



Developing the Hot Pepper Industry for the CARICOM region

MANDATE

CARDI has a regional mandate to develop the Hot Pepper Industry in the English speaking Caribbean. This mandate falls under the CARICOM Regional Transformation Programme (RTP).

VISION

To develop highly aromatic and pungent hot pepper cultivars to enhance the economic advantage of the Caribbean Community

GOAL

To breed and select new genotypes of hot pepper, which were equal or better than existing cultivars

CARDI's hot pepper breeding programme, started in the 1980s, continues to supply the region with improved hot pepper cultivars and breeding lines to become commercial cultivars. To date, the superior hot pepper selections made were West Indies Red, CARDI Red and CARDI Green.

CARDI's continuous breeding programme has led to the purification and stabilisation of over ten hot pepper landraces well liked in the region. Some of these, after a regional evaluation, performed well in many sites in the Caribbean and are as follows:

- Tiger Teeth - super hot, fleshy, good for processing
- Wirri Wirri - highly aromatic, speciality product
- Red Congo - fresh fruit market, pungent, aromatic
- Cayenne - hot, high yielding, good for processing

Improvements have also been made steadily in hot pepper agronomy, integrated pest management of hot pepper, post harvest technology and marketing. The seed technology department based in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados and Belize kept the flow of quality seeds at the volume required to meet needs of regional farmers.

The regional hot pepper industry is a growth area earning hard currency, providing employment and increasing farmers' income.

Hot peppers in the Caribbean are rapidly acquiring international recognition for its excellence as an exotic condiment adding taste, aroma, pungency and high quality flavour and colour to the cuisine.

The industry, which generates employment and investment, is securing new market access, and has become internationally competitive for many economies of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

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PSC#: HQ/009/06

© September 2006

Produced by the CARDI Publications Unit



WI Red



CARDI Green

