



Farmers are critical to the conservation of plant genetic diversity. They have a crucial role to play in the identification, selection and breeding on plants on farm.

News >>>

Protected agriculture ...a good investment opportunity

The CARDI Trinidad and Tobago Unit partnered with the University of the West Indies, St Augustine to host a training workshop on the “Basics of Protected Agriculture” from June 11-13 at the Frank Stockdale Building, Faculty of Food and Agriculture. This three day workshop exposed 30 participants to the basic principles and practices on protected agriculture farming. The following five modules were delivered through a combination of lectures and demonstrations: Getting started in the protected agriculture business, establishment and maintenance of protected agriculture structures, crop establishment, general production and management and quality assurance. Protected agriculture is recognised as one of the adaptation measures regional farmers can invest in to combat climate change. The goals of this workshop are directly in line with CARDI’s objective of developing the protected agriculture industry in Trinidad and Tobago. This workshop was jointly sponsored by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the European Union (EU) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Farmers need to be at the forefront of agro biodiversity conservation

CARDI Belize hosted the third Public Consultation on “The conservation of agro-biodiversity as a response to climate change” at George Price Centre for Peace and Development in Belmopan City on June 21, 2013. The session was facilitated by Dr. Allan Williams and included panelists Dr. Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director and Science Advisor at Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Belize Representative -Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and Mr. Andrew Harrison, Marketing Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture – Belize. The panel agreed that the resource base for our food lies in our agro biodiversity. Therefore, it is crucial that we conserve the rich agricultural diversity in the Region as this would help us safeguard our future food supply. Several options were discussed relative to agro-biodiversity conservation, foremost among them were that gene banks should be complementary to a more comprehensive approach. This approach emphasised in-situ conservation where farmers and farming communities would take charge of doing conservation and breeding on farm. Farmers should also be advised to grow genetically diverse crops thus increasing their resilience to climate change. Other policy options advocated for were: conserving traditional knowledge and cultural practices, aligning international conventions with agro biodiversity conservation, promoting consumer acceptance of local varieties, development of a robust public awareness campaign and the development of the requisite legal framework to protect agro biodiversity.

An active hurricane season poses a threat to invasive species spread

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that for the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season there is a 70% likelihood 13 to 20 named storms can be formed, of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes, including 3 to 6 major ones. In the Caribbean hurricanes not only threaten the livelihood of people who rely on the agricultural sector, but they also lead to the spread of invasive species. The strong winds associated with hurricanes have the potential to spread plant diseases and insects. The impact on the environment and agricultural production from the invasion of pest species is tremendous, often resulting in significant economic damage and irreversible ecological disruptions. After a hurricane or storm it is good practice to observe your environment for the establishment of invasive species, if any is detected the first line of communication should be to contact the local extension services to report it and to seek advice on its management. Early detection and a rapid response is the key to the successful eradication of an invasive species.

Notice Board >>>

Request for a Volunteer

The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is looking for an expert to travel to the Dominican Republic over the period 14-28 July 2013, to provide training on marketing for greenhouse vegetables and fruits. The volunteer should have experience in developing long term production and marketing plans for greenhouse produced vegetables and orchard grown avocados. Previous experience in developing local and international markets for vegetables and fruits is highly desired.

While in the Dominican Republic the volunteer will:

- Assess the marketing situation of vegetables produced by the association of greenhouse producers in San Jose de Ocoa and avocado growers in the region of Padre las Casas
- Identified best practices in developing markets linkages for local and export markets
- Train farmers and technicians in developing market linkages
- Identify local buyers and US wholesalers, distributors and retail buyers interested in contracting purchases for avocados and vegetables produced in greenhouses

Interested individuals should submit their current CV to FAVACA at favaca@favaca.org

Publishing Opportunity

The Agriculture and Forestry Journal is an open access journal that publishes scientific and expert papers on agriculture, rural development, veterinary medicine, forestry, and biology. The aim of the journal is to give a place to papers of high scientific quality and international interest, authored by all the scientists from the European South East Region, as well as other international scientists in order to stimulate contacts and exchange of knowledge fostering scientific productivity.

If you are interested in publishing your paper in this journal then please contact Bruce Lauckner at blauckner@cardi.org.



4-12 October, 2013, Guyana

<http://www.cwa.caricom.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanWeekOfAgriculture>

Upcoming Events >>>

6th Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly

15-20 July, 2013, Accra, Ghana

<http://www.fara-africa.org/scienceweek/>

St Kitts and Nevis Fruit Festival

2 August, St. Kitts and Nevis

Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show

4-6 August 2013, Jamaica

International Course on genomic selection prediction

23-27 September, 2013, Mexico City

http://www.cimmyt.org/en/what-we-do/training/item/course-internacional-prediccion-y-seleccion-genomica?category_id=38

IICA Board of Governors

24-27 September 2013, Argentina

12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture

4-12 October, 2013, Guyana

<http://www.cwa.caricom.org/>

World Food Day, "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition"

16 October, 2013

<http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/>

CTA International Conference - ICT4Ag

4-8 November, Kigali Rwanda

<http://www.ict4ag.org/en/>

CARDI
Bi-Weekly

The CARDI Bi-weekly is a fortnightly electronic publication, published on the 15th and 30th of each month. The aim is to keep you informed of the latest news, publications, upcoming events on CARDI and our partners. We encourage you to contribute to the CARDI Bi-weekly by sending relevant information that can be included in the upcoming issue to Denise Besai.

www.cardi.org