27th April to 3rd May 2024 Issue, compiled by CARDI

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Sweet Potato

The Burton Brothers from Burkes; pioneers in Sweet Potato production
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
April 26, 2024 By: Ika Fergus

Sweet Potato, known scientifically as (Ipomoea batatas), is a root crop that is grown by many farmers across the five main Agricultural districts in Antigua and Barbuda, due to its drought tolerance and versatility. However, the crop is predominantly cultivated in the Southcentral and Southeastern farming communities.

Recognized globally as a highly nutritious and rich in antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, the tuber has become a valuable crop and a mainstay for the livelihood security of farmers, especially during these unprecedented times of Climate variability, which continues to negatively impact water availability for Agriculture.

Hydroponics

A method of growing plants in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution
Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Agriculture
April 26, 2024 By: Ika Fergus

Hydroponics, by definition, is a method of growing plants in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution. The basic principle behind this farming technique, is that it allows the roots of plants to come in direct contact with the nutrient solution, along with oxygen which are essential for optimum growth and development.

Climate Resilience

El Niño and La Niña: four crucial steps to build climate resilience
FAO
April 30, 2024

In the face of intensifying El Niño and La Niña weather events, effective anticipatory action is crucial to shield and better equip communities ahead of shocks as it helps to save lives and protect livelihoods by preventing damage and losses to crops, livestock, productive lands, water and infrastructure, said Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

She gave insights into FAO’s experience in dealing with the latest El Niño and its impacts at a high-level thematic event entitled “El Niño 2023-2024: Actions for the safety, sustainability and resilience of people and the planet” organized jointly by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
Innovations and Agricultural Progress in the Caribbean

The Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) and the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines hosted the "Challenges and Responses to Agriculture Development in the Caribbean Forum
CARDICaribbean
April 30, 2024
https://www.facebook.com/CARDICaribbean/posts/pfbid0goQAAqAG6ipwrPCQxJgtxcvVvQuAaZgdPAcujay9nh6Ej28EvqVLuUQ9xXJ

The forum highlighted innovations and agricultural progress in the Caribbean as well as explored potential opportunities for cooperation between the countries in the Region and Taiwan.

Agricultural Production

Women farmers enhance agricultural production in conflict-torn Sudan
CIMMYT
April 30, 2024

The ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to contribute to a food crisis threatening the lives of over 18 million people. Farmers, especially smallholders and vulnerable women, are facing extraordinary challenges in obtaining needed agricultural inputs, and access to markets is diminishing.

In Kassala State, East Sudan, which hosts hundreds of thousands of people displaced by ongoing armed conflict including Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees, the USAID-funded Sustainable Agrifood Systems Approach for Sudan (SASAS) is working with women farmers to prepare and safeguard the upcoming growing season. This work is critical to help meet the unprecedented demand for vegetables in the region and achieve sustainable development goals.

Sustainable Rice Production

MARD, Can Tho City, and IRRI launch model farms for sustainable rice production
CIGAR
May 3, 2024

Department of Crop Production-Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DCP-MARD), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Can Tho City, and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) officially launched its model rice fields under Vietnam’s One-Million-Ha program.

As part of Vietnam’s “One Million Hectares Sustainable Development Project for High-Quality and Low-Emission Rice Cultivation Associated with Green Growth (One Million Hectares Program)”, the Department of Crop Production-Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DCP-MARD), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Can Tho City, and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) officially launched its model rice fields.
Food Systems

Food forests are connecting vulnerable consumers and organic farmers in Kenya
The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT / CIGAR
May 3, 2024
The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT is collaborating with Feedback to the Future (FttF) and Diabetes Awareness Trust (DAT) to connect urban consumers with small scale organic producers/farmers. The project is being implemented in Kilome sub-county, Makueni County, where the farmers are located, and Makadara sub-county, Nairobi County, where the consumers reside.

The overall goal of the project is to build a regional, healthy, inclusive, and regenerative food system in Kenya by piloting an organic fruits and vegetables food chain from production to consumption.

Agricultural Development – BAHAMAS

The Embassy of China makes a donation of tractors and tillers to the Gladstone Road Agricultural Center
Bahamas Information Services
April 30, 2024
https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/
NASSAU, The Bahamas -- Two tractors and two tillers have been donated to the Ministry of Agriculture to boost the sector’s farming sector. An official ceremony was held at the BAIC site on Gladstone Road on Wednesday, 24th April. In attendance were the Minister of Agriculture & Marine Resources the Hon. Jomo Campbell; Minister of Grand Bahama the Hon. Ginger Moxe; Chinese Governor of Hunan Province HE Mao Weiming; Secretary General of Hunan Province Qu Hai; Division Chief of Hunan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Wong Yongxiang; Vice-President of Zoomlion Heavy Industry Science and Technology Co. Ltd. Hu Keman; and other Chinese Officials. Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Montez Williams, participated in the signing ceremony.

Grenada Landmark Diet Study

Grenada LANDMARK DIET STUDY
April 29, 2024
https://www.facebook.com/ MOAGrenada/posts/pfbid034QhFcfEpUSWXjrMAhcmgyrNRp8RFeHFRy9khiDv28Vo3bz7vZM9DF7z6BWQzZpI
Volunteers needed. Be a part of the Grenada LANDMARK DIET STUDY. We need you onboard. All are invited.

Grenada Landmark diet survey
NOW Grenada
23 April 2024
by The Grenada Food and Nutrition Council
Grenada’s landmark diet survey has started and will be conducted throughout all the parishes of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique from April into July 2024.
The survey titled “An Evaluation of Dietary Intakes and Food Preparation Methods Pre and Post Pandemic among Grenadian Households” will seek to better understand and evaluate the food
consumption habits and patterns and also the methods of food preparation used by Grenadians and
to determine if any changes resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic, our decisions about what we eat
and how we prepare our foods. The study will also explore other factors affecting food security
within Grenadian households.

**Plant Breeding - Grains**

**ICRISAT Revolutionizes Crop Testing with Portable Technology**

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

3 May 2024

[https://pressroom.icrisat.org/icrisat-revolutionizes-crop-testing-with-portable-technology](https://pressroom.icrisat.org/icrisat-revolutionizes-crop-testing-with-portable-technology)

Researchers at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) are
leading a transformation in crop testing, combining AI-driven models and pocket-size near-infrared
spectroscopy (NIRS) devices. These portable sensors allow for quick evaluation of nutrition levels in
indigenous food grains right at the farmer’s gate or in research fields.

Director General of ICRISAT, Dr Jacqueline d’Arros Hughes, championed the integration of this
disruptive technology into breeding pipelines and key points of relevant value chains. Aligned with the
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) strategy, Dr Hughes foresees the tool as a catalyst for the
production of nutrient-dense crops, both in breeding programs and in farmers' fields, a crucial element
in the global fight against malnutrition

**Events**

**APRIL 2024**

**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/pfbid02LLSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHld3qLPjkqwwr8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gL6hSTR4](https://www.facebook.com/maf.gov.bz/posts/pfbid02LLSvnt9Vxgauqzzpx3aoAHld3qLPjkqwwr8Z7mWH8adPywDgdhE52gL6hSTR4)

**MAY 2024**

**ICTforAg 2024, May 28-30th**

[https://www.ictforag.com/](https://www.ictforag.com/)

Localizing impact through inclusion, inspiration, and innovation.

Mark your calendars, pack your bags, and prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey as ICTforAg
2024 unfolds from May 28-30th across five vibrant locations (+ online).

**AUGUST 2024**

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