



The Public Consultations on soil and water and climate change which were held in Antigua, Grenada, St Vincent and St. Lucia attracted a wide range of participants. Representatives of different age groups from various sectors voiced their concerns on the Region's changing climate and our ability to adapt. Synopses of the consultations that took place in Antigua and Grenada on presented below.

## News >>>

### Climate Change not just a hot topic for the Region

Dr. Michael Taylor, Director of the Climate Studies Group, UWI Mona stated that the Region must pay serious attention to Climate Change since: **our context commands it, our science suggests it and our future depends on it.** Speaking at the public consultation in Antigua, Dr. Taylor stated that climate change cuts across all sectors and so all sectors must respond. The responses though must be aligned with sustainable development goals. The Region needs to adapt and according to Dr Taylor the adaptation options must be grounded on evidence based research. More importantly though the adaptation strategies **MUST** be integrated into national policies.

### Climate and weather. Two different things

Adrian Trotman of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Barbados presented at the public consultation in Grenada. Mr Trotman explained that many people muddle the distinction between climate and weather. Weather is the day to day or year to year variation in conditions. Climate is what is experienced long term and is described by 30 to 40 year averages. Thus the rainy conditions in the dry season of 2011 and 2012 are due to variation in weather and not long term climate change. Regarding climate the Caribbean climate has already warmed up by 0.5°C over the last 30-40 years and is predicted to rise by at least another 2°C by 2100. Up to now there has been little discernible change in rainfall but all models suggest a drier Caribbean by the end of the century. All this could be bad news for agriculture if mitigating measures are not taken. Crops such as tomato may not flower in higher temperatures and our comparative advantage in tropical crop production will move to temperate regions.

### Positive outlook for CARDI

If the decisions taken at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Heads of Government meeting are followed through the financial situation of the Institute will improve. Guyana is expected to become fully reengaged and payment made before year's end. Two of the four countries in arrears Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica are also expected to make payments in the near future. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has indicated their willingness to consider a grant or a long term interest free loan to the Institute. These payments will not only reduce the Government liabilities but will help restore donors confidence in CARDI and the Regional governments' commitment to the

repositioning of the agricultural sector. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Heads of Government took place from 4 to 8 July 2012, in St. Lucia. The Institute was represented by the Chairman, Board of Governors, Dr. Timothy Harris and the Executive Director, Dr. Arlington Chesney.

### Agricultural stakeholders trained in budgeting

CARDI St. Kitts and Nevis in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Nevis hosted a two day workshop on budgeting from June 12-13 at the Department's conference room in Prospect. The Florida Association for Volunteer Action (FAVACA) in the Caribbean provided the facilitator, UWI trained, Chicago based Dr. Peter Van Blokland. This was the fourth FAVACA facilitated event in St. Kitts and Nevis. Past training events included; integrated pest management (IPM) on cabbage, sweet potato weevil control and green house management. In delivering her opening remarks CARDI Representative Pathleen Titus indicated that extension officers who participated at the workshop will go out and train farmers on accurately preparing and efficiently executing budgets. Ms Titus noted that "farming is a business and all operations should be managed as such to ensure that it is mutually beneficial to the farmer and the consumer".

## Weather summaries >>>

June 2012

CARDI Stations	Average Temperature (°C)			Average Wind Speed (m/s)	Highest Gust (m/s)	Total Rain (mm)
	Max.	Min.	Mean			
Antigua	31.4	24.7	28.1	2.5	7.0	7.32
Belize	33.2	24.1	28.7	1.0	9.8	84.1
Grenada	30.7	24.9	27.8	0.8	8.5	77.0
Guyana	29.5	24.3	26.9	0.7	9.8	214.1
Jamaica	27.1	20.4	23.7	3.8	7.2	138.2
St. Kitts*	30.1	25.3	27.7	4.0	11.0	0.4
St. Lucia	31.0	25.8	28.4	1.8	10.7	71.2
Tobago	30.1	25.5	27.8	1.3	3.6	145.0
Trinidad	31.4	23.4	27.4	1.2	10.7	105.6

\*No data received from 6-10 June. Totals and averages are for 25 days only.

### Kudos for CARDI's Publication – Agriculture in the News

CARDI's publication Agriculture in the News has been receiving good reviews from readers.

Mrs. Florita Kentish, Sub regional Coordinator for FAO in the Caribbean says "It has been remiss of me not to have mentioned thus far the fresh look of this publication and to congratulate you and CARDI for its birth. It is very much needed".

Be sure to visit <http://www.cardi.org/card-publications/agriculture-in-the-news/> to read the latest issue of Agriculture in the News.

## Upcoming Events >>>

Denbigh Agricultural Show  
4- 6 August 2012, Maypen, Jamaica

2nd Youth Forum on Climate Change  
4th August 2012, Port of Spain, Trinidad  
[www.youthforumonclimatechange.com](http://www.youthforumonclimatechange.com)

Meeting on the achievements of outputs on the three CFC Funded Projects  
17-20 September 2012, Port of Spain, Trinidad

CARDI Board of Directors Meeting  
19-21 September 2012, Port of Spain, Trinidad

11<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture  
14-20 October 2012, Antigua and Barbuda

2nd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development  
29 October – 1 November 2012, Punta del Este, Uruguay  
<http://www.eqfar.org/qcard-2012>.

Making the Connection: Value chains for transforming small holder agriculture  
6-9 November 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
<http://makingtheconnection.cta.int>

**CARDI**  
*Bi-weekly*

The CARDI Bi-weekly is a fortnightly electronic publication, published on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month. It is designed to keep staff informed of matters relevant to them. It provides updates on our progress in the field, capacity building opportunities, upcoming events and new resources. Country units are invited to send their information for publication to Denise Besai or Heidi Jack.

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