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For Immediate Release

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **CARDI and the University of Belize to collaborate on knowledge sharing, training and research activities in the agricultural sector**

The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the University of Belize (UoB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the areas of knowledge sharing, training and capacity building, resource mobilisation and research activities geared towards the development Belize's agricultural sector.

The MoU was signed by CARDI's Executive Director, Barton Clarke and the President of the University of Belize, Professor Clement Sankat at the University of Belize, Main Campus in Belmopan. Present at the signing were CARDI Representative, Omaira Avila Rostant and UoB, Central Farm Campus Administrator, Gordon Holder.

Barton Clarke said that while this MoU is mutually beneficial to both parties, he is particularly pleased with the education and training opportunities available for mentoring and developing young talent. He said that this is crucial for the development of a modernised, competitive agricultural sector across the Region.

Following the signing, a Public Consultation, facilitated by Clarke on CARDI's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was held at the Administrative and Technical Services Conference Room, National Agriculture & Trade Showgrounds in Belmopan. Participants included officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers, and representatives of international, regional and local agencies. The Strategic Plan provides the guiding framework on how the Institute will achieve its strategic goal of contributing to food and nutrition security through the development of innovations that contribute to sustainable, climate resilient value chains. Clarke said these consultations will take place in each of the 14 CARDI member states and give all persons and organisations with an interest in agriculture the opportunity to understand CARDI's work and to contribute to its relevance and effectiveness. The received feedback will be used to finalise the Strategic Plan before it presented to the Board of Directors in September.

**For more information, please contact**

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## **About CARDI**

CARDI ([www.cardi.org](http://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.