



CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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partageons les connaissances au profit des communautés rurales

sharing knowledge, improving rural livelihoods

PRESS RELEASE

Agricultural lands under threat in the Caribbean

11 October, 2011

Roseau, Dominica...The increasing possibility of more arable lands in the Caribbean falling out of production due to salination (lacking in organic content on account of rising sea levels and salt water intrusion) is of great concern to the region's agronomists.

Professor Nazeer Ahmad, Professor Emeritus, University of the West Indies, said some 9,000 hectares of land in Jamaica alone is out of production because of saline water intrusion. The case is even more chronic in some other Caribbean nations.

Professor Ahmad was addressing the topic of 'Soil water management system for a drier Caribbean' at a Climate Change Adaptation in Caribbean Agriculture workshop hosted by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) as part of the CWA activities.

He insists that an urgent need for water management of agricultural lands must be addressed if the region is to maximize crop production, the presenters agreed.

Case studies were presented by Mr Stanley Rampair, about a variety of irrigation systems in St Elizabeth, Jamaica; and by Greg Marshall about irrigation best practices of a farm in Barbados.

Other issues up for discussion at the three-day event include: Climate variability and change and water availability in the Caribbean, Managing water resources under a changing climate and Adaptation strategy for agriculture in the Caribbean in relation to declining water resources as a result of climate change.

A field trip to the Water resources management and irrigation facilities in Dominica is expected to demonstrate available options to participants.

The 10th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) is being hosted from the 9-15 October, 2011 in Dominica under the theme "*Caribbean Food and Nutrition Security in a Changing Climate – The Nature Island Experience*".

CWA BACKGROUND

Since its inception the CWA has been recognised as a facility to place agriculture and rural life in a prominent position, so key public and private sector decision makers can better acknowledge the strategic importance of the sector to economic, social and environmental stability. Most importantly it affords stakeholders the opportunity to dialogue on the challenges affecting the sector, thus enabling it to become more relevant and competitive.

Several key meetings are scheduled to take place over the week (please visit <http://cwadominica.com/programme.html> for more details). One of the highlights of the week of activities is the Trade Show and Exhibition which provides a platform for national, regional and international exhibitors to showcase and promote their products and services.

The event is held under the auspices of the Alliance, with the major collaborators being the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the CARICOM Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA).

The following events are being streamed via the official CWA website: www.cwadominica.com

- CARDI Climate Change Adaptation in Caribbean Agriculture – “Enhancing Water resources management”.
- CTA/CARDI Science and Technology Advisory Group Meeting.
- CTA Agriculture Round Table – “Food and Nutrition Security Circle: Connecting the Dots”
- Alliance Meeting.
- Official Opening of CWA and Trade Expo and the “Excellence in Communicating” Agricultural Media Award.
- Careers in Agriculture Forum.
- Daily Press Briefings at 8:30 am, Fort Young Hotel.

*For further information contact Media Relations Officer Adelle Roopchand at 1-868-389-8040
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P.O. Box 380, NL 6700AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands (ordinary mail deliveries)
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Further information on the 10th Caribbean Week of Agriculture can be obtained from
www.cwadominica.com*