



CARDI weather stations in Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia and Jamaica.

## News >>>

### CARDI Weather Station Being Serviced

During 2011 CARDI took delivery of 12 Davis agro meteorological stations which were placed at field sites in Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts, St Lucia, St Vincent, Tobago and Trinidad. Monthly summaries from these stations have been published regularly in CARDI Biweekly. The stations record air and soil conditions every 30 minutes on a 24-hour basis. In recent months several of these stations experienced problems resulting in a reduced number of recordings. Mr. Albert Jones of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), Belize, undertook a mission to visit the problematic stations. He was able to service the machines and return them to functional operation. This has demonstrated the need for CARDI to ensure regular maintenance of these stations so that they will monitor long term climate change. Another important function is the provision of detailed and accurate agro meteorological information at field station locations instead of having to rely on data from airports, several kilometres distant, and intended primarily for aviation purposes.

### CARDI and CPATT Sign Agreement

On 19 August President of the Cane Producers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (CPATT), Mr Seukaran Tambie, and the Executive Director of CARDI, Dr Arlington Chesney signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. CPATT members are comprised of former sugar farmers who used to deliver their cane to Caroni (1975) Ltd. Two Concept Notes on Protected Agriculture and Small Ruminants enterprises have been developed and will be submitted to the Trinidad and Tobago Government for funding under an agreement with the European Union. Dr Chesney stated that CARDI will transfer research results in a number of areas including small ruminant and protected agricultural enterprises. This pilot could possibly be followed in other countries with similar experiences. The goals are to assist the farmers to increase their incomes and to contribute to national food security. Mr Tambie described the farmers' struggle to overcome the closure of the sugar industry and to put their lands to the best possible uses in the establishment of farm enterprises to directly impact food security. Some of the strategies are as follows: (i) Designing a master developmental plan (road map); (ii) Training and employment of some 11,000 workers; (iii) Mobilising farmers into clusters in order to facilitate training, bulk purchasing, processing and marketing. Mr Tambie concluded by assuring that this initiative will be periodically reviewed to ensure that it dovetails into the national developmental goals of Trinidad and Tobago.

## CARDI Staff Welcome Increased Media Coverage

During the first 6 months of 2013, CARDI sent 21 releases of various types to the media. These resulted in a total of 54 media articles throughout the Region. CARDI staff were surveyed in an effort to find their views on this new media thrust. A sample of approximately 25% of staff at all levels was selected and these were asked to complete a questionnaire on the Institute's image management. Just over 75% of those surveyed had noticed an increase in published news articles about the Institute. (The increase in media releases was not made known directly to staff in order to help gauge its effectiveness). Around 85% of staff said that such a thrust is "welcome". Staff that supported the thrust were asked to suggest what the focus of image promotion should be. Answers included newspaper articles and columns, videos for TV, promotional interviews, use of electronic media and participation in shows and exhibitions. When asked whether profiling the Institute via the media was important, over 85% said "yes". Reasons for this included the need for the public and stakeholders to know more about CARDI's work; to ensure that CARDI is known to all and to promote the value of agriculture. Staff also agreed on the need to promote CARDI's efforts across the Region and also to adopt a long term media strategy. Many responses emphasised CARDI's regional role and the need for promotion in order to help sustain the Institute. CARDI has just started two new promotional initiatives. A Facebook page has been launched and a fortnightly series of articles on backyard gardening is being prepared for the Trinidad and Tobago Sunday Newsday Women's Magazine.

## Notice Board >>>

### WEATHER SUMMARIES

#### June 2013

CARDI Station	Average Temperature (°C)			Average Wind Speed (m/s)	Highest gust (m/s)	Total rain (mm)
	Maximum	Minimum	Mean			
Barbados	30.3	24.8	27.6	10.9	24.1	89.5
Belize	32.3	23.7	28.0	1.5	13.0	162.4
Grenada	30.3	25.0	27.7	1.0	10.7	36.4
Jamaica	27.5	20.3	23.9	3.4	7.6	45.0
St Lucia	30.6	25.4	28.0	1.8	10.7	100.2
Trinidad	32.0	23.3	27.7	1.2	10.7	141.2

#### July 2013

CARDI Station	Average Temperature (°C)			Average Wind Speed (m/s)	Highest gust (m/s)	Total rain (mm)
	Maximum	Minimum	Mean			
Grenada	31.3	24.8	28.1	0.7	9.8	N/A
Jamaica	28.2	18.8	23.5	2.5	8.9	90.8
St Kitts	30.5	25.1	27.8	1.0	4.0	37.8
Trinidad	32.4	23.6	28.0	0.8	10.3	105.2

N.B. The Sam Motta CARDI Station in Manchester, Jamaica is approximately 600 m above sea level.

## Upcoming Events >>>

International Course on genomic selection prediction

23-27 September, 2013, Mexico City

[http://www.cimmyt.org/en/what-we-do/training/item/cursos-internacional-prediccion-y-seleccion-genomica?category\\_id=38](http://www.cimmyt.org/en/what-we-do/training/item/cursos-internacional-prediccion-y-seleccion-genomica?category_id=38)

IICA Board of Governors

24-27 September 2013, Argentina

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

16 October, 2013

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

Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum

9 - 11 October, Aruba

CTA International Conference - ICT4Ag

4-8 November, Kigali Rwanda

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



4-12 October, 2013, Guyana

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

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

## 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. 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.

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