



## **CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

**P.O. Bag 212, University Campus, St Augustine, Trinidad, W. I.**

**Tel: 868-645-1205/7, 3573, 8120, 8121 Fax: 868-645-1208 Email: executive@cardi.org**



partageons les connaissances au profit des communautés rurales

sharing knowledge, improving rural livelihoods

### **10<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture – Rainwater is King**

#### **9 October, 2011**

Roseau, Dominica...Expert says rainfall is king both for water supply and agriculture

Caribbean nations must be more cognizant of the importance of its rainwater resources, more so in this era of climate change.

That's the view of the University of the West Indies', Dr. Michael Taylor as he addressed environment and agriculture stakeholders at the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation (CTA) Climate Change Adaptation – Water Management workshop, which was held at Roseau's Pastoral Centre.

Presenting on the topic "Climate Variability and Change and Water Availability in the Caribbean", Dr. Taylor further explained that in many Caribbean countries, rainfall is heavily relied on for both surface and ground water.

He noted that to a large extent, the rain water is now one of the most important commodities for Caribbean "Our context shows that there is very high reliance on rainfall and therefore we are very vulnerable to vagaries of climate".

He explained that research suggests how the vulnerability will play out: "Seasonality is key for our rainfall availability and that summer rainfall is key (May to November). We need the rain in the wet season to last us through the dry period."

Irregular disruptions to seasonality are caused by ENSO (2-7 year variation in El Nino activity) and the North Atlantic Oscillation (climate variability in 10- to 12-year cycles).

Dr. Taylor underscored the point that climate change will affect rainfall for the Caribbean and that the region will face drier conditions by end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in particular during the wet season (May to November). On the whole, he noted that climate change is expected to result in increased temperature, changing weather patterns, more intense hurricanes and rising sea levels.

The Climate Change forum continues until Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the Pastoral Centre, Roseau.

This year's theme is "**Caribbean Food and Nutrition Security in a Changing Climate – The Nature Island Experience**".

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## **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](http://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*

*Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA)*

*P.O. Box 380, NL 6700AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands (ordinary mail deliveries)*

*Agro Business Park 2, NL 6708PW Wageningen, The Netherlands (courier deliveries)*

**Further information on the 10<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture can be obtained from**

**[www.cwadominica.com](http://www.cwadominica.com)**