



Dr. Francis Asiedu represented CARDI at the 51st Session/Ministerial Meeting of Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) in Kochi, Kerala, India from 2-5 February, 2015.

News >>>

CARDI represented at the Asian and Pacific Coconut Meeting

Dr. Francis Asiedu, CARDI Technical Services Manager and a representative of the International Trade Centre (ITC), Mr. Matias Urrutigoity, visited India during 2 – 10 February 2015 at the invitation of the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC). The objectives of the visit were to (1) attend the 51st APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting and (2) undertake field visits to coconut R & D and production and processing sites relevant to the upcoming Caribbean Coconut Tree Industry Development Project. The other members of the CARDI team were Mr. Anthony Ho Sang of Jamaica and Mr Raymond Trotz of Guyana. The high level meeting was attended by 54 participants, including plenipotentiary delegates from the 16 regular member countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam) and two associate member countries (Jamaica and Kenya), as well as observers from two states (Bangladesh and Oman) and four institutions (CARDI, Coconut Genetic Resources Network – COGNET, ITC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – SPC). The field visits to several sites representative of the Indian Coconut Industry as part of the meeting and as specially laid out post-session field visits were very informative. For the ITC/CARDI team, the sites selected by the organisers reflected closely the themes of the Caribbean Coconut Tree Industry Development Project. These included, germplasm development and evaluation, nursery management, production systems (emphasis on coconut based farming systems), pests and diseases management (IPM), value added (whole tree) and farmer groups/ cooperatives. The participation of the CARDI Team in the 51st APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting and the accompanying field visits were funded by the APCC, ITC and Coconut Development Board (CDB) of India.

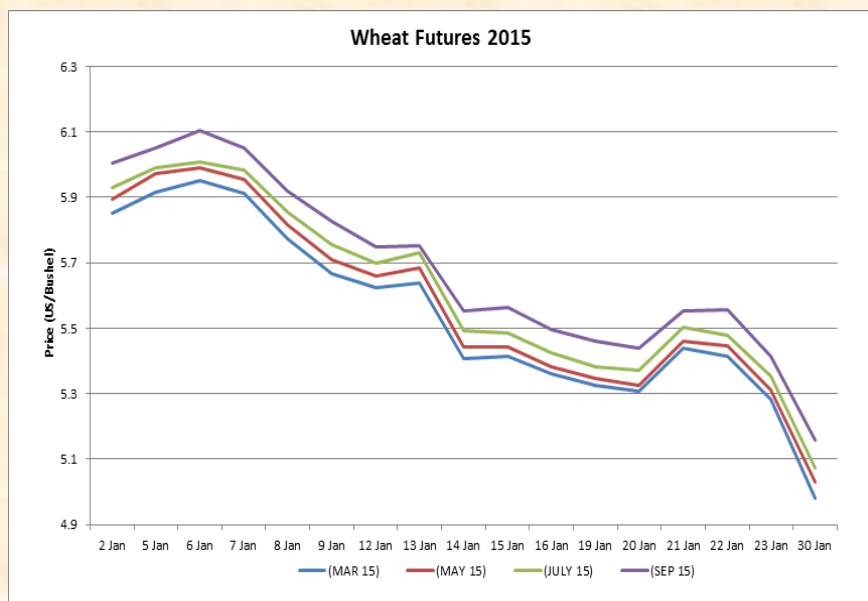
Sweet Potato a potential crop for future climate in the Caribbean

A case study presented recently by Jamaican, Applied Climate Researcher to the 2nd Caribbean Weather Information Generator (CARIWIG) Workshop in Barbados has identified sweet potato as a potential climate change adaptation crop. The CARIWIG project which is funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) is supporting risk based decision making in the Region. The project provides locally relevant information on weather impacts of climate change for a range of time periods, training of stakeholder technical staff to use weather information the development of supporting networks within the Region and the development of partnerships with UK research institutes. To date four tools have been developed for use in the Caribbean under the project: the tropical storm model, Regional Climate Models and the CARiDRO tool for drought resistance, the Weather generator and the CARIWIG portal which provides access to observed data. The information provided is specific to the geographical region and covers planning time horizons which will assist managers and policy makers in their decision making process. In his study Dr. Rankine utilised the weather generator tool and the Aquacrop based sweet potato Model he recently developed to determine the performance of 3 sweet potato varieties in Jamaica for the periods 1981-2010 and 2041-2070. The tolerance of sweet potato to moderate drought conditions and the low agronomical inputs required for tuber development led to the conclusion that sweet potato is expected to perform better under future climates.

Update on protocol for the movement of cassava planting material

The protocol on the "Safe Movement of Disease Free (Cassava) Planting Material" was one of the outputs prepared by CARDI under the 2013 FAO/CARDI Project "Integrated Development of Cassava in the Caribbean". The protocol addresses the production of clean, disease-free planting material for (i) in country-use and (ii) intra-regional transfer. It is consistent with the general recommendations and technical guidelines for the safe movement of cassava germplasm between countries produced by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and the methodology developed by CARDI for the packaging, handling and transportation of specific types of planting material. The protocol was endorsed by the Caribbean Plant Health Directors at their 7th Meeting in August 2014 in the Cayman Islands. Following this the document was reviewed by CARICOM's legal department before being presented to the 51st Agriculture Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) Meeting in October 2014. The COTED has requested all Member States of CARICOM to provide their comments on the document so that it can be finalised before becoming a legal instrument of the CARICOM Community. They also urged Member States to adopt and implement the Protocol at the national level. CARICOM is coordinating the review and finalisation of the document.

Wheat Futures January 2015 >>>



After peaking in early January the Wheat future price continued to decline for the remainder of the month.

Source: Extracted from Personal Communication with Caribbean Poultry Association

Upcoming Events >>>

3rd Global Science Conference "Climate Smart Agriculture"
15 – 17 March 2015, Le Corum, Montpellier, France

CARDI/CARICOM/CFC Small Ruminants Agri Cluster
17 March 2015, Port of Spain, Trinidad

World Water Day
(Theme: Water and sustainable development)
22 March 2015
<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday>

Conference: New pathways to strengthen resilience and underpin sustainable development in the Caribbean
30 April – 1 May, 2015, UWI Campus, St. Augustine

CARDI/WUR Conservation of Crop Germplasm Farmers Training
29 April 2015, Central Farm, Belize

Belize Agricultural Fair
1-3 May 2015, Belmopan, Belize

51st Annual CFCS Meeting
19 -25 July 2015, Paramaribo, Suriname
<http://cfcs.eea.uprm.edu/article/join-us-51st-cfcs-annual-meeting-suriname>

World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops
5 -10 October, 2015, Nanning, Guangxi, China

Training Course >>>

International Fertilizer Development Center
International Training and Study Tour on Technology Advances in Agricultural Production, Water and Nutrient Management

Venue: USA (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and Washington, D.C.)

Dates: August 24 – September 4, 2015

For more information:

<http://www.ifdc.org/training/2015-training-programs-%281%29/technology-advances-in-agricultural-production-wat.aspx>

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 issues to Denise Besai.

Website: www.cardi.org

Facebook: Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute

You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CARDIcaribbean>