6th to 12th April 2024 Issue, compiled by CARDI

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**Seedling Production – Guyana**

Several farmers and 10-day workers benefited from training on seedling production using local materials incorporated with vermicompost

National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI)

April 10, 2024

[link](https://www.facebook.com/NAREIGY/posts/pfbid02zxpvbVF8XvzvyhorDD7Tgw1VpoN9AsbgAjj54X777NyyeTyM7reqQHbADFok57el)

Several farmers and 10-day workers benefited from training on seedling production using local materials incorporated with vermicompost produced on the farm using animal waste and California Red worms. The exercise was done on MOA’s Model Farm, region 5.

Bluestar sweet peppers, celery and lettuce seedlings are produced for the farm and surplus for farmers.

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**Agriculture Education**

**Dr. Brathwaite to Head Task Force on Agriculture Education**

Government Information Service (GIS) - Barbados

April 8, 2024 By: Julie Carrington

[link](https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/dr-brathwaite-to-head-task-force-on-agriculture-education/)

Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, a long-standing advocate for Barbados to be self-sufficient by growing its own food, has been chosen by Government to head the soon to be created National Task Force on Agriculture Education.

Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Kay McConney, made the announcement as she too expressed the hope of having agriculture programmes in all schools across the island, as a means of encouraging healthy eating at an early age.

Speaking during the signing of a memorandum of understanding to officially formalise a partnership between the Barbados Community College (BCC) and Delaware State University (DSU) at the Jean and Norma Holder Hospitality Institute, yesterday, she said the task force is necessary and a part of Government’s strategic focus for the sector.

“This is important because of the role that agriculture is to play in our own food security and in our ability to feed ourselves.... What is significant is that education and agriculture cross many areas. For our friends who are here, more than 80 per cent of the deaths in Barbados are from non-communicable diseases.

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**Soil to Supper – Bahamas**

**Students explore soil to supper**

The Nassau Guardian

April 8, 2024 By: Shavaughm Moss

[link](https://www.thenassauguardian.com/lifestyles/students-explore-soil-to-supper/article_36f0def2-f364-11ee-9917-e3985708c635.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwZxh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR38RRcPig5Ny56ukHOY8PD4o_mTZpjmu8zGidEbuie6cyFHaEjS1k15exyw_aem_AcYyyuN2lg33m_pX7ry9pV8AoS4mvqQ-ub4NvaraolpGEtu0YbS9-plljs5gMbzb-dGfBxutDRz1reR98SI_VrWmq)

The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute’s (BAMSI) “Soil to Supper” program is focused on nurturing young minds and cultivating an appreciation for the wealth of foods grown in Bahamian soil that are used to create flavorful dishes. The youngest students get an opportunity to touch, feel,
Leslie Brace, program coordinator, said the “Soil to Supper” initiative was launched to introduce the agriculture industry to the nation’s primary school children.

**Agroforestry Transition in Cocoa Production**

Brazil: New IFAD-funded project to promote payment for environmental services will foster agroforestry transition in cocoa production areas in Bahia

IFAD
April 9, 2024

Today, the United Nations’ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Land Conservation Organization (OCT) – a prestigious Brazilian non-governmental organization working in southern Bahia state – unveiled the new CompensaAÇÃO (CompensACTION) project: Promotion of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) for deforestation-free supply chains in Brazil.

CompensaAÇÃO will be a joint investment of US$4.9 million by IFAD and the Republic of Germany and will be implemented in the Atlantic Forest biome, one of the areas most threatened by deforestation in the world. It should be noted that nearly 88 per cent of the original forest cover has been lost, and 24 per cent of its native animal and plant species are at risk. Furthermore, poverty levels remain high. In 2021, a worrisome 46.5 per cent of Bahia’s population was living in poverty, with 15.8 per cent in extreme poverty, the highest rates in the previous nine years.

**Agriculture and Rural Development**

FAO and ALIDE sign agreement to promote agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean

FAO
April 10, 2024

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE) signed a letter of intent to work on agreements to improve access to credit for small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises to accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Coconut Industry**

CARDI supports agricultural projects

The Agency for Public Information – St. Vincent and the Grenadines
April 8, 2024
[https://www.facebook.com/APISVG/posts/pfbid0YoTaTj6ieBu4cEXBuyLkxfEpUkHFVdzCJfyPJDF5fkSQ7ctb42S9ggJw5sQ8mhxFl](https://www.facebook.com/APISVG/posts/pfbid0YoTaTj6ieBu4cEXBuyLkxfEpUkHFVdzCJfyPJDF5fkSQ7ctb42S9ggJw5sQ8mhxFl)

Technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, national Properties Limited and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) are now better able to plant, maintain and harvest coconuts.
Integrated Pest Management Training (IPM)
NAMDEVCO Conducts Integrated Pest Management Training (IPM) for Field Staff
NAMDEVCO
April 8, 2024
https://www.facebook.com/NAMDEVCO/posts/pfbid0iAtVJCFgD7nzspdeE8WHiSQU5fWvek5kSXkotRqHGMeo6chuAsxKXY2reUWZ6Qzel
In an effort to sensitize and equip Field Officers in combating the Red Ring Disease (RRD), which affects coconut palms in Trinidad and Tobago, the National Agricultural Marketing and Development (NAMDEVCO) recently conducted a two-day Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training session, as part of the Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land Restoration in Productive Landscapes of Trinidad and Tobago (BIOREACH) Project.

This training was held on March 21 & 28, 2024, and focused on managing the RRD’s vector, the South American Palm Weevil (SAPW) (Rhynchophorus palmarum), which transmits the nematode Bursaphelenchus cocophilus.

Agri-Wellness Initiative
NCRHA food initiative reaps roughly 19,000 crops
Trinidad and Tobago Guardian Newspaper
April 9, 2024
The “Grow Your Own Food” project at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, created by staff members at the facility during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, is today boasting of yielding almost 19,000 crops, and fostering a sense of community at the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA).

A release from the NCRHA says the underlying philosophy of the project was, “Grow your own food for a healthier you.”

The Authority notes that because of the project’s many positive results, it was incorporated into the NCRHA’s renowned Wellness Club as the ‘Agri-Wellness Initiative’ on October 15, 2023, and merged with the institution’s other schedule of activities.

Crop Breeding
Unveiling the Future of Potatoes and Sweet potatoes: How You Can Shape Breeding Decisions
CIP – International Potato Center
April 9, 2024
https://cipotato.org/blog/unveiling-the-future-of-potatoes-and-sweetpotatoes-how-you-can-shape-breeding-decisions/
Are you ready to be a part of something ground-breaking? The future of potato and Sweetpotato breeding is in your hands, and your expertise can make all the difference.

In recent years, there’s been a growing recognition that a demand-led approach is key to maximizing the impact of investments in crop breeding. This means we need reliable, comparable, and timely market intelligence to design new varieties effectively. The International Potato Center (CIP) is part of the CGIAR Initiative on Market Intelligence – a collaborative effort bringing together social scientists, crop breeding teams, and other experts to transform how we understand and respond to market demands and revolutionize how we approach crop breeding.
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/pfbid02LLSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHld3qLPjkqwwr8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gZQLB6hSTR4l

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