PRESS RELEASE

CTA Excellence in Communicating in Agriculture Awards

12 October, 2011
Roseau, Dominica....The Excellence in Communicating in Agriculture Awards 2011 was presented to the winners of the first edition of the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation (CTA) Caribbean Awards in Dominica, at the Official Opening of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture and Trade Expo at the National Stadium.

The winners are:

- The Best News Story (Print) goes to Gaulbert Sutherland of the Stabroek News newspaper of Guyana.
- The Best Business Feature (Print) was submitted by Shaliza Hassanali of the Trinidad Guardian.
- The Best Television News story is Carry Bishop of the Jamaica Information Service.
- The Best News Story (Radio) was won by Antoinette Frederick of WINN FM, St Kitts and Nevis.

The competition was open to all Caribbean journalists in print, broadcast and online media. It covered work published or broadcast between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011.

Organisers of the competition are the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM), with assistance from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA).

According to CARDI Executive Director, Dr Arlington Chesney, journalists are very much part of agriculture. He said, “these Awards are part of the actions of the Agricultural Community to involve the Media in sensitising the public as to the key role of agriculture in the development of the economies of the Region.”

The winner for the Best News Story (Radio) Antoinette Frederick expressed joy with this achievement and encourages media to get involved on the critical issues of food and nutrition security and agriculture. “It is not just about finding a news story it is about sharing information about healthy living, agriculture is part of our health and wellness,” she said.

The award ceremony was held during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture where regional journalists participated in CTA/CARDI workshops on Climate Change Adaptation in Caribbean Agriculture – Enhancing Water Resources Management and Agriculture; and CTA Agricultural Round Table – Food and Nutrition Security Circle: Connecting the Dots.
The Association of Caribbean MediaWorkers (ACM) President, Wesley Gibbings, said he was pleased with the high level of interest in the first edition of the awards. “The intention here is to encourage the growth of credible channels of informed, well-told stories on the food and agriculture sector,” Gibbings said. “In the Caribbean, such stories are among the most important the journalistic community can offer.

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”.

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 final media conference at 4:30pm on Friday 14th October 2011 will be streamed via the official CWA website: www.cwadominica.com

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Further information on the 10th Caribbean Week of Agriculture can be obtained from www.cwadominica.com
José Filipe Fonseca, CTA presents the Award for Best News Story (Print) to Gaulbert Sutherland of Guyana
In the background: Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dominica, The Honourable Mathew Walters