DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPROVED HOT PEPPER VARIETY "WEST INDIES RED"

Background
The Caribbean hot pepper industry mandated CARDI to produce improved hot pepper varieties for the growing domestic and export markets.

Characteristics of West Indies Red
- Super hot and highly aromatic.
- Berry colours range from light green to deep dark-green
- Berries are lantern shaped.

Fig. 4 Longitudinal section and cross section of green and ripe West Indies Red berries

Output
An improved variety called "West Indies Red" was selected in 1996 from local hot pepper landraces. CARDI also established a regional system for production and distribution of quality seeds.

Fig. 3 West Indies Red berries

Uses
- Hot sauces
- Fresh for culinary uses
- Food decoration
- Salad and flakes

Fig. 5 Prolific plant with berries

CARDI hot pepper seeds are pure and of high quality:

- Pure = the absence of seeds from:
  - Off-types
  - Other varieties
  - Cross pollination

- High quality:
  - Plump endosperm
  - >80% germination
  - Free of debris
  - Free from pests and diseases.

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Only mature and select berries are harvested for seed.

Seed extraction — depending on quantity, is performed by hand, blender, or "extractor".

Seeds are then separated via a series of water washes and flotation — good seeds sink and bad seeds float.

Release of an improved variety CARDI released an improved variety named CARDI Green in 2003. This improved selection met the demand by the growers for the export market.

CARDI GREEN HOT PEPPER CULTIVAR

Background
The export market demanded hot pepper varieties with larger and more uniform berries, of a deep dark-green colour.

Meeting the demand
CARDI extracted pure lines with the desired berry characters, from the West Indies Red as the parent population.

Main berry characters
- High pungency and aroma
- Blocky shape
- Large attractive berries
- Deep dark-green colour before full maturity
- Deep dark-red at full maturity

Uses
- Hot sauces
- Fresh for culinary uses
- Food decoration
- Salad and flakes

Seeds are treated with trisodium phosphate to protect against seed transmitted diseases: Tobamoviruses — PMMV, TMV, ToMV, bacterial spot, fungal pathogens and insects.