



Developing the Small Ruminant Industry for the CARICOM region



MANDATE

CARDI has been mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government under the Regional Transformation Programme (RTP) to lead the regional thrust for the development of the small ruminant industry.

VISION

The development of a Small Ruminant Industry that holistically integrates production, value-adding and marketing of small ruminant products and by-products with the view to increasing market share of the products traded in the region and improving economic benefits to stakeholders and overall food security and nutritional wellbeing of the peoples of the region.

GOAL

To generate appropriate technologies for the regional small ruminant industry for the production of competitive, quality and safe sheep and goats products in an environmentally sustainable manner.

OBJECTIVES

To develop, using forged partnerships and coordination, the development of the regional small ruminant industry through:

1. Establishment and maintenance of a small ruminant industry database for the monitoring and evaluation of the industry
2. The provision of adequate numbers of indigenous and exotic breeding stock suitable for a variety of small ruminant products while conserving indigenous stock
3. The development of indigenous feeds that sufficiently support different production systems and enterprises
4. The assessment and development of appropriate management strategies for small ruminant health problems
5. Value-added quality small ruminant products and by-products
6. Enterprise development and commercialisation of production technologies and small ruminant products and services
7. Establishment of communication and network systems for the diffusion of production technologies and sustainability of the industry

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

CARDI deploys its relatively large critical mass of scientific human capital in the programmes for the development of the regional small ruminant industry as follows:

Leadership, coordination and harmonisation of regional small ruminant development initiatives

- Formulation of a regional Small Ruminant Industry Development Plan
- Improving awareness and application of policies for the development of the industry
- Improving understanding of markets for small ruminants and their products
- Execution of regional projects
- Coordination of the establishment of regional Small Ruminant Producers Association
- Establishment and maintenance of small ruminant industry database
- Facilitate sourcing of genetic material for national programmes (e.g. export of Boer goat breeding stock from Jamaica to Antigua; sourcing of Barbados Blackbelly breeding stock for Belize)

Technology generation and transfer

- Development of sustainable capacity to produce quality small ruminant germplasm using both indigenous and exotic gene pools
- Development of cost effective and sustainable production systems based on



indigenous feed resources (grass and legume forages and agro and industrial by-products)

- Transfer of the improved production technologies to clientele

Enterprise development and commercialisation

- Development of value adding initiatives (e.g. superior bucks and rams their semen, meat prime cuts and vacuum packing, fluid milk and dairy products, skin and leather products)
- Modelling of enterprises and production systems for their economic viability
- Establishment of prototype commercial dairy/meat enterprise
- Establishment of prototype commercial by-product feed manufacturing

Capacity building

- Production of information products and placing in public domain for stakeholders
- Contribute to the training of scientists and technicians in the NARS
- Use of Demonstration and Training Centres, information products, shows and exhibitions to disseminate production technologies to producers

Communication and Networks

- Maintenance of integrity and enhanced capacity of CASRUNet using modern and communication and networking tools
- Sharing of information on technologies and development processes among stakeholders
- Enhanced capacity of national farmer organisations

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PSC#: HQ/007/06

© September 2006

Produced by the CARDI Publications Unit