



Partnerships

Although agriculture continues to be a major driver in economic and national development in the Region, the sectors continue to face key binding constraints (KBCs). These have been espoused in the ‘Jagdeo Initiative’ which is the framework for the repositioning of agriculture in the region. The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) having been empowered by the Liliendaal Declaration on Agriculture (2009), has been leading the efforts to assist regional governments to address some of these KBCs especially those dealing with research and development and human capacity. However the ability of the Institute to spearhead these efforts have been hindered by the declining financial support to agriculture from member states. As a consequence of the international crisis face heavy emphasis now being placed on the acquisition for external resources to overcome these challenges.

Dr. Arlington Chesney, Executive Director, CARDI explains that partnerships have become central to the modus operandi of the Institute. According to Dr. Chesney over the last few years the number of partnerships that CARDI has engaged in have expanded sharply and broadened from links among research centres to more extensive networks involving the public sector, non – governmental organisations, international development agencies and producer groups. The development of these partnerships is vital to promoting agricultural innovation and consequently contributing to reducing poverty and achieving several of the Millennium Development Goals.

CARDI recognises that in the new global environment no single institution acting alone can bring about the changes required to transform the agricultural and rural sector that are critical to food and nutrition security. The Institute is pursuing a deliberate strategy of build-



Signing of MOU between CARDI and CaFAN: Jethro Green of CaFAN (1st from left) and Dr. Arlington Chesney of CARDI (2nd from right)

ing partnerships. CARDI’s partnerships have sought to address:

- Capacity development and knowledge sharing
- Value chain development
- Application of science and technology to increase agricultural productivity

CARDI’s thrust for new relations is serious and is mirrored in the fact that a Unit has been established and dedicated to strategic alliances. This approach is critical in maintaining the Institutes ability to new and emerging research and development issues by tapping into existing expertise and technology within an environment of limited technical and financial resources in CARDI.

This version of the CARDI Update highlights some of our partnerships.

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CTA and CARDI

Since 1986 The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) has been serving as the Regional Branch Office for the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in the Caribbean. This partnership arrangement has been governed by several Memorandum of Understandings whereby both Institutions agreed to cooperate with each other to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of organisations involved in agricultural and rural development in the Caribbean Countries which are members of the ACP. This relationship has yielded significant benefits to the regional agricultural and rural development sectors.

However to meet the new paradigm, both Institutions mutually agreed to end this arrangement in December 2009.

CTA also supported a project in 2009 aimed at enhancing CARDI's Outreach and Communication capacity. Through this project the Institute developed Outreach and Communication Strategy and Action Plan. CARDI was also able to develop its capacity to produce and disseminate a wider range of outreach materials and training with CTA. Support staff was trained to better communicate and promote CARDI's work programme to stakeholders, partners and the general public includ-

ing farmers and the media. CARDI recognises the need to attract the positive attention of our stakeholders is critical to our success.

In 2010 CARDI continued to build on the efforts made under the 2009 project. The focus will be to effectively develop its internal and external communications infrastructure and media relations so that the role of research in agriculture is enhanced and the Institute's visibility improved.

Simultaneous to this project CTA continues to support several initiatives in the Region which aim to address and increase the awareness of critical areas affecting regional agricultural. Through the Institution's support CARDI was able to co-host workshops on Climate Change and the role of the Media in Agriculture during the recent Caribbean Week of Agriculture. For the first time the CTA Brussels office hosted one of their Regional Briefings in the Caribbean under the theme "Strengthening the Caribbean Agri-Food Private Sector: Challenges for SMEs in the Agri-Food Sector in the Caribbean" in Grenada.

CTA continues to sponsor participants or several persons from the Caribbean to regional and international meetings and training programmes as part of the capacity building of the Region.

Welcoming the New CTA Director

The African, Caribbean, Pacific – European Union Committee of Ambassadors appointed Mr. Michael Hailu as the new CTA Director for the period 2010-2015.

Mr. Hailu, an Ethiopian national, has over 25 years experience in communications and knowledge management for agricultural research and development.

Mr. Hailu came to the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA), from the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), where he served as Director of Communications. He served as the Director of Information at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) between 1999 and 2007.

He graduated with degrees in Information Science; and Economic from the University of Pittsburg in the United States and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He

has also been trained in strategic leadership at Stanford University Graduate School.

Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney, Executive Director in extending best wishes to Mr. Hailu, pledged his firm commitment and full support to strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between the two institutions.



Mr. Michael Hailu, CTA Director

Towards 2013 with IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is CARDI's oldest partner. The relationship goes back almost to CARDI's founding in 1975. Both organisations share a similar outlook on agricultural development in the Region. With a number of member states in common and a joint mandate to implement programmes that enhances regional food and nutrition security and the repositioning of agricultural sector, both organizations realise that collaborative effort can provide a more effective contribution to agriculture development.

Since 1989 several Cooperative Agreements have governed this relationship. However it has evolved over the years from providing institutional support to CARDI, to the implementation of joint projects where CARDI develops acceptable technological packages which IICA could use in its development programmes. The current (5th) agreement was signed in Suriname on March 18, 2010. IICA in implementing Resolution 464 (Plan of Action of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)", adopted by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) has pledged an allocation of US\$200,000 per annum for the period 2010 -2013 from its regular program budget. The Institute has also agreed to work further with the management of CARDI to obtain external resources up to a minimum of US\$300,000 per year for the period 2010 -2013 to support its effort to implement the Region's agriculture diversification programme.

Under the current IICA-CARDI mandate, the farming and rural communities are the first tier beneficiaries. Project activities are currently focused in six areas that are consistent with the priorities identified by the Ministers of Agriculture (COTED). These are herbs, condiments and beverages, protected agriculture, root crops, livestock, knowledge sharing and cereal and grain legumes.

Group A: Herbs, condiments & beverages

There are three Projects aimed at optimising agronomic and production research and development (including value-added opportunities) in herbs; shado beni, lemongrass, mints, sorrel; they are currently focused in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. The revitalisation of

the coconut water industry in St. Lucia has completed its actions on the multiplication of trees and is continuing with strong promotional actions through the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries. In 2010 hot pepper production was added to the portfolio with initial focus on seed production in Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Belize.

Group B: Protected Agriculture

Within this Group there are six Projects in Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Jamaica and Montserrat. Collectively the Projects will contribute to the improvement of production and operations of Protected Agriculture Systems through monitoring the use of 'best practices' within the various house designs and demonstration of production systems for vegetables and root crops. Improved ventilation and year-round production systems are being demonstrated. The capacities of growers and Ministry personnel will be built through training.

Group C: Root Crops

There are eight projects for commercial viability (fresh and value-added markets) of roots and tubers, specifically cassava and sweet potato with emphasis

CARDI & IICA

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in the Caribbean in the Agricultural and Rural Milieu

CARDI/IICA Publication

on boosting the availability of these commodities, evaluating new and improved varieties, validating best practices and control of pests and diseases. The project countries are Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Grenada.

Group D: Livestock

Improved management and multiplication of the regional small ruminant herds are topics on the work program of both Institutions. Work under the Agreement is on forages (availability of materials and management for pasture improvements) and herd management (meat and dairy production technologies).

Group E: Knowledge sharing, Coordination and Management

In this Grouping the Information and Communications (media) Project has been expanded to engage a broader regional perspective; CABA and CHBA are closely involved. The critical linkage of extension training to farmers has been taken on-board with the production of demonstration materials. A Project was introduced to strategically coordinate, monitor and evaluate the CARDI/IICA Projects for timeliness of output and impact to stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Group F: Cereal and Grain Legumes

This particular Group was introduced by the CARDI/IICA Steering Committee on 6 August 2010 in recognition of the developmental research necessary for supporting the commodities; corn and rice. There are two Projects in this Group to be executed in Grenada (Open Pollination of Corn) and Guyana (Improving Rice Productivity using Urea Deep Placement Technology).

Notable successes from CARDI/IICA initiatives thus far have been the:

- The improvement of goat rearing capabilities in Grenada in response to the high and unsatisfied demand for local goat meat
- Production of breeder seeds for eight stabilised commercial hot pepper cultivars and the training of processors in the production of pepper mash
- Commercial production of coconut seedlings in St. Lucia coupled with the completion of a coconut production guide
- Development of ventilation protocols for greenhouses in Jamaica
- The introduction of exclusion cages that have enabled the reduction in pesticide use and the restart of Callaloo export to the United States



Hot Pepper Seeds

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) Programme

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) was established on 27 June 1980 (Geneva) and entered into force on 19 June 1989. Its mandate is to inter alia advance commodity sector development in member countries, directly promote poverty reduction initiatives and provide sustainable agricultural assistance to poor and least developed countries. CFC has a membership of 106 Member States and ten institutional members including the European Union (EU) and most recently, CARICOM with Jamaica being the founding member of the CFC.

Within CARICOM and guided by the Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture and The Jagdeo Initiative, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) is mandated to facilitate the repositioning of the agricultural sector. CARDI in concert with its collaborators seeks to implement Regional actions which place emphasis on the generation and application of innovative and appropriate technology products and services.

It is against this background that CARDI with funding from the CFC and EU is executing two regional Projects over the period 2010-2012.

- Increased Production of Root and Tuber Crops in the Caribbean through the introduction of improved marketing and production technologies (Jamaica, Haiti, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Dominica, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago)
- Increased Production of Vegetables and Herbs through the use of Protected Agriculture (Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago)

The collaboration of the three Institutions (CFC, EU, CARDI) seeks to address the central goal of sustainable agricultural development for the Region.

The Projects' actions (focus on the development of commercially viable and sustainable industries, through:

- intensifying food production (increased productivity and production) through the strategic adaptation and/or adoption of appropriate technologies
- building the infrastructural, technical, operational and business capacity of the stakeholder groups and beneficiaries
- strengthening the market environments to assure market-driven sustainability and growth
- strengthening the framework for information collection, analysis, networking and dissemination
- training across the gamut of Project actions

The impact (short- to long-term) of the Projects will be an increase in the availability of produce for both the fresh and value-added markets, a strengthening of the relationships between all players in the value chain (both from the perspective of clusters/groups and cross sectoral interests), and most importantly to enhance the platform for relevant and timely information to all stakeholders.

Ultimately, the CFC-EU-CARDI collaboration will support the attainment of regional food security and the overall development of Caribbean people.

Countries where the projects would be implemented are:

Jamaica, Haiti, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Dominica, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago

EU All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme assists Caribbean agriculture

The European Union (EU) All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme (AAACP) is currently being executed in all ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) Regions.

The AAACP objectives and methodologies are very relevant to the targeted countries, in general, and to the Caribbean, in particular. The broad objective is to address the challenges facing ACP commodity sectors to improve incomes and livelihoods for producers of agricultural commodities and thus reduce income vulnerability at both producer and macro levels.

The Programme started with consultation meetings (called Kick-Off Workshops) in the six project Regions (the Caribbean, the Pacific and four African). The Caribbean Kick-Off Workshop was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, during April 2008 and brought together representatives from all regional governments as well as farmer organisations, import suppliers, exporters and financiers. Also present were regional bodies, such as, CARICOM, CARDI, CABI, CABA, CDB, CaFAN, IICA, OECS, UWI and others. All these entities had considerable input into the Kick Off Workshop consultations with the EU and with the five international organisations (IOs); the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),

the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Bank (WB), implementing the AAACP.

A very significant feature of the AAACP is that Focal Points have been identified for each of the six project regions. These Focal Points are listed in the table below.

They provide technical support to the IOs when they have activities in the respective Regions; they also enhance information flows emanating from programme activities, exchange experiences and know-how and assist in the dissemination of results. The CARDI is the AAACP Focal Point for the Caribbean and besides the functions listed above, the Institute has been instrumental in linking activities under the AAACP with related activities in the Region, thus ensuring complimentary relationships and preventing duplication of efforts.

AAACP is certainly helping to assist agriculture and rural development in the Region at a time when the need for Food Sovereignty is now recognised by everyone as a necessary component of development.

Future issues of CARDI Update will include articles on the results of some of the AAACP interventions.

Region	Focal Point
Africa (Central)	Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
Africa (East and South) ¹	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
Africa (West)	Réseau des organisations paysannes et des producteurs agricoles d'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)
Caribbean	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
Pacific	South Pacific Community (SPC)

Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas

Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas

For nearly thirty years, the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) has been sourcing professionals from the state of Florida and elsewhere to provide training and/or technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, grassroots groups, and government ministries in the Caribbean and Americas. This support has been in the areas of agriculture, health and sanitation, business development, disaster and emergency preparedness, and a variety of other areas. These professional experts in their respective fields come from institutions of higher education, state and local government, and the public and private sector. They volunteer their time and expertise for short term practical and tangible training assignments.

FAVACA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) have teamed together to participate in the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter, "Farmer to Farmer" (FTF) programme funded by USAID. This programme provides voluntary technical assistance to farmers, farm groups, and agribusinesses in a variety of countries to promote sustainable improvements in food security and agricultural processing, production, and marketing. A variety of technical assistance and training will take place in Dominica, Grenada, and St. Kitts & Nevis until August of 2011. Recent projects under this initiative that have been conducted in these countries include:

Dr. Angeleah Browdy, a lecturer at the University of Florida's Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, traveled to Saint Kitts and Nevis from May 15 to 23, 2010 to lead several seminars on post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables to local farmers and extension agents from the Ministry of Agriculture and CARDI. While in Saint

Kitts and Nevis, she met with Department of Agriculture representatives to discuss deficiencies in their post harvest protocols and visited several packing houses, storage facilities and assessed the transportation systems to gain a better perspective of the post harvest infrastructure on the island.

Dr. Oscar Liburd, from the University of Florida's Department of Entomology and Nematology in Gainesville, Florida, and originally from Saint Kitts and Nevis, provided trainings to farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture on pest identification, the harmful effects of those pests, and ways to reduce pests per acre. This training was conducted from May 15 to 23, 2010.

Michael McGuire, Vice-President for Joint Ventures at Reiter Affiliated, traveled to Grenada from April 15 to 26, 2010 to help build the capacity of local producers and extension officers in business management and profitability assessment for small farmers. Trainings on how to use simple agricultural extension spreadsheets for developing budgets for crop and livestock activities were provided to participants. Additionally, participants learned how to calculate and input variable costs, as well as procedures for calculating and allocating fixed costs. Produce buyers from a supermarket, restaurant, and government marketing board were invited to afternoon sessions to discuss their expectations to product type, timing, quality, and pricing.



Farmers' Training

Lamar Graft, a Farm Safety Specialist, with the Iowa State University and Norm Zimmerman, a Specialist in Massey Ferguson tractors, traveled to Grenada from August 16 to 25 to provide training in land preparation and tilling. The FAVACA volunteer worked with the Tractor Service employees on equipment safety and proper land preparation re-

sulting in improved methods of soils tillage techniques for farmers while also helping to better maintain the Ministry of Agriculture's farm equipment.

Risk management teams come together

One of the key binding constraints (KBC) identified by the Jagdeo Initiative is “deficient and uncoordinated disaster risk management measures”. To address this constraint, a CARICOM Technical Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) was set up. However, at the same time the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) had set up an Agricultural Sector Sub-Committee (ASSC), see list of KBCs on page 11.

It was quickly recognised that there was a lot of overlap between these two committees as many agencies, including CARDI, were represented on both. Both CARICOM’s TMAC and CDEMA’s ASSC were amalgamated to form the Agricultural Sector Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) Committee in 2009. This Committee is under the Chairmanship of the CARICOM Minister of Agriculture responsible for Disaster Risk Management, Honourable Hilson Baptiste of Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking to agricultural stakeholders, Minister Baptiste has ensured that the Committee has been very active and will continue to do so, “I want results and have only five short years to do this”. The Minister expressed concern that farmers who suffer from disasters frequently lose their entire crop and have no means of compensation.

Meanwhile under the European Union AAACP Programme, the World Bank had been doing work in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries on risk management and agricultural insurance. As the Regional Focal Point for the AAACP, CARDI realised the connection between this work and the ASSC/TMAC activities and ensured that the World Bank was invited to the Antigua Symposium.

At the Symposium, the World Bank made several presentations. Two important points were emphasised by CARDI the World Bank and many others present:

- ✔ Farmers should not see insurance as the first line of defence against disasters but should manage their operations in a way which helps to mitigate against disasters.
- ✔ Insurance premiums will be prohibitively high unless the risk is spread: therefore a region wide scheme will be more affordable to farmers (and more attractive to insurers) than a scheme or schemes with a limited geographical or commodity range.

To address the first point CaFAN, CARDI, and the World Bank are collaborating in the development of training materials for farmers to help them employ practices to mitigate weather risks, pest and disease risks and food safety hazards.

With regards to the second the Symposium’s organisers has prepared a proposal for the consideration of the COTED.



Destroyed agricultural protection structure in St. Lucia after Hurricane Tomas (October 2010)

What is CISWG?

CISWG is the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group. But what does it do? Why is it necessary?

People today are more mobile than they have ever been. Not too long ago it was quite unusual for all but the wealthiest to travel to different countries, but now international travel is commonplace. Some of the people who travel carry with them exotic plant pests and pathogens, sometimes completely by accident, other times because of attempts to move fresh food, plants or animal with the traveller. Customs and quarantine agents at airports, seaports and at land frontiers, even when equipped with the best tools for detection of unwanted entries, just cannot detect all attempted pest entries. Meissner et al (2009) estimates that the U.S. phytosanitary inspectors only intercepted about one quarter of the 1.7 million estimated plant quarantine materials which arrived at U.S. airports in the luggage of international travellers. It is not very likely that Caribbean inspectors were any more successful; indeed with less extensive detection tools, they were probably much less successful.

The problem is not confined to travellers: traded goods, international mail, wood packaging material are also pathways for movement of pests. Nature also plays a part as storms and ocean currents can carry small pathogens over long distances.

In 2003, scientists of the Caribbean Food Crops Society organised a special 1-day session during their Annual Conference, the session was entitled “Challenges and opportunities in protecting the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States from Invasive Species”. At the meeting scientists, policy makers and trade specialists from throughout the Region discussed the issues caused by introduced pests and pathogens. This momentum was sustained in follow-up meetings and at a symposium held in Trinidad in 2004 entitled “Facilitating better U.S. – Caribbean trade: invasive species issues.”

During these activities, the need for a formal grouping was recognised and thus a number of agencies came together and formed CISWG. The purpose of CISWG was defined as follows:

- To develop strategies which safeguard the Caribbean against attacks by invasive species
- To prevent as far as possible, the introduction of alien invasive species
- To develop strategies for those which do manage to enter the region
- To focus on invasive species which present a threat to agriculture and trade in agricultural commodities and products

The next stage was to formalise CISWG and this was done at the 19th Meeting of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED); this meeting officially recognised CISWG and also endorsed CARDI as the lead agency in building the necessary strategic partnerships for the control and management of invasive species.

It is very important to understand CISWG and its structures and functions. Its structure is defined by the following:

- CISWG comprises countries in or bordering the Caribbean Sea This includes English, Dutch, French, Spanish speaking countries)
- CISWG members are regional, international and national organisations/institutions in the region defined above and which deal with invasive species particularly those which are a threat to agriculture and trade in agricultural products
- Governments of countries in the region defined above are invited to name a representative or representatives to CISWG
- CISWG is chaired by CARDI

The CISWG functions are aimed at achieving the purpose as defined above. CISWG formulates strategic policy recommendations as well as programmes and projects to implement policies and strategies, and bring these recommendations and projects to the attention of the various governments and government bodies. CISWG may also advise governments concerning existing policies, programmes and projects. CISWG conducts studies and analyses data relevant to making safeguarding more effective and efficient.

(continued from page 9)

It needs to be emphasised that CISWG is not an Institute and it is not a Board. It does not have any financial dealings. It is a networking function which has been successful in coordination, strategy development and project development.

The members of CISWG are CAB International; Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute; Caribbean Community Secretariat; Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement; Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; Food and Agriculture Organisation; Instituto Dominicano de Investigaciones Agropecuarias y Forestales; Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria; Pan American Health Organisation; The Nature Conservancy; United States Department of Agriculture; Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service; University of Florida, University of Puerto Rico and the University of the West Indies.

CISWG's first output was on the Caribbean Regional Invasive Species Intervention Strategy (CRISIS) which outlined the strategy for protection against invasive species; this was adopted by COTED at its 21st Meeting as a regional strategy to safeguard agriculture, natural resources and human health against the threats posed by alien invasive species.

CISWG also prepared a Project Proposal entitled the Caribbean Invasive Species Surveillance and Information Project (CISSIP). CISSIP operationalises CRISIS and has four major components: (1) Pest Survey and Inspection Programme; (2) Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network; (3) Invasive Species Information System and (4) Public Education Programme.

Controlling invasive species is a major activity requiring a large amount of funding and we have to accept that the type of funding required for CISSIP is just not available. Despite this a mechanism has been found to start the Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network. Several regional countries (Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago) have

been provided with equipment for distance diagnosis of pests and a training course for some of those countries was held at the University of Florida.

A completed activity of CISWG is the Caribbean Pathway Analysis; this was executed by USDA APHIS and targeted the following:

- Quantitative analysis of risks posed by airline passengers
- Quantitative analysis of mail and express courier packages
- Natural spread of pests in the region
- Characterisation of tourism/movement of people
- Characterisation of trade

The comprehensive report is available from the Chair of CISWG.

An important component of CISWG's activities is networking. In a region as diverse as the Caribbean activities carried out by one agency are not always known to another agency and often there is duplication of effort. This can be prevented if an effective networking system is in place.



Red Palm Mite

Among the efforts being monitored by CISWG are:

- The regional battle to control the Red Palm Mite (*Raoiella indica*), an exotic pest which is destroying the coconut industry in many countries
- Global Environmental Forum (GEF) Invasive Alien Species Project; this is being executed by the United National Environmental Programme with the Caribbean region part of the project coordinated by CABI. CISWG is an official partner to the project
- Caribbean Region Safeguarding Initiative, a USDA APHIS activity in which CISWG is fully involved
- Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum, this is a CARICOM body now in its third year of activities. CARICOM regularly reports to CISWG on this forum and its various working groups (namely Emergency Preparedness Response, Giant African Snail, Palm Pests and Tephritid Fruit Flies)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) activities in the Caribbean include a Caribbean-wide weed risk assessment. TNC reports on this and other relevant activities at CISWG meetings. TNC also invites CISWG to its regional meetings

CISWG can be contacted through CARDI, its Chair. The contact person is Bruce Lauckner at blauckner@cardi.org or phone (1868) 645-1205.

Key Binding Constraints

1. Limited Financing and Inadequate Levels of New Investments
2. Outdated and Inefficient Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems
3. Inadequate Research and Development
4. A Fragmented and Disorganised Private Sector
5. Weak Land and Water Distribution and Management Systems
6. Deficient and Uncoordinated Risk Management Measures
7. Inadequate Transportation Systems, Particularly for perishables
8. Weak and Non-Integrated Information and Intelligence Systems
9. Inadequate Marketing Arrangement
10. Lack of Skilled and Quality Human Resources

Source: Jagdeo Initiative Presentation to Caribbean Connect - a High Level Symposium on the CSME. Bridgetown, Barbados, 29 June, 2006, H. Arlington D. Chesney, Director of Operations and Integration for the Caribbean Region. www.caricom.org/jsp/single.../jagdeo_initiative_chesney.ppt

IICA/CARDI Media Award for Excellence in Agricultural Journalism 2010-2011



The 2nd annual IICA/CARDI media Award for Excellence in Agricultural Journalism was launched on November 23, 2010 in Port of Spain Trinidad, under the theme: “Agriculture - Rooting for Development”.

The award is open to all full time and freelance journalists working with daily newspapers, radio and television, particularly those who cover agriculture on a regular basis.

For further details of the 2010-2011 award, please go to:

http://www.iica.int/Eng/regiones/caribe/trinidadytobago/Documents/IICA_CARDI_Media_Awards_2010-2011.pdf

http://www.iica.int/Eng/regiones/caribe/trinidadytobago/Documents/IICA_CARDI_Media_Awards_2010-2011_Application_Form.pdf

CARDI Events

October

Caribbean Week of Agriculture, 17 – 22 October, Grenada

November

CTA/NPCA Week Innovations for Sustainable Futures in Agriculture, Johannesburg, South Africa

December

CARDI Open Day:
CARDI Jamaica Unit, Kingston Jamaica
CARDI Dominica Unit, Roseau Dominica
CARDI Antigua and Barbuda Unit, Betty’s Hope, Antigua

January 2011

CARDI Open Day:
CARDI Grenada Unit, Westerhall, Grenada
CARDI St Kitts/Nevis Unit, Bassterre St. Kitts
CARDI St Vincent & the Grenadines Unit
CARDI Trinidad and Tobago Unit

For further information on events go to: www.cardi.org



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