PRESS RELEASE

Regional stakeholders to benefit from training in the production of quality coconut planting material

Coconut industry stakeholders from across the Region will meet in Jamaica on 26 and 27 May for a training workshop on the production of certifiable planting material. Targeting small scale farmers, processors, researchers and technicians, workshop facilitators will make presentations on nursery and seedling management, varietal selection, hybridisation and tissue culture production. Participants will also get an opportunity on the second day of the workshop to witness nursery management, hybridisation and breeding techniques at Barton Isles, St Elizabeth.

This training is a direct follow up to the series of workshops conducted between January and March in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize and Dominica on nursery establishment and maintenance. These training workshops are part of the ongoing project “Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean” financed by the European and jointly implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

For this workshop, CARDI and ITC will be partnering with the Jamaica Coconut Industry Board (JCIB). The JCIB is a key member of the national stakeholder platform (NSP) in Jamaica. NSPs have been established in all eight of the project countries and aim to represent the interests of the coconut sector, facilitate improved communication and coordination between stakeholders, and guide development and implementation of the national coconut sector development strategies.

As the demand for fresh produce and coconut-based derivatives continue to increase, Caribbean producers must be positioned to make the most out of growing market opportunities. This project will provide small scale producers and processing enterprises the opportunity to revitalise their production through the use of modern techniques and innovations, identify market opportunities and improve access.
to advisory services for improved production. Regional Project Coordinator, Compton Paul said that interventions like these “are critical for industry stakeholders who are keen to capitalise on growing opportunities for value-added coconut products”. He said that as the Region targets value-added products from coconut, we must increase our production and productivity levels.

For more information, please contact

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About CARDI

CARDI (www.cardi.org) was established in 1974 to serve the agricultural research and development needs of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARDI is positioned to enhance the socio-economic well-being of the Caribbean people through research for development that improves the competitiveness and sustainability of regional agriculture. The Institute’s Headquarters is located at the University Campus, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

About ITC

ITC (www.intracen.org) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. ITC assists small and medium-sized enterprises in developing and transition economies to become more competitive in global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the Aid-for-Trade agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.