can constitute 60 to 75 percent of the total cost of production. Conversely, cassava has a cheaper market price and has so far been underutilized as a source for livestock feed.

In Ghana, cassava is a major crop which has witnessed steady increases in annual production. The potential for higher cassava yield and production has been demonstrated in studies across West Africa highlighting the potential opportunities for the diversification of cassava products along the value chain.

The study undertaken by FAO points to the high moisture content of the cassava tuber (which is shown to escalate handling, transportation and storage costs) as a major causes for the low usage of cassava as an alternative source of feed, alongside its low protein and vitamin content.

Solutions identified in the study include scaling up technology transfers such as the use of solar driers, critical for reducing moisture levels within cassava roots and enabling cassava slicing. This reduces the levels of Hydrocyanic acid making cassava safer for animal consumption.

Governments are encouraged to play an active role in supporting the cassava sector by strengthening agriculture extension networks and forming partnerships with livestock farmers associations and NGOs. Awareness-raising on the potential of cassava products and by products with regard to livestock feed is highlighted with a focus on opportunities for income generation for smallholder farmers.

Greater private sector engagement is underscored in relation to commercial feed millers in order to sustain demand for feed through market promotion. Furthermore government policies encouraging improved production, processing and diversified use of cassava as a way of developing local markets are highly desirable.

FAO is working in partnership with the Government of Ghana, producer organisations and the private sector on the Regional Initiative on Rural Poverty Reduction which addresses the central issue of inclusive value chains focusing on the cassava sector. It is envisaged that the finding from this study will be used to inform the implementation of activities on the ground with a view to maximising efforts for poverty reduction. The initiative is currently in operation in the Northern Region based on the West Gonja district.

Cereals and Grains

World cereal production set to jump 8 percent this year. FAO News, 3 October 2013

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/200990/icode/>

Full Article

The outlook for global cereal supply in the 2013/14 marketing season remains generally favourable despite downward adjustments to forecasts for world cereal production and closing stocks, according to the latest issue of FAO's quarterly *Crop Prospects and Food Situation* report.

Despite this downward adjustment, world cereal production would still surpass the 2012 level by nearly 8 percent.

Meanwhile, the FAO *Food Price Index* dropped for the fifth month in a row in September, driven by a sharp fall in the international prices of cereals. The prices of dairy, oils, meat and sugar rose slightly.

The Index, which measures the monthly change in the international prices of a basket of 55 food commodities, averaged 199.1 points last month, 2.3 points or 1 percent below its August value. It is down 11 points or 5.4 percent since the beginning of the year. However, it is still higher than in the same period in 2009 or 2010.

FAO will hold a second Ministerial Meeting on International Food Prices on Monday 7 October at its Rome headquarters to provide a forum to discuss food price volatility and the policy challenges it poses. More than 40 government ministers are expected.

Cereal production up by 8 percent over 2012

At 2 489 million tonnes, FAO's current forecast for world cereal production in 2013 is marginally lower (by 3 million tonnes) than reported in September, mainly reflecting poorer prospects for the South America wheat crop, following adverse weather.

The expected 8 percent increase in world cereal production this year over 2012 is mainly the result of an 11 percent anticipated expansion in coarse grains output to about 1 288 million tonnes.

The United States, the world's largest maize producer, would account for the bulk of the increase, as it is expected to harvest a record maize crop of 348 million tonnes, 27 percent higher than the previous year's drought-reduced level.

The FAO forecast for world cereal stocks by the close of seasons in 2014 has been revised downward by almost 2 percent since September, to 559 million tonnes, still 12 percent (62 million tonnes) above their opening level and the highest level since 2001/02.

International trade in cereals in 2013/14 is forecast to reach 312.4 million tonnes, 1.6 percent (4.8 million tonnes) higher than in 2012/13 and slightly above the level expected in September. Trade in 2013/14 is expected to benefit from larger export availabilities of coarse grains in particular.

Food insecurity hotspots

The *Crop Prospects and Food Situation* report highlights the following food insecurity hotspots, among others:

In **Syria**, due to conflict about 4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

In the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, an estimated 2.8 million vulnerable people require food assistance until the next harvest in October.

Despite an improved food supply situation this year in the Sahel, a large number of people are still affected by conflict and the lingering effects of the 2011/12 food crisis, notably in northern **Mali**.

In Central Africa, the food security situation continues to deteriorate in the **Central African Republic** (CAR) and in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC) due to protracted civil insecurity. Nearly 6.35 million people in DRC (18 percent up on last year) and 1.3 million people in CAR (more than double from February 2013) are in need of humanitarian assistance.

In Southern Africa, drought conditions in western parts resulted in a decline in cereal production and in higher prices in 2013, causing a rise in the number of food insecure, particularly in **Namibia**.

In **Zimbabwe**, maize production in 2013 declined by about 18 percent from last year's below average level. The number of food insecure is projected to rise to 2.2 million people between January and March 2014, significantly above the 1.67 million in the first quarter of 2013.

In **Somalia**, **South Sudan** and **Sudan** about 870 000, 1.2 million and 4.3 million people respectively are in need of humanitarian assistance due to conflict, natural disasters and other causes.

Climate Change

Human influence on the climate system is clear IPOC report. Caribbean Climate Blog, 27 September 2013

<http://caribbeanclimateblog.com/2013/09/27/human-influence-on-the-climate-system-is-clear-says-new-ipcc-report/>

Full Article

Human influence on the climate system is clear. This is evident in most regions of the globe, a new assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes.

Also read: IPCC climate report digest

It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. The evidence for this has grown, thanks to more and better observations, an improved understanding of the climate system response and improved climate models.

Warming in the climate system is unequivocal and since 1950 many changes have been observed throughout the climate system that are unprecedented over decades to millennia. Each of the last three

decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850, reports the Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Working Group I assessment report, *Climate Change 2013: the Physical Science Basis*, approved on Friday by member governments of the IPCC in Stockholm, Sweden.

“Observations of changes in the climate system are based on multiple lines of independent evidence. Our assessment of the science finds that the atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amount of snow and ice has diminished, the global mean sea level has risen and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased,” said Qin Dahe, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I.

Thomas Stocker, the other Co-Chair of Working Group I said: “Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.”

“Global surface temperature change for the end of the 21st century is projected to be likely to exceed 1.5°C relative to 1850 to 1900 in all but the lowest scenario considered, and likely to exceed 2°C for the two high scenarios,” said Co-Chair Thomas Stocker. “Heat waves are very likely to occur more frequently and last longer. As the Earth warms, we expect to see currently wet regions receiving more rainfall, and dry regions receiving less, although there will be exceptions,” he added. Projections of climate change are based on a new set of four scenarios of future greenhouse gas concentrations and aerosols, spanning a wide range of possible futures. The Working Group I report assessed global and regional-scale climate change for the early, mid-, and later 21st century.

“As the ocean warms, and glaciers and ice sheets reduce, global mean sea level will continue to rise, but at a faster rate than we have experienced over the past 40 years,” said Co-Chair Qin Dahe. The report finds with high confidence that ocean warming dominates the increase in energy stored in the climate system, accounting for more than 90% of the energy accumulated between 1971 and 2010. Co-Chair Thomas Stocker concluded: “As a result of our past, present and expected future emissions of CO₂, we are committed to climate change, and effects will persist for many centuries even if emissions of CO₂ stop.”

Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC, said: “This Working Group I Summary for Policymakers provides important insights into the scientific basis of climate change. It provides a firm foundation for considerations of the impacts of climate change on human and natural systems and ways to meet the challenge of climate change.” These are among the aspects assessed in the contributions of Working Group II and Working Group III to be released in March and April 2014. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report cycle concludes with the publication of its Synthesis Report in October 2014.

The IPCC supplies policy-relevant information about climate change to the world's governments. Its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) will be considered by negotiators responsible for concluding a new agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.

Some of the report's key findings include:

- The global mean average surface temperature rose by 0.89°C from 1901 to 2012. Each of the last three decades has been warmer than all preceding decades since 1850. In the Northern Hemisphere, 1983-2012 was *likely* the warmest 30-year period of the last 1400 years. The first decade of the 21st century has been the warmest of all (WMO's *The Global Climate 2001-2010* estimates the global average surface temperature for that decade at 14.47°C). Global average temperatures will likely rise by another 0.3°C to 0.7°C in the period 2016-2035. Averaged over the period 2081-2100, the global

surface temperature is likely to exceed pre-industrial levels by 1.5°C or even (depending on future greenhouse gas emissions) 2°C.

- Changes in many extreme weather and climate events have been observed since about 1950. It is very likely that the number of cold days and nights has decreased and the number of warm days and nights has increased on the global scale. In large parts of Europe, Asia and Australia, it is likely that the frequency of heat waves has increased.
- It is virtually certain that the upper ocean (down to 700m) has warmed from 1971 to 2010. The deep ocean below 3000m has also likely warmed since the 1990s, when sufficient observations became available. Ocean warming accounts for most of the change in the amount of incoming solar energy stored by the Earth, accounting for about 93% of it between 1971 and 2010. The global ocean will continue to warm during the 21st century. Heat will penetrate from the surface to the deep ocean and affect ocean circulation.
- The rate of sea level rise since the mid-19th century has been larger than the mean rate during the previous two millennia. The global mean sea level rose by around 19 cm from 1901 to 2010 due to increased ocean warming and melting glaciers and ice sheets. The rate of rise accelerated between 1993 and 2010, and it is very likely to increase further during the 21st century and beyond. The report notes that, during the last interglacial, when the climate was 2°C warmer than pre-industrial levels, maximum global sea levels were 5 to 10 meters higher than they are today.
- Seawater has become more acidic (its pH has decreased by 0.1) since the beginning of the industrial era due to humanity's carbon dioxide emissions; it will continue to acidify during the 21st century.
- It is *very likely* that the Arctic sea ice cover will continue to shrink and thin and that Northern Hemisphere spring snow cover will decrease during the 21st century as global mean surface temperature rises. Some scenarios foresee a nearly ice-free Arctic Ocean in September before mid-century.
- There is very high confidence that glaciers have continued to shrink and lose mass world-wide, with very few exceptions. By 2100, glacial volume could, under one scenario, decline further by as much as 35-85%. Meanwhile, the extent of Northern Hemisphere snow cover has decreased since the mid-20th century, especially in spring, and this decline, too, will continue.
- It is likely that human influences have affected the global water cycle and its patterns since 1960. For example, in recent decades precipitation has increased in the mid-latitude land areas of the Northern Hemisphere.
- Three years in the making, the "Physical Science Basis" volume of the Fifth Assessment Report was produced by over 250 scientists. Additional volumes on impacts, mitigation and a synthesis will be released over the coming year. The IPCC does not conduct new research. Instead, its mandate is to make policy-relevant assessments of the existing worldwide literature on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of climate change. Its reports have played a major role in inspiring governments to adopt and implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (WGI AR5) is available at <http://www.climatechange2013.org> or <http://www.ipcc.ch>.

Agricultural Development

Antigua Delegation Heads To CWA. Government of Antigua, 4 October, 2013

http://www.ab.gov.ag/article_details.php?id=4464&category=38

Full Article

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture, the premier agricultural event on the Region's calendar, brings together stakeholders for a week of activities to promote agriculture and agri-industry via policy dialoguing, learning sessions, and an exhibition showcasing the fruits of the sector.

The 12th Annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) 2013 will be held in Guyana at the Guyana International Conference Centre, during the period of 4th to 12th October. This year's CWA theme is "Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and Rural Development".

Attending the week long workshops and seminars as a part of Antigua's delegation are Minister of Agriculture Hon. Hilson Baptiste, Permanent Secretary Robelto Isaac, Director of Agriculture Jedidiah Maxime, Communication Officer Wendy Tittle and for the first time ever in the Caribbean, two students from the Princess Margret Secondary School Farm Project, Damond Roach and Kayreter Burleigh.

Junita James and Owalabi Elabanjo the Antigua Program Coordinator on the Zero Hunger Challenge Project will also travel to Guyana with the Antiguan Delegation. The Antigua Zero Hunger Program will be featured in the Food and Agriculture Organization.

This annual event focuses on developing strategies for agriculture in the region. This year the focus is on strengthening the linkages within Caribbean agriculture.

The eleventh CWA was held last year in Antigua and Barbuda at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium under the theme "Celebrating Youth and Gender in Caribbean Agriculture- Each Endeavouring all Achieving."

Agro Parks Offer Exciting Prospects for Agriculture - Dr. Phillips. Jamaica Information Service, 6 October, 2013

<http://www.jis.gov.jm/news/list/35224>

Full Article

Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, says the Government's effort at reducing food imports through the agro parks project represents an "exciting prospect" for the agricultural sector.

The Minister, who was speaking yesterday (October 3), while touring the Amity Hall agro park in St. Catherine, lauded the moves there to produce animal feed, and crops such as sorrel and red peas, which have been heavily imported over the years.

"What these Agro Parks show is the future of Jamaican agriculture, and we feel strongly... that a great part of the growth story for the future must come from agriculture, and agri-business," he stated, noting that the country must now look to increase exports.

Dr. Phillips is encouraging all farmers to take advantage of the opportunity created by the parks' development, and to explore planting new types of crops.

He said discussions are ongoing for the provision of new technologies to modernise reaping agricultural produce, especially at the parks.

The government is developing, over the next two years, nine agro parks islandwide. Three are already in operation – Amity Park; Plantain Garden, St. Thomas; and Ebony Park, Clarendon.

Funding is being provided through the European Union (EU)-financed Sugar Transformation Programme, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Agricultural Competitiveness Programme.

Farmers and investors in the project, are required to provide working capital, either from their own resources or through loans provided by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) through the Peoples' Co-operative (PC) Bank network, for land preparation, production inputs, on-farm irrigation, and equipment.

The Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC), the agency charged by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to manage the project, is providing park managers and dedicated extension specialists and coordinating the involvement of other government agencies in the provision of services to the parks.

Technical advisory services are being provided by the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA).

Agro Parks on Track - Minister Clarke. Jamaica Information Service, 4 October, 2013

<http://www.jis.gov.jm/news/list/35219>

Full Article

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Roger Clarke, says that the Agro Parks project is going well with crops already reaped at the three facilities in operation and replanting underway.

“At Plantain Garden (St. Thomas) we just finished reaping onions, and we are preparing now to put some more in. Pumpkins are now growing. Ebony Park (Clarendon), that one is on stream and we are experimenting with the mini-set yam technique. We have reaped some there and the results are very encouraging,” he said.

The Minister, who was on a tour of the Amity Hall Agro Park project on October 3, with Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, and other Government officials, informed that small farmers are engaged in the cultivation of some 150 acres of crops at the St. Catherine-based facility. The crops include onion, pepper, pumpkin, sweet potato, corn, and callaloo.

“All those things are things that the markets have predetermined. The farmers knew exactly what to produce. These are farmers occupying between five and 10 acres,” he said.

Also at Amity Hall, Caribbean Broilers is engaged in the production of sorghum as a replacement for some of the imported animal feed. “They have planted nearly 150 acres and there is another 400 acres prepared to be planted,” Minister Clarke said.

He said through sorghum production “what we have been able to do is put a dent in our import as far as animal feeds is concerned.”

As it relates to the other six facilities to come on stream, Minister Clarke informed that the Hill Run facility in St. Catherine, will be dedicated to fish production. He said arrangements are being made “where our local processors and people who import tilapia can buy into our local production”.

“We are working to see how we can up the breeds, we are working with an entity that has brought in new genetic material, and is also producing these fish quite successfully. They are growing like twice as the original fish that we have here,” he said.

Turning to the New Forest Agro Park in Manchester, which is privately-operated, he informed that the facility is “up and running in a very significant way”. The government is providing irrigation for the facility. “We are working with them to see how we can work to deal with marketing,” he added.

Some 5,000 persons are expected to benefit directly and indirectly from the nine agro parks that are to be established across the island. The project is expected to reduce imports of targeted crops and realize foreign exchange savings of \$4 billion when fully operational.

Caribbean Week of Agriculture kicks off Stakeholders urged to change reality of food insecure segments of regional population. CARICOM Press release, 5 October 2013

http://caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/press_releases_2013/pres209_13.jsp

Full Article

(CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana) Stakeholders in the regional agricultural sector have been encouraged to work together to change the reality of the food insecure segments of populations, debunk myths and reshape the perception of agriculture as a means to generate wealth.

The charges were delivered by the featured speakers at the opening session of a two-day media workshop on the state of journalism in the food and agriculture sector in the Caribbean at the Guyana International Conference Centre (GICC) on Friday.

The workshop was the first activity of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) which will be officially opened in Georgetown on Wednesday 9 October, 2013. The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Association of Caribbean Media (ACM), are partnering to host the workshop.

The Dr the Honourable Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana, Mr. Maurice Wilson of CARDI, Mr. Thierry Doudet of CTA and Mr. Wesley Gibbings, President of the ACM were of one accord on the attractiveness of the agriculture sector, the need to promote the sector, particularly as part of efforts to attract youth, and the linkages that existed between agriculture and other areas. There were divergent views, however, on media coverage of agriculture in the Region, with Chair of

the opening session, Mr. Gibbings, pointing to a “marked improvement of the depth and breadth of coverage of the sector over the years”. On the other hand, Dr. Ramsammy, alluded to the development of media capacity and the media corps, but lamented “how we report on agriculture.” For Mr. Wilson, the courtship between the media and the agriculture sector was not as good as expected. “We collectively must make agriculture the significant, important element in our lives that it is, and bring it to the attention of all the principals and stakeholders that matter. And therefore, we have to court the media once more and urge that they present agriculture in this sexy, attractive way, in which the whole story... and the connectivity and inter-sectoral significance of agriculture is told,” he said.

In his remarks to the media representatives, the Minister stressed that the Region had the capacity to be the first hunger-free region in the world; that agriculture was critical to the area of health and nutrition, especially in confronting non communicable diseases; and called for more focused attention on agricultural research, particularly in the area of funding; the improvement of crops; and the introduction of new crops.

“We should be proud of the fact that this Region has the potential to be a hunger-free Region, to be one of the first regions in the world to be a hunger free. Yet we do have the scandalous situation where eight million people in our Region are living in food insecure states...,” Minister Ramsammy said. Among the subjects the workshop will address are the impact of climate change on food and nutrition security in the Caribbean; the contribution of the fisheries sector in food security and nutrition; youth and gender in agriculture and rural development; emerging issues in Caribbean agriculture; and the support that the media could provide to the sector.

The CWA, which will be held in Georgetown until 12 October, is being marketed as a great opportunity not only for pursuing food security but also for promoting agriculture as a business, modernising the sector, and creating and expanding networks. The premier agriculture event in the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM) calendar is being hosted by the Government of Guyana and will be convened this year under the theme ‘Linking the Caribbean for Food and Nutrition Security and Rural Development’.

Agriculture Month 2013 launched- Jagdeo Initiative to be continued. Guyana Government Information Service, 9 October 2013
<http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?cat=26>

Full Article

Agriculture Month was officially launched today at the Ministry of Agriculture by Minister of Agriculture Dr. Leslie Ramsammy under the theme “Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and Rural Development”.

In observing Agriculture Month, Guyana is joining with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to celebrate World Food Day and the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

Minister Ramsammy highlighted that over the years Guyana has hosted Agriculture Month. It has been successful and it has not only touched the lives of Guyanese but persons around the world. He added that Agriculture continues to be the foundation and social development built in the country.

“Guyana is known for its agriculture. We have historical impacts on people around the world. The best known products in Guyana are in fact our agricultural products and it is not a new thing. What is new

about the impact we have made is that in some areas we are improving our products and in some areas we are adding new products”, pointed out Minister Ramsammy.

He added that the Ministry will reaffirm the commitment and belief that Guyana will be known for many more things than just sugar, rum and rice. More products will be added so as to produce more in the country for the people. Most of the products that Guyana has been importing are now produced locally such as broccoli and corn. Guyana has also been exporting more fruits and vegetables than before.

According to Minister Ramsammy, Guyana is known for being a food secure nation and is working to ensure that the country produce higher quality agriculture products that are more nutritious.

“This year, on World Food day we highlight that the Agriculture sector works closely with the Ministries of Health and Education to keep our children healthy, keep our people healthy”, he added.

The Ministry has been looking at systems that supports from the farm to the table and this year persons from the University of the West Indies, among persons from other countries are coming to work with the Ministry.

“We would want to host a Caribbean week of Agriculture that everybody will say that it will be difficult for us to beat Guyana and when they get it right we will host it again and set new standards and that’s what Guyana does all the time”, said Minister Ramsammy.

During the week of Caribbean Week of Agriculture, the Ministry will also be signing a number of agreements. Highlighting that the Jagdeo Initiative will be continued, the Minister highlighted that the Caribbean needs to know about this flagship programme.

World Food Day is on October 16 and will be hosted at Mon Repos with a celebration of a Cassava Festival while Caribbean Week of Agriculture begins on October 6.

From farm to fork: improving nutrition in the Caribbean. PR Newswire, October 4, 2013

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/from-farm-to-fork-improving-nutrition-in-the-caribbean-226473371.html>

Full Article

Canadian and Caribbean researchers to participate in the Caribbean Week of Agriculture

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Oct. 4, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Researchers from universities in Canada and the Caribbean will discuss improvements in the region's agriculture and nutrition during the *Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA2013): Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and Rural Development*, to be held in Guyana, October 4-12, 2013.

Since 2011, researchers from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago and McGill University in Canada have been working together to improve to improve food production in the region, as well as the nutrition and health of CARICOM populations. The project is funded under the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), a CA\$124 million program that

supports partnerships between Canadian and developing-country researchers to increase food security through applied research in agriculture and nutrition.

The *From farm to fork: improving nutrition in the Caribbean* project seeks to address rising obesity rates in the region, due in large part to the limited attention Caribbean countries have paid to local food production. As a result, there is a high dependence on imports of high-calorie, low-nutrition foods. This has created a paradox of obesity and poor nutrition, which threatens people's health throughout the region.

Results to date are promising. Children in Trinidad and Tobago and St. Kitts and Nevis are receiving improved school meals that contain vegetables and fruit produced by local farmers. By adopting water management techniques such as drip irrigation and mulching, crop production has increased. Farmers have also diversified their crops. These and other research results will be presented during the two-day workshop *Coming Soon: A Healthier, Food Secure Caribbean: Improving Nutrition and Health of CARICOM Population*, Oct. 10-11.

IDRC will also participate in the CWA2013 exhibition and trade show. Journalists are invited to visit the interactive *CIFSRF CARICOM Food Security Project* booth to learn more about the work that the research teams are carrying out in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia. Experts from IDRC, McGill University, and the University of the West Indies will be available for interviews before and during CWA2013.

Journalists and the public can join in the conversation through [Twitter](#) (#IDRC and #CWA2013) and [Facebook](#).

For more information, visit www.idrc.ca.

Putting research to work

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) funds practical research in developing countries to increase prosperity and security, and to foster democracy and the rule of law, in support of Canada's international development efforts. We promote growth and development and encourage sharing knowledge with policymakers, other researchers, and communities around the world. The result is innovative, lasting solutions that aim to bring change to those who need it most.

Food Security

Global hunger down, but millions still chronically hungry. FAO News, 1 October 2013

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/198105/icode/>

Full Article

842 million people undernourished in 2011-13 - Developing countries make progress but more efforts needed to reach MDG target

Some 842 million people, or roughly one in eight, suffered from chronic hunger in 2011-13, not getting enough food to lead active and healthy lives according to a report released by the UN food agencies.

The number is down from 868 million reported for the 2010-12 period, according to the *State of Food Insecurity in the World* (SOFI 2013), published every year by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The vast majority of hungry people live in developing regions, while 15.7 million live in developed countries.

Continued economic growth in developing countries has improved incomes and access to food. Recent pick-up in agricultural productivity growth, supported by increased public investment and renewed interest of private investors in agriculture, has improved food availability.

In addition, in some countries, remittances from migrants are playing a role in reducing poverty, leading to better diets and progress in food security. They can also contribute to boosting productive investments by smallholder farmers.

Strong differences

Despite the progress made worldwide, marked differences in hunger reduction persist. Sub-Saharan Africa has made only modest progress in recent years and remains the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment, with one in four people (24.8 per cent) estimated to be hungry.

No recent progress is observed in Western Asia, while Southern Asia and Northern Africa witnessed slow progress. More substantial reductions in both the number of hungry and prevalence of undernourishment have occurred in most countries of East Asia, Southeastern Asia, and in Latin America.

Since 1990-92, the total number of undernourished in developing countries has fallen by 17 percent from 995.5 million to 826.6 million.

Hunger reduction targets

While uneven, the report stresses that developing regions as a whole have made significant progress towards reaching the target of halving the proportion of hungry people by 2015. This target was agreed internationally as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). If the average annual decline since 1990 continues to 2015, the prevalence of undernourishment will reach a level close to the MDG hunger target.

A more ambitious target set at the 1996 World Food Summit (WFS), to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, remains out of reach at global level, even though 22 countries had already met it by the end of 2012.

FAO, IFAD and WFP urged countries "to make considerable and immediate additional efforts" to meet the MDG and WFS targets.

"With a final push in the next couple of years, we can still reach the MDG target," wrote the heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP, José Graziano da Silva, Kanayo F. Nwanze and Ertharin Cousin in their foreword to the report. They called for nutrition-sensitive interventions in agriculture and food systems as a whole, as well as in public health and education, especially for women.

"Policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and increasing food availability, especially when smallholders are targeted, can achieve hunger reduction even where poverty is widespread.

When they are combined with social protection and other measures that increase the incomes of poor families, they can have an even more positive effect and spur rural development, by creating vibrant markets and employment opportunities, resulting in equitable economic growth," the agency heads said.

Pro-poor policies needed

The report underlines that economic growth is key for progress in hunger reduction. But growth may not lead to more and better jobs and incomes for all, unless policies specifically target the poor, especially those in rural areas. "In poor countries, hunger and poverty reduction will only be achieved with growth that is not only sustained, but also broadly shared," the report noted.

Tackling malnutrition, child stunting

The UN hunger report not only measures chronic hunger but presents a new suite of indicators for every country to capture the multiple dimensions of food insecurity. These indicators give a more nuanced picture of food insecurity in a country. In some countries, for example, the prevalence of hunger can be low, while at the same time undernutrition rates can be quite high, as exemplified by the proportion of children who are stunted (low height for age) or underweight, whose future health and development are put at risk. Such distinctions are important to improve the effectiveness of measures to reduce hunger and food insecurity in all its dimensions.

The findings and recommendations of SOFI 2013 will be discussed by governments, civil society and private sector representatives at the 7-11 October meeting of the Committee on World Food Security, at FAO headquarters in Rome.

Uncertainty on figures hampering Food Security efforts by Mark Kinver, BBC, 4 October 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24385547>

Full Article

More than 600 scientists gathered in the Netherlands for a global food security conference, described as the first of its kind.

Organisers said science could help end uncertainty surrounding efforts to meet the food needs of future generations.

They added that, until now, there were many policy debates on food security but there was no scientific forum for researchers to share knowledge.

The next food security conference will be held in the US in 2015.

"A really key message from the conference for us is that we have got lots of estimates about needs of population growth etc, but at the moment we are so uncertain of the exact numbers - the uncertainty is really very high," said conference co-chairman Ken Giller, professor of plant production systems at Wageningen University.

"We talk about the current population being seven billion, moving to 9.2 billion in 2050 and the estimate is that we need to increase production 70% or more.

"But there are many different ways of addressing that. If we don't know what the problem is then we can't get started in addressing them."

Appetite for change

Prof Giller said there was "unprecedented interest" among the scientific community when details of the conference was first announced.

"We did anticipate about 250-300 people , but we actually ended up with more than 900 abstracts being submitted," he told BBC News.

"The conference was basically sold out - we had 600 people and that was all we could accommodate." He explained that the conference was designed to create a forum where representatives from the different branches of science could come together and discuss and debate the issues of global food security.

"We pulled together a science committee with the real aim to make the conference broad and to include all the main disciplines," he said.

"We had people on the science committee from economics, nutrition and we had people dealing with food waste, which is a very important topical issue."

Prof Giller said that current estimates suggested that 30-40% of the food produced was wasted and not eaten.

Other themes that were discussed at the conference included:

- Nutritional security,
- Sustainable intensification of food production systems,
- Novel ways of feeding nine billion,
- Agricultural production as feedstock for renewables.
-

The organisers hope that the outcomes from the four-day event in Noordwijkerhout, South Holland, will help focus the scientific world's contribution to the UN global policy system.

One of the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" by 2015, which included the target of halving - between 1990 and 2015 - the proportion of people suffering from hunger.

Assessments suggest the target is "within reach". However, **a 2013 report on the progress of the MDGs** warned that one in eight people remained chronically undernourished.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has announced that he wants to build on the MDGs, replacing them with a suite of Sustainable Development Goals that will run from 2015-2030.

He said one of his priorities was to "**adopt globally agreed goals for food and nutrition security**, mobilise all key stakeholders to provide support to smallholder farmers and food processors and bolster the resilience of communities and nations experiencing periodic food crises".

Prof Giller said this presented a "wonderful opportunity for science to get directly engaged in policies and help advise governments".

Youth in Agriculture

Govt. Provides 100 Acres for Young Farmers at Amity Hall Agro Park. Jamaica Information Service, 6 October, 2013

<http://www.jis.gov.jm/news/list/35226>

Full Article

As part of a national drive to encourage young people to get involved in agriculture, the Government has set aside some 100 acres of land for young farmers at the Amity Hall Agro Park, in St. Catherine, while also seeking start-up financing for them.

Chief Executive Officer at the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC), Everton Spencer, told JIS News on October 3, while touring the Amity Hall Agro Park with other Government officials, that agriculture must be an attractive venture for the young in the society, and they are part of the mega effort in the Agro Parks programme.

“As part of our strategy and initiative to integrate young farmers into farming, we have set aside 100 acres for the young farmers. We have already identified them, and what we are doing is to seek financing for them,” Mr. Spencer said.

He disclosed that the University of the West Indies will be providing sponsorship for three of the 20 farmers that are to operate at the Park.

“It is exciting, because we feel that the young people are the future, and this Agro Park provides the best test for these young farmers to fully realize their potential, and most importantly, to make some money for themselves, so that they can expand, develop and move up the financial ladder of success,” Mr. Spencer said.

He pointed out that some 700 acres of onions will be cultivated at the nine Agro Parks, along with other crops. “All of them have markets, because we don’t grow anything on the Agro Parks without markets,” he emphasized.

“The plan is to grow 700 acres of onions, so that we will never have a need to import onions again. The objective of these Parks is to increase production and productivity by utilizing best practices. What you are seeing on these Parks are practices that will improve production and productivity, and we have seen results,” Mr. Spencer said.

Agro parks, targeted specifically at import substitution, are developed through a tri-partite partnership involving the Government, farmer/investors, and the private sector.

The Government is making the lands available with the requisite infrastructure for leasing to farmers/investors, who will be responsible for working capital and agricultural production.

The agro parks concept is aimed at putting some 8,000 acres of idle lands into production , and are sited at: Plantain Gardens and Yallahs, St. Thomas; Amity Hall and Hill Run, St. Catherine; Ebony Park and Spring Plain in Clarendon; New Forest/Duff House, St. Elizabeth/Manchester; Ettingdon, Trelawny; and Meylersfield in Westmoreland.

Agricultural Extension

Strengthening extension services identified as a priority – Minister Ramsammy. Guyana

Government Information Service, 9 October 2013

<http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?cat=26>

Full Article

It has been recognised that the extension services being provided by agriculture officers are critical to building the sector in the Caribbean, a fact that has been known for decades. In Guyana, the services have been augmented over the years, but at Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2013 there was a recognition that such services in the Caribbean can be further strengthened, Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy highlighted at this morning's CWA press conference.

The process is being facilitated by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the University of the West Indies through a workshop where extension workers of the Caribbean will be organised into a network to provide strengthening of the extension services. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Technical Centre for *Agricultural* and Rural Cooperation (CTA) are also involved.

“We have identified as a matter of priority the strengthening of the extension services in our countries,” he said.

With regards to the coconut workshop, Minister Ramsammy indicated that the road map agreed upon will be presented to the Ministers of Agriculture at the COTED meeting for support and endorsement, and the European Union and ACP to ensure the coconut industry gets the impetus it requires. The common fisheries policy will also be presented at the COTED meeting.

“We have identified coconut as one of the important crops and the coconut industry as one of the important industries, not only in terms of agriculture, but in terms of industrialisation, and that's very important as we promote the manufacturing sector in this region...coconut like sugar has demonstrated the potential for industrialisation and we are going to pursue that aggressively,” Minister Ramsammy emphasised.

A meeting is also set with the Ministers from Tonga and Samoa for strengthening of collaboration, geared towards the improvement of the germplasm and genetic pool in the region. The Minister recalled relationships that countries like Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have forged with Latin America, Mexico and India towards strengthening industry.

In relation to the resuscitation and re-engineering of the coconut industry, CARDI's Executive Director, Dr. Arlington Chesney explained that several recommendations were identified and will be presented. The recommendations bring to the fore the need for more attention to be placed on new planting materials so that better varieties and yields can be had, better use of end products, more

attention on dealing with the three major pests in the region and developing a road map for financing that will help allow for the development of a proposal and strengthening of coconut organisations.

Dr. Cheney emphasised that the participants of the coconut workshop left with a feeling of excitement about the resurgence of a very significant economic industry.

An investment forum will be held tomorrow where presentations will be delivered on regional, sub-regional and national agro tourism projects, and a donor perspective forum. The latter will see donors stating their areas of interest with regards to agricultural initiatives in the Caribbean.

The CWA is being held under the theme 'Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and Rural Development'.

Upcoming Events

September 2013

First International Conference on Global Food Security

Date: 29 September - 2 October 2013

Location: Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands

Website: <http://globalfoodsecurityconference.com/index.html>

October 2013

First Global Yam Conference "Yams 2013"

Date: 3-6 October, 2013

Location: Accra, Ghana

Description: First Global Yam Conference "Yams 2013" will be held in conjunction with the 12th Symposium of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC)-African Branch, from 3 to 6 October 2013 in Accra, Ghana

Website: <http://www.iita.org/web/yams2013>

12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA)

Date: 4-12 October, 2013

Location: Guyana International Conference Centre, Guyana

Theme: Linking the Caribbean for Regional Food and Nutrition Security and Rural Development

Email: cwaguyana2013@gmail.com

Global Water Partnership-Caribbean - 9th High Level Session (HLS 9) Ministerial Forum

Date: 10 - 11 October 2013

Location: Hilton Barbados Resort, Barbados

Description: Ministers with responsibility for Water in several Caribbean countries will gather at the 9th High Level Session (HLS 9) Ministerial Forum which takes place on 10 - 11 October 2013 at the Hilton Barbados Resort. This Ministerial Forum is part of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association's (CWWA's) 22nd Annual Conference and Exhibition, which is being hosted by the Barbados Water Authority (BWA). Ministers with responsibility for Water in several Caribbean countries will gather at

the 9th High Level Session (HLS 9) Ministerial Forum which takes place on 10 - 11 October 2013 at the Hilton Barbados Resort. This Ministerial Forum is part of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association's (CWWA's) 22nd Annual Conference and Exhibition, which is being hosted by the Barbados Water Authority (BWA).

Website: <http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Caribbean/>

Contact:

- Ms. Gabrielle Lee Look, Communications Officer, Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C). Tel: +868 663 4829; Fax: +868 645 7805. E-mail: gleelook@gwp-caribbean.org
- Mrs. Donna Sue Spencer, Communications Specialist, Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater (CRew). Tel: +876 922 9267-9; Fax: +876 922 9292. E-mail: ds@cep.unep.org

Cassava-Based feed system in Africa: Roadmap to a commercial feasibility

Date: 28-30 October 2013

Location: IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria

Description The [Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century](#), the Nigerian [Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (FMARD), the CGIAR research programs – [Roots, Tubers and Bananas](#), [Livestock and Fish](#), [Humid Tropics](#), and the feed private sector, having common interests in the development of a cassava-base feed system in Africa are partnering to organize a workshop in IITA, Ibadan, Oct 28-30, 2013, to ask the question: What is the best way to develop a cassava-based feed system in Africa? <http://livestockfish.cgiar.org/2013/08/19/cassava-feed/>

Contact: Dr. Claude M. Fauquet, Director GCP21, CIAT. Email: c.fauquet@cgiar.org

November 2013

International Conference on ICT4ag

Date: 4-8 November 2013

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

Website: <http://www.ict4ag.org/en/>

Entomology 2013: Entomological Society of America (ESA) 61st Annual Meeting

Date: 10-13 November 2013

Location: Austin, Texas, USA

Theme: Science Impacting a Connected World

Website: <http://www.entsoc.org/entomology2013>