



CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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PRESS RELEASE

CARDI HOSTS A DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP FOR CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS

Speightstown, BARBADOS, September 29, 2011 ---The Regional Dissemination and Donors Workshop organised by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, CARDI, the Caribbean Focal Point for the All African Caribbean Pacific, Agricultural Commodities Programme, AAACP, was opened today in Barbados to review the results and experiences to potential donors and regional decision makers in the AAACP programme over the last four years.

Executive Director of CARDI, Dr. Arlington Chesney has praised the programme as an excellent one which has assisted the development of agricultural entrepreneurs in the Caribbean.

He said, “While the programme will come to an end in December 2011, the Region has been strengthened through the relationships developed between farmers and institutions for a better understanding of the Value Chain.”

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, Mr. Lennox Chandler said the Government of Barbados is committed to the revitalization of the agricultural sector, by building on systems using modern forms of agriculture.

Mr. Chandler delivered the key note address on behalf of the Honourable Dr. David Estwick, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, Barbados, opened the two-day workshop. He said, “The government has began operationalising its medium term strategy for the rehabilitation of agriculture and has started its production of cassava for both human and animal consumption locally”.

The workshop will present the project achievements with some of the direct beneficiaries – Caribbean agriculture entrepreneurs including farmers will indicate how the project has benefitted them. Outstanding tasks will be identified and development partners/funding agencies will be asked to consider relevant follow up activities.

The workshop presentations will include:

- Case stories on “Agro-Food Sector, Herbs and Spices, Roots and Tubers”
- Capacity Building of Producer Organisation – the Caribbean and the Pacific
- Enhancing the Functioning of Agricultural Commodities Market – Commodity and Stock, Market Information Systems, Pacific experience.
- Risk Management and Innovation – Weather Risks, Agriculture Risk, Branding Agricultural Commodity Chains

Director of the Coordination Unit, AAACP, Mr. Pierre Berthelot said the institution is satisfied with the success of the programme. He said, "Participation, formulated strategies, and joint implementation of the strategies internationally have been achieved. Consequently, the Regions are empowered. They can and are willing to continue on their own. It is reassuring to know that the programmes will continue through the regional agencies."

Participation includes government officials, farmers and farmer organisations, regional and national institutes from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

AAACP programme officials from Belgium, will also be present as well as representatives from the Pacific who have been working with the AAACP in that Region. In reciprocal there will be Caribbean representation at the Pacific Dissemination Workshop in October 2011.

Five international organisations have been executing the AAACP programme namely: CFC (Common Fund for Commodities), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), ITC (International Trade Centre), UNCTAD (United Nations Council for Trade and Development) and WB (World Bank). In the Caribbean these international organisations have been working in partnerships with CARDI, CARICOM Secretariat, Ministries of Agriculture and farmer and producer organisations.

The workshop concludes on Friday 30th September, 2011 at the Almond Beach Village Resort.

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