

## **CARDI Grenada**

### **Work Programme Highlights for 2005 - 2007**

The major focus of the CARDI Grenada Unit is now on the maintenance, multiplication and distribution of germplasm of fruit trees, hot pepper and vegetables to assist with the post hurricane recovery efforts. More than 400,000 seedlings of various crops especially vegetables were produced for the farming community. The estimated economic impact of this intervention is about EC\$4.0 million. The hot pepper industry in Grenada is still in its infancy but the 20 farmers supplied with seedlings in 2006 increased the size of their fields by approximately 83%. CARDI's innovative golden apple (*Spondias cytherea* Sonn.) dwarfing technology was further promoted to the farming community by the presentation of features on two national television networks.

The Unit continues to maintain an exotic fruit gene bank of 25 accessions of 15 species. This is an important source of fruit tree crop planting material for the farming community. Planting material from the gene bank is supplied mainly to the propagation stations of the Ministry of Agriculture, which multiplies and distributes them to farmers. Planting materials supplied include sapodilla (*Manilkara achras* (Mill.) Fosberg), golden apple (*Spondias cytherea* L.), West Indian cherry (*Malpighia glabra* L.), mandarin (*Citrus reticulata* Blanco) figs (*Ficus carica* L.) and cashew nut (*Anacardium occidentale* L.),

We pursued the regional hot pepper varietal trial for the determination of the productivity of the eight stabilised hot pepper varieties maintained by CARDI. 'CARDI Green' and 'West Indies Red' were the most productive in terms of yield and berry weight.

CARDI also led a project that analysed the potential for use of innovation in the development of the nutmeg industry, through a study supported by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) on the Agriculture Science Technology and Innovation System (ASTI).