

Ministers' Brief



Under the CARDI Strategic Plan 2018-2022, youth and gender will be a key cross cutting issue

CARDI to roll out new strategic plan 2018-2022

During the first quarter, CARDI will be rolling out its new Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The Strategic Plan is the Institute's five-year road map for transforming regional agriculture into a modernised, competitive, innovative and resilient sector. To translate our vision into action CARDI will focus its work over the next five years on four Strategic Programmes: Value Chain Services; Policy and Advocacy; Institutional Strengthening and Partnerships and Strategic Alliances.

Key deliverables under the Strategic programmes will

enable the Institute to contribute, in the short term, to increases in food supply to the Region, and in the medium term, to the stability of the agricultural sector, food and nutrition security and reduction in hunger and poverty.

The Strategic Plan has been shared with stakeholders in all member states, through a series of consultations. Based on feedback, priority programmes closely aligned to each country's agriculture development policies and CARDI's Strategic Plan are being developed, packaged and rolled out as operational plans

at both the national and regional levels. Critical to implementation will be partnerships within and outside of the sector.

The CARDI core values of Partnerships, Integrity, Professionalism, Accountability, Transparency and People Centredness will guide our staff in achieving the Institute's mission of "contributing to the sustainable development of the Caribbean by the co-generation, diffusion, and application of knowledge through agricultural research for development".

New CARDI Representative for St Lucia



Andrea Veira is the new CARDI Representative in St Lucia

Andrea Veira has been appointed the new CARDI Representative in St Lucia. Andrea is currently finalising her PhD thesis on “Agro-ecological techniques for sweet potato production in the Caribbean”. She also holds a Masters of Arts in Education from the University of Derby, a Postgraduate Diploma in the Teaching of Science and a BSc in Biology with Education from The University of the West Indies (UWI), Barbados. Prior to joining CARDI she held various tutoring positions at The UWI Cave Hill Campus and taught at secondary schools in St Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados.

As the CARDI Representative she will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives and other partners to implement the national agricultural agenda which has a strong focus on the production of roots and tubers, coconuts and vegetables.

Andrea has considerable experience in ICTs, agro-ecology, research, training and communications which will be very relevant in the implementation of the Institute’s new Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

Partnering to rebuild the agriculture sector in Barbuda

CARDI is partnering with Inter-America Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the Ministry of Agriculture Land Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (MALFBA) and other stakeholders to revive agriculture in Barbuda following the passage of Hurricane Irma on 6th September, 2017. Focus has been placed on containing livestock whose damaged housing units has left them exposed to the elements and feral dogs. Through funding obtained under the IICA/CARDI Agreement materials have been purchased for farmers to repair and replace damaged fences. Both agencies are also collaborating with Mr Perry Phillips a forage specialist, to develop forage banks. The team visited Barbuda on 19 December to identify a suitable site for the establishment of these forage banks.

Protected structures were also devastated across the island from the Category 5 hurricane. Garden Pool a US-based company will be assisting with the development of climate resilient structures. A protected but portable aquaponics system which can easily be deconstructed and stored in the event of another hurricane began in December at the Sir Mc Chesney George Secondary School. Apiculture work has also begun, new hive boxes were imported from the USA and set up in Barbuda. Bees were not being introduced from Antigua as the Varroa mite has been identified on the island.

During the first quarter of 2018, the CARDI Antigua and Barbuda Unit will begin distributing seeds and seedlings to farmers.



Identifying suitable sites for the establishment of forage banks, Barbuda

Rewarding youth in agriculture



Eion Jotis receiving his award from CARDI Representative Dr. Cyril Roberts. Photo courtesy: GINA

Eion Jotis from the New Amsterdam Multilateral School in Guyana has been awarded the CARDI prize for being the top performer in the 2017 CSEC Agricultural Science (Double Award (DA)) examination. Jotis achieved a full certificate at CSEC obtaining 11 subjects inclusive of Agricultural Science.

Dr Cyril Roberts, CARDI Representative in Guyana presented Eion with his prize at the Unit’s CARDI Day celebrations on 5 December 2017. The CARDI Award, was established in 2007 in collaboration with the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) to honour the top achieving agricultural student in the Region at the CSEC level.

For a student to be eligible he/she must receive a Grade 1 in Agricultural Science (DA) and a minimum of Grade 2 in Mathematics and English A and a grade 1 or 2 in another technical or general CSEC subject. Eion who is still uncertain about his career path is currently pursuing an Associate Degree in Chemistry at the University of Guyana. He credits his success to faith, hard work, time management, proper planning, parental support and knowledge sharing. Read CARDI’s full interview with Eion @ <http://bit.ly/2B6C4S0>.