24th February to 1st March 2024 Issue, compiled by CARDI

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CSIDS SOILCARE Project – Antigua and Barbuda
The High Nature Value Index (HNVI) and Climate Smart Agriculture Compliant (C-SAC) Tool Training of Trainers Workshop
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
February 22, 2024

The CSIDS SOILCARE Phase 1 project, launched in August 2022 in Antigua & Barbuda, is a regional initiative aimed at bolstering the resilience of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through integrated landscape restoration and sustainable food systems. Guided by the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), the project thus far has completed a national soil survey, conducted soil lab assessments, and provided capacity building opportunities for technical officers and farmers in Antigua & Barbuda.

Challenges faced by farmers and exploring potential solutions – Montserrat
CARDI visit to Montserrat
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
February 28, 2024

Mr. Junior Greene, Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) representative for Antigua/Barbuda and Montserrat recently visited Montserrat. While there he was engaged in discussions with agricultural officials, farmers and other stakeholders.

Climate Change
President Burton talks climate change with new US ambassador at ceremony this week
Dominica News Online
February 28, 2024

President of Dominica, Her Excellency Sylvanie Burton stated that the Government of Dominica was able to put in place effective response strategies to mitigate against the adverse effects of global climate change.

She made the statement during a ceremony held this week when newly appointed Ambassador of the United States of America to Dominica, His Excellency Roger F. Nyhus presented his credentials to her.

The United States announces new projects to support climate adaptation and resilience in the Caribbean
Dominica News Online
February 26, 2024

In Georgetown, Guyana at the 46th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United States highlighted more than $43 million in USAID funding, including $15.8 million in previously unannounced funding to address climate and biodiversity threats in the Caribbean.
The announcement was made by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who led the United States delegation to the 46th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Government of CARICOM, building on the strong partnership between the United States and CARICOM.

**DBJ and CCCCC Forge Strategic Partnership to Combat Climate Crisis in Jamaica**

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
February 22, 2024

Climate change remains a critical factor in global development, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced access to funding for projects and technological advancements to mitigate these challenges. In response to this imperative, the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), both Direct Access Entities to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fortify collaboration, particularly in overcoming challenges related to accessing and mobilising climate finance.

**Global food crisis, poor nutrition and the effects of climate change need urgent action, says IFAD President**

IFAD
February 29, 2024

A global food crisis and the effects of climate change are taking a toll on those most vulnerable: millions of people – many of them small-scale farmers and their families – who are unable to afford a healthy diet. At this critical juncture, Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is visiting the Solomon Islands and Australia from 29 February to 8 March 2024 to collaborate on next-steps and to deepen IFAD’s strategic partnership with governments across the region.

“The global food crisis is growing and already almost one-in-three people on the planet do not have regular access to healthy food. In Solomon Islands, nutrition is so poor that the same number of young children - one-in-three - are physically stunted due to malnutrition. This still needs our urgent action,” said President Lario.

**Sustainable Rice Production**

IRRI and Thailand Rice Department Strengthen Collaboration on Climate Change Initiatives

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
February 29, 2024

A delegation from the Thailand Rice Department (TRD) recently visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Headquarters in the Philippines, strengthening the two institutions’ shared commitment to advancing sustainable rice production in Thailand and across the region.

The delegation, including Thai Rice Department Agricultural Research Officers Duangporn Vithoonjit, Kanoknop Klinla-or, and Ithipong Assaranurak, met IRRI scientists, engaging in meaningful discussions, seminars, and facility tours on 15-16 February 2024.
Soil-improving Management
Russia’s PhosAgro contributes an additional $3 million to help thousands of farmers adopt soil-improving management practices
FAO
February 29, 2024
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) welcomed an additional $3 million contribution from PhosAgro, Russia’s leading phosphate-based fertilizer producer, to support the efforts of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) to help more farmers implement soil-improving management measures and boost the capacities of national soil laboratories in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Near East.

Agri-food System
Agrifood systems transformation holds the key to our environmental challenges
FAO
March 1, 2024
Transforming our agrifood systems to make them more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable is key to addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Such a transformation requires greater cooperation between the public and private sectors, empowering agrifood systems stakeholders, adopting holistic cross-sectoral approaches, and working together to optimize multilateral environmental agreements.

The path forward on global food system transformation
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
March 1, 2024
https://www.ifpri.org/blog/path-forward-global-food-system-transformation
Every year, global food systems produce, process, transport, and market the food and agricultural products on which the world relies. However, these same global food systems also play a big role in—and face pressures from—climate impacts, environmental damage, food insecurity and malnutrition, public health problems, and food loss and waste. To tackle these challenges, we must urgently transform food systems. True food system transformation will have to go beyond the agricultural policy reforms enacted during the past 50 years. We now need to ensure that food systems elevate and prioritize health, inclusion, sustainability, resilience, climate, and the environment. Raising awareness of the economic cost, estimated at over $10 trillion a year, of food system impacts on these other dimensions is a first step in this direction.
Artificial Intelligence (AI) In Agriculture

International Potato Center (CIP) Unveils Groundbreaking 2024 AI-griculture Challenge Hackathon to Tackle Global Agricultural Challenges

CIP – International Potato Center
March 1, 2024


The International Potato Center (CIP), a pioneer in agricultural research, proudly announces the launch of the AI-griculture Challenge Hackathon, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at leveraging the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address global challenges in agriculture.

The AI-griculture Challenge Hackathon is a nine month long activity beginning today and extending through November of this year when the winners will be announced.

Food Security and Nutrition

UN Statistical Commission approves the creation of standalone food security and nutrition domain

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
March 1, 2024


The United Nations Statistical Commission, has approved the creation of a new statistical domain on food security and nutrition statistics, marking the first time the highest standard-setting body in the international statistical system incorporates those topics alongside its existing focus on national accounts, population statistics, agriculture, big data and other themes.

The decision will bolster ongoing efforts by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on the development and harmonization of food security and nutrition (FSN) data and statistics. With the creation of this new data domain, the three organizations will appear in front of the UN Statistical Commission every two years to report on the state of FSN data, and support the Commission in establishing and implementing a common agenda to advance work in the area in the coming years.

Global Agricultural Markets

Ukraine and global agricultural markets two years later

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
February 26, 2024

https://www.ifpri.org/blog/ukraine-and-global-agricultural-markets-two-years-later

Two years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the war continues to disrupt agricultural production and trade in Ukraine—one of the world’s largest agricultural exporters—and poses an ongoing threat to global food security. Yet global commodity markets have adjusted to these disruptions, in part to due to increased exports by other suppliers, including Russia, easing the initial shock. After peaking in the wake of the invasion in 2022, prices for wheat, corn (maize) and soybeans have fallen below pre-war levels, though they remain above pre-COVID levels.
Events

IICA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audit Training Online Course
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
February 21, 2024
Join the briefing session on March 4 at 11:00AM – 12:00PM Atlantic Standard Time (GMT-4) to learn how to navigate the course platform (link will be provided). This self-paced course provides information on how to conduct GAP audits and can be completed in 40 hours.

APRIL 2024
St. Kitts Agriculture Open Day, 25-26th April 2024
Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources

Belize: 52nd National Agriculture and Trade Show, 26-28 April 2024,
National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds, Belmopan
https://www.facebook.com/maf.gov.bz/posts/pfbid02LLSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHld3qLPjkqwr8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gZQLB6hSTR4l

AUGUST 2024
Jamaica: Denbigh Agricultural Industrial Food Show, 4-6 August 2024