16th to 22nd March 2024 Issue, compiled by CARDI

HQ/002/24

Contents
Climate Change pp. 2
Nuclear Science and technology in the Agriculture sector pp. 2
Food Security pp. 3
Rice production pp. 3
Forest Day pp. 4
38th FAO Regional Conference pp.4
Climate-Resilient Solution pp. 4
Tomato Production pp. 4
Events pp. 5
Climate Change

Caribbean climate experts: SIDS Must Embrace a Just Transition
Antigua and Barbuda government Information Services
March 18, 2024

Globally, the clean energy sector is growing exponentially with clean energy employment surpassing that of fossil fuels in 2021, according to the IEA World Energy Report 2023. This presents significant opportunities for small island developing states, and climate policy experts are calling for the Caribbean region to get ahead of the curve on a just transition. Antigua and Barbuda in particular is taking a cogent approach and laid out a clear just transition pathway in its national climate change plans.

UN global climate report: a stark reminder of the urgent need to leverage agrifood solutions
FAO
March 19, 2024

There is an urgent need to transform agrifood systems and leverage their climate solutions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has said in light of the findings of the latest UN State of the Global Climate Report.

The World Meteorological Organization-(WMO)-led report in collaboration with other UN agencies including FAO, shows how climate change indicators records including surface temperatures and greenhouse gas levels were once again broken in 2023. It also brings light on how extreme weather events are progressively affecting food security and agriculture, with wider socio-economic implications.

“The latest WMO report is a chilling reminder of runaway climate change and its impacts, including on food insecurity. Reversing this trend will require major investments in solutions that can help countries and communities build resilience to a changing climate, reduce record-breaking emissions and protect lives and livelihoods all at once. Nowhere are these solutions more abundant and impactful than in agriculture and food systems”, said Kaveh Zahedi, Director of the FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment.

Nuclear science and technology in the Agricultural sector
International Atomic Energy Agency Meeting
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
March 20, 2024
https://agriculture.gov.ag/index.php/2024/03/20/international-atomic-energy-agency-meeting/

RLA 5084 is a technical corporation project that sought to develop human resources and capacity of member states in the application of nuclear technology to Agriculture in Latin America and Caribbean States from 2020-2023 with Antigua/Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad/Tobago as participating countries.

The objectives of the project aim to increase awareness among members of the various applications of nuclear science and technology in the Agricultural sector as well as to develop their human resources and institutional capacity in the use of these technologies towards a regional effort to improve agricultural productivity.
**Food Security**

FAO Members in Latin America and the Caribbean discuss how to reduce hunger and inequality in world’s largest agrifood exporting region

FAO

March 18, 2024


Protecting the poorest, reducing inequalities, improving food security and nutrition, and improving market access are among key goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region that makes major contributions to global food security, QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), highlighted in his opening remarks at the Ministerial Session of 38th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

“You have big potential to accelerate progress, and to do even more with less within and outside your region,” he said, noting the region boasts a large share of the world’s biodiversity and water resources and accounts for 13 percent of global food production and 45 percent of net international trade in agrifood products.

Qu also noted that, although the region is a net food exporter, the reliance on commodity imports and exports exposes its agrifood systems to macroeconomic volatility, global geopolitical instability, and climate change, which in turn negatively impact food prices and incomes and lead to unfavourable food security and nutrition outcomes.

**Rice Production**

Guyana using Technology to boost rice production

Department of Public Information – Guyana

March 19, 2024


Guyana’s agriculture sector is at the forefront of technological advancement, with drones and data leading the charge towards a more efficient, sustainable, and productive future for rice farming.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has partnered with the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) to implement a pilot project aimed at enhancing rice production through the use of innovative technology.

The programme was launched last year with technical and financial support FAO-China South-South Cooperation project and a Regional E-Agriculture project.

Guyana and IICA are developing the first Biofortified Rice in the Caribbean Region, which provides a high nutritional value and will be a key contribution to Food Security in the country and the rest of the Caribbean

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation – IICA

March 21, 2024


After more than three years of joint scientific research and experimentation, the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have developed the region’s first biofortified rice variety, which is an extremely important contribution to the country’s food and nutrition security and can be extended to the entire Caribbean region.
Forest Day
The OECS Celebrates International Day of Forests with a Focus on Innovation and Sustainability
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States - OECS
March 21, 2024
https://pressroom.oecs.int/the-oecs-celebrates-international-day-of-forests-with-a-focus-on-innovation-and-sustainability#

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) joins the global community in commemorating the International Day of Forests, 2024. This year’s theme, "Celebrating Forests and Innovation for a Sustainable Future," underscores the critical role of forests in climate change mitigation, water and food security, and as habitats for threatened and endangered species. The significance of forests in the Eastern Caribbean is magnified due to their vital environmental and socio-economic contributions.

38th FAO Regional Conference
Interview with Ansari Hosein- Executive Director of CARDI at the 38th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Ministerial Session
March 21, 2024
https://www.facebook.com/CARDicaribbean/posts/pfbid0CzZLuh5TqqzUnoeGaXz3RGwsMHpPuAD7bpgPYCke0SeFt4Pr2hP822wDfZrEnoHl

Listen as CARDicaribbean’s Executive Director, Ansari Hosein speaks with NCN Guyana on the work the Institute is doing to improve production and productivity and build resilience in the Agriculture sector.

Climate-Resilient Solutions
Cultivating change: Sri Lanka’s smallholder farmers explore climate-resilient solutions
International Water Management institute – IWMI
March 18, 2024 By Juliana Knapp and Sushila Da Silva

On the north-central plains of Sri Lanka, in the small rural village in Galenbindunuwewa, a community of maize farmers are reshaping their farming practices to respond to the growing challenges posed by climate change. They recently welcomed researchers from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to share their experiences and aspirations, and to discuss climate-resilient solutions.

For almost two decades, these farmers have cultivated maize on rain-fed lands, facing the uncertainties of weather patterns ranging from droughts to unexpected heavy rainfall. Operating outside the organized irrigation systems, the only compensation previously available to them was for crop damage caused by elephants.

Tomato Production
Researchers study sustainable options for tomato farming
University of Florida – UF/IFAS
March 21, 2024
https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/swsdept/2024/03/21/researchers-study-sustainable-options-for-tomato-farming/

Two studies on tomato production are giving farmers more sustainable options for fertilizer use and maintaining soil health. UF/IFAS researchers explored the use of controlled-release urea (CRU) compared to conventional soluble urea (U) in one study. The other focused on the impact of standard tomato production on plant and soil carbon (C) and nitrogen (N) dynamics. It also examined the effect
of N fertilization rates on tomato plants and soil depth. Both studies took place at the University of Florida’s Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra, Florida.

**Events**

**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/pfbid0LLSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHld3qLPjkqqrw8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gZQLB6hSTR4I](https://www.facebook.com/maf.gov.bz/posts/pfbid0LLSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHld3qLPjkqqrw8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gZQLB6hSTR4I)

**AUGUST 2024**

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