



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Agriculture *in the* News



Issues Affecting Caribbean Agriculture

IN THIS ISSUE 11-17 SEPTEMBER, 2016

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Farmers learn sustainability in small farming. Government Information Service, Dominica 14 September 2016

<http://news.gov.dm/index.php/news/3974-farmers-learn-sustainability-in-small-farming>

Thanks to the collaboration of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and CARICOM with funding by the European Union, Dominican farmers are learning to be sustainable build capacity for the sustainability of small farmers, youth and women in rural communities.

An agricultural policy program titled the 'Traditional Knowledge and Innovation Training for Sustainable and Resilient Small Farming Systems' took place on September 13th in the community of La Plaine.

For more information see page 12

AGRICULTURE IN THE NEWS is a weekly newsletter which provides a compilation of selected news articles on issues affecting agriculture in the Caribbean region. Articles from Newspapers, Online News Service Agencies, Newsletters and Press Releases are featured.

For copies of documents cited, visit the web address or source of the information provided.



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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Our Vision

To be the centre of excellence in the Caribbean for the provision and application of research and development in agriculture and rural enhancement.

Our Mission

To contribute to the sustainable economic well being of Caribbean people by the generation and transfer of appropriate technology through research and development within the agricultural value chain.

www.cardi.org

ROOTS AND TUBERS

Ministry to launch cassava blended bread by Theresa Blackman. Barbados Government Information Service, September 8, 2016

http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=8&p2_articleid=16461

Full article

With more emphasis being placed on utilising local crops, the Ministry of Agriculture, as part of the National Cassava Value Chain Committee, will join forces with Purity Bakeries and other members of the Committee to officially launch two cassava blended bread commercial lines.

According to National Coordinator for Cassava Development, Tony Rawlins, at a 2014 COTED meeting, the Heads of Government identified cassava as a priority crop for development in CARICOM.

He said: “In response to this request, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) asked to lead the coordination of the development regional roots and tuber crops with initial focus on cassava.”

He further explained that in February 2014, the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, with support from the FAO, hosted the first regional Cassava conference in Barbados.

Stating that the committee has worked together to address the issues and bottlenecks that impact on the supply of cassava, along the value chain with emphasis on the bread market, the National Coordinator noted that every member of the committee understood their role and the importance of their work to support the next level of the value chain that they supply.

Root, tuber and banana breeding in Africa shows wide-scale adoption of improved varieties. CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB), Aug 24, 2016

<http://www.rtb.cgiar.org/blog/2016/08/24/rtb-crop-breeding-africa-shows-wide-scale-adoption-improved-varieties/>

Full article

Crop breeding and the dissemination of improved varieties has been a cornerstone of research for development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) for decades, and scientists from the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) contributed to research on the impact of this work which is featured in the book *Crop Improvement, Adoption, and Impact of Improved Varieties in Food Crops in Sub-Saharan Africa*, published in 2015. This ambitious review contains a wealth of information on decades of cassava, yam, potato and sweetpotato improvement in SSA, and it holds lessons for strengthening future efforts to tap the potential of RTB crops for improving food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

The book, which covers the development and distribution of improved varieties of 20 crops in 30 countries, grew out of the ‘Diffusion and Impact of Improved Varieties in Africa’ study funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It confirms the important role that RTB centers have played in strengthening crop improvement in SSA, but also shows that it takes a long time to

develop and disseminate improved varieties, which is why RTB has prioritized innovations that accelerate the breeding process.

BANANAS

New Black Sigatoka treatment method by Geraldine Bicette-Joseph. Government of Saint Lucia GIS, September 12, 2016

<http://www.govt.lc/news/new-black-sigatoka-treatment-method>

Full article

The new method will help restrict the disease from building resilience towards the chemicals used.

The Black Sigatoka Management Unit has adopted a new scientific approach as part of its efforts to combat the leaf spot disease.

Martin Satney, Manager/Coordinator of the Black Sigatoka Management Unit, said there have been successes due to the undertakings of banana agriculturalists and the hard working members of the unit, but in order to stay on top of the situation, a new approach must be implemented.

“According to the previous system, every four to six weeks all banana farmers in Saint Lucia would be called to collect mineral oil and fungicides. That is not a scientific approach to the issue because everybody in Saint Lucia does not necessarily have to spray at the same time, because the disease evolves. [To treat the disease], there are non-chemical practices and also chemical practices which involve spraying,” Mr. Satney said.

The new method will help restrict the disease from building resilience towards the chemicals used.

“We want the farmers to adopt an approach that is aligned with the weekly updates the unit provides. Every week we monitor the development of the disease at the farm level, all around the island, and we come up with an advisory as to which areas are due for spraying. What we are trying to do is to get the farmers and industry layers to adopt that methodology. So if there are three or four areas, let’s say Marc and Deglos and Crown Lands are the areas due for spraying, we want the farmers in the Marc, Deglos and Crown Lands areas to come in and get the oil and the fungicides. We do not want everybody to come in at the same time. The Ministry has advised that we start with the new method.”

Satney urges all farmers, trading, and producer organizations to listen out for notices that will be issued stating the areas that are due for treatment.

Crank it up! Researchers discover that banana plants enjoy thermotherapy. Bioversity International
17 August 2016
<http://www.bioversityinternational.org/news/detail/crank-it-up-researchers-discover-that-banana-plants-enjoy-thermotherapy/>

Full article

As described in the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas' 2015 Annual Report, heat treatment - thermotherapy - is turning out to be a cost-effective tool for controlling disease transmission in banana and plantain and even increasing yields.

According to International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Colombian Plantain Growers Federation (FEDEPLATANO) scientists' findings, placing plantain corms in a thermotherapy chamber to sprout under controlled conditions of temperature (50°-70°C) and high humidity, with frequent fertigation, produced healthy planting materials faster than traditional methods.

Since the validation of the initial prototype of this machine that was led by Bioversity International plant pathologist Miguel Dita, it has been adopted by organizations in Brazil and Colombia. For instance, FEDEPLATANO and CIAT built a large thermal chamber in La Tebaida Quindío, Colombia, that produces disease-free plantain planting material for approximately 7,000 farmers.

As it turns out, these machines can be easily simplified and adapted to different scales and local realities. CIAT researcher Elizabeth Alvarez said that larger thermal chambers are an efficient option for the mass production of clean planting materials for farmer associations, however, the technology can be successfully adapted for smaller scale operations. With technical assistance from several research and NGO partners, farmer associations in the Department of Morazán, El Salvador, built tunnel-formed chambers using translucent plastic sheets and other inexpensive materials that now produce clean banana planting materials for about 1,650 smallholders, 350 of whom are women.

CIAT is promoting this technology with manuals in Spanish and English via the Latin America and Caribbean banana network and collaborating with CIRAD to advertise it as a way to control a banana and plantain disease called Moko bacterial wilt. The technology has been tested in Peru, and there are plans to evaluate it in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) researchers have validated an even simpler thermotherapy option for cleaning banana and plantain suckers of nematodes - a practice that has a positive effect on yields. The process involves dipping banana suckers into boiling water for 30 seconds prior to planting thus killing the nematodes that are present on the plant. IITA has promoted this method to African banana and plantain farmers through a manual and flyers in multiple languages, and demonstrations for more than 1,000 farmers in Cameroon, Nigeria and Zanzibar.

Read the original story [Heat can make a difference: production of disease-free banana seed](http://www.rtb.cgiar.org/2015-annual-report/featured-story-5/)
<http://www.rtb.cgiar.org/2015-annual-report/featured-story-5/>

COCONUTS

The Caribbean is running out of coconuts by Ezra Fieser. Bloomberg News 9 September, 2016
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-09/just-when-the-world-craves-coconuts-the-caribbean-s-running-out>

Full article

At the worst possible time, the Caribbean is running short of one of its most emblematic products.

Rich-world consumers have never been keener on the coconut. Starbucks wants the tropical fruit's milk for [lattes](#), Rihanna promotes its water as a trendy sports drink, and the price of coconut oil has jumped more than 50 percent in the past year.

The Caribbean is practically synonymous with the coconut, so its farmers should be cashing in. For a bunch of reasons, they aren't. Storms, droughts and the [Lethal Yellowing disease](#), spread by plant-hopping insects, have wiped out entire farms; growers have failed to invest in new trees, or fertilizers to improve yields. Caribbean plantations have shrunk by about 17 percent since 1994, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

"It's fair to say that at this pace, the Caribbean is running out of coconuts," said Compton Paul, coordinator of a regional coconut program at the Trinidad-based [Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute](#).

'Too Early'

In Nagua on the Dominican Republic's north coast, where Dioni Siri has his own trees and also buys from other farmers, production has dropped by about 60 percent in two decades, according to the local association of growers. Siri, who sells to export markets, says that quantity isn't the only issue: many of the nuts that do get harvested aren't up to scratch.

In his warehouse, he picks through a pile of the fruit, holding each one close to his ear and shaking it to see if it contains milk. When there's no sound, the coconut is dumped on a growing pile of discards. "It was picked too early," Siri says. "It's not good enough. Our biggest problem is that the farmers aren't growing enough quality coconuts."

It's a problem that nobody saw coming. Two decades ago, international demand was waning amid medical warnings that tropical oils could raise levels of artery-clogging cholesterol. Coconuts sold for next to nothing in the Caribbean, where they've grown for five centuries since being introduced by Europeans traveling from the Indian Ocean. Often, they were just left to rot on their trees.

Today, coconut milk is being sold as a healthier alternative to cow's milk, and it's a staple of recipes in the paleo-friendly cookbooks adored by the CrossFit crowd. Even the fruit's husks turn out to be useful, filling car-seat cushions.

Celebrity Investors

And most sought-after of all is the coconut's water, rich in potassium and other electrolytes. It's on track to become a \$4 billion industry by 2019, according to Technavio, a research company.

[All Market Inc.](#), the industry pioneer which began selling leading brand [Vita Coco](#) in 2004, now cracks about 1.6 million nuts a day, and can claim Rihanna and actor Matthew McConaughey among its celebrity investors. The company estimates that the U.S. market alone is already worth \$1.2 billion, according to spokesman Arthur Gallego. “We’re focused on developing new products around the coconut,” he said. “We want to be to the coconut what Dole is to the pineapple.”

With buyers so eager, Vilma Da Silva and her husband gave up growing other cash crops on their 35-acre farm in Guyana’s Pomeroon region five years ago, and starting focusing on coconuts-for-water exports. They buy coconuts from about 60 other small farms, bottle the water and export it, receiving about \$1.50 per liter. It’s been lucrative -- revenue has doubled since they made the switch -- but they’re running into supply constraints.

“We want to get into more international markets and export more but there aren’t enough farms to buy from,” Da Silva said.

Other countries are stepping in to meet demand. Worldwide, farmers have increased the amount of land planted with coconuts by 14 percent since 1994, according to the UN. Indonesia, the Philippines and India are the top producers.

‘Start Planting’

Meanwhile, with export-oriented Caribbean farmers like Siri and Da Silva buying up all the fruit they can, locals risk losing out. Typically, green coconuts for water have been so plentiful and cheap that any thirsty islander might buy one on the street corner, from a machete-wielding salesman who’d lop off the top and insert a straw. They still do -- but prices are rising, while grocery shelves are filling up with thinned-out or even fake versions. Trinidad & Tobago’s Health Ministry in May [confiscated bottles](#) labeled as coconut water from stores, saying they contained only water and chemicals.

It’s not the first time a developing-country staple has been caught up in a first-world food trend. Farmers that grow the finest coffees often can’t afford a bag of their roasted beans. And when protein-rich quinoa caught fire in the U.S., many consumers in Bolivia, one of the biggest producers, were priced out.

Melvin Bautista owns Coco Express del Caribe, one of the leading domestic coconut-water brands in the Dominican Republic. He says he can barely obtain the supplies he needs, as farmers sell to exporters instead, and has raised prices for a 16-ounce bottle by 20 percent this year, to about \$1.50. Local farms are mostly “in very bad shape and the trees are very old.”

There’s only one solution, Bautista says: “Start planting more coconuts.”

LIVESTOCK

Community-based livestock breeding programs focus of Tropentag 2016 workshop by [Peter Ballantyne](#). International Livestock Research Institute [15 September 2016](#)

Full article

On 19 September 2016, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, the International Livestock Research Institute and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas host a workshop on community-based breeding at the [Tropentag 2016 conference](#).

The workshop will examine alternative ‘community-based breeding programs as pathways to the genetic improvement of livestock in tropics. These approaches typically involve participation of local communities/farmers in defining breeding goals, designing breeding strategies and implementing genetic improvement programs.

Download a [recent evaluation](#) of community-based sheep breeding programs in Ethiopia. [Read a brief on this work](#).

CLIMATE CHANGE

Central American professionals learn about farmer citizen science for climate adaptation by [Jacob van Etten](#) and Brandon Madriz. Bioversity International 12 September 2016
<http://www.bioversityinternational.org/news/detail/central-american-professionals-learn-about-farmer-citizen-science-for-climate-adaptation/>

Full article

In August and September 2016, agricultural professionals in three Central American countries, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, learned about an exciting methodology to involve farmers as citizen scientists.

The methodology – called ‘tricot’ as an abbreviation from ‘triadic comparisons of technologies’ – has been designed by Bioversity International with the aim of reaching a large number of farmers with participatory trials for climate adaptation.

By involving a large number of farmers working in different production environments, the tricot methodology allows scientists to collect more data and increase their understanding of climate adaptation. It also serves as a bridge between research and development practice, by putting technologies to the test directly on the farm.

The trial format is simple: each farmer tests three agricultural technologies and judges the best and worst for different aspects of performance. These data are then matched with environmental data to be analyzed. So far, we have done trials to test crop varieties, but this methodology can be used to study also other agricultural technologies.

During the course, participants learned about the theory behind the new approach and had the opportunity to do practical exercises. One of the main tools they learned about is the [ClimMob platform](#), which provides digital support throughout the testing process. ClimMob supports trial design, data collection with mobile phones, and data analysis and report creation.

Participants – 79 professionals representing 33 organizations including farmer organizations, development NGOs, agricultural research institutes and universities – did an example trial, designed their own project and discussed how this new methodology fits into new and ongoing activities.

In Nicaragua, participants decided to go for a larger trial than originally planned, now that they fully understood the methodology. In Honduras, participants discussed about how the new methodology fits in ongoing varietal testing schemes and decided to apply it to a wide range of crops. In Guatemala, the national agricultural research institute, ICTA, sent a large delegation of young researchers to learn about the new methodology. Brandon Madriz and Jacob van Etten of Bioversity International served as course instructors.

Course participants rated both the course and the platform. In each country, the course was rated as excellent. The platform, still in beta version, was rated by course participants as ‘good’ according to the widely used System Usability Score. During the course, participants provided many useful suggestions to improve the digital platform.

The course also served as the kick-off meeting of a new project on agrobiodiversity management for climate adaptation and food security, implemented by the Collaborative Program on Participatory Plant Breeding in Mesoamerica. The project, coordinated by the Guatemalan farmer organization Asocuch, is financed by the Benefit Sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The tricot methodology will be used in this project, but the course participants also identified a large number of opportunities to use the platform beyond this particular project.

This research is part of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security and supported by [CGIAR Fund Donors](#).

GENDER

Training agricultural researchers to be more gender-responsive. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) 9 September 2016

http://www.iita.org/2016-news/-/asset_publisher/CxA7/content/training-agricultural-researchers-to-be-more-gender-responsive?redirect=%2Fhome#.V93wCTU5RGk

Full article

KAMPALA, UGANDA: Gender in all lives matters to the 16 trainers and 11 teams of 33 researchers from four continents who will participate in a training on “Gender Responsive Root, Tuber, and Banana Breeding,” 12-21 September in Kampala, Uganda.

This first of seven training on the theory and practice of gender-responsive research is organized by agricultural theme and offered in a joint Cornell University and Makerere University educational project called GREAT, or Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation.

In GREAT, researchers who work in sub-Saharan Africa learn how to identify the needs of both women and men when setting agricultural project priorities, implementing projects, and measuring and communicating outcomes.

“In sub-Saharan Africa, the livelihood and food security of a majority of people depends to some extent on roots, tubers and bananas, especially in rural areas,” said Margaret Mangheni, an associate professor at Makerere University who has more than 20 years’ experience with gender-sensitive agricultural development projects in sub-Saharan Africa, and leads the project at Makerere. “GREAT training will improve the outcomes of agricultural research for smallholder women farmers, entrepreneurs and farmer organizations across sub-Saharan Africa.”

In the “Gender Responsive Root, Tuber and Banana Breeding,” or RTB course, research teams focus on challenges like banana bunchy top disease, banana xanthomonas wilt, cassava breeding and processing, potato production, banana breeding, micronutrient enhanced cassava, and sweet potato improvement.

“GREAT works to equitably extend the benefits of agricultural research to both women and men,” said Hale Ann Tufan, adjunct professor with International Programs in Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who leads the five-year project at Cornell. “Our goal is for agricultural researchers working across sub-Saharan Africa to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by considering gender and prioritizing gender equality goals in their work.”

Researchers in the RTB course represent a mix of projects and institutions: the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Cameroon, Bioversity International in Burundi, the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique in France, HarvestPlus, [NEXTGEN](#) Cassava Breeding in Uganda and Nigeria, the Program for Emerging Agricultural Research Leaders in Ghana, the West Africa Center for Crop Improvement in Ghana, the International Potato Center in Colombia, and the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute in Ghana.

By 2020, GREAT expects to have trained eight cohorts with up to 10 research project teams each, or more than 200 researchers representing at least 30 national and international research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Subsequent training to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems will be offered on the themes of grain and legume breeding; small ruminant breeding; dairy and legume value chains; nutrition and food systems; knowledge exchange (extension); and agricultural mechanization.

To help sustain the initiative, GREAT will create a center of excellence for gender responsive agricultural training at Makerere. Over the life of the project, GREAT content will be integrated into spin-off short courses and current agricultural degree programs at Makerere.

Training for change

Every course follows a similar agenda. First, researchers learn concepts and tools during the introductory week-long training in Kampala taught by social scientists, breeders and gender experts. Then, they undertake several months of practical field experience collecting data from their ongoing projects and receiving support from mentors and e-learning modules through resources on the [GREAT course website](#). A concluding week-long training on data analysis, interpretation, and advocacy is scheduled five months later, back in Kampala — in the case of RTB, 13-17 February 2017.

Trainers have a wealth of expertise in gender-related issues, including data collection, value-chain development of staple crops, socioeconomic development challenges like gender equality, equity and development; transformative leadership; and understanding gender patterns in farmer decision-making strategies, among others.

In addition to the numerous international and national research program partners whose researchers will participate in the training courses, GREAT will collaborate in sub-Saharan Africa with African Women in Agricultural Research and Development ([AWARD](#)) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa ([ASARECA](#)).

GREAT is funded by a \$5M grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

More information [here](#).

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TECHNOLOGY

GIS skills of Philippine agriculture field officers sharpened. International Rice Research Institute
September 2, 2016

<http://news.irri.org/2016/09/gis-skills-of-philippine-agriculture.html>

Excerpt

LOS BAÑOS, Philippines—The [Philippine Rice Information System \(PRISM\)](#) project is conducting a series of workshops on basic geographic information systems (GIS) for its regional partners. Funded by the Philippine [Department of Agriculture](#) (DA), the activity trains field officers and local government units in visualizing rice area and yield, GPS-based field observations, and other data generated by PRISM for planning programs and interventions for the country's rice sector.

The training (photos above) is enhancing the skills of DA-Regional Field Offices and local government units (LGU) staff in using [QGIS](#), a free and open source GIS software. The workshop uses actual data collected at PRISM monitoring sites throughout the country.

At the end of each season, PRISM generates accurate and timely information on rice areas, the start of cropping seasons, and rice yield that can help the national government and the rice-growing regions develop policies and plans related to rice production, particularly in mitigating the impacts of natural calamities and reducing yield losses caused by pests. Around 19 tropical cyclones or storms enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility every year, and of these, usually 6 to 9 make landfall causing considerable crop damage. The information collected by PRISM is available through its portal.

The training helps in understanding the value of presenting data in map format, according to a workshop participant.

"The training is useful in data processing and analysis," added another enthusiastic participant. "The information generated will serve as the basis for decision-making, evaluation, and development of rice projects."...

... The workshops are being conducted by PRISM staff from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and PhilRice. The lead trainers from IRRI are Arnel Rala, Cornelia Garcia, Aileen Maunahan, and Jeny Raviz. The PhilRice trainers are Mary Rose Mabalay, Juanito Maloom, Elmer Alosnos, Mabel Barroga, and James Leyte.

Mary Anne Gutierrez, Jane Girly Balanza, Neale Marvin Paguirigan, Creighton Czar Guevarra, Ethel Princess Banasihan, and Frances Grace Amanquiton are co-facilitating the training series.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hutchinson to advocate removal of GCT on imported farm supplies by Chad Bryan September 15, 2016

<http://jis.gov.jm/hutchinson-advocate-removal-gct-imported-farm-supplies/>

Full article

Minister without Portfolio in the Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry, Hon. J.C. Hutchinson, says he will be advocating for the removal of general consumption tax (GCT) on imported farm supplies.

Mr. Hutchinson noted that these items, which contribute to the development of the local agricultural industry and help to increase farmers' production, should not attract GCT.

"The farmer will have more money to buy two tins of tomato seeds, instead of one," the Minister emphasised.

Mr. Hutchinson was addressing the final day of a two-day Climate-Smart Agriculture Symposium, held at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel, in New Kingston, on September 14.

He reiterated the need for more idle lands to be irrigated for agricultural production, and cited South Manchester as one such area where approximately 5,000 acres of land remain non-irrigated.

“No longer can idle lands be lying around and water is available and we do not have farmers on the land. We need to put a better structure into our agricultural sector,” he said.

Consequently, Mr. Hutchinson informed that a number of stakeholders are being engaged, particularly the Cubans, for their input in solar power technology to drive the irrigation process.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hutchinson signalled his intention to begin the Posterity Tree Programme.

Mentioned in his 2016 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives, the programme will provide seedlings to persons celebrating a special event or commemorating a special occasion.

“This may be a birthday, a wedding, an anniversary, a graduation or the first purchase of a special item,” Mr. Hutchinson said in his Sectoral presentation.

The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) will sell a variety of seedlings at their respective parish offices.

Under this programme, the planting of trees is geared towards addressing current issues with climate change.

Organised by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the symposium, which began on September 13, was funded by the Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change II (Ja REEACH II) project.

The symposium was held under the theme ‘Growing Agriculture and Incomes in the Face of Climate Change’.

Equipment for Ministry of Agriculture. THE NEW TODAY, Grenada, September 15, 2016
<http://thenewtoday.gd/local-news/2016/09/15/equipment-for-ministry-of-agriculture/#gsc.tab=0>

Full article

GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project last Friday handed over several tools and equipment to the Extension Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment.

Some of the items handed over include easels, white boards, flip charts, facilitation training kits, projectors, iPad, laptop, calculators, hand levels, refractometers, bull horns, and soil testing kits.

Project Officer of the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project, Joseph Noel said “the items will be extremely useful in helping the Division to bring more information and assistance to farmers in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique”.

I emphasised the need to utilise the equipment through training, so that farmers’ income, and production can be increased throughout the tri-island state.

Senior Extension Officers in the Ministry of Agriculture, Kelly Patrick and George Phillip, accepted the items from Noel.

In the brief handing over ceremony, Phillip noted that the Extension Division is an informal teaching institution, and as such the equipment obtained will undoubtedly help to educate farmers in the field, and at occasional formal indoor sessions/workshops.

Patrick congratulated Noel and the entire GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef project for delivering the equipment in an extremely timely manner.

He expressed appreciation for the prompt delivery of the equipment as the Extension Division has tried to obtain these items under several projects before, all to no avail.

The Extension Division is hoping to shortly facilitate workshops to help farmers take advantage of livelihood opportunities.

The equipment received will be utilised at those sessions as they can help farmers to increase their income and livelihood, which is one of the Ridge to Reef Project's main objectives.

During the handing over ceremony, the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project Officer made a commitment to cover travel expenses for farmers from Carriacou and Petite Martinique, so that they too can participate and benefit from all Ridge to Reef Project funded workshops that will be hosted by the Extension Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Farmers learn sustainability in small farming. Government Information Service, Dominica 14 September 2016

<http://news.gov.dm/index.php/news/3974-farmers-learn-sustainability-in-small-farming>

Full article

Thanks to the collaboration of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and CARICOM with funding by the European Union, Dominican farmers are learning to be sustainable build capacity for the sustainability of small farmers, youth and women in rural communities.

An agricultural policy program titled the *'Traditional Knowledge and Innovation Training for Sustainable and Resilient Small Farming Systems'* took place on September 13th in the community of La Plaine.

In attendance were organizations such as the Belles Farmers Cooperative, Dominica State College, Cochrane Farmers Group and Giraudel Farmers Group.

The agricultural policy program is multi-dimensional focusing on related enabling policies and institutional environment, appropriate researched technology and innovation and market development with a view to delivering benefits to small producers under these initiatives.

IICA Representative, Kent Coipel addressed the event and described the components of the program

Component one focuses on policy and strategy, Component two focuses on applied research and Component three focuses on enterprise development.

CARICOM, CARDI and IICA respectively will execute these projects.

Dorian Etienne represented the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, CARDI.

“Over the years, agro producers have used a wide range of knowledge and practices which have been passed down through oral or written tradition. Somewhere along the line, we deviated and adopted other practices of producing crops and livestock. With climate variability and high input costs, we are being sent back to the drawing board to take a closer look at the traditional knowledge and practices that sustained our small producers.

“It is against this background that CARDI is seeking to improve the capacity of small farmers to build capacity and resilience.

Some of the topics covered at the training are: Sustainable Land Preparation Practices; Soil Health; Pest Management; Farm Waste Practices, and Climate Resilience.

Agro Parks to be expanded by [Chris Patterson](#) Jamaica Information Service, September 14, 2016
<http://jis.gov.jm/agro-parks-expanded/>

Full article

Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Karl Samuda, says the agro park concept will be expanded across the length and breadth of the island.

Currently, there are nine parks in operation, and the Minister said he would like to see the number grow.

“When I speak of an agro park, I’m speaking of a defined area where all of the facilities can be brought to bear, managed and brought to the assistance of the people, who want to do something in a serious way,” he noted.

Minister Samuda was addressing the opening ceremony for the climate smart agriculture symposium at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston today (September 13).

The objective of the agro parks is to bring underutilised rural land and labour into a more efficient agricultural production system. As a result, crops are being produced at competitive prices to facilitate import substitution, enhance the agricultural supply chain, deepen industrial linkages and increase food security.

Over 3.5 million kilograms of produce have been harvested to date from the parks, such as onions, peppers, vegetables, potatoes, yams, melons and pineapples.

“It is only by being organised, it is only by bringing to bear on each defined area the level of hard infrastructure in the form of roads and equipment and soft infrastructure in the form of training,

that we will be able to be certain about the outcome of our production in each of those geographical areas,” Mr. Samuda said.

He noted that agriculture can no longer be undertaken in an ad hoc manner but should incorporate proper planning, assessment and strategies that are guided by data.

In the meantime, he suggested that orchard plants, such as ackees and mangoes, should be planted on the periphery of the parks.

He said that these crops if properly managed, can be reaped and exported. “There is an unlimited demand for our crops in the United Kingdom (UK) and other parts of Europe. They would spend any money in Europe to get a good East Indian or St. Julian mango, especially in the winter,” he pointed out.

Turning to the matter of irrigation, Minister Samuda noted that only about seven per cent of Jamaica’s irrigable lands are being provided with water, and the Ministry is moving to have a significantly greater proportion of those areas irrigated.

“With climate change, this is likely to become even more challenging, so we really have to be smart and innovative in how we harness the water and that we don’t waste it,” he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Mr Samuda cited the importance of partnerships and innovations to the continued development of the sector.

He said that agriculture will continue to grow the economy, noting that domestic crop production grew by more than 13 percent in the April to June quarter of 2016.

The two-day symposium is organised by the United States Agency for International Development Agency (USAID)-funded Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change II (Ja REEACH II) project in collaboration with the Ministry.

It is being held under the theme ‘Growing Agriculture and Incomes in the Face of Climate Change

Agricultural diversification for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Government of St Vincent & the Grenadines, Tuesday, 13 September 2016

http://www.gov.vc/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1897:agricultural-diversification-for-st-vincent-and-the-grenadines&catid=43:government-news&Itemid=159

Full article

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Hon. Saboto Caesar said that the Ministry of Agriculture is now embarking on an Agricultural Diversification Program at the Orange Hill Tissue Culture Lab.

The program is working on the production of decorative plants, in addition to Banana and Root Crops. This is to complement the Twenty-point One Hundred Day agricultural plan, which was launched in April and culminated in July.

The agricultural minister also said that this would result in a decrease in the importation of decorative flowers into the country.

Regional Agriculture Projects - Moving past ‘painful’ to ‘progressive’ collaboration. Caribbean Agribusiness, 7 September 2016

<http://www.agricarib.org/news/details/regional-agriculture-projects-moving-past-painful-to-progressive-collaborat>

Full article

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, September 2016 – Discussing the proceedings of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for an agriculture project in the Caribbean probably sounds like a dry subject. It conjures up images of bureaucrats sitting around a table discussing policy and plans, hashing out process and determining progress. Frankly, that pretty much sums up the TAC for the Agricultural Policy Programme (APP) which took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 11 and 12 August, 2016. However, if one considers the history of agriculture development projects in the Caribbean, this particular picture becomes quite exciting. It is not that the meetings and topics were unusual, but rather the mix of company.

The Caribbean has a long history of agriculture development projects. From the Regional Food and Nutrition Strategy in the 80s, to the Regional Transformation Programme in the 90s and the Jagdeo Initiative in the early 2000s, many attempts have been made to strengthen this industry which holds great potential for the Caribbean. However, it has been difficult to get the most out of these initiatives without the involvement of every CARIFORUM country and representation from all interested parties in the Caribbean, from farmers and researchers, to private sector service providers, development agencies and governments.

The Caribbean action under the APP, which aims to reduce poverty and increase food and nutrition security in the Region through the support of smallholder agriculture, wanted to directly tackle this historical problem by bringing both countries and all interested agencies together.

“Despite some problems and hiccups, I am proud to say that the Caribbean has collaborated well in this effort. It is not normal,” said Jethro Greene, the Chief Coordinator for the Caribbean Farmers Network (CAFAN) in his closing comments at the TAC. “A few people had a vision for not just their own country. The only future we have is joint action. It is impossible for any country to think they can lead their own charge in agriculture and make it. We must work together.”

Mr. Greene’s comments were echoed by many others during the TAC proceedings including Dr. Inez Demon of the Centre for Agriculture Research in Suriname (CELOS). “This is a great sign of how far we have come,” she said. “I have struggled in getting CELOS to the table where there is usually only government officials. We are very, very grateful that we were able to play our part in the APP programme.”

Thirty-five participants from around the Caribbean were in attendance at the two-day meeting. Development agencies participating in the discussions included the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS), CARIFORUM, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Caribbean Exports, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA),

and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Research institutions were represented by the College of Arts Science and Technology, Jamaica (CAST), CELOS, the Dominican Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF) and the Faculties of Food and Agriculture, and Engineering from the University of West Indies (UWI).

The interests of small producers and enterprises were directly represented by organizations such as CAFAN, the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), the Caribbean Agricultural Forum of Youth (CAFY) and the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP). Rounding out the attendees list were service providers whose presence in the value chain is irreplaceable, such as financiers, with representation from the Agricultural Development Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Admittedly, the APP project hasn't been without its challenges. When the project was signed in March 2013, the lead implementing partners and their collaborating agencies needed to establish trust and mutually beneficial relationships. Also, though direct beneficiary input was planned into the project it wasn't necessarily factored into the project planning. While the need to engage beneficiaries in project design was well appreciated by the APP Implementing Partners, the choice then, was to either get a project approved within the final weeks of 2010 or miss the opportunity entirely for having an APP.

On reflection, Vassel Stewart, president of CABA affirmed that "we should have involved the stakeholders in the planning stage. It may have given the project a different start. We could have had greater clarity, linking the objectives with specific projects." Notwithstanding this, he readily acknowledged that the project is showing great benefits. "The support we are getting is the most that my members have ever received", he said. "It places us in a position that we can sustain ourselves".

Collaboration has historically been difficult in the Caribbean and it took time to forge these relationships and launch brand new ties. These challenges almost brought the project to a halt in early 2015. However, project partners and key stakeholders rallied together to create a scaled-down work plan version of the APP (SDWP). Importantly, direct beneficiaries, such as "CAFAN and CABA informed the SDWP and that made it work," said Gregg Rawlins, the Representative in Trinidad & Tobago and Co-ordinator, Regional Integration Caribbean Region, IICA. "It is a shift from traditional approach. Here agencies have a more direct engagement with the beneficiaries themselves. It is about keeping our eyes on those we are seeking to support and help. Let's hope this sets the framework for future regional programmes."

Since then, work has been moving forward at a rapid speed and with good success. Juan Cheaz of the CTA agrees. "We have been able to gain a good pace and move on priorities in the Region by connecting agencies," he said in his comments to the TAC.

Diana Francis, the IICA Officer-in-Charge for the APP Project Management Unit, is hopeful about these new and strengthened relationships. She sees the potential to take this model even further. "We need to find out who can help us outside of traditional agriculture circles," she says. "We need to open up the pool of who we bring into the discussions."

A good example of this is how the UWI Engineering Department became involved in the project. Ruel Ellis a Lecturer and Engineer in the UWI Faculty of Engineering, was asked to provide some casual feedback on project planning documents as part of the preparatory process for the

SDWP. While reading about some of the project initiatives, his engineering mind came alive with ideas. The PMU invited him to put his suggestions forward.

Today, Dr. Ellis and his team have become an important part of the project, working on a protected agriculture initiative which uses environmentally friendly options for cooling greenhouses to an appropriate temperature. Dr. Ellis' passion for and commitment to the project is palatable. "It was quite by accident that this relationship began," he said, "but now that it is started I hope that it continues."

As far as institutional collaboration goes, Dr. Ellis shared the experiences of this new engagement with the APP and what it took to get a formal agreement to work together on one activity under the CARDI-led component. He summed up this experience with an observation that there is a "painful history that prevents collaboration. If we can find out what the historical pain is and address it, we can bring everyone to the table and make progress for agriculture in the Caribbean."

Indeed, there is still work to be done before the project comes to an end, and even though all involved acknowledged its rough start, those who have been engaged with the project are pleased with how much has been achieved under the SDWP version.

Added to the tangible contributions made to the beneficiaries, at the closing of the TAC, there was an overall consensus that an attitude of collaboration may just be the greatest achievement of the APP to date. All agreed that the relationships that have been started must continue even when the project comes to an end. There is even a new sense of collective responsibility among an expanding stakeholder base, as well an expectation among the stakeholders, that given what was accomplished in such a short space of time through the scaled down plan, favourable consideration should be given to continuing the project.

"We have fostered strong relationships with stakeholders," said Gregg Rawlins in his closing statements. "We have had direct engagement with them and recognize that they all have an important contribution to make. We want to ensure that they have a voice in the way forward."

News Source: [Agriculture Policy Programme \(APP\) Caribbean Action](#)

AID Bank outlines details of new agriculture and tourism loans. Government Information Service, Dominica, 2 September 2016
<http://news.gov.dm/index.php/news/3946-aid-bank-outlines-details-of-new-agriculture-and-tourism-loans>

Full article

The wait has ended for farmers and hoteliers who have anticipated the loan facilities of \$25 million provided by Government through the AID Bank.

On August 9, the Government of Dominica and the AID Bank signed two loan facilities for the high priority sectors of agriculture and tourism.

On Thursday, September 1st, a press briefing was held to apprise the nation of the development and implementation of these facilities thus far.

The bank will on-lend \$10 million for the agriculture sector to be distributed in two ways; \$5m for pork and poultry and \$5m for other sub-sectors.

These loan terms are a maximum repayment period of five years with a six month grace period and a 3% interest rate.

The loans are meant to be start up credit and working capital financing.

Applicants for pork and poultry enterprises must already have a minimum of six sows and 1,000 birds.

Loans will not be granted for the purpose of refinancing.

The AID Bank General Manager explained the proposal of the Ministry Of Agriculture and Fisheries in that regard.

“A recommendation from the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture [indicated] a debt to equity ratio of 80:20. This means that if you put 20% of your money, Government will put four times that, 80%.

“This is remarkable because what Government has done is increase the debt ratio so that the borrowers have more freedom to get the funds,” he said.

Corbette made it clear that borrowers must have no existing arrears unless a specific arrangement was made with the bank.

He also stated that farmers must present updated business plans to be considered.

With regards to tourism, the repayment period should not exceed 10 years, borrowers will enjoy a 12 month grace period and a 3% interest rate.

All new construction and upgrades must be approved by the Physical Planning Division and applicants should submit current architectural plans. Loan requests must not exceed 90% of collateral.

The AID BANK General Manager says borrowers must also have approval by the Invest Dominica Authority for upgrade and extension.

This \$25m loan facilities were promised by the Honourable Prime Minister in his budget address for the financial year 2016/2017.

General Manager of AID Bank, Julius Corbette, expressed his gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Roosevelt Skerrit, for his continued confidence in the AID Bank.

Fruit, vegetable cooperation project continues by Ministry of Agriculture. Government of Saint Lucia, September 01, 2016

<http://www.govt.lc/news/fruit-vegetable-cooperation-project-continues>

Full article

Phase II of the project will focus on the introduction of new crop varieties and the adaptation of improved technologies.

The Government of Saint Lucia recently signed an action plan that will signal the beginning of Phase II of the Fruit and Vegetable Demonstration and Extension Cooperation Project.

The project is a collaboration between the Government of Saint Lucia and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and is designed to improve on the quality and quantity of selected fruits and vegetables for the domestic market.

Phase II of the project will focus on banana farmers who do not wish to continue supplying bananas to the European market. These farmers will cultivate crops such as watermelon, cantaloupe, papaya, pineapple, tomato, sweet pepper, cabbage, lettuce and cucumber. The project will also focus on the introduction of new crop varieties and the adaptation of improved technologies that will increase revenue while diversifying the agriculture sector.

During the first phase of the project, the following objectives were met: the establishment of three demonstration plots to showcase the cultivation of new crops and the use of improved varieties; the hosting of 19 training workshops and five farmer field school sessions to help build capacity among cultivators of new crops (these capacity building exercises benefited approximately 1045 producers); the training of 11 agricultural officers in the transfer of relevant technologies; the building of nine compost houses to demonstrate the making and use of compost; and expansion in the cultivation of selected crops.

On Jan. 12, the Taiwan Technical Mission officially handed the project over to the agriculture sector marking the completion of Phase I of the project which began in 2011 and ended in 2015.

Taiwan's Ambassador to Saint Lucia, His Excellency Raymond Mou, spoke highly of the outcome of the project. He said the project has improved production; has built the capacity of agricultural officers and producers; and through the transfer of technology, an increase is expected in both the quality and quantity of crops.

As a result of the success of the initial phase, the Government of Taiwan has committed an additional two million dollars towards the second phase, that will assist in the diversification of the local agricultural sector over a three-year period.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives Hon. Ezechiel Joseph said the project fits within the diversification thrust of the local agriculture sector as well as government's objectives to ensure food security on the domestic market. He added that the ministry will continue to build on these successes to strengthen the revenue base of producers.

The signing took place on July 11. The Agriculture Ministry aims to continue to create an enabling environment for farmers, fishers, agro-processors and other producers, for the development of the local economy.

AGRIBUSINESS

Agri-Entrepreneurship Program to continue by Geraldine Bicette-Joseph. Government of Saint Lucia, GIS, August 25, 2016 <http://www.govt.lc/news/agri-entrepreneurship-program-to-continue>

Full article

The project aims to make use of dormant, but prime agricultural land.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, Hon. Ezechiel Joseph, has highlighted the need for young people to get more involved in the agriculture sector.

Referencing the Youth Agri-Entrepreneurship Program, Minister Joseph commented that for the sector to thrive, the youth need to play a part in its future.

"There are a number of crops that we can grow if we provide support to our farmers, and if we provide the infrastructure to support them like marketing and technical advice," he said. "We can do it and for us to be able to accomplish this we need people that we can train. That is where the youth play an important role."

The Minister said the Youth Agri-Entrepreneurship Program started with an aim to make use of dormant, but prime agricultural land.

"The project started with government lands. I identified four or five areas that were ideal for agriculture. Phase 2 of the project would have been private lands where you have farmers who have reached an age where they no longer wish to be cultivating and their children are not interested in agriculture. Instead of looking at sectors outside of agriculture the intention was to lease these lands from these individuals and lease it to persons inside the respective communities that are interested in agriculture. It is something that we are going to continue because we have to and I want to emphasize that we have to. We need to bring new blood into agriculture and it is a program that I would continue."

Minister Joseph said the next step is to meet with the youth to discuss and address the challenges that they face.

EDUCATION

Two more Nevis students leaving to pursue agriculture degrees at Earth University Nevis Island Administration, 7 September 2016

<http://www.nia.gov.kn/index.php/news-4/news-articles-3/2813-two-more-nevis-students-leaving-to-pursue-agriculture-degrees-at-earth-university>

Full article

Dezjorn Jeffers of Prospect Village and Kyle Liburd of Hickmans Village will leave Nevis September 10, 2016, to pursue four-year degrees in Agriculture at Earth University in Costa Rica. They will be joining three other students who are pursuing the same degree there.

On September 07, 2016, the Department of Information spoke with their fathers who expressed gratitude for the opportunity afforded to their sons to pursue tertiary education overseas.

“It’s a good opportunity for him. I expect him to do well and come back and contribute to the development of agriculture.

“We are grateful to the donor for providing the scholarship and to the Agriculture Department who would have done some work in making it possible,” Floyd Liburd said.

In the case of Dezjorn, Stuart Jeffers said “I think it is a wonderful opportunity and we appreciate the gesture by the donor and the effort of the Department of Agriculture which affords him the opportunity to study agriculture, an area he is passionate about since he was little.”

Meantime, in a recent interview with the department, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Eric Evelyn noted that the ministry boasts a cadre of well-trained personnel and continues to look at ways and means of adding to that pool of trained technicians in the department.

He congratulated the students and explained that Jeffers and Liburd were accepted to study at the Costa Rican university after they had passed the application process.

“Part of that process included a professor from the university journeying here to Nevis last month to conduct interviews with the two students who applied.

“She journeyed back to Costa Rica and analysed the information and the results of the interviews that were conducted and thankfully the two students are successful,” he said.

The permanent secretary believes that the most recent opportunity for the Nevisian students came about as a result of a visit by Minister of Agriculture on Nevis Hon. Alexis Jeffers and himself to Earth University earlier this year.

“The registration process would have gone but because of some discussions myself and the minister had with the officials from Earth University, they were able to extend the deadline.

“When I returned, I was able to do some additional promotion, and so, we were able to get these two young men who are interested. They applied and they are extremely delighted that they are successful,” he said.

Evelyn also used the opportunity to express gratitude to donor Ms. Ann Bass for sponsoring all the scholarships for Nevisians studying agriculture at Earth University. He said her generous gift provides Nevisian students with an opportunity to get a university education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Year of Pulses 2016, FAO

Website: <http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/en/>

September

8th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress

Date: 12-16 September 2016

Location: Rovanel's Resort and Conference Centre, Store Bay, Tobago

Description: In addition to the main event there will be a pre congress Queen Rearing Course and the post congress Africanised Bee Tour of Trinidad. See newly launched joint Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organisations / 8th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress website.

Website: www.acboonline.com

Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) Summit

Date: 15-16 September, 2016

Location: New York, U.S.A.

Description: The first global conference organized by GODAN, convening all interested in the opening, the use, and the impact of agriculture and nutrition data.

Website: <http://summit.godan.info/>

“Agribusiness development in SIDs: the potential of tourism-related markets”

Date: 21 September, 2016

Location: Avenue Georges Henri 451, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

Description: This Briefing will be organised by the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), in collaboration with the European Commission, the European Commission / DEVCO and the ACP Secretariat

Website: <https://brusselsbriefings.net/next-briefing/46-agribusiness-tourism-markets-in-sids/>

October

X International Symposium on Banana / ISHS-ProMusa symposium. Agroecological approaches to promote innovative banana production systems

Date: 10-14 October 2016

Location: Montpellier, France

Description: X International Symposium on Banana. Organised by ProMusa and hosted by CIRAD.

Website: <http://ishs-promusa2016.cirad.fr/>

Fifth Ruforum Biennial Conference 2016 also known as the ‘African Higher Education Week’

Date: 17-21 October 2016

Location: Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

Description: Theme ‘Linking Agricultural Universities with Civil Society, the Private Sector, Governments and other Stakeholders in support of Agricultural Development in Africa' Hosted by The

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

Website: <http://www.ruforumbiennial.org/> and **Press Release:**

[https://ruforum.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/ruforum-press-release_africaheweek2016.pdf?utm_source=RUFORUM+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=466d27193a-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcfb8a0b-466d27193a-318853513&ct=t\(\)&mc_cid=466d27193a&mc_eid=60b34016f2](https://ruforum.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/ruforum-press-release_africaheweek2016.pdf?utm_source=RUFORUM+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=466d27193a-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcfb8a0b-466d27193a-318853513&ct=t()&mc_cid=466d27193a&mc_eid=60b34016f2)

Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2016 (CWA)

Date: 24-28 October, 2016

Location: Arts & Recreation Centre (the ARC), Camana Bay, Cayman Islands

Description: Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) was conceptualized by CARDI to place agriculture and rural life on the “front burner” of regional integration activities. It is convened under the aegis of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu.

Website: <http://www.cwa2016cayman.com/>

December

International conference on Agri-Chains and Sustainable Development: linking local and global dynamics, AC&SD 2016

Date: 12-14 December, 2016

Location: Montpellier, France

Website: <http://acsd2016.cirad.fr/> and **Contact email:** acsd2016@cirad.fr