



Bakers and hoteliers through the support of the APP received training in Cassava bread making on January 20 in Grenada. The Cassava mash which makes up 40% of the bread supplied by CARDI.

News >>>

Grenada bakers trained in cassava bread making

CARDI through support from the EU funded Agricultural Policy Programme (APP) hosted a value added Cassava bread baking training workshop and sensitisation session on 19 and 20 January, in Grenada. Twenty five bakers from bakeries and hotels were trained in baking various cassava composite breads utilising 40% grated cassava mash. The cassava mash was produced from cassava grown in Grenada using equipment purchased under the APP programme. The sensitisation session on bread production targeted members of the public, media and various organisations. Bread samples were made available for tasting to the 75 persons in attendance. The programme aims to replace 10% of the wheat enriched bread baked in Grenada on a weekly basis with cassava composite bread. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Roland Bhola was in attendance and pledged his Government's support to CARDI and the programme. CARDI will continue to supply the cassava mash to the bakeries and host through the APP additional promotions and coordination of supply to ensure that there is increased usage of this local Grenadian resource as a staple.

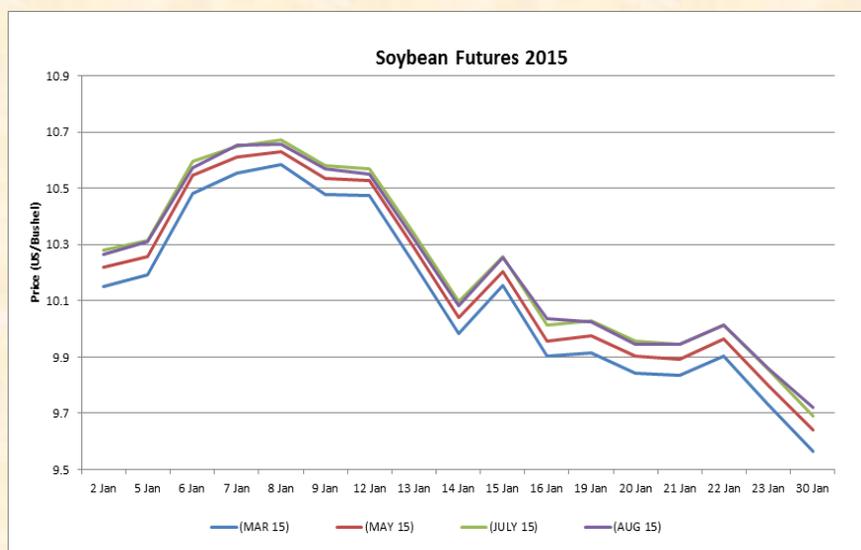
CARDI assisted by UWI leads new Thematic Group on Research and Human Resource Development

In an effort to remove the nine Key Binding Constraints to agricultural development (as identified by the Jagdeo Initiative), nine Technical Management Advisory Committees (TMACs) were established. Unfortunately, after several years many of these TMACs had little to show for a number of reasons related to the management of the Committees. Therefore, the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) disbanded the TMACs and set up four Thematic Groups. Each of these combined one or more TMACs with a regional institution responsible for the coordination of the groups. One of the new Thematic Groups is Research and Human Resource Development, which replaces two previous TMACs, for research and development and for education and human resources. CARDI, assisted by UWI, is the lead institution for this Thematic Group. The Thematic Groups have all hit the ground running and CARDI called a virtual meeting of the Research and Human Resources group on March 2. Representatives of all institutions in the group were present, namely, CARDI, UWI, CARICOM Secretariat, CABA, CaFAN, University of the West Indies and IICA. The work completed by the two previous TMACs was reviewed and the meeting determined that these had developed long "wish lists" instead of more targeted measurable priorities. The overall objectives of the group were developed and agreed and three priorities identified, namely (i) strengthen the research and networking capabilities of regional rural entities, (ii) revitalisation and coordination of the Region's research and development, (iii) coordination of regional agricultural development. An immediate activity for the Thematic Group is to develop a simple format for capturing information to assist in gap identification and harmonisation of work. A further meeting will be held in early May with a view to reporting good progress to COTED, through the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Cluster.

Volcanic ash a double edge sword for the agriculture sector

CARDI St Kitts and Nevis Representative George Thompson attended the workshop on "Caribbean Ash Hazards & Impacts" in St Vincent and the Grenadines from 9 to 10 March. The workshop shared current approaches in understanding how volcanic ash is dispersed and how it impacts on the environment and infrastructure. Participants were also exposed to the use of impact scenarios for future eruptions from La Soufrière the volcano in St Vincent. Attendees included local participants from the private and public sector along with volcanologists, meteorologists and geologists from UK universities as well as representatives from regional organisations such as CDEMA, East Caribbean Aviation Authority (ECAA), Disaster Risk Reduction Centre and the Seismic Research Centre (SRC) UWI. Volcanic ash is a double edged sword for the agriculture sector. Dependent on its chemical composition volcanic ash, can be an excellent fertiliser for agricultural crops. There is evidence to show that volcanic ash from a past St Vincent eruption led to significantly higher agricultural yields in Barbados. Conversely, heavy volcanic ash can cause leaf breakage, acid/salt imbalance, destroy livestock and impede surface water quality. It was recommended that in areas that have experienced heavy volcanic ash fall, harvested rainwater should be treated with calcium chloride and left to stand still for approximately 2 days before it becomes potable. In areas affected by nutrient imbalance the cropping systems should be changed. Mr. Thompson recommended to the workshop that a trained soil scientist/agronomist be on the team for diagnostic soil fertility follow up and recommendation. The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), in collaboration with the Strengthening Resilience in Volcanic Areas (STREVA), Project of the University of East Anglia (U.K.) and SRC, UWI hosted the workshop.

Soybean Futures January 2015 >>>



After peaking in early January, Soybean price steadily declined for the rest of the month.

Source: Extracted from Personal Communication with Caribbean Poultry Association

Upcoming Events >>>

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

NOTICE >>>

3rd Scientific Conference of the Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century (GCP21)

&

17th Symposium of the International Society for Tropical Root Crop

Venue: Nanning, Guangxi, China

Dates: 5-10 October 2015

Pre-register by following the link below:

<http://www.congressrtc-nanning.cn/#>

Pre-register now!

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>