

Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



St. Kitts & Nevis



Country Update

as at July 2016 ~ 1 ~ APP/PMU



The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



APP In-Country Actions – St. Kitts and Nevis

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



3 local youth given an opportunity for developing the enterprises and expanding their business networks

- Shariska Browne, Teresa Dias and Anastasha Elliott were fully funded under the APP to participate the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18th – 22nd January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, the Youth from Saint Lucia were exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and they are now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’.

The Grenada YiA Forum also provided opportunities to participants to promote their enterprises to their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in Grenada.

- Dujon Caesar, another young agripreneur was also given the opportunity to engage with regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture, held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 7 – 10, 2016. As part of the RPF, a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs, was introduced and tested. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016, and provided participants with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that building institutional capacity and fostering policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers and agripreneurs in St Kitts and Nevis.

Support provided under. . .

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’

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Component 2 – CARDI:

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Component 3: ‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/ entrepreneurs’

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Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

- Eden Allistair Edwards, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture St. Kitts, got the opportunity to participate in the 8th Regional Planners Forum on Agriculture in Grenada, [18th – 22nd January 2016]. Mr. Edwards had the opportunity to network and dialogue with planners from the rest of the Region as well as heads and senior professionals from the key regional, international agricultural development institutions and private sector entities on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in St. Kitts and Nevis, including approaches for developing commodity-based industries, facilitation of intra-regional trade and critical areas for national and regional policy response.
- Eden Allistair Edwards also got the opportunity to continue the networking and engagement through support to participate in the 9th RPF on Agriculture held in Trinidad and Tobago from 7th to 9th June. This 9th RPF also included youth in agriculture training which provided a platform to introduce a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs to the planners and to test this hybrid CEBO with this group of youth. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016 as part of the 8th RPF.
- Melvin James of the Department of Agriculture St. Kitts was also afforded the opportunity, along with eight other planners from the Region, to participate in the 2016 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Outlook Forum in Arlington Virginia [25th – 26th February 2016]. Participants reported that the experience and exposure to the level of research, technical information, dialogue and networking was worth it and despite the economic differences between the US and other developed countries, and the Caribbean, there is need for a much greater level of investment and technical infusion into the development of agriculture.

Support provided under . . .

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

Ministry gets direct support to complete national agriculture policy & plan

An APP contracted team Glenroy and Associates, including Dr. Sharon Hutchinson, has initiated direct technical support to the Department of Agriculture towards completion of an Agriculture Policy and Plan. The consultant has already engaged in dialogue with senior officials of the Department (virtually) to determine the scope of work and the process towards same.

- **This activity is ongoing: started in April 2016, and will be completed in October 2016.**

Support provided under . . .


Component 1 – CCS: ‘Provide direct Technical Assistance to CARIFORUM countries to develop/ strengthen National Agricultural Policies / Plans’

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<p>APP In-Country Actions – St. Kitts and Nevis <i>The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.</i></p>	
<p>Local agri-stakeholders make direct input into recommendations to strengthen fresh produce marketing infrastructure</p> <p>St. Kitts and Nevis was one of five (5) countries used as a case study to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers. The country results and recommendations will form an input into the recently initiated support to develop a national agriculture policy and plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The assessment was completed in October 2015 and a report on St. Kitts and Nevis was circulated to Ministry officials. 	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 1, CCS : ‘<i>Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers</i>’</p>
<p>Government and Farmers have improved access to improved germplasm material for more productive farming operations</p> <p>Sweet potato farmers will benefit from training and refurbishment research facilities designed to enhance their capacity to access, multiply and manage improved germplasm. In March, two (2) varieties of sweet potato (Viola and N3-local), 100 slips each for germplasm source were established on the local CARDI Field station for use as multiplication of planting material in the field. Also between March and April, existing germplasm production structures on the local CARDI Field Station were refurbished. The refurbished unit will be used to demonstrate a water harvesting system. Demonstration and training will also continue for farmers and practitioners in rapid multiplication techniques in sweet potato, including use of drip irrigation, grass mulch and pherome traps.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 2, CARDI : ‘<i>Develop the capacity of selected stakeholders to access, multiply and manage improved germplasm and animal breeds</i>’</p>
<p>Small farmers will exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices</p> <p>Small farmers involved in roots and tubers production will benefit from access and use of one (1) walk-behind tractor and implements made available through CARDI, to demonstrate the impact of cost-time efficiency of land preparation. The arrival of the walk-behind tractor, in the wet season will enable a 1-day training for root and tubers farmers in the use, cost effectiveness and maintenance of walk behind tractors. The local CARDI Field Technician, contracted under the APP, will received a Training of Trainers workshop, in Tobago, in the use and maintenance of the tractor and in turn will conduct training for local stakeholders. The initial training of stakeholders will focus on farmers who do not use mechanised land preparation techniques.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tractors are expected to be delivered in July and demonstrations will be held immediately after. 	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 2, CARDI : ‘<i>Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations</i>’</p>

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<p>APP In-Country Actions – St. Kitts and Nevis The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.</p>	
<p>Small-scale food processor MSMEs exposed to enterprise building and product development training</p> <p>Yehudi Armstrong of the St. Kitts Agro-processors Cooperative and Kerwin George of the Nevis Livestock Farmers Association were given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's [21st – 23rd March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. Both agreed that they did require and did benefit from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design, use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in their enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 3, IICA: 'Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)'</p>
<p>MSMEs trained in producer group governance</p> <p>One (1) local stakeholder, Henderson Esmond Urius, of the Mansion Farmers Group (Lodge Project), received expert advice and exposure at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-28, 2016]. +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regional-based training is completed. 	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'</p>
<p>Directory of major enterprises in the small ruminant and sweet potato value chain published</p> <p>Thirty three (33) organizations within the small ruminant value chain and thirty three (33) organizations within the sweet potato value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Forty (40) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in St Kitts and Nevis and the Directory will also be made available online on APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 3, IICA: 'APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers'</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website www.agricarib.org) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information</p>	<p>An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation was made to Planners in the 9th Regional Planners Forum on 7th – 9th June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project</p>	<p>The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago. The Platform targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what's happening and foster greater institutional coordination.</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CRFM, FAO, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots & Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs & Spices (CABA)</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat, and through their local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</p>

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4 Thematic Groups (TGs)</p>	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS) 2 Business Development (IICA) 3 Climate Change & Natural Resource Management (FAO) 4 Human Resource, Research & Development (CARDI) <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - completed]</p> <p>Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers</p>	<p>This study was grounded in five (5) countries - Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. It sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers.</p> <p>The recommendations should be reviewed in the context of the recently completed national agriculture policy and plan.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - close to completion]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry</p>	<p>Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be ‘case studied’. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity.</p> <p>The recommendations and approach to commodity-based industry development should be reviewed in the context of the recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</p>

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Develop a Regional Policy Framework and a Business Plan for a Coordinating Mechanism for Herbs & Spices Industry	The countries to be ‘sampled’ as the basis for generating the body of information for analysis and recommendations will be specified on the submission of the Consultant’s Inception report. Given the regional thrust to develop links to the hotel and hospitality industry and the prominence of this industry in several countries of the region, while not all countries will be ‘sampled’ in the effort to develop of a regional industry development plan and coordinating mechanism, the results of this activity will have direct benefits for further enhancement of existing agri-tourism linkages throughout countries of the region. The initial findings should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems	Given the longstanding priority placed on ‘alleviating’ these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries’ efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products. <i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</i>
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies & programs	While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs & spices). <i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</i>
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum	More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a more continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities Activities continue in 2016.

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C2 – CARDI; close to completion]</p> <p>Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop & animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (7 December 2015) explored the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy and plan.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; close to completion]</p> <p>Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains’</p>	<p>CARIFORUM countries will benefit from specific case studies and short videos of the successful value chain financing mechanisms. These experiences will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to other countries in the region. Among these are the financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica and the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. The two consultancies are intended to contribute to the enhancing of understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs, the pivotal role of supportive government policy and engagement and successful collaboration with financial institutions, in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new interventions that are evidence-based.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; planning in progress]</p> <p>‘Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries’</p>	<p>A number of local stakeholders, including producer enterprises and one Development Finance Institutions, will get the opportunity to engage with their peers and colleagues from the region as well as international experts, when Jamaica hosts the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum in September 2016. The forum, hosted in collaboration with FAST, and the IICA Flagship Project on Competitiveness and the CTA, will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries.</p>

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C3 – IICA; plans ongoing for technical meeting]</p> <p>Working Capital Fund study for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>A two-day regional workshop, involving representatives of selected producer groups and enterprises involved in Roots and Tuber production, transformation and marketing initiatives (spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations along with selected NVCFs, BDOs and IICA National Specialists who are supporting producer groups and value-adding enterprises) is earmarked for Barbados in August. This workshop is linked closely with the work on credit worthiness assessments being undertaken under the APP-FAST LoA. Enterprises being cleared as credit worthy' is an essential step in being deemed eligible for the financing.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; ongoing]]</p> <p>Prepare Financial & Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>IICA in collaboration with FAST, CaFAN and CABA will identify and select a strategic commodity sector to promote investment and produce an investment guide to be launched during the Regional agri-Value Chain Finance Forum.</p> <p>Local stakeholders will benefit from sharing of information results and experiences of work undertaken in targeted countries.</p>

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Cariforum

