



## PRESS RELEASE

### CARDI, CTA team up for Climate Change Media Awards

The Caribbean Agricultural and Research Development Institute (CARDI) and The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) have teamed up for a second consecutive year to launch a Caribbean-wide Media Awards, this time on Climate Change reporting.

Last year, CARDI, IICA, ACM and CTA sponsored a successful regional competition on Excellence in Agricultural Journalism which saw winning entries from journalists in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, St. Kitts and Jamaica.

The Awards on climate change reporting which has as its theme '***Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Sustainability***' seek to encourage broader and in-depth reporting particularly on adaptation to the adverse impact of climate change in the Caribbean.

Climate Change has been described by scientists as the most pressing issue facing the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Executive Director of CARDI, Dr. Arlington Chesney said the Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world affected by climate change and environmental impacts such as increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events, damage to bio diversity, coral bleaching, coastal erosion and changing precipitation patterns.

Climate Change also affects lives and the socio-economic development of our countries, he said.

"The media in the Caribbean have a critical role to play in raising levels of public awareness and influencing public opinion and there is also an urgent need to increase the capacity of journalists to produce greater quality and quantity of reporting on climate change issues", Dr. Chesney added.

The awards on climate change reporting target full time and freelance journalists/ photojournalists working with print, new media, radio and television and cover work published or broadcast from August 2011–August 2012. Submissions for entries close on Friday, September 28, 2012.

A special category on Citizen Journalist has been created to encourage awareness and participation of youth in the Caribbean on the issues of climate change.

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Competition Guidelines <http://www.cardi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Competition-guidelines-Climate-Change-Reporting.pdf>

Competition poster [http://www.cardi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CCR\\_e-flyer-Climate-Change-Reporting.pdf](http://www.cardi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CCR_e-flyer-Climate-Change-Reporting.pdf)