News >>>

CARDI signs agreement with Mexican Research Centre

The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Yucatan Center for Scientific Research (CICY), to collaborate on research activities in areas of mutual interest and the commercialisation of appropriate technologies. CARDI’s Executive Director, Barton Clarke and CICY’s General Director, Dr. Lorenzo Felipe Sanchez Teyer signed the MoU at CARDI Headquarters on June 16, 2015. On hand to witness the signing were Bruce Lauckner, Head of Strategic Alliances, CARDI; Dr. Carlos Borroto, Technology Transfer Advisor, CICY and Dr. Humberto Gomez, Specialist Technical Innovation, IICA. Dr. Gomez has been facilitating CICY in the delivery of a training programme in Trinidad for tissue culture scientists from the CARICOM Region. Under this five year MoU both agencies will exchange scientific, academic and technical information on areas of mutual interest; facilitate academic as well as student exchanges; identify areas for cooperation and joint research in disciplines of mutual interest and organise and participate in joint scientific and academic seminars and conferences. Clarke welcomed the signing of this MoU saying that the ability to share and exchange resources have the potential to facilitate and significantly advance agricultural research for both institutions. He also highlighted that through complementary disciplines innovative solutions can be developed for some existing challenges the Region is currently facing.

Bakers urged to use composite flour in bread making

CARDI Dominica is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF), Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) and the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) to encourage greater consumption of regional staples through the development of value added products and the training of local entrepreneurs in the production of these staples grown by local farmers. To this end 15 bakers received firsthand experience in using composite flour to make bread during a training organised by CARDI, at MAM’S Bakery in Massacre on Friday 22 May 2015. Composite flours are a mixture of flours from tubers rich in starch such as cassava, sweet potato, dasheen and plantain. Consultant from the Caribbean Agribusiness Association, Rex Collymore, who led the demonstration, dispelled the notion that the use of composite flour will be more expensive. He encouraged manufacturers to employ a marketing strategy that emphasises the health benefits of using composite flours.
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

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

31st West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference
9-14 August 2015, Buccaneer Hotel, St Croix, USVI
http://caestt.com

World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops
5 -10 October, 2015, Nanning, Guangxi, China
http://www.gcp21.org/wrtc

CARDI Unit participates in the Antigua Local Trade Expo

The CARDI Antigua Unit participated in the Local Trade Expo, hosted by the Ministry of Trade from 10-13 June 2015 at the Multipurpose Centre, Perry Bay in St. John’s. The exhibition was designed to profile local entrepreneurs and sensitise the public to the quality and availability of local products with the aim of encouraging the populace to buy local. The event also served to build the capacity of entrepreneurs in making their products export ready. The CARDI Unit led by Country Representative Dr. Greg Robin and supported by Ms. Donnet Bowman/Administration Assistance, Mr. Delvin Batchelor/Technician, Ms. Carrol Josiah/Lab Assistant; hosted the CARDI booth at the exhibition. The Unit displayed technologies that are involved in the introduction of new root crop (sweet potato) varieties into the Country and provided descriptive details on the wide range of sweet potato accessions existing in Antigua and Barbuda. The public’s response to the display was extremely positive. Many visitors to the booth were surprised by the number of sweet potato accessions that existed in Antigua. Many requests were made by farmers and the general public for the planting material displayed with the most requested being the orange flesh sweet potato (Beuregard) and the Dominica purple flesh. Several persons enquired on the possibility of obtaining a copy CARDI’s Sweet Potato Technical Manual. Governor General, Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister, Honourable Chet Green, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Honourable Author Nibbs, Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Assot Michael, Minister of Tourism spoke at the Opening Ceremony.

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31st West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference

“Mitigating Climate Change Effects to Ensure Food Security,”

9-14 August, 2015

Buccaneer Hotel, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

www.caestt.com

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