2nd to 8th March 2024 Issue, compiled by CARDI

HQ/002/24

Contents

SVG Agriculture Financing for Innovation and Transformation (SVG Agri-FIT) initiative - pp. 2
Poultry – Grenada pp. 2
Women – pp. 2
Innovation Portfolio Management – pp.2
Spice Sector – Jamaica pp. 3
Climate Change pp. 3
Soybean Production pp. 3
Coconut industry pp. 4
Tissue Culture pp. 4
Food Production pp. 4
Food Security pp. 5
Events pp. 5
In support to enable Food Security in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC) collaborated with the Farmers Support Company (FSC) to launch the SVG Agriculture Financing for Innovation and Transformation (SVG Agri-FIT) initiative. The Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC) is implementing the three-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Caribbean Agricultural Productivity Improvement Activity (CAPA).

This fundamental initiative aims to support farmers to meet the demand for fresh fruits and vegetables domestically and for exports, creating a stakeholder market-linkage to facilitate improved market linkage between buyers and producers. This workshop was hosted at the National Insurance Services Conference Room.

**Poultry - Grenada**

Consultation on the 2023 Draft Poultry Policy and Work Programme / Poultry Stakeholders

Government Information Service – Grenada
March 7, 2024
https://www.facebook.com/gisgrenada/videos/743542194554295/

**Women**

Invest in women, ignite change in food systems

CGIAR
March 5, 2024

On this International Women’s Day, we celebrate women’s ability to accelerate progress and their central role in transforming our faltering food systems. Around the world, it is often women at the center of making decisions about what the family eats: what gets cooked and what gets served. Women play an equally important but less recognized role in agricultural production. Quite simply, we cannot talk about food and nutrition security without discussing gender equality.

**Innovation Portfolio Management**

How to implement "innovation portfolio management" in a public R&D organization

CGIAR
March 7, 2024

To feed and nourish ten billion people by mid-century, and to do so sustainably, our food production systems must become more productive, more efficient and more resilient. Soon. And in the face of a warming and ever-more extreme climate. To accomplish this, we need to upscale our use of innovations, which in past decades have brought about spectacular increases in global food production.
Spice Sector - Jamaica
Investors Seeking Opportunities in Spice Sector Urged to Explore Production of Ginger, Turmeric and Pimento
Jamaica Information Service
March 8, 2024 By: Twila Wheelan
Investors looking for an opportunity to join the growing multibillion-dollar global spice sector are being encouraged to explore the local production of ginger, turmeric and pimento.

Chief of Party for the Food for Progress Jamaica Spices (JaSpice) Project, Dr. Ronald Blake, said that ginger and turmeric are largely used in both nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals.

“For all three crops, what the business model is saying is that they are lucrative. Also, the demand for these two spices will continue to grow significantly. We are also probably one of the larger producers of pimento. It’s a good way to make use of lands that you know you may not readily want to use for other things,” he said, in a recent interview with JIS News.

Climate Change
Climate Adaptation Symposium in Livestock
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
March 1, 2024
The Climate Adaptation Symposium in Livestock was an exercise under the EU/CARIFORUM Climate Change and Health Project. This was a highly interactive meeting sponsored by the UWI Climate Change and Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

In her welcoming remarks Dr. Hull James, veterinary officer and UWI climate Change and Health Fellow spoke to the many plights which include the adverse effect of Climate Change that impact the Agricultural sector.

Miss Diahann Gomes rendered the invocation to start the symposium on the right path. Dr. Tubal Edwards in his opening remarks emphasized the timeliness and importance of the symposium and he encouraged everyone to work together to obtain the required solutions and results.

Soybean Production
Women farmers turn the tide on soybean production
CIMMYT
March 4, 2024
https://www.cimmyt.org/blogs/women-farmers-turn-the-tide-on-soybean-production/
From the rich plateau landscapes of Angonia district in the Tete province of Mozambique emerges a tale of determination and hard work. Juliana Nicolau Moises, a mother of four, has been a devoted soybean farmer for more than a decade, tending to a crop whose pods carry the potential for value-added products, including milk and porridge for her children. But one wonders, what motivates smallholder farmers like Juliana to invest their efforts in soybean production.
Coconut Industry
Spread of lethal yellowing disease in coconut industry reduced by 70%
The Gleaner – Jamaica
March 4, 2024
Jamaica, through the work of the Coconut Industry Board (CIB), has been able to reduce the spread of the lethal yellowing disease in the coconut industry by 70 per cent.

Stakeholders Take Part in Regional Coconut Workshop
Jamaica Information Service
March 7, 2024 By: Twila Wheelan
More than 40 stakeholders in the coconut sector across the Caribbean are in the island participating in a five-day Regional Coconut Workshop being held at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston from March 4 to 8.

Participants include coconut growers, researchers, agro-processors, government representatives and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) personnel from several countries.

Tissue Culture
New tissue culture lab to help boost food production
Barbados Today
March 6, 2024
https://barbadostoday.bb/2024/03/06/new-tissue-culture-lab-to-help-boost-food-production/
The building of a new $60 million tissue culture laboratory is to begin shortly, with Minister of Agriculture Indar Weir predicting the lab will help boost crop production.

As the Estimates debate began on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security, Weir revealed that the new facility will become a critical arm of the island’s agricultural capacity and improve yield prospects.

“This tissue culture lab will give us all the clean planting material that we are going to need to make sure that we can help our farmers, and bring back the yields in production that we are accustomed to,” he said. “This will be a lab, where we can have enough planting material to satisfy our Barbadian farmers, and then equally look at how we can work with our brothers and sisters within CARICOM to provide any assistance for them as well.”

Food Production
Barbados Today
March 6, 2024
https://barbadostoday.bb/2024/03/06/food-production-not-yet-past-pre-covid-levels-agriculture-minister/
Food production is on the rebound, Minister of Agriculture Indar Weir has declared, but the post-pandemic recovery has not yet risen to pre-COVID levels.

Weir told the Estimates hearings that focused on his ministry on Tuesday that while productivity has not reached that of previous years, including 2020, the improvement since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic could not be overstated.
“On the rebound from COVID, this ministry’s overall performance for 2023 saw a 24 per cent increase in production in the entire sector,” he reported. “This is attributed to the work that was done certainly by the farmers, and by the ministry working together with the farmers. The year 2023 gave us an overall production figure of 20.1 million kilograms (kg) of agricultural commodities. While I will admit that this level of output is 14.56 million kg or 72 per cent more than 2008 levels, it still represents a shortfall of 34 per cent when compared to the year 2020.”

Food Security

Investment minister urges rethink on agriculture, manufacturing
Barbados Today
February 28, 2024

Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment Chad Blackman has suggested the country reevaluate its focus on agriculture and manufacturing.

He called for a broadening of the traditional view of agriculture solely as a means of growing food for domestic consumption and export.

“We have to now look at it in its broader context of food security, because as the economy is being built, and as the economy becomes more sophisticated, there’s a higher demand for persons to import goods, but oftentimes the reality is those come from markets that are often in places where if there is a domestic shock, the supply chains are affected, and the exposure or the overexposure in my view places a significant burden on our people in trying to secure our food security.

Enhancing Food Security and Income for Smallholder Farmers in Angola
The World Bank
March 1, 2024

Between 2016 and 2022, the Angola Smallholder Agriculture Development and Commercialization Project (SADCP also known as MOSAP2) contributed to improving food security and incomes for 179,000 smallholder farmers and their families by strengthening their capacity to increase their agricultural productivity and the proportion of produce they sold. About 49 percent of beneficiaries were female farmers.

“The irrigation canal that our community has through the project allows us to continue to work the land and harvest crops satisfactorily all year round even when it doesn’t rain. Another gain for me, and many other women, is that now, before we plant, we know how to calculate the cost and benefit of what we grow. We also know which products are appropriate for each plot of land. The farmer field schools have been of great value to us.”

Maria Mateus, Chissapa Farmers’ Association, Camacupa municipality, Bie province.

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/pfbid02LSSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHLd3qLPjkkqr8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gZQLB6hSTR4l

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