



MarketPlace

OCTOBER 10 - 12, 2018 • TRADE SHOW & EXHIBITION MAGAZINE



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MarketPlace

OCTOBER 10 - 12, 2018  TRADE SHOW & EXHIBITION MAGAZINE

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OFFICIAL MESSAGES



Hon. Indar Weir
Minister, Agriculture
& Food Security

BARBADOS



I am honored to welcome all participants from the Region and beyond to the fifteenth Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) which will be held in Barbados from October 8 to 12, 2018.

Throughout its long history, this will be the first occasion that Barbados will be hosting this premier Regional agricultural event. I am therefore particularly excited and buoyed that Barbados' hosting of the CWA coincides with my ascension to this important office.

The theme for Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2018 is "Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Future in the Region." This theme is most apt in light of the fact that there have been unprecedented levels of chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDs) globally due to the over consumption of foods devoid of adequate nutrients.

The increased incidence of CNCDs underscores the important nexus between agriculture and health. Moreover, it signals the urgent need for greater commitment among our policymakers for the forging of deeper and more expansive linkages between the agriculture and health sectors.

The Region's agriculture sector faces numerous challenges which impact on its development, including climate change, disasters, limited access to land and financing and high energy costs. Therefore, it is critical for policymakers to identify opportunities and solutions for the sector's transformation and sustainable development.

I am confident that CWA 2018 will provide an important platform for sharing experiences, knowledge and ideas and developing novel, bold and exciting strategies for addressing our complex challenges. I look forward to sharing in the camaraderie that will be experienced during the week of activities and to viewing the exhibitions that will be on display during the CWA Marketplace.

I wish you an informative, productive and enjoyable Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2018 as we work together to develop the agriculture sector. I encourage you to take some time out of your busy schedules to savour our culture and to enjoy the warm and friendly Barbadian hospitality.





**Ambassador
Irwin Larocque
Secretary General
CARICOM**

Once again, it is my pleasure to welcome all participants to this year's Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA). The theme of this year's event – Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Future in the Region –

speaks to the fundamental role of agriculture and food production in helping to support the "health and wellness" of our people. Our farmers and our agro-processors, both large and small, play an important role in this regard as well as in our thrust towards food security and must be supported in their efforts.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) places great store on promoting healthier lifestyles, and consuming nutritious food is essential to achieving this objective. For this reason, it is important that we continue to promote the production and consumption of our traditional foods and ensure that these foods are available in adequate quantities at affordable prices. We must also recognize that our increasingly urbanized populations require greater convenience in food preparation, and hence the important role to be played by our agro-processors and distributors in delivering the products in the form demanded by our consumers.

Unfortunately, I must also draw attention to the devastation to some of our production over the past year as a result of hurricanes. The destruction of agricultural capacity in Dominica has been particularly heartbreaking, on both a sectoral and human level.

As a Community, we are working to ensure that the Region develops the necessary resilience to natural disasters. In that respect, efforts are currently being made, in association with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to develop a Regional Emergency Response Strategy and Action Plan for the Agriculture Sector of the Caribbean, which will be rolled out this year.

The Caribbean Community values the contribution of its cooperating partners, including the FAO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA). We also recognize the role of our own regional Institutions, including the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Caribbean Regional Organisation (CARICOM Message continued) for Standards and Quality (CROSO), and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), all of which play a vital role in promoting the Region's agricultural production, food security and nutritional resilience. Together with these and other institutions, the CARICOM Secretariat coordinates a robust regional agricultural



development and food security programme.

Finally, I wish to pay special tribute to the Government and People of Barbados for generously hosting CWA 2018 and welcoming us to their beautiful shores. The Government of Barbados and the private sector have supported the regional initiatives in agriculture and, more specifically, the cassava, small ruminants and the coconut value-chain development programmes.

CWA represents a great opportunity for stakeholders in the agricultural sector to interact with their counterparts from across the Region and, indeed, from other parts of the world, to showcase their products at the Trade Show and Exhibition and to mutually benefit from each other's knowledge and experience. I wish CWA 2018 every success and look forward to joining you and enjoying the week's activities.





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**Dr. Lystra
Fletcher-Paul**
Sub-Regional
Coordinator for the
Caribbean
FAO



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to join the CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, CARDI and CTA in celebrating Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) 2018.

This year's theme "Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Future in the region" is very relevant and timely. Over the past year, although the overall levels of undernutrition in the Caribbean have reduced, the levels of overweight and obesity continue to rise and are of some concern. In 2016, FAO recorded over 7.7 million undernourished Caribbean people down from 7.8 million between 2013 – 2015, 5 million of which were in Haiti. By contrast, the levels of overweight and obesity of Caribbean children exceeded global averages. Approximately seven percent (7%) of Caribbean children under 5 years old were overweight in 2016 and approximately 23% increase of adults were obese, with greater prevalence among women.

As Caribbean nations, we are spending excessive amounts on the importation of processed foods and foods (which are high in sugar, salt and fat), rather than growing our own food. This has given rise to more unhealthy diets, which have contributed to the increasing incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and hypertension, which is now the leading cause of death in the region. The economic costs associated with the treatment of NCDs are considerable and put further strain on an already over-burdened healthcare system as well as contribute to loss of productivity.

During the 35th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean which was held in Jamaica in March 2018, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean stressed the continuing imperative of ending hunger, achieving food security and eradicating malnutrition, with specific reference to the SAMOA[1] Pathway and the adoption of the Global Action Programme for Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS. They also requested FAO to give increased attention to: combating obesity through consumption of locally-grown, healthy, safe and nutritious food; promoting political will and good governance, including the facilitation of development and strengthening of policies, legislation and regulations; supporting the monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes and progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we collectively work towards strengthening food systems and agriculture, we must focus on lowering our high food import bill, look for transformative ways of strengthening our agrifood systems, support sustainable nutrition sensitive value chains for healthy nutrition and promote intraregional food trade. These are in line with our mission of fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO has now undertaken a more responsive approach that actively contributes to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



CWA 2018 offers a unique platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences on transformative food and agricultural development policies to be converted into action by unifying stakeholders committed to improving the region's food and agriculture sector. It is our hope that through increased partnerships with governments, donor agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector, we can have more innovative thinking to further the development agenda.

We thank the Government of Barbados for hosting this week of agricultural engagement and exchange. We also thank our partner development agencies, for their support in organising this Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2018. We anticipate vibrant discussions and your invaluable inputs as we strive to achieve a strengthened Agricultural sector for a healthier future in the Caribbean. We wish all participants an engaging and rewarding CWA 2018.

[1] SAMOA – SIDS Accelerated Mode of Action



Manuel Otero
Director General
IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is proud and honoured to join with the Government of Barbados, the CARICOM Secretariat, CARDI, FAO and the CTA to host the Fifteenth Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA).

The theme of this year's CWA – "Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Future in the Region" – responds to the critical issue of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs) in the Caribbean Region, and its tremendous toll on youth, labour productivity, and the overall sustainability of our economies. This CWA therefore provides a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to reassess and reflect on the important role of the Agri-food sector in contributing to food & nutrition security and healthy lifestyles, not only through increased production of safe and nutritious food, but also through improving prospects for trade and creating healthier economies.

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture also represents a strategic platform for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships with key Agri-Food system actors and donors in the Caribbean, for creating actionable recommendations for stimulating increased investments in the sector, and for triggering increased political commitment for the creation of enabling policy environments for sustainable food systems.

The Institute's new Medium Term Plan (MTP) for 2018 – 2022 has identified "Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Food Quality" as one of its five primary areas of focus and this along with the other areas of focus are expected to contribute to a strengthened agricultural sector to achieve a healthier future for the region, in keeping with the theme of the CWA. The MTP also recognizes the unique and special circumstances that exist in the Caribbean and therefore provides for the implementation of a Differentiated Strategy for the region that seeks to build sustainable food production systems and a robust and resilient agricultural sector, firmly rooted in the rural sector with youth and women producers, that will in turn contribute to much needed economic diversification and growth as well as to improved health outcomes in the countries of the Caribbean.

The Institute will serve as a bridge, providing access to relevant hemispheric networks and platforms as well as to its technical resources in all five technical programmes, in order to generate horizontal cooperation, and foster progress

in achieving agricultural and rural development and food and nutrition security in the region.

The overwhelming evidence for the impact that a strong Agri-Food sector could have on the health of the Caribbean people, and for creating wealth in our economies can no longer be ignored. It is now well past the time to deliver. Success requires joint efforts to generate the synergies needed to tackle the ever-increasing challenges we face. Let us therefore use this opportunity of the CWA to renew our collaboration with a common purpose to improve the lives of all in our region.

We wish to thank the Government of Barbados for hosting CWA 2018, and we extend our very best wishes to all for a productive and successful CWA 2018.



(Photo credit: PROPEL).





Barton A. Clarke
Executive Director
CARDI

The Caribbean is in the midst of a health crisis!

It has been listed as the Region in the Americas with the highest mortality rates for Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Likewise, overweight and obesity in particular childhood obesity are of increasing concern and a growing challenge across CARICOM. Unfortunately, the Region also holds the record for having the highest rates of obesity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Particular worrying is the statistics that one in every three children in the Caribbean is overweight or obese.

The transitioning of the Caribbean diet from predominantly fresh wholesome produce to heavily processed, energy dense, nutrient deficient foods rich in fats, salt and sugar has been identified as one of the causal linkages to this epidemic.

The agriculture sector, holds the key to improving the health and nutrition of the peoples across the Region. CARDI is extremely pleased that the theme "Strengthening agriculture for a healthier future in the region" will bring to the fore the inextricable link between agriculture and health.

For too long the agriculture-health nexus has been overlooked.

We are optimistic that the practitioners and policy makers gathered here during the week together with our multi sectoral partners will work together to develop concrete plans of action for jointly tackling these challenges in critical areas such as strengthening agricultural value chains especially for traditional commodities, food safety systems, education and public awareness, development of coordinated policies and a supportive legislative framework.

CARDI stands ready and willing to partner with all entities towards taking bold action for developing a productive and resilient agriculture sector. A healthy diet is key to a healthy lifestyle. We are committed to leaving a legacy of good health and nutrition to our future generations. Countries and by extension the region will reap the benefits of producing healthy children.

During the week we will be partnering with key national, regional and international agencies to host a series of events geared towards improving the productivity and sustainability of the region's agriculture sector. Focus will be placed on commodities such as coconuts and small ruminants and the thematic area of climate change.

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome each of you to my home, Barbados.

CARDI is immensely privileged to be associated with the organising and co-hosting of CWA 2018. On behalf of CARDI's Governors and Directors, management, staff and on my own behalf, I wish the Government and people of Barbados and indeed the entire Region a very productive and meaningful CWA 2018.





Michael Hailu

Director

CTA

CTA is delighted to once again partner with CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, CARDI and FAO in supporting the Caribbean

Week of Agriculture (CWA) – the region’s premier event focused on agriculture. The theme of this year’s CWA, Strengthening agriculture for a healthier future in the region, encompasses CTA’s vision of a future in which smallholder agriculture is a vibrant, modern and sustainable business that creates value for farmers, entrepreneurs, youth and women, and produces affordable, nutritious and healthy food for all.

Like so many parts of the world, the Caribbean is facing a perfect storm of pressures on its people, their health and their livelihoods. Climate change is already making its effect felt, as extreme weather events hit the region harder and more often. In 2017, the region was battered by a series of hurricanes, including Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded, closely followed by Maria and both destroying infrastructure and devastating agriculture across the region, with crops, tree crops and livestock badly hit. Increased incidences of extreme weather events like this can increase dependence on food imports and pose great challenges for agricultural producers and supply chains in ensuring consistency of supplies to both domestic and export markets. On top of this, the people of the region are facing a triple burden of malnutrition – undernutrition (stunting and hunger) and micronutrient deficiency (mainly iron and vitamin A deficiency) co-existing with obesity, even within households.

This is adding to the burden on the region’s health services with an increase in diet- and life-style related illnesses like diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases and some cancers. Ten years after the landmark 2007 Port of Spain declaration to stop the epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the 38th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Grenada in July 2017 highlighted this issue again, as one still needing urgent attention. Globalisation of markets is creating both opportunities and challenges for the region’s producers – offering new markets for their products but also increasing competition for those same markets. At the same time, there is the challenge of getting today’s youth involved in the agriculture sector – the average age of farmers in the region is approaching 60 years. These are serious challenges, but we also see opportunities in recent developments. One of the biggest of these is in the power of digitalisation. Technology that only a few years ago was accessible only to wealthy, large-scale farmers is now in the reach of smallholders and small-scale service providers – things like satellite-derived weather data, up-to-the-minute news on the latest market prices, customised agronomic advisory services, all of which can now be delivered through the

increasingly ubiquitous mobile phone. By 2016, there were more mobile phone connections in the Caribbean than there were people.[1] CTA’s work is demonstrating how farmers’ organisations can use these tools to bring services to their members, including access to finance, inputs and insurance. This not only benefits their members but also creates a sustainable business model for the farmers’ organisations themselves – a true win-win. These services help build the climate-resilience of farmers’ and fisherfolk’s operations, by giving them the information they need to deal with the vagaries of the weather and the investment they need to adopt climate-smart practices, and providing them with the safety net they need to overcome weather-induced crises. And these new digital services are creating business opportunities for our tech-savvy youth. The AgriHack Talent events supported by CTA have demonstrated the depth of digital talent in the Caribbean, waiting for the opportunity to bring their skills, knowledge and passion to bear on solving some of the issues facing the regions food producers and consumers.

This same technology is also creating new markets, allowing producers to link to consumers – from individuals to hotels, restaurants and other big buyers – through mobile phone apps. This helps them tap into new trends, like the growing demand for fresh, healthy foods among urban populations and the tourism sector. E-commerce is already helping agribusinesses in the region to tap into lucrative markets, particularly the Caribbean diaspora in the United States and the European Union. CTA has supported a number of such ‘farm to fork’ initiatives that are benefitting both producers and consumers and helping boost the market for healthy food. The Centre has also championed south-south sharing of experience in this area, including sponsoring participants from the Caribbean and Pacific to conduct exchange visits to learn from each other’s experiences with agritourism.

However, without the market, producers will not invest in producing healthy foods. And without the produce, there is nothing for markets to sell. This is where initiatives like CTA’s Chefs for Development, launched during 2016’s CWA, come in. By linking entrepreneurial chefs and others in the hospitality industry – a potentially huge market in the Caribbean – with producers, the initiative helps reduce reliance on imports and has the added benefit of raising the profile of local produce in the eyes of local consumers, further boosting the market for these products. Addressing the health and nutrition challenges facing the Caribbean requires a concerted, coordinated, multisectoral response that cuts across health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, social protection, food security and agriculture, trade and the environment. It needs to be underpinned by multidisciplinary and public-sector-private-sector collaboration and adequate public and private investment.

There is a strong political awareness of this now – as illustrated by the theme of this Caribbean Week of Agriculture – and it is up to us to join forces to take advantage of this and make major inroads into these challenges. I look forward to the event’s discussions and to reaffirming CTA’s capability and willingness to work with partners in the region to bring a prosperous, food-secure future to the Caribbean.





BADMC Pack House Linking Farmers to Local Markets

SPECIAL FEATURE

Agricultural Services Division

BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND MARKETING CORPORATION

The establishment of a Pack House at the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (BADMC) at Fairy Valley Plantation, Christ Church in Barbados forms part of a Food Production Zone Project mandated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management (recently renamed the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security).

This mandate was driven primarily by the need for a facility to package and sell fresh local agricultural produce directly to the retail, distribution and hospitality markets, with the aim of stimulating local supply in order to reduce the national import bill for agricultural produce. Much of the fruits, vegetables, herbs and crops are imported due to lack of availability and consistency or quality of the local produce, necessitating a market intervention by BADMC.

The BADMC Pack House facility, part of the Agricultural Services Division, offers this coordinated function which makes it possible to access most markets.

Aims of the Pack House Operation

- To enable quality assurance activities that will ensure product quality and quantity to meet market requirements.
- To serve as a hub for coordination and governance of farm → pack house → market operations via maximizing economies of scale, improving market access, facilitating technical and business development improvements.

Expectations of Farmers

- Ensure that good agricultural practices are followed.
- Facilitate record keeping of production area, volume and quality of produce.

- Provide timely and consistent supply.
- Ensure grading and supply of produce are to acceptable standards.

Commitment of BADMC

- Ensure traceability and acceptable GAPs are incorporated into the farmers' programme and provide technical assistance to farmers via extension service and technology improvements.
- Provide timely information and advice regarding production schedules, produce type requirements, and production specifications.
- Identify target markets and ensure that quality requirements are met.
- Ensure supply of value-added produce which maximizes demand for local produce.
- Provide timely payment to suppliers.

Farmer-Suppliers

Approximately eighty-five (85) farmers initially participated in supplying the Pack House under a programme of scheduled production being implemented for select produce according to market demand. To date, over 200 farmers are registered under the Growers' Programme.

Trade Customers

Initially, BADMC leverage its existing relationships with the retail sector (wholesalers and retailers) through BADMC's Produce Room, Cold Storage Department, and the BADMC-operated CARMETA'S Shops. BADMC is presently targeting the tourism/hospitality and cruise sectors. Discussions are ongoing to collaborate with a major supplier of the cruise industry, working closely with the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) to target select hotels and restaurants. At maximum capacity, BADMC will receive, grade, package and deliver 30,000 lbs of produce weekly.

Visit the BADMC Pack House facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/barbadospackhouse.org/>

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ABOUT CWA 2018



Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Future in the Region ...

During the week of October 8 to 12, 2018, the Government of Barbados will be hosting the fifteenth (15th) Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) under the theme: "Strengthening Agriculture for a Healthier Future in the Region" at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre and Hilton

Barbados Resort. First held in Trinidad and Tobago in 1999, CWA takes place under the aegis of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, referred to as "The Alliance".

The members of the Secretariat for the Alliance are:

- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
- The ACP-EU Technical Centre for Cooperation on Agriculture and Rural Development (CTA)

Held annually in October, this regional event provides a forum for Ministers of Agriculture, planners, regional organisations and other key agricultural stakeholders in the public and private sectors of the Region, to meet to discuss major issues affecting the agricultural sector in the region. The major objective is to derive solutions targeted at the transformation and repositioning of agriculture in the region, as well as at improving its contribution

to supporting the economic, social and environmental stability of CARICOM Member States. During the five-day event, regional organisations will host a number of workshops simultaneously throughout each day.

Among the topics to be covered under the Technical Workshops to be conducted, are:

- Development of the Regional Coconut Industry.
- Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship
- Climate Resilience in the Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors
- Small Ruminants
- The School Feeding Programme.

In addition to the convening of meetings, seminars and workshops, the host country also hosts an agricultural trade show and exhibition, at which local and regional agricultural and agro-processed products, as well as innovative technology and equipment, are displayed. It is anticipated that this exhibition will attract agriculturalists and entrepreneurs from throughout the region, who will be offered the opportunity to promote a wide range of their products and services. Booths will also be set up by the various regional organisations, where visitors will have the opportunity to seek advice and gather information on the services offered by these organisations.

A number of field trips will also be organised to various agricultural enterprises of interest, to showcase rural and value chain developments, and the state of play of agriculture within the country. The hosting of a number of social events will also form part of the night-time events to be held during the week.

To learn more about CWA's history, visit: cwa2018.caricom.org/about-cwa



CWA 2018 AGENDA | DAYS 1, 2 & 3

MONDAY | OCTOBER 8, 2018

- 8:00 — 16:00 Registration
8:00 — 8:30 Media Briefing
8:30 — 10:15 Plenary/ Press Opening (Room 1)
10:15 — 10:45 Morning Coffee Break
10:45 — 12:30 School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Caribbean Coconut Industry Technical Seminar Launch (CARDI) (Rooms 2, 3 and 4)
Natural Resource & Disaster Risk Manag't: Implications for FNS & the Agriculture Sector (FAO/ IICA) (Room 5)
12:30 — 13:30 Lunch
13:30 — 15:30 School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Climate Resilience & Coconut (CARDI) (Room 2)
Coconuts – Trade and Investment (CARDI) (Room 3)
Small Ruminants & Coconuts (CARDI) (Room 4)
Natural Resource & Disaster Risk Manag't: Implications for FNS & the Agriculture Sector (FAO/ IICA) (Room 5)
15:30 — 15:45 Afternoon Coffee Break
15:45 — 18:30 School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Climate Resilience & Coconut (CARDI) (Room 2)
Coconuts – Trade and Investment (CARDI) (Room 3)
Small Ruminants & Coconuts (CARDI) (Room 4)
Natural Resource & Disaster Risk Manag't: Implications for FNS & the Agriculture Sector (FAO/ IICA) (Room 5)

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 9, 2018

- 8:00 — 8:30 Media Briefing
8:30 — 10:15 COTED Officials Meeting By Invitation Only (Hilton Room, Hilton Barbados)
School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Youth in Agriculture (FAO, CTA, IICA) (Room 2)
Coconut, Climate Resilience, Small Ruminants (CARDI) (Room 3)
Natural Resource & Disaster Risk Management: Implications for FNS & the Agriculture Sector (FAO/ IICA) (Room 4)
10:15 — 10:45 Morning Coffee Break
10:45 — 12:30 COTED Officials Meeting By Invitation Only (Hilton Room, Hilton Barbados)
School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Youth in Agriculture (FAO, CTA, IICA) (Room 2)
Coconut, Climate Resilience, Small Ruminants (Room 3)
Natural Resource & Disaster Risk Manag't: Implications for FNS & the Agriculture Sector (FAO/ IICA) (Room 4)
12:30 — 13:30 Lunch
13:30 — Until Coconut Field Trip
13:30 — 15:30 COTED Officials Meeting By Invitation Only (Hilton Room, Hilton Barbados)
School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Youth in Agriculture (FAO, CTA, IICA) (Room 2)
Propel Seminar – Applying the Market Systems Approach (Room 3)
Natural Resource & Disaster Risk Management: Implications for FNS & the Agriculture Sector (FAO/ IICA) (Room 4)
15:30 — 15:45 Afternoon Coffee Break
15:45 — 18:30 COTED Officials Meeting By Invitation Only (Hilton Room, Hilton Barbados)
School Feeding Programs as a Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security (FAO) (Room 1)
Youth in Agriculture (FAO, CTA, IICA) (Room 2)
Propel Seminar – Applying the Market Systems Approach (Room 3)
19:15 — 20:30 Cultural Show (Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination, UWI*)

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 10, 2018

- 8:00 — 8:30 Media Briefing
9:00 — 10:15 Alliance Meeting (Room 1, Hilton Barbados)
10:15 — 10:45 Morning Coffee Break
10:45 — 12:30 Alliance Meeting (Room 1, Hilton Barbados)
12:30 — 13:30 Lunch
Ministerial Sponsored Lunch (GA-CDRC) (George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre)
13:30 — 15:30 Alliance Meeting (Room 1, Hilton Barbados)
15:30 — 15:45 Afternoon Coffee Break
18:00 — 22:00 CWA Opening Ceremony Reception and Trade Show





Marketplace

THE REGION'S PREMIER AGRICULTURAL TRADE SHOW

Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre October 11 & 12, 10am - 10pm Daily
ADMISSION FREE! Learn more: cwa2018.caricom.org/tradeshow

EVENT CALENDAR

OCTOBER 11, 2018, 10:00AM - 10:00PM

'Youth in Agriculture' Showcase
Horticultural Exhibition
10:00am - 8:00pm

'GEL in BIM' Agro-Bingo Games
10:30am/11:30am

CWA Business2Business Hours
1:00pm - 5:00pm

'Grow Well, Eat Well, Live Well' Cooking Class
5:00pm - 7:00pm



OCTOBER 12, 2018, 10:00AM - 10:00PM

'Youth in Agriculture' Showcase
Horticultural Exhibition
10:00am - 8:00pm

'GEL in BIM' Agro-Bingo Games
10:30am/11:30am

CWA Business2Business Hours
1:00pm - 5:00pm

CWA Caribbean Culinary Challenge
7:00pm - 9:00pm

DAILY ADMISSION ... FREE!

📍 Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Graeme Hall, Christ Church BB 15003, Barbados
🌐 www.cwa2018.caricom.org
✉ cwa@agriculture.gov.bb





"Strengthening agriculture for a healthier future in the region."

MarketPlace2018 TRADE SHOW LAYOUT

BOOTH KEY

- 8x8ft (16 interior)
- 10x10ft (12 interior; 7 exterior)
- 20x10ft (9 interior; 5 exterior)
- Secretariat
- 20x20ft 'GEL in Bim' Pavillion



CWA MarketPlace 2018 Exhibitors

EXPO EAST (INTERIOR)

- E1 The Fresh Press (Barbados)
- E2 Veggie Choices (Ivodeb Enterprises) (Barbados)
- E3 Barbados Investment & Development Corporation (Barbados)
- E4 GUYANA (Guyana Office for Investment) (Guyana)
- E6 Sunbury Harvest (ARMAG Manufacturing Ltd.) (Barbados)

'GEL IN BIM' PROMENADE

CWA Marketplace by the Numbers

-  **3 Confectionery & Desserts**
-  **1 Consumer Services**
-  **13 Development Agencies & Ministries**
-  **7 Farm Inputs & Equipment**
-  **17 Food & Beverages**
-  **5 Health & Beauty**
-  **1 Horticulture**
-  **1 Liquor**
-  **25 Youth Agro-enterprises**

- E5, E8** CARMETA'S (B'dos Agricultural Development & Marketing Corp.) (Barbados)
- E9** Youth in Agriculture Showcase - FAO, CTA
- E10** Barbados Agricultural Society (Barbados)
- E11** Farm & Garden Shop / MASSY Trading (Barbados)
- E12** Youth Agripreneurship Incubator Programme, MAFS (Barbados)
- E13** Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- E14** Youth in Agriculture Showcase (Caribbean Export)
- E15** Suriname Network of Rural Women Producers (Suriname)
- E16** Magnolia Chocolatier (Barbados)
- E17** Agricultural Exports Inc. (USA)
- E18** PriceSmart (Barbados)
- Y1** Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (Jamaica)
- Y2** MAPAgri Inc. (Canada)
- Y3** Caribbean Agricultural Health & Safety Agency / Regional Biosafety
- Y4** Bajam Balmz Aromatherapy Services Inc. (Barbados)
- Y5** Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Y6** Rural Development Commission (Barbados)

EXPO WEST (INTERIOR)

- W15 - W16** Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute
- W17 - W18** CARICOM Secretariat
- W19 - W20** Food & Agriculture Organization
- W21** Government Analytical Services (Barbados)
- W22 - W23** PROPEL/ World University Service of Canada (Canada)
- W24** O's Inc. (Barbados)
- W26** Barbados 4H Foundation (Barbados)
- W27** BGG Wow bags (Bahamas)
- W28** Barbados Horticultural Society (Barbados)
- W29** Wilhoite and Haugh LLC
- W30** Diabetes Association of Barbados (Barbados)
- W31** Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers (Bahamas)
- W32** National Nutrition Centre (Barbados)
- W33** Pinnacle Feeds Ltd. (Barbados)

GEL IN BIM PROMENADE (EXTERIOR)

- X3** Anthony Gittens - Soft-Serve Cassava Sorbets (Barbados)
- X4** Dani's Gourmet House (Barbados)
- X6** Farm & Garden Shop / MASSY Trading (Barbados)
- X7** Sustainable Barbados Recycling Centre (SBRC) Ltd. (Barbados)
- X8** RIMCO Barbados SRL (Barbados)
- X9 - X12** BADMC Farm Shops / BADMC Pack House (Barbados)

Creating a Competitive Agriculture S



By James Paul
Chief Executive Officer
BARBADOS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture seeks to focus on Caribbean agriculture and the contribution it makes to the development of the region. The fact is that agriculture needs being promoted in order to ensure that it is not taken for granted and overlooked. The week provides regional policymakers a challenge. The challenge is that in a world that is rapidly changing how does one maintain policies that are relevant and that can accomplish agricultural goals in an environment which is impacted by frequently shifting goalposts. This is required because policy planners are likely to be carried away by sometimes exuberant claims of progress in relation to the impact of technology on agriculture that posits the view that a viable agricultural sector can be maintained in the face of a reduction in acreage of agricultural land available.

Agriculture as a sector must compete with other sectors for increasingly scarce resources, the strategy is to do so effectively. The bringing together of so many regional planners in agriculture during the week is an achievement



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& Cornbread Crepes



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ector

as very seldom are they all together in one place and with the various distractions and competing interests that exist it must be difficult for some to pull themselves away. The current economic climate creates a sense of urgency as it requires countries such as ours to utilise our natural resources in the development of viable economic opportunities. Furthermore, it requires a re-education of our labour force to more adequately grasp the new opportunities available in agriculture. Initiatives are therefore from the ground up that enlists the support of all stakeholders to ensure that agriculture lives up to its responsibilities in a developing economy such as ours. The achievement of balance in our economic policies must be viewed as being a priority as too many of our economic planners are seeking a quick fix to the current economic problems that we face. Agricultural development requires policies that will stay the course over the medium and short term hence, the crash programme approach to agricultural development will be dysfunctional at best.

The environment also must be considered and in an era when the "blue economy" buzzword is becoming part of the language of environmentalists with increasing frequency, greater attention and focus is being demanded. This demands that the new agriculture must become a critical strategy tool for the management of our natural environment. The development of agricultural practices that does not harm and that preserves the natural environment for future generations must be an immediate priority. The challenge being to have the cooperation of important stakeholders in the sector to achieve a sustainable environment for future generations. This can be achieved

if an attempt is made to involve our farmers who are on the frontlines, placing special emphasis on explaining the impact of their actions in order to achieve greater awareness on their part.

The Barbados Agricultural Society as a farmers' organisation has a special responsibility to ensure that farmers in Barbados understand their role in the context of the demands of the modern environment. This emphasises the critical importance of farmers' organisations in the shaping of farmers' attitudes and policy planners and governments must acknowledge their special role. It is important that in charting the course for agricultural development that every effort be made to ensure that farmers' organisations be enlisted in achieving agricultural development goals.

The Barbados Agricultural Society is an agricultural organisation, which is over 150 years old. It was established in 1845 by an Act of Parliament in Barbados and seeks to represent the interests of the agricultural sector in all relevant forums. The Society is the secretariat for seven commodity groups representing over 500 farmers with women comprising 30% of the total. To learn more visit: www.basonvoice.org





Disaster Risk Management and Implications for the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Subregional Office for the Caribbean

Agriculture is an important economic pillar for many Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The sector contributes to food and nutrition security, employment, rural development, livelihoods and foreign exchange. However, it is also one of the most vulnerable sectors to hazards such as drought, hurricanes, rising sea levels, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Disaster impacts can directly disrupt crop, livestock and fisheries production and therefore reduce access, availability and utilization of food, as well as related livelihoods. They can also make small-scale farmers and fisherfolk more vulnerable to future crises.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the United Nations (UN) has been advocating for disaster risk reduction (DRR) worldwide to minimize the effects of natural hazards on vulnerable communities including agricultural areas. With the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) in 2015, countries around the world are working to reduce disaster risks.

To minimize the impacts on food security, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) works on agricultural DRR globally, including in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), by using the SFDRR as its guiding framework.

At the regional level, FAO leads the Thematic Group on Climate

Change, Disaster Risk Management and Natural Resources Management of the Agriculture cluster of the CARICOM Secretariat. That group coordinates efforts among all partners working in the agriculture sector and inter alia, provides a platform for knowledge and information sharing on DRR, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management.

At the national level, FAO is currently working with governments and other stakeholders in Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname to implement a program aimed at building good and sustainable DRR practices in agriculture. The specialized UN agency is also advancing a pilot model on agricultural risk insurance in Grenada, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition to these projects, FAO is also revising different Agriculture DRR Management Plans for the Caribbean, with a particular emphasis on Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname.

The threats that pose the greatest dangers, such as climate change, must be strategically addressed at all levels to effectively counteract the destabilizing impacts on sector growth and food security. Robust policies as well as preparedness for risks could greatly increase the agriculture sector's resilience to natural hazards.

For more information on FAO's DRR efforts, visit: <http://www.fao.org/policy-support/policy-themes/disaster-risk-reduction-agriculture/en/>

BELOW Following the passage of Hurricane Maria in September 2017, most of Dominica's agriculture sector, including banana plantations, suffered significant damages which resulted in the disruption of crop production. (© FAO / Daniele Barelli).



ABOVE Farmers in Guyana learn sustainable and resilient farming practices to help ensure that their crop production is less vulnerable to disaster risks. (© FAO / Onika Baptiste). tations, suffered significant damages which resulted in the disruption of crop production. (© FAO / Daniele Barelli).

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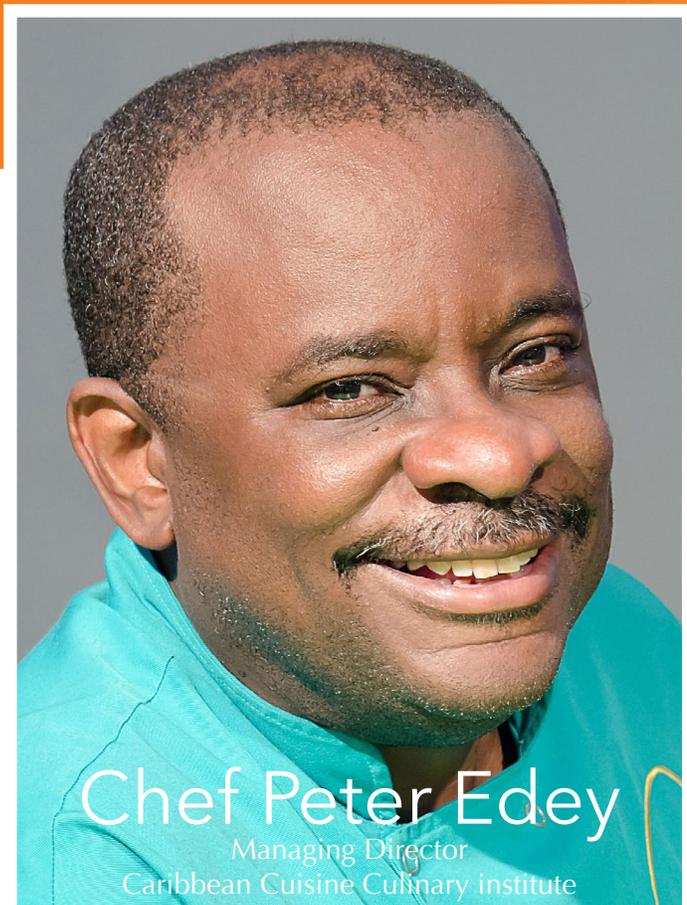
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Chef Peter Edey

Managing Director
Caribbean Cuisine Culinary Institute

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SPECIAL FEATURE

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FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

Working together to boost the regional coconut industry



Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

Driven by a health and wellness trend, the global demand for fresh coconuts, coconut based products and value added products are at an all-time high and is projected to continue to grow exponentially. Unfortunately, demand at both the global and regional levels now exceeds supply with the production base seriously lagging behind. In the Caribbean the growth of the sector has been depressed mainly due to aging plantations, lack of quality planting material, prevalence of pest and diseases, a sustained lack of investment and financial and technological constraints.

Recognising the potential of the industry, the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat funded the 4 year project "Coconut Development for the Caribbean" which is being implemented in 11 CARIFORUM countries. The project is being jointly implemented by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the International Trade Center (ITC) and aims to improve the competitiveness of small holder producers through improved production and utilisation of coconuts and coconut based products.

National stakeholder platforms and important alliances have been forged across the Caribbean between key players to assist in addressing some of the aforementioned challenges.



ABOVE *Guyana farmers received training in food safety under the Alliance for Action initiative. LEFT Dona Dougal Sosa of Bella Dee's was the recipient of training under the project enabling her to improve her manufacturing and packaging processes. FAR LEFT Coconut nursery established at the Ministry of Agriculture, Central Farm, Belize makes quality planting material easily accessible to farmers. (Photo Credits: CARDI)*

Simultaneous interventions are being made across the coconut value chain with a view towards building a sustainable, integrated and competitive regional industry.

In terms of quality planting material several nurseries have been established to produce quality seedlings of economically important varieties. This activity has been complemented by the importation of tissue culture material from Mexico into the Caribbean, representing a further boost to the revitalisation on the industry.

Pest and diseases occurrence, exacerbated by aging plantations have been a major constraint to the expansion of the industry in the Caribbean. Several Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstration plots have been established. The objective is to study their lifecycles and to develop and demonstrate strategies for effective control. These strategies are inclusive of cultural practices, use of resistant plants and biological control.

The implementing agencies continue to play a facilitating role to enhance cooperation between stakeholders so they can realise the required investment, technical and policy support needed to boost the industry.

To this end training and capacity building have been a central ethos of the project. Farmers have received training in good agricultural practices and business skills; while the capabilities of SME

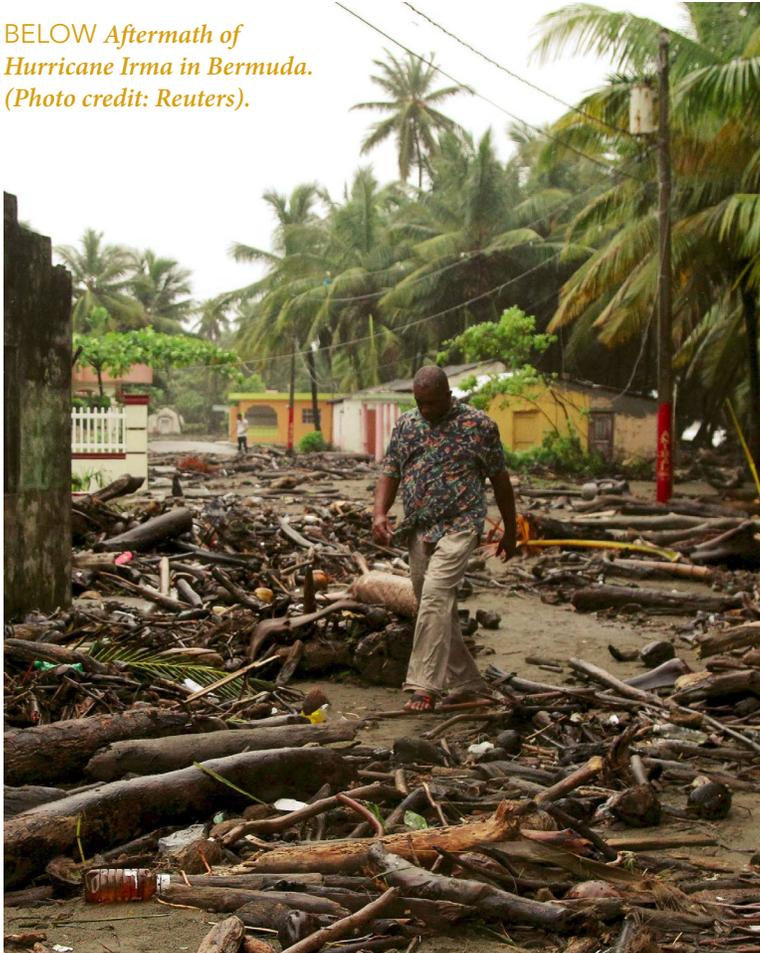
processors have enhanced their capability to meet international health and safety standards.

Linkages and partnerships are being forged with players from sectors such as health services, manufacturing, finance and tourism; the objective of this is to build competitiveness of small farmers and processors so they can achieve higher incomes.

This project has laid a firm foundation from which growth and expansion of the industry can be accelerated. All stakeholders both from the public and private sectors must continue along this path so that the regional coconut industry can become competitive, integrated and sustainable.

7 Questions for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in Agriculture

BELOW *Aftermath of
Hurricane Irma in Bermuda.*
(Photo credit: Reuters).



By **Chaney C.G. St. Martin, Ph.D.**
International Specialist in Water and
Soil Management, Trinidad and Tobago
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Whether it is large economic losses caused by hurricanes in the OECS countries, flash flooding or earthquakes in Trinidad and Tobago, droughts in Antigua and Barbuda/ Barbados, or sea level rise and soil salinization in Suriname or Jamaica, no country regardless of its level of economic and social development, is immune to the negative impacts of natural-hazard related disasters.

However, the relatively high frequency and severity level of disasters raises the question of our adaptive threshold limits. That is, how much more can we endure? Moreso, are we destined to be in a “permanent” repair mode, grossly “off-mark” from planned regional socio-economic goals? This question is particularly relevant as we think of reducing risks and impact of disasters on agriculture as a key strategy for protecting food and nutrition security in the region.

Realistically though, what progress can be made with the inherent “traditional” problems of agriculture juxtaposed against disasters within financial and economic constraints? Furthermore, have we:

1. identified and prioritised knowledge and action gaps through relevant science that have integrated and

BELOW Green house destruction and rebuilding efforts in Bermuda. (Photo credit: IICA).

ent



- applied the experience of practitioners, local knowledge and societal behavioural dynamics into “palpable” organizational models for disaster risk management (DRM) and Climate Related Issues (CRIs)?
- II. mainstreamed disaster risk reduction into developmental plans while being cognizant that too strong of a focus on “single-hazard” planning may compromise resilience against another hazard?
 - III. planned sufficiently for adaptation limits of farm ecosystems and their implications for the demise of sub-sectors?
 - IV. integrated into plans, the impacts from slow onset changes such as sea level rise, which cause additional stress to the underlying vulnerability of systems?
 - V. developed or adopted risk financing strategies and transfer mechanisms to reduce the strong dependency on international aid and public debt, which often do not meet all the financing re-development needs of agriculture?
 - VI. harmonised donor programmes as a structured response to address all phases of climate and DRM processes?
 - VII. planned for waste in the aftermath of disaster as a resource to rebuild energy supply and inputs for developing circular economic business models for agriculture?

These are some questions and issues that have informed IICA’s workplan in “Resilience and Comprehensive Risk Management in Agriculture” and have resulted in some success with initiatives such as the Caribbean Climate Smart Forum. The workplan also included soil remediation using organic amendments, risk (floods) mapping using GIS tools, assisting with developing National Adaptation Plans, and execution of Rapid Response Actions to rehabilitate the agricultural sector in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis in aftermath of Hurricane IRMA in 2017.

No doubt similar questions and issues have also informed the work programme of IICA’s partner institutions including CARDI,

FAO, CIMH, CCCC, and Ministries of Agriculture, Sustainable Development and the Environment, as we worked together within and outside a thematic group to produce outputs such as an Emergency Response Strategy and Action Plan for Agriculture in the Region.

COME ENGAGE US AT THE CWA AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO VENTURE BEYOND THE “PERMANENT” REPAIR MODE TO PROVIDE MORE ANSWERS THAN QUESTIONS AND MORE HOPE THAN DESPAIR WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK THAT IT IS NOT “BUSINESS-AS-USUAL”.



Youth and Agriculture: A Symbiotic Relationship



BELOW BADMC agricultural extension officers facilitate crop farming class with primary school students in Barbados.



By Diana Francis

Policy and Regional Programming Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Regional policy dialogue has long lamented that 'youth are not interested in, or attracted to agriculture', with a consequential constraint of 'an aging farming population'. Recent experiences are suggesting a different and more positive reality. Exploding social media that enables information sharing at unprecedented speeds and in various formats, is revealing that youth are interested and are actively pursuing opportunities along the agriculture production-marketing chain, but not in ways or in line with the expectations of older generations.

Who are 'youths'? IICA's Medium Term Plan 2018-2022 define them as a very heterogeneous group, between 15 and 29 years of age, with most living in rural areas. Through IICA's past and current work, both rural and urban youth are seen as eager to explore new opportunities in agribusiness, without limiting themselves to traditional farming. Examples of successful, innovative and enterprising youth in agriculture abound in all of the CARICOM countries, at every level of the value chain.

They include:

- Kelly Ann Allicot of Ibis Products, Barbados - producer of bath and body products for domestic and export markets;

YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

Primary school students participate in the Grow Well, Eat Well, Live Well Schools Gardening Competition and BADMC Farmers' Market School Tour in Barbados. (Photo credit: Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security, The Barbados Agricultural Development & Marketing Corporation)



- Johanan Dujon of Algas Organics, St.Lucia - a successful blend of innovation and entrepreneurship, to create a budding bio-fertilizer business from the Sargassum seaweed;
- Duhaje Jennins of Dada B's, Jamaica, who has aspirations of becoming a major beekeeper in the domestic market and exporter of honey products to selected neighbouring countries. He also has aspirations of once again, participating in the upcoming regional beekeepers Congress in Guyana;
- Glenworth Cyrille, Dominica - reflects the resilience of MSMEs, making good progress in quickly returning his popular, fruit-infused cassava bread products to local markets after Hurricane Maria destroyed his cassava fields and farine house.



Youths need agriculture in the same manner that agriculture needs the youth: youth thrive on activities that are hands-on, dynamic, innovation-driven and sometimes unconventional. Agriculture's transformation needs these attributes. This calls for continuous innovation in approach. A straightforward solution is to engage youth directly, openly and genuinely.

IICA has promoted the formation of youth groups, such as the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY) - a constituent member of the Alliance, and their national chapters. However, innovation calls for more openness and inclusiveness. Therefore, IICA is increasingly accepting of rural young persons (up to 35 years of age) in recognition of their own efforts to start small business and build livelihoods, and is embracing of ad-hoc youth clusters, particularly those mobilised and driven by youths themselves. An example is the Caripreneurs cluster of young agriMSMEs born from youth engagement under the 10th EDF Agriculture Policy Programme (APP). CAFY's focus is on advocacy and promotion of youth in agriculture, while the Caripreneurs are directly involved in building and expanding their individual and collective production and market opportunities. In many cases, youths belong to both groups.

In recognition of this youth and agriculture dynamic, in 2017-2018 IICA funded a short project dubbed IYARM - Integrating Young Agripreneurs into Regional Markets. The business and market building focus exposed these young agripreneurs to key tools for accessing export markets; connected them with experienced exporters and private sector players from the shipping, hotel and supermarket, insurance and legal communities and market research sectors; supported market study tours; and prepared market briefs to assist them with their export market decisions. With ongoing calls for upscaling the IYARM, IICA hopes to continue similar work with in 2019. After all, the future of agriculture is a 'young people thing!'



School Feeding Programmes: Policy Instrument for Food and Nutrition Security



ABOVE Students in St. Vincent participate in a school garden activity. (© FAO)

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Subregional Office for the Caribbean

School feeding programs (SFPs) have emerged as a major food and nutrition security strategy globally, including the Caribbean. Defined by the international development community as an intervention that provides healthy meals to children in a school setting, these programs instill nutritious eating habits among children from a very early age.

Recent studies from several institutions, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), suggest promoting good nutrition and physical activities through schools provides health and well-being benefits beyond the classroom to households and wider community.

In the Caribbean, SFPs can help to address a number of issues including an increased incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), overweight and obesity; inadequate access to food because of unemployment and poverty; as well as, a high dependency on food importation and poor food choices.

A review of existing programs in the region suggests that stakeholders, including governments, understand the strategic role of school feeding for food and nutrition security. At the political level, the 2010 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy advocates for "a policy on school health and nutrition to ensure the use



LEFT School children in St. Lucia eat a nutritious meal as a result of a school feeding program. (© FAO)

BELOW
Figure 1: overweight and obesity in selected countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. (Source: FAO)

of local foods in national SFPs and to form children's tastes and preferences for such foods from an early age".

Furthermore, the CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan 2012-2026 calls for "the Promotion of the School Feeding Program based on appropriate dietary guidelines using local foods" in each of the member countries, including the adoption of "a policy, where feasible, that the meals provided under national school feeding programs should have at least a 50% regional food content".

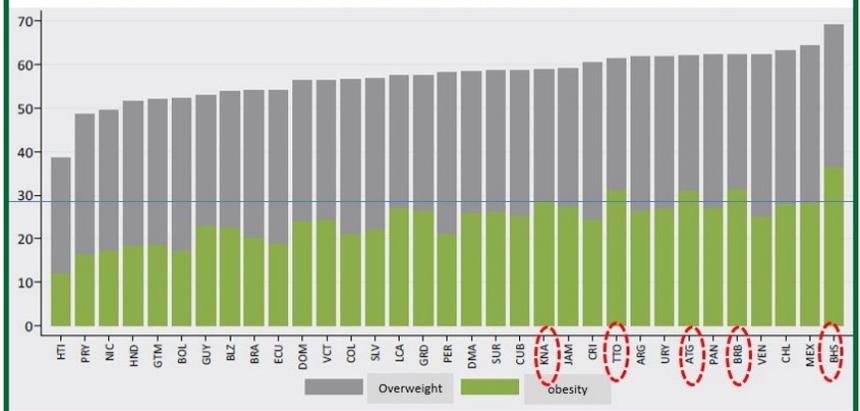
A recent University of the West Indies (UWI) study, in partnership with FAO, indicates that nearly all CARICOM countries have or have had a SFP, but the programs vary from one country to another.

To help advance SFPs in the region, FAO is working with governments to pilot a sustainable school feeding model in Belize, Jamaica, Guyana, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Bahamas, St. Lucia and Suriname, have also expressed interest in similar assistance. The model is inspired from the Brazilian experience and FAO assistance is provided through a FAO-Brazil Technical Cooperation.

In collaboration with UWI, FAO is also conducting a review in 14 countries to make recommendations for modifying, improving and adopting inter alia organizational, procurement, nutritional and governance in school feeding models. The results will be available to the public and can guide the development of more programs in the future.

Culture of poor heating habits being reflected in indicators such as overweight, obesity, childhood anemia, diabetes and heart diseases:

- Adult obesity rates ranged between 11% to 36% ---The four countries with the highest obesity rate are in the region (Bahamas, Barbados, A&B, T&T and St. Kitts and Nevis)



For more information, please visit: www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/projects/school-feeding/en/



MODEL GARDENS FOR HAITI

FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

“We decided to set up a project targeting farming families to help tackle the nutritional challenge.”

Judith Ann Francis
Senior Programme Coordinator for
Science and Technology Policy
CTA

(Photo credit: Ron Savage, Savage Vistas Photography).



By Toby Johnson

Team Leader, Communications
TECHNICAL CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL
AND RURAL COOPERATION

Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries. A rapid scan of policies, programmes and interventions related to nutrition and agriculture, carried out by the University of Haiti's College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (FAMV) in collaboration with CTA in 2015, revealed that 38% the population is food insecure and almost a quarter of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. The situation is particularly difficult for those living in rural areas. Smallholder farmers have limited access to irrigation, inputs and credit, and suffer from the lack of reliable and affordable transport, storage and processing facilities. Many rural Haitians are trapped in poverty. Indeed, it is poverty, rather than inadequate food supply that is the main cause of food insecurity and undernutrition.

“We decided to set up a project targeting farming families to help tackle the nutritional challenge,” says Judith Ann Francis, CTA's Senior Programme Coordinator for Science and Technology Policy. “The project has involved setting up model gardens with a diverse range of nutritious local crops and livestock, because families need to have access to a diverse diet and income to tackle malnutrition.”



CTA has built on its collaboration with FAMV, which conducted the rapid scan mentioned above, and Meds and Food for Kids (MFK), an international organisation with experience working with peanut farmers in Haiti to reduce aflatoxin contamination, to implement the diversified gardens project. At the inception meeting, held in July 2017, it was agreed that the two organisations would design and evaluate integrated crop and livestock farming models for establishing two school gardens and three community gardens. These model gardens could then be replicated, on a smaller scale, by farming families in rural areas. The project also aimed at developing nutrition educational material as an integral part of the programme to set up more home gardens.

Under the project, 150 smallholder farmers – 90 women and 60 men – received a five-chicken layer unit for egg production, as well as chicken feed, and funding for crop production. The crops themselves were chosen after consultation with the farmers, who were encouraged to divide their home gardens into six subplots. One subplot is dedicated to the poultry unit, while four plots are used for the cultivation of crops, one for each season. The final plot is left fallow for grazing goats and hens. The position of the plots can be rotated to help boost fertility and control crop pests and diseases.

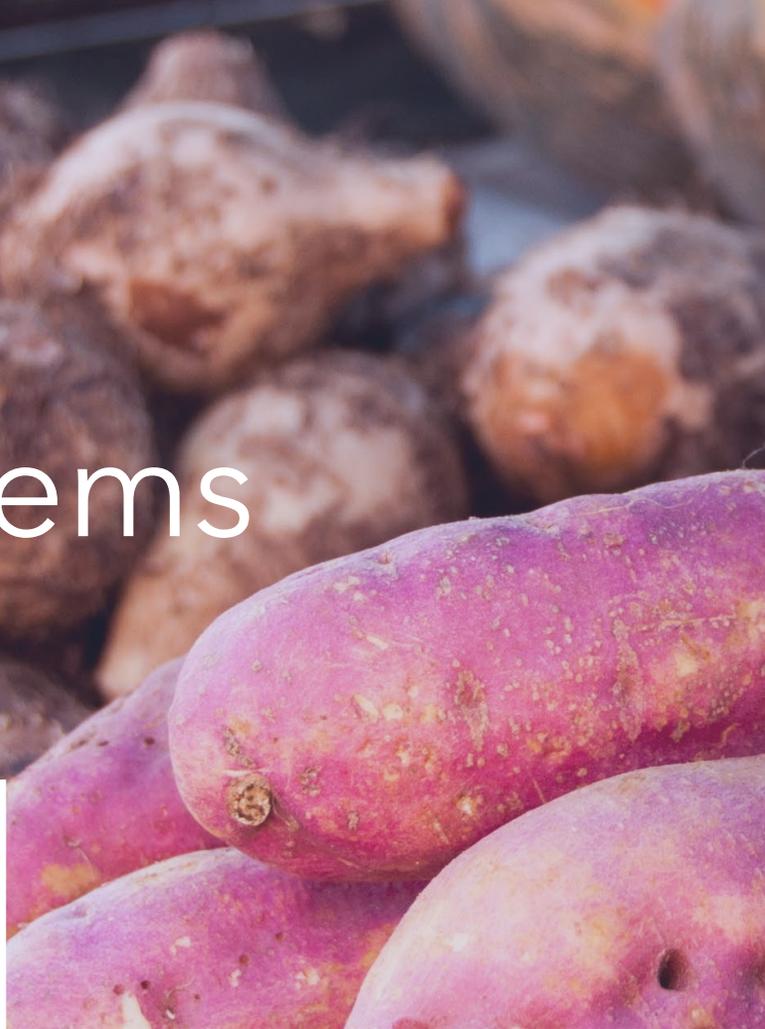
Considerable care was taken to choose appropriate crops and most farmers are now planting three main groups of plant-based food in their home gardens. These include body-building foods rich in protein, such as beans and peas; energy-rich foods, such as maize, yams and cassava; and leafy vegetables, such as moringa, which provide farming families with micronutrients. Although most of the produce from the home gardens is for household consumption, some farmers have a surplus to sell. This means the project is helping to improve incomes as well as nutrition.

Smallholder farmers and staff from the three MFK model community gardens and two FAMV model school gardens received training in nutrition and crop and poultry production. They then organised training sessions for farmers and farm families. The project has produced written training materials on crop and chicken production and nutrition in both French and Haitian Creole.

In order to spread the word about the potential of model gardens, an initial learning journey was organised with 80 participants in December 2017. Four more learning journeys were conducted in February 2018 that showed nearly 250 non-participating farmers the benefits of the home-gardening approach promoted by the project. These included a near-tripling in the number of eggs each household sold (from 11 to 31 eggs a month) according to follow-up surveys, boosting household income. As one project farmer noted, "We used to buy eggs from the Dominican Republic. But now we sell eggs and give them to our neighbours." The project also increased the diversity of crops grown (from an average of 2.8 crops per household to 3.8). The extra crop is commonly a vegetable, such as tomatoes or peppers, and this is improving family diets.

At the end of February 2018, a roundtable event organised by the project in Port-au-Prince attracted more than 50 academics, government officials, business people and representatives of aid organisations, who heard presentations on the project's successes – and challenges – and ideas for initiatives to promote food production at the school, household and community level. The project also featured in a tour of agriculture projects in northern Haiti arranged by MFK for officials from the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture and private agricultural organisations.

PROPEL Adopts a Market Systems Approach



ABOVE *Female Farmer in Dominica reaps her first crop since Hurricane Maria. (Photo Credit: PROPEL).*

By Keithan Laurie

Communications Consultant

Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL)

The Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) is a sustainable economic growth project implemented by World University Service of Canada (WUSC) funded by private donors and the Government of Canada. The aim is to increase the absorption of fresh Caribbean produce into high-value national and regional markets while ensuring markets are more inclusive and benefits flow to small producers in Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia.

Started in 2012 as a market-led project, WUSC shifted its program implementation strategy in late 2015 to adopt a market systems approach (MSA) to facilitate the sustainable development of stronger commercially viable and inclusive supply chains between small producers and high value markets, leading to sustainable results for small producers in the Caribbean region.

To be able to convince local actors to alter their behaviour, programs need to identify opportunities, understand the various incentives at play and demonstrate the potential benefits. In other words, build business cases, which

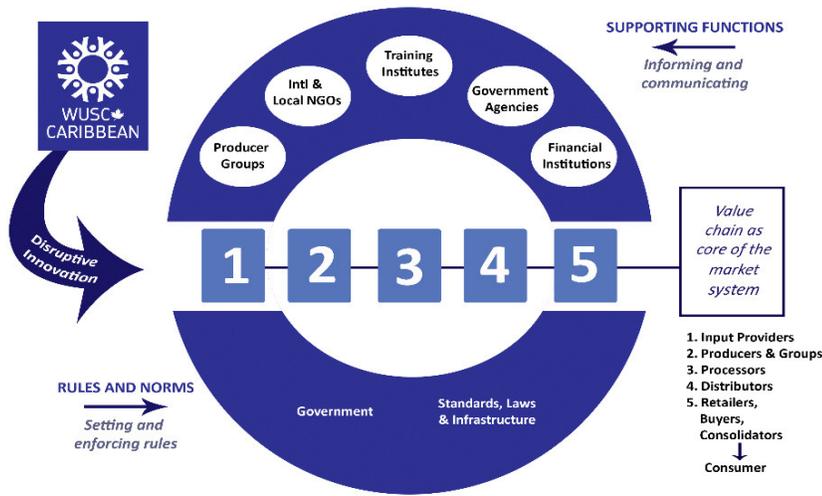


FIGURE 1

can convince potential local partners, whether private, civil or public, that an investment in time and resources will likely yield worthwhile returns.

Market system programs aim to facilitate a change in behaviour by various local actors to catalyze inclusive opportunities and generate growth.

In order to ensure that the change catalyzed by a project is sustained, interventions need to clearly identify which local actor has the incentive to provide a good or service and will provide payment. Depending on the desired change, any number of actors in the eco system can be targeted.

Understanding 'who does, who pays' is a simple tool, which brings rigor to a project staff's understanding of incentives and focuses the quality of business cases they develop.

'Piloting' is a key tool of the market systems approach. Programs acknowledge that in complex systems, it is impossible to predict the outcome of interventions when attempting to solve difficult development problems. Pilots are rapid testing of ideas, based on strong market research and solid problem analysis, which may or may not be successful. The goal of pilot implementation is to either fail fast, or demonstrate a viable model, which can be copied by other actors in the market, independently of the program. This copycat effect, typically labelled 'Crowding In', is the ultimate mark of success of a market systems intervention, which always strives for scale and sustainability.

As WUSC has implemented PROPEL, lessons have been learned based on failure and success. Considerable results have been achieved:

- CAD \$109,616,822 of crop production directly supported.
- CAD \$142,211,260 indirectly supported.
- 13,993 producers (4,870 female and 3,323 youth) supported
- 88 partner organizations across 5 Caribbean countries supported.

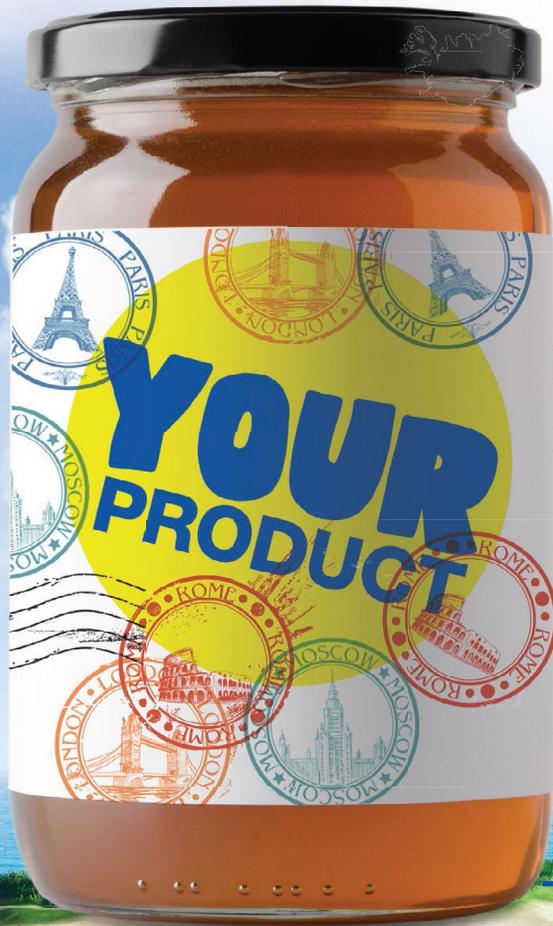


ABOVE Aaron Emmanuel (DEXIA) in conversation with potato farmer, Delles Washington, in Dominica. (Photo Credit: PROPEL).

FIGURE 1 Overview of a Market Systems Approach.

WE INVITE YOU TO THE PROPEL 'LESSONS LEARNED' SESSION AT CWA 2018 ON TUESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER AT 2:00 P.M.

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