



# Agriculture in the News

## *Issues Affecting Caribbean Agriculture*

HQ/002/18

29 April - 5 May 2018 Issue compiled by CARDI

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### Roots and Tubers

**Accelerating potato and sweet potato value chains with innovations in Kenya.** International Potato Center (CIP), May 3, 2018

<https://cipotato.org/blog/accelerating-potato-sweet-potato-value-chains-innovations-kenya/>

**Visiting scientist develops sweet potato-enriched bread** by Christie Delfanian. South Dakota State University, May 2, 2018

<https://www.sdstate.edu/news/2018/05/visiting-scientist-develops-sweet-potato-enriched-bread>  
<https://cipotato.org/blog/visiting-scientist-develops-sweetpotato-enriched-bread/>

#### *Improving Lives Through Agricultural Research*

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## Livestock

**National Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Response workshop held.** Guyana. Department of Public Information, May 03, 2018

<http://dpi.gov.gy/national-emergency-animal-disease-preparedness-response-workshop-held/>

## Organics / Organic farming

**How Funding Research and Extension can Accelerate the Uptake of Organic.** IFOAM-Organics International, 03.05.2018

<https://www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/05/03/how-funding-research-and-extension-can-accelerate-uptake-organic>

Over a two-year period, we studied examples of public support provided to organic agriculture in more than 80 countries and launched the results in a one-of-a kind [global policy toolkit](#). We documented numerous ways to promote organic agriculture on a policy level and also highlighted the impact these policies have when put into practice e.g. Tunisia (link is external) is a good example of how sound policies on research and extension can lead to outstanding results.

## Climate Change

**CCCCC and IICA Discuss Cooperation in Sourcing Funding for Agriculture and Development.** Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), 30 April 2018.

<http://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/cccc-and-iica-discuss-cooperation-in-sourcing-funding-for-agriculture-and-development/>

**Climate Change Project upgrades Jamaican Agricultural Station for Caribbean Climate Resilience.** Caribbean Regional Track of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Press Release, April 26, 2018

<http://www.cardi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/PRESS-RELEASE-CARDI-MICAF-MOU-Signing-final-26Apr2018.pdf>

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Jamaica's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries (MICAF) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CARDI) was signed yesterday, to facilitate an upgrade of the Seed Storage Facility at Bodles Agricultural Research Station in St Catherine. The MOU was signed by Minister Audley Shaw and CARDI's Executive Director, Barton Clarke at MICAF's St Lucia Avenue offices in New Kingston.

## Good Agricultural Practices

**IICA and BAYER Launch Virtual course to assist producers to conform to International Standard on Good Agricultural Practices.** Guyana. Ministry of Agriculture, May 3, 2018

<http://agriculture.gov.gy/2018/05/03/iica-and-bayer-launch-virtual-course-to-assist-producers-to-conform-to-international-standards-on-good-agricultural-practices/>

## Phytosanitary Measures

**Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources Officials Participate In 13th Session Of The Commission On Phytosanitary Measures.** Bahamas. Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, May 4, 2018

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs>

Mr. Mark Humes, MP, Chairman of the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA) and Ms. Josefina Adderley-Curry, Officer-in-Charge, Department of Agriculture, Abaco, attend the 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-13) from April 16-20, 2018 in Rome, Italy.

## Agricultural Development – Jamaica, Nevis

**Building Resilience, Securing our Future. Sectoral Presentation 2018** by Hon. Audley Shaw, CD, MP Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries. Tuesday April 24, 2018. Jamaica. Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries

<http://www.miic.gov.jm/sites/default/files/pdfs/Min.%20Shaw%202018%20Sec.%20Pres.%20Final%20%20.pdf>

**Agriculture Minister to Craft Plan to Grow Sector** by Ainsworth Morris. Jamaica Information Service, May 2, 2018

<http://jis.gov.jm/agriculture-minister-to-craft-plan-to-grow-sector/>

Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw, says he will be working towards developing a new plan during this fiscal year for long-term growth and sustainability in Jamaica's agricultural sector.

**Government to Consider Divestment of 10,500 Acres of Former Cane Lands** by Alecia Smith. Jamaica Information Service, May 4, 2018

<http://jis.gov.jm/government-to-consider-divestment-of-10500-acres-of-former-cane-lands/>

The Government is to consider the divestment of 10,500 acres of former sugar-cane lands in St. Catherine, to be used for high-yielding, highly profitable production of non-sugar crops and livestock.

It is expected that these lands will mostly attract large investors engaging in onion production, fruit tree orchards and exotic crops.

**Address to mark Agriculture Awareness Month open.** St Kitts and Nevis. Nevis Island Administration, May 4, 2018

<https://nia.gov.kn/address-to-mark-agriculture-awareness-month-open/>

The following is an address by Hon. Alexis Jeffers, Minister of Agriculture in the Nevis Island Administration in observance of Agriculture Awareness 2018.

## National Budgets – Agriculture: Montserrat

**Montserrat Budget Statement 2018-2019: advancing our journey to self-sustainability through strategic investments** presented by the Honourable Premier Donaldson Romeo and Minister of Finance and Economic Management, 23 April 2018

<http://finance.gov.ms/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FINAL-Budget-Speech-2018-19-002.pdf>

### **pp. 18 Agricultural Sector**

The hardest-hit sector as a result of the storms last September was Agriculture and Fisheries. Government has taken steps to provide critical assistance to farmers to help in their recovery. This year we expect that the Agriculture sector will rebound because of these efforts and due to our continued emphasis on developing resilience. We will also enhance the availability of and access to fresh commodities and value added products for local consumption.

During the last period we were able to maintain self-sufficiency in a variety of local products, to include eggs, green leafy vegetables such as patchoi, lettuce and spinach. We will continue our thrust to increase production of and access to targeted products (crops, livestock, poultry and fish), through research and education, outreach services, training and incentives and the implementation of specialized programmes and projects. We will increase production with a view towards extending the availability of selected products. We will continue to focus on varieties of bananas. Emphasis will be placed on increased production of our traditional crops as well as encouraging the local production of fruit trees.

The future development of our agricultural sector hinges on our ability to increase the number of young farmers actively engaged in food production through the development of a modern and well-

equipped agricultural field station and other targeted investments in agricultural infrastructure and species development. We will provide targeted incentives to qualified persons who demonstrate their interest and commitment to increasing the supply of local produce. We will also encourage and support the production of high quality processed and semi-processed food products for local use and export, through the operations of the abattoir and other food processing facilities as well as cottage industries.

**pp.33 .... Total planned development expenditure for financial year 2018/19 amounts to EC\$33.62 million.** This comprises Economic Infrastructure development of EC\$16.52 million, 49.14%, Social Infrastructure development of EC\$14.65 million, 43.58%; Public Administration of \$1.65 million, 4.91%; Education of EC\$0.01 million, 0.03%, **Agriculture of EC\$0.15 million, 0.45%**, Statistical Research and Miscellaneous Projects of EC\$0.64 million, 1.9% ....

.... **The breakdown of the allocation for the 2018/19 recurrent budget is as follows:**

- ☒ The Office of the Deputy Governor receives EC\$29.03 million or 22.14% of the overall budget;
- ☒ The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development EC\$21.14 million or 16.12%;
- ☒ The Ministry of Health and Social Services' allocation is EC\$19.76million or 15.07%;
- ☒ Office of the Premier EC\$17.21 million or 13.12%;
- ☒ The Ministry of Communication and Works EC\$13.59million or 10.36%;
- ☒ The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport EC\$10.92 million or 8.32 %;
- ☒ **The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment is allocated EC\$6.08 million or 4.64%**; and 10.23% of the budget remains to be allocated among the other services of government which include Legislative and Judicial services, policing as well as the Office of the Auditor General. ....

**PREMIER ROMEO PRESENTS 164.8 MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET.** Government of Montserrat website <http://www.gov.ms/news/>

## Agribusiness

**SRC Encouraging Use of Pilot Food Plant** by Tomeica Gunn. Jamaica Information Service May 3, 2018 <http://jis.gov.jm/src-encouraging-use-of-pilot-food-plant/>

The Scientific Research Council (SRC) is inviting entrepreneurs to make use of the entity's pilot food plant for the production of value-added goods.

The plant supports the growth of the local food industry through the utilisation of indigenous and local crops to produce new food products, and the provision of training and technical assistance to food processors.

**SRC Encouraging Entrepreneurs to Capitalise on Health Food Niche** by Tomeica Gunn. Jamaica Information Service May 2, 2018

<http://jis.gov.jm/src-encouraging-entrepreneurs-to-capitalise-on-health-food-niche/>

The Scientific Research Council (SRC) is calling on entrepreneurs to work with the entity to create foods to meet the growing demand for healthier consumption options.

Marketing Manager at the SRC, Carolyn Rose Miller, said that "consumers are looking towards health and, wellness and we are open to solutions to address many lifestyle illnesses".

She noted, for example, that persons are interested in functional beverages. "We want to hydrate using lemon grass or ginger, which is also assisting with anti-inflammatory needs," she said.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May

### **St Kitts & Nevis Landcare Workshop, May 2018**

Hosted by Australian Landcare International / CARDI/ University of Wolverhampton

**Date:** Nevis: 18 May 2018; St Kitts: 22-25 May 2018

**Information:** <http://www.cardi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/St.-Kitts-and-Nevis-Landcare-Workshop-Poster.jpg>

July

### **54th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society**

**Date:** 8-13 July, 2018

**Location:** Belize City, Belize

**Description:** Theme “Multi-functionality of Agriculture in the Caribbean Basin in Countries with Predominant Tourist Industries”

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration.

**Call for Abstracts:** Please fill out the submission form available on our website and submit by May 11, 2018 to: Ina I. Sanchez, MSc | Coordinator – Research & Innovation. Phone: (501) 623-0771, Email: [ina.sanchez@agriculture.gov.bz](mailto:ina.sanchez@agriculture.gov.bz) . Research, Development and Innovation Center, Ministry of Agriculture, FFESD&I, Central Farm, Cayo, BELIZE

<https://www.facebook.com/CARIBBEAN.FOOD.CROPS.SOCIETY/>

<http://cfcs.eea.uprm.edu/>

### **30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) hosted by International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)**

**Date:** July 28 - August 2, 2018.

**Location:** Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

**Theme:** “New Landscapes and New Mandates for Agriculture”

**Website:** <http://www.icae2018.com/Default.aspx>

October

**18th International Triennial Symposium of the ISTRC (International Society for Tropical Root Crops)** will be in Cali, Colombia from 22nd to 26th October 2018.

<http://www.istrc.org/194-18th-international-triennial-symposium-of-the-international-society-for-tropical-root-crops-istrc-cali-colombia-from-22nd-to-26th-october-2018>

November

**2018 International Annual Meeting, "Enhancing Productivity in a Changing Climate," of The American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Canadian Society of Agronomy**

**Date:** 4-7 November, 2018

**Location:** Baltimore, Maryland, USA

**Website:** <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>

