For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

19 December 2023

Remembering Dr. Janice C. Reid

8 October 1943 - 17 December 2023

We are very saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Janice Reid, a former Research Entomologist based at the CARDI Jamaica Unit and one of the pioneers of the Institute’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme.

Dr. Reid joined CARDI Jamaica in 1979 as a Research Entomologist from the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1988, she was appointed as the CARDI Representative in Jamaica. A position she held until 1996, before resigning from the Institute in February 1998.

During her tenure at CARDI, Dr. Reid carried out vital research on several fruit tree, vegetable and root and tuber crops, that helped to improve overall productivity and the quality of the produce. However, her name is synonymous with the integrated management of the Coffee Berry Borer (Hypothenemus hampei). The beetle was first detected in Jamaica in 1978 where associated crop loss was found to be as high as 85%. Dr Reid’s research work on this invasive pest earned her, her Ph.D. Her research identified factors which enabled the dissemination of the pest and also identified effective control measures. Radical improvement in levels of crop
husbandry, judicious use of chemicals and elimination of wild host reservoirs were some of the control tactics proposed to suppress the spread of the pest.

Dr. Reid also led major donor-funded projects geared towards:

- Monitoring rivers in three watersheds for chemical contamination
- Improved spray technology for coffee
- IPM of major sweet-potato pests
- Pesticide use on vegetable amaranth, hot pepper and sweet potato in selected areas of Jamaica

Her pragmatic approach, technical knowledge and forthrightness earned her widespread respect among her peers. Dr. Reid also served as an Assistant Lecturer in Crop Protection at the Jamaica School of Agriculture and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Miami. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), a former Board Member the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and Chairman of RADA’s Technical Sub Committee.

Dr. Reid was a Trinadian, who graduated with a BSc in Botany and Zoology from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine and an MSc in Applied Entomology from the University of Guelph. In 1987 she graduated with her PhD from the University of the West Indies, Mona. She was the author of several research papers.

Her guidance, support and shared experiences have been described as exemplary by some of the Institute’s younger researchers that she mentored.

In 2021 Dr. Reid was named a Phenomenal Woman in Agriculture by the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The management and staff extend heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

May she rest in eternal peace!

-ENDS-

About CARDI

CARDI (www.cardi.org) was established in 1974 to serve the agricultural research and development needs of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARDI is positioned to contribute to the sustainable development of the Caribbean by the co-generation, diffusion and application of knowledge, through agricultural research for development. The Institute’s Headquarters is located at the University Campus, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

For more information, please contact:
Denise Besai @ 1-868-645-1205 | DBesai@cardi.org