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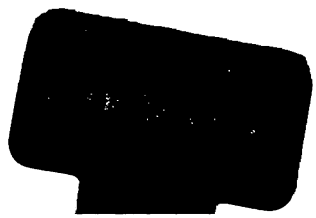
**REPORT OF
THE WORKSHOP OF
CARIBBEAN CHIEF PLANT
QUARANTINE OFFICERS
TO DISCUSS
*FACILITATION OF CARIBBEAN
INTRA REGIONAL TRADE IN
FRESH PRODUCE***

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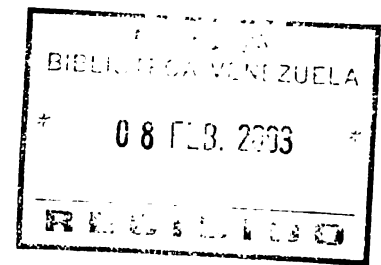


TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
INTRODUCTION.....	1
TECHNICAL SESSIONS.....	1
ANNEXES	
GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS	5
LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS.....	6
AGENDA	9
SYSTEMS APPROACH.....	11
SUMMARY OF COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS TO IMPLEMENT PROTOCOLS.....	17



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We also wish to express our appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Environment of Saint Lucia for hosting the Workshop.

The efforts of Mrs Deborah Biscombe of IICA Saint Lucia and Ms. Sophia Prescod of IICA Barbados in preparing this document together are also acknowledged.



INTRODUCTION

The Workshop to discuss import/export protocols to facilitate intra-regional trade was held at the Bay Gardens Hotel, Rodney Bay in Castries, Saint Lucia, October 26-27, 1998. The list of countries and participants at the meeting is presented in Annex II. Annex III outlines the Agenda of the meeting.

The Opening Session was addressed by Mr Andrew Satney, Information and Market Intelligence officer, OECS/EDADU, Dr. Barbara Graham, Representative in the Eastern Caribbean States, IICA and the Hon Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Environment, Mr Cassius Elias. All the speakers highlighted the importance of this issue to Caribbean countries especially with the advent of the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug. The collaborative efforts of the institutions operating in the Region viz. – IICA, CARDI, FAO, OECS/EDADU, and support from USDA/APHIS were also noted.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

There were two technical sessions. During the first technical session, the concept of the Systems Approach was explained by Mr. Ronald Pilgrim of CARDI (Annex IV). Two protocols were presented at the Workshop "*Facilitation of Caribbean Intra-regional Trade in Fresh Produce*" and "*Facilitation of Caribbean Intra-regional Trade in Fresh Produce due to the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug **Maconellcoccus hirsutus***".

Both protocols were accepted with the following revisions:

- 1) That the technical team should consist of one person each from the exporting and importing countries. A third independent person may be included if necessary.



- 2) The trading partners should decide on size of sample for produce inspection. For this reason *appropriate* size should precede the sample size.

- 3) Additional research required:
 - use of methyl bromide without chloropicrin;
 - validation of the hot water treatment technology;
 - CARDI to write up results of postharvest treatment trials for distribution; and
 - validation of the "systems approach" protocol.

The general protocol is to be used to develop protocols for specific pests and commodities.

During the second technical session, the countries' requirements to facilitate the implementation of the protocols were discussed.

In order to implement the Systems Approach, countries will require regulations to discipline farmers and exporters, especially the hucksters. Some countries need to update their plant quarantine legislation which was developed a long time ago. However, updated legislation for the Region is being considered by CARISEC, with assistance from the IPPC/FAO.

All PHMB infested countries would require treatment facilities to carry out direct post harvest treatments i.e. hot water and/or methyl bromide fumigation. The hot water treatment prototype developed in Saint Lucia should be considered. With regards to methyl bromide fumigation, countries which are willing to undertake this treatment will need to consider tarpaulin or container fumigation. Validation experiments are required for this.



Many countries do not have basic laboratory resources. CARINET should expedite the creation of a Caribbean network of plant health laboratories and development of Centres of Excellence to assist the countries.

Basic tools are required for inspection and verification. Post harvest materials, washing bins, tables, packhouses and the like are required in most countries. The private sector should be encouraged to finance equipment and materials necessary for postharvest treatments.

All the countries requested training for the various target groups – farmers, exporters, importers and plant quarantine personnel.

About five countries have regular surveillance/survey programmes for specific pests. Most of the other countries do not have surveillance programmes.

All countries indicated that they would require an Inspection Manual. The FAO will publish such a manual in 1999.

Whilst all countries thought that a trace back procedure was necessary, only Barbados had such a programme operational.



ANNEXES



ANNEX I

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

APHIS:	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
CARDI:	Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute
CARINET:	The Caribbean Network for Biosystematics
CARISEC:	Caribbean Community Secretariat
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAS:	Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA
IICA:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPPC:	International Plant Protection Commission
OECS/EDADU:	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States/Export Development and Agricultural Diversification Unit
PHMB:	Pink Hibiscus Mealybug
SPS:	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
USDA:	United States Department of Agriculture

ANNEX II

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX III

**WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS FACILITATION OF INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE
Bay Gardens Hotel, Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia**

AGENDA

DAY ONE – OCTOBER 26, 1998

TECHNICAL SESSION I - Presentation of Protocol

- | | |
|---|---|
| CHAIR: | Andrew Satney, EDADU |
| 1000 Concept of the Systems Approach to Quarantine Security | R Pilgrim, CARDI |
| 1100 DISCUSSION | |
| 1200 LUNCH | |
| 1300 Protocol to Facilitate Trade General Protocol "Facilitation of Caribbean Intra-Regional Trade in Fresh Produce" | E Ambrose, IICA/R Pilgrim, CARDI |
| 1400 DISCUSSION | |
| 1500 BREAK | |
| 1515 Protocol to Facilitate Trade in the Presence of Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug | E Ambrose, IICA/R Pilgrim, CARDI |
| 1615 DISCUSSION | |

DAY TWO – OCTOBER 27, 1998

TECHNICAL SESSION II – Country Presentations on Requirements of Protocol

CHAIR:

Sandra Vokaty, IICA

Andrew Satney, OECS/EDADU

0900 Anguilla

0910 Antigua and Barbuda

0920 Barbados

0930 British Virgin Islands

0940 Dominica

0950 Grenada

1000 BREAK

1015 Guyana

1025 Montserrat

1035 Saint Lucia

1045 St Vincent and the Grenadines

1055 Trinidad and Tobago

1105 Summary of Country Presentations

E Ambrose, IICA

1200 LUNCH

1300 Field Trip

1530 BREAK

ANNEX IV

SYSTEMS APPROACH – Ronald Pilgrim, Post Harvest Technologist, CARDI Dominica

“The Systems Approach” is defined as the integration of those pre-harvest and postharvest practices used in production, harvest, packing and distribution of a commodity which cumulatively meet the requirements for quarantine security (Jang and Moffit, 1994).

DIRECT QUARANTINE TREATMENTS

- **FUMIGATION**
 - ethylene dibromide
 - methyl bromide
 - phosphide

- **PESTICIDES**
 - dimethoate and fenthion (organophosphate)

- **HOT WATER IMMERSION**

- **VAPOUR HEAT**

- **FORCED HEATED AIR**

- **COLD**

- **IRRADIATION**

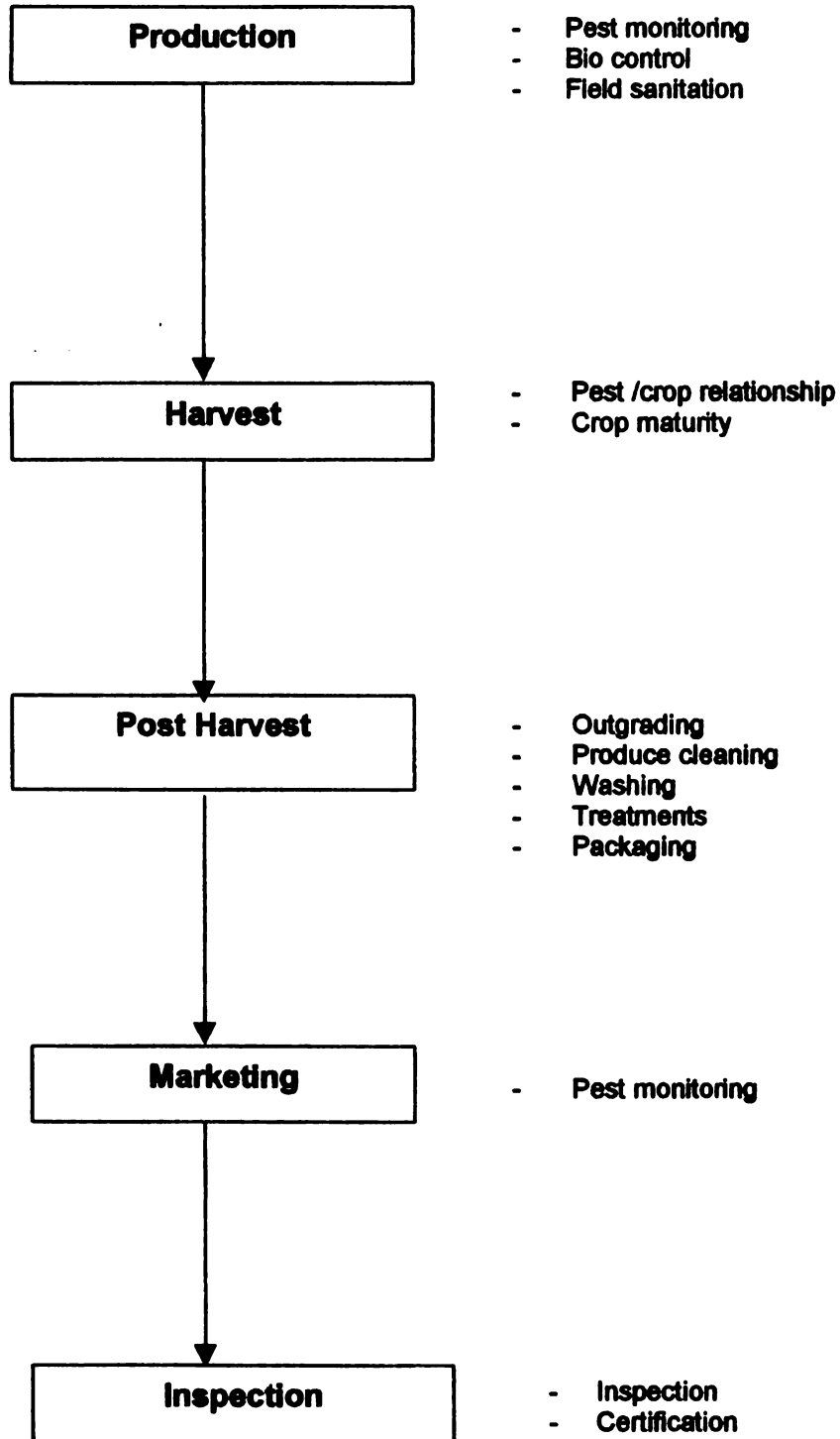
- **CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE**

- **COMBINATION TREATMENTS**

Differences between “Systems Approach” and Direct Treatments

1. Systems Approach does not target the product alone but the entire production and marketing system.
2. Integration of operational and biological factors to provide quarantine security.
3. Level of infestation of host commodity is the key component in designing the over-all system.
4. Various treatments are involved in achieving quarantine security.
5. A direct treatment can be a system component if alone it cannot provide adequate security.

Component levels with some related activities



KEY SPECIFIC SYSTEMS' COMPONENTS

PRODUCTION COMPONENT

Integration of all production practices that reduce pest population in the field

- Pest surveys to determine infestation / thresh hold levels
- Integrated Pest Management Practices (IPM)
 - Bio-control
 - Use of pesticides
 - Traps
 - Cultural practices

HARVEST COMPONENT

Use of information on pest's interaction with host commodity at or before harvest to reduce the risk of highly infested commodities entering the post harvest chain.

- Knowledge of pest infestation biology and commodity at time of harvest
- Knowledge of fruiting phenology and ripening of the commodity may reveal specific seasonal periods where infestation periods would occur or be light.
- Pest-host asynchrony in certain geographic areas
- Use of certain fruit selection criteria such as ripeness, hardness, colour or harvesting techniques meant to reduce infestation

POST HARVEST COMPONENT

- The success of the Systems Approach is the determination of the tolerance level of infested fruit upon arrival at the packhouse
- Tolerance level should be low enough to allow subsequent operational procedures to fully guarantee pest free produce that provide quarantine security
- Packhouse procedures include culling, washing, grading, sorting, direct treatment and packing
- Proper monitoring and inspection after each operation in the packhouse is essential to ensure that produce is free from pest
- Packaging to prevent re-infestation i.e. use of shrink-wrapping or specifically designed boxes

MARKET COMPONENT

- Type of market destination
- Monitoring the distribution process

INSPECTION/CERTIFICATION COMPONENT

- Final inspection of the packaged product prior to shipping to ensure the commodity has gone through proper inspection/treatments
- Preclearance/certification preferably by the importing country as part of the final inspection

- Certification at final destination, though optional, may still be required by importing country

ANNEX V SUMMARY OF COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS TO IMPLEMENT PROTOCOLS

COUNTRY	FACILITY NEEDS	TRAINING OF TARGET GROUPS	SURVEILLANCE SURVEY	INSPECTION MANUAL	LEGISLATION	TRACE BACK PROGRAMME
Antigua and Barbuda	None for treatment of produce. No incinerator basic lab and other tools.	Quarantine officers Exporters	Limited	Required	To be reviewed and enforced	To be implemented and governed by legislation
Anguilla	Reasonably cost effective hot water treatment facility required and tools and lab equipment	National Farmers Association Importers of vegetables etc. Fumigators Exporters	Technical assistance to implement	Required	Updated legislation	Required
Barbados	No treatment facility but no exporter of produce	Additional three (3) staff members for pre-clearance	As required	Required	Revision of legislation	Required
Bahamas	Fumigation chamber (2) Incinerator (2) Laboratory for ID Insectary	Plant quarantine inspectors, Extension workers, Customs, importers, Public	Staff Vehicles Regular monitoring	Required	Revision of legislation	Required
British Virgin Islands	No office facilities No incinerator Laboratory facilities	Plant protection personnel	None	Required	Revision of legislation	Required
Dominica	On farm Packhouse Fumigation chamber Lab equipment Hot water	Farmers Exporters Agric. Officers Plant quarantine officers Postharvest personnel	As required	Required	Required especially for pest free area	

COUNTRY	FACILITY NEEDS	TRAINING OF TARGET GROUPS	SURVEILLANCE SURVEY	INSPECTION MANUAL	LEGISLATION	TRACE BACK PROGRAMME
Grenada	Sinks for washing produce to accommodate > 1 exporters water, eight concrete floor, pressure hose draining and drying backs grading tables field crates packing crates cooling facility Hot water	Hucksters pickers, farmers Plant quarantine officers	As required	As required	Regulations	
Jamaica	Hot water methyl bromide	Exporters, packing house operators, plant quarantine inspectors	For specific pests	Required	Regulations	Required
Trinidad and Tobago	Hot water methyl bromide	Exporters, farmers, quarantine officials	For specific pests	Required	Required	Required
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Hot water methyl bromide	Exporters, farmers, quarantine officials	For specific pests	Required	Required	Required
Guyana	Hot water methyl bromide	Farmers, exporters, quarantine officials	Required	Required	To be updated	Required
Saint Lucia	Fumigation (2) Hot water (2)	Public awareness Extension officers Pest control operator	Specific pests		Regulations	With Barbados
Montserrat	Hot water	Plant quarantine staff technical requirements			Required	

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