CARDI has renewed agreements with two key development partners: the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Both agreements were signed at the Caribbean and Pacific Agri-Food Forum in Barbados on 4 November 2015.

CARDI and CTA signed a 3 year Memorandum of Understanding, with both organisations agreeing to focus on working together to enhance capacity for relevant, innovative and effective agricultural research and development, and to disseminate technologies and practices that contribute to on-farm, post-harvest, processing and marketing efficiencies. CTA and CARDI also pledged to collaborate in research and documentation of evidence and best practices related climate-smart agricultural practices and to facilitate the use of modern information communication technology (ICT) tools to share and promote information on innovations, markets, research and development strategies.
Parallel to this, was the signing of the General Technical Cooperation Agreement (GTCA) between IICA and CARDI. Both agencies pledged to focus on achieving sustainable development of the agriculture sector and enhanced rural prosperity in general, and economic viability of selected agricultural sub-sectors and enterprises. CARDI and IICA will work together on direct technical cooperation, to improve agricultural production and productivity and build resilience in agriculture through sustainable and efficient use and management of environmental resources, particularly soil and water and adaptation to climate change variability.

CTA and IICA also signed a 3 year Memorandum of Understanding.

Speaking after the signing, CARDI’s Executive Director Mr Barton Clarke said “these agreements are a re-engagement and recommitment to assisting the people of the Caribbean to really live their dream of food security, their dream of being far more in charge of their destinies, their dream of economic enfranchisement, using agriculture as a springboard.” Mr Michael Hailu, Director of CTA said that “we believe in the importance of transforming the agricultural sector as an engine for growth, youth employment, food security and healthy diets in the region; The MoUs that we have signed today with CARDI and IICA will further strengthen our collaboration to achieve concrete results that will benefit Caribbean farmers.” Dr Villalobos said “IICA brings to the partnerships well established networks and systems to manage knowledge and information to meet the needs of countries, and also a strong on-the-ground presence in 34 member countries, including 15 countries of the Caribbean.”

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