Thank you for your dedicated and unstinting service, Dr Asiedu….

After 28 years of dedicated service Dr Francis Asiedu has retired from the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute. Since joining the Institute in 1989, Dr Asiedu has served in several capacities including Animal Nutrition Scientist, CARDI Representative, Jamaica and Technical Services Manager. At all levels his tireless efforts have made an outstanding contribution and left an indelible mark on CARDI’s research and development programme. As a researcher, among his many achievements was the development of feed inputs and feeding systems technologies for ruminant livestock and swine from local agro and industrial by-products and forages. As the Country Representative, Dr Asiedu managed the unit’s work core work programme and donor funded activities in Jamaica. In 2008, he was appointed the Technical Services Manager, where his primary responsibility was to lead the management and implementation of CARDI’s very diverse research portfolio. He directly supervised the Institute’s scientists and research assistants, deployed the use of various Information and Communication tools (ICTs) and simplified the Institute’s administrative and financial systems for project implementation. Dr Asiedu has authored over 70 scientific papers and numerous technical publications. He is widely recognised for his contribution to animal research and is the recipient of several national and regional awards.

The management and staff, congratulates Dr Asiedu on a wonderful career and offer best wishes for a continued active life, good health and happiness.
**CARDI participates in Agrofest 2017**

School children were very interested in CARDI's work in hot peppers.

This year Barbados’ flagship national agricultural exhibition—Agrofest, celebrated its 13th Anniversary under the theme “Agriculture – 50 Years and Beyond.” The CARDI Unit hosted a booth at the exhibition, which gave visitors an insight into Institute’s work in Barbados and across the Region. Exhibits were focused on the various hot pepper seeds produced by the Institute, cassava multiplication and small ruminant production. The CARDI Barbados Unit has been leading the efforts preserve the genetic diversity of hot peppers, by maintaining seeds for several accessions collected across the Region at its Graeme Hall facility. The Unit has also been instrumental in promoting Mulberry as an alternative feeding source for livestock and producing cassava planting material for farmers in Barbados. The exhibition took place from 24-26 February 2017 at Queen’s Park, Bridgetown.

**Making coconut seedlings available to farmers**

On March 17 2017, CARDI Guyana and the Hope Coconut Industries Limited (HCIL) signed a partnership agreement for the expansion of the coconut nursery at Hope Estate, East Coast, Demerara. In the first year of the agreement, 50,000 seedlings will be produced for farmers. This initiative is very timely as the coconut industry in Guyana is on the upswing and farmers are demanding high quality planting material at an affordable price. CARDI together with the Ministry of Agriculture will offer technical advisory services and financial assistance to HCIL for the establishment of research and demonstration plots and seedling nurseries. The agreement was signed by Dr Cyril Roberts, CARDI Representative, Guyana and Rickey Roopchand, General Manager, Hope Estate at the Ministry of Agriculture office. Minister of Agriculture, Noel Holder who facilitated this partnership agreement said that technical support like this is needed for the advancement of the agricultural sector. This activity is part of the ongoing project “Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean” financed by the European Union and jointly implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and CARDI.

**PICSA Pilot Project to be rolled out in the Caribbean**

Participants planning a farmer’s budget in light of activities to counter foreseen climate circumstances. (Photo courtesy: CIMH)

Dr Cyril Roberts, CARDI Guyana joined staff of Hydromet Guyana and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) for a one week training on the participatory integrated climate services for agriculture (PICSA) model at Walker Institute, University of Reading. The PICSA model was developed by researchers at the University of Reading and supported by the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). Using historical data and location specific crop and livestock information farmers are able to assess their crop, livestock and livelihood options and identify those which are more suitable for their environments. The PICSA model enables farmers to make more informed decisions, better manage risks and adopt farming practices that are more resilient to climate change. It has been rolled out in some sub-Saharan African countries. In the Caribbean the CIMH will roll out the PICSA pilot project through their USAID supported Programme for Building Regional Climate Capacity.