Intra ACP Programme gets underway

The signing ceremony of the Contribution Agreement for the Intra ACP Agreement Policies Programme was held on March 15 at the Office of the European Union Delegation in Georgetown, Guyana. The Intra ACP Programme in the Caribbean is estimated to cost Euros 8.6M over a 5-year period. There are three major components i) strengthening regional agricultural development policy and strategy implementation; ii) improving the transfer and adaptation of applied agricultural production and processing research results and technologies and where appropriate generate new technologies for target commodities; iii) strengthening market technologies to contribute to agricultural enterprise development.

CARICOM has the responsibility for the execution of the first component, CARDI for the second component and IICA for the third component. IICA will be the overall Project Executing Agency. CARDI’s component is expected to: i) strengthen the capabilities of small producers/entrepreneurs; increase availability and accessibility to improved genetic material; increase access to validated production methodologies related to risk and climate change, ii) improve CARIFORUM states small-scale production of selected commodities; strengthen the Regional agricultural development framework; iii) enhance the capacity of Regional agricultural development institutions.

CARDI and UWI St Augustine discusses collaborative projects

A CARDI team led by Dr. Chesney met with representatives of the newly formed faculty of Food and Agriculture, UWI St. Augustine, led by Dean, Carlisle Pemberton on March 7 to discuss potential areas of collaboration. The UWI and CARDI are doing work along the value chains of the same commodities. However, they agree that a major challenge continues to be a lack of awareness of the work currently being conducted by each other. This meeting sought to identify ways to avoid the duplication of activities and possible synergies between ongoing activities. A variety of mechanisms was also discussed to facilitate information sharing. It was noted that both institutions are engaged in pioneering research and very rarely the Region is aware of this work and the potential benefits to the sector. It was proposed that an annual national conference starting in Trinidad and Tobago in 2013, be convened under the aegis of both institutions, to highlight the agricultural research work over the past year. Other areas of collaboration discussed were the identification of suitable UWI candidates to conduct research and the publishing of scientific papers in the organisations Journals.
Mc Gill/UWI Food Security Project delivering results

The Canadian funded CARICOM Food Security Project is entering the second of its three years. An Information Dissemination Workshop was held in Trinidad on 5th March with researchers from the project countries of Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago presenting results so far. The main project partners are Mc Gill University, Canada and UWI, St. Augustine. CARDI is contributing to the project with Protected Agriculture (PA) work in St. Kitts and forage work in St Kitts and Trinidad. Normand Gibson of CARDI Headquarters presented some results of the PA work conducted by Pathleen Titus, CARDI Representative, St Kitts and Nevis. This is identifying suitable potting media for tomato production under Protected Agriculture. Ansari Hosein of CARDI, Trinidad and Tobago described the work which is successfully introducing Mulato grass and Forage Sorghum to the dryland conditions in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Weather summaries >>>

December 2012

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<th>CARDI Stations</th>
<th>Average Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Average Wind Speed (m/s)</th>
<th>Highest Gust (m/s)</th>
<th>Total Rain (mm)</th>
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<td>Min.</td>
<td>Mean</td>
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</table>

N/A Data not available
Note: CARDI weather station in Jamaica is 600 m above sea level

Upcoming Events >>>

Tracking Agricultural R&D Investments and Capacities in Central America and the Caribbean
19-22 March 2013, Costa Rica

Regional Workshop on Black Sigatoka
23-26 April 2013, Guadeloupe

2013 ICT Observatory
24-26 April 2013, Netherlands

4th International Symposium on Tomato Diseases
24-27 June 2013, Orlando Florida
http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/4istd/index.shtml

30 June - 6 July 2013, Hyatt Regency, Trinidad & Tobago

12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture
6-12 October, 2013, Guyana

Capacity Building Opportunities >>>

Endeavour Awards – Government of Australia

Caribbean nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas and Barbados are invited to apply for the Endeavour Award (EA). The EA is administered by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISTRE). Further information on the award, the areas of study and special conditions are available at http://www.innovation.gov.au/InternationalEducation/EndeavourAwards/Pages/default.aspx.

Call for Abstracts >>>

The deadline for submitting oral and poster presentations for the 49th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society has been extended to April 30, 2013. Please email your abstracts (approximately 300 words) to ccfcs2013conference@gmail.com.

Date: 30 June to 6 July 2013
Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Trinidad & Tobago.
Theme: Agribusiness Essential for Food Security: Empowering Youth and Enhancing Quality Products.