News >>>

**CARDI personnel meet with President of Guyana**

On February 4 2016, CARDI's Executive Director Mr. Barton Clarke and Manager Technical Services Dr. Francis Asiedu met with President of Guyana HE David Granger in his capacity as CARICOM's Lead Head of Government with responsibility for Agriculture to discuss his vision for Caribbean agriculture. Guyana’s Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Noel Holder also participated in the meeting. Following the meeting Mr. Clarke said that discussions focused on CARDI's role in agriculture in the Region and whether or not it is effectively fulfilling that role in our current programme of operation. Discussions also centered on how the Institute will engage with the political directorate across the Region, under the leadership of President Granger. Also on the agenda was the CARICOM Strategic Plan for Regional Development 2015-2019 in which agriculture is featured prominently.

**CARDI represented at the World Congress on Root and Tuber crops**

Dr. Greg Robin represented CARDI at the World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops which took place in Nanning, Guangxi, China from 18 to 22 January 2016. Dr. Robin who is also the International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC) Regional Councillor for the Caribbean presented a paper entitled ‘Research and Development Activities in Countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Roots and Tubers - with a focus on Cassava’ at the session on Root and Tuber Crops, Value Chains / Industry. CARICOM has identified and prioritized roots and tubers as a commodity for development. Development of these commodities will reduce the burgeoning food import bill, generate employment, revitalize the rural sector and reduce the increased incidence of non–communicable diseases. CARDI and FAO have been leading the development of these commodities in the Region. Dr. Robin’s paper presented an overview of recent and ongoing research and development work being done on cassava, sweet potatoes and yams in the various CARICOM territories. The Congress was organized by The Global Cassava Partnership for the 21 Century (GCP21), ISTRC, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agriculture Sciences (CATAS), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Guangxi Cassava Research Institute (GxCRI) and the Guangxi Academy of Sciences (GXAS) under the theme ‘Adding Value to Root and Tuber Crops’.
Several Caribbean countries placed on drought warning

Several of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) participating states have been placed on immediate drought watch for 2016. Drought warnings have been issued for Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Northern Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Northern Suriname. A drought watch has been issued for Grenada, whilst Haiti (east and south) has been noted for drought concern. 

A drought watch is issued for both Belize and Bahamas towards the end of the dry season in the Caribbean. The drought warnings come on the heel of the drought alerts issued by the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) for several countries up to March 2016. CDEMA says “the drought situation remains a major concern for many countries due to the below normal rainfall recorded during the previous dry and wet seasons, which have resulted in several countries experiencing water shortages in 2015.” The CIMH has projected drought impacts to be similar to what was experienced in 2009-2010. They have further stated the drought impacts are expected to worsen until May and ease thereafter. This is being influenced by a strong El Niño that is expected to subside at the start of the hurricane season. The La Niña is predicted to take over late in the year resulting in higher flood risk. The agricultural sector will invariably be affected by the drought conditions and so farmers are being urged to take all the necessary precautions to ensure their operations remain productive.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS.

52nd CFCS Annual Meeting, Guadeloupe, FWI.

Date: July 10-16, 2016.


Deadline for submissions: 15 March 2016

More information available @http://cfcs.eea.uprm.edu/