



New CARDI Executive Director, Barton Clarke. Clarke began his three year term at the Institute's helm on 12 May 2015 .

News >>>

CARDI welcomes Mr. Barton Clarke as the new Executive Director

CARDI would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Executive Director, Barton Clarke. He assumed duties as Executive Director on 12 May 2015. Clarke brings to the position a wealth of professional experience in agricultural development and a deep understanding and knowledge of the Region's political and socio-economic systems.

In his new position Clarke will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the Institute's work programme, inclusive of donor funded projects. He will also lead resource mobilisation activities, so as to increase scientific and technological research, innovation and partnerships critical to boosting the Region's agricultural sector.

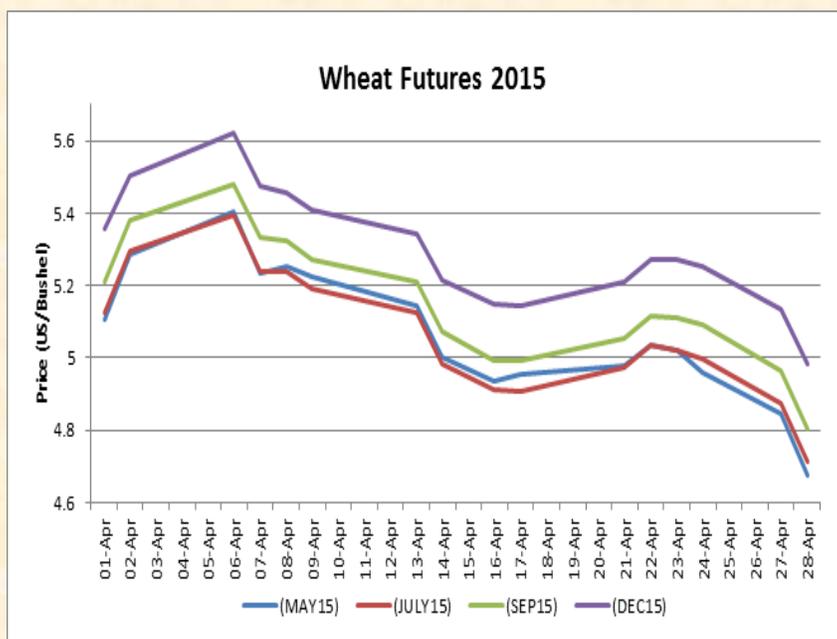
This is Clarke's second stint at CARDI. Prior to joining the Institute as Executive Director he held the position of Chief Agricultural Officer in his native Barbados. This was his substantive position after being on secondment to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Office in Trinidad and Tobago. Clarke served as the FAO Representative for Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname from September 2011 to September 2014. During the period 1984 – 2001 he held various positions at CARDI including Country Representative for Barbados, St Lucia and Dominica, Deputy Director Technical Programmes for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Project Manager for European Union (EU) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded projects.

Clarke succeeds Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney as CARDI's Executive Director.

Guyana receives disease tolerant tissue culture material

In May, the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) Tissue Culture Laboratory in Guyana received 3 banana and 9 plantain Black Sigatoka Disease (BSD) tolerant varieties for evaluation from Bioversity International and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The materials are currently being multiplied *in vitro*. The introduction and evaluation of BSD tolerant varieties is one of three actions taking place under the CARDI/ Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) funded project "Development of an Integrated Disease Management Programme for Black Sigatoka Disease" in Guyana, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia. The evaluation of BSD tolerant varieties is a strategic component of the project that is also seeking to develop an integrated disease management (IDM) plan for BSD and train stakeholders in IDM strategies and techniques. Approximately 97% of all banana and plantain varieties grown in the Caribbean are susceptible to BSD. In 2012, this aggressive disease was detected in all the banana and plantain producing countries in the Caribbean where it has been responsible for a marked decline in production. BSD affects the leaves of the plants by reducing their photosynthetic assimilation which in turn: i) reduces the size and weight of the bunch; ii) causes early and uneven ripening and iii) leads to poor ratooning of the stools. The varieties currently undergoing evaluation in Guyana were produced by the Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola and were selected based on their tolerance to BSD, good consistent performance in previous international and regional evaluations and recorded acceptance for eating and cooking quality within the Caribbean region.

Wheat Futures 2015 >>>



After peaking in early April wheat futures began to steadily decline. During the third week there was a slight increase before declining at the end of the month.

Source: Extracted from Personal Communication with Caribbean Poultry Association

Upcoming Events >>>

Harvest the future: International Symposium on Innovations in Climate Smart Agriculture for Small Scale Producers

14-17 June 2015, Montego Bay, Jamaica

<http://www.harvestthefuture.org/>

2015 International Breadfruit Conference – Commercialising breadfruit for food and nutrition security

5-10 July 2015, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

www.sta.uwi.edu/conference/15/breadfruit

23rd Annual International Mango Festival

11-12 July 2015, Florida, United States of America

<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events-Community-Outreach/Mango-Festival>

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

<http://www.gcp21.org/wcrtc>

NOTICE >>>

51st Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS) Annual Meeting.

Dates: 19-24 July 2015

Venue: Paramaribo, Suriname

Theme: "Food Safety, Innovation and Quality in Green Agriculture; The Way Forward to Food Security for the Caribbean"

Website: <http://cfcs.eea.uprm.edu/article/join-us-51st-cfcs-annual-meeting-suriname>

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>