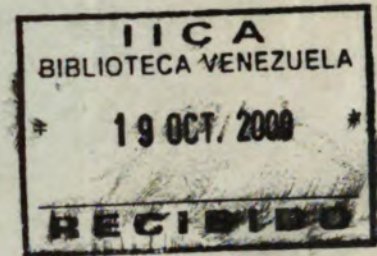


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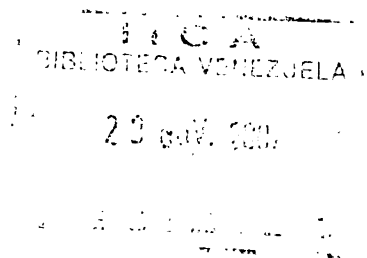
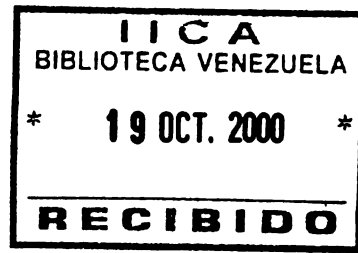
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**CONSULTATION MEETING
ON
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE
EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES**

PROCEEDINGS

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**CONSULTATION MEETING
ON
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE
EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES**

*August 10-11, 1995
Castries, Saint Lucia*

PROCEEDINGS

**Compiled by:
*Antonio M Pinchinat***

May 1996

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**REPORTS, RESULTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM TECHNICAL EVENTS SERIES**

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**The Consultation Meeting on
Plant Genetic Resources in the Eastern Caribbean States
was hosted by the
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Forestry
in Saint Lucia**

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADCU	Agricultural Diversification Coordinating Unit
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CMPGR	Caribbean Committee on Management of Plant Genetic Resources
CSEGRIN	Caribbean Seed and Germplasm Resources Information Network
ECS	Eastern Caribbean States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICPPGR	International Conference and Programme for Plant Genetic Resources
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
ITCPGR	International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
R/D	Research and Development
SCMA	Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture
TCA	Technical Cooperation Agency

PREFACE

The Consultation Meeting provided technical inputs deemed relevant to the first *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources* and a costed *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* which were being prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, Leipzig, Germany, June 1996.

These two documents were expected to be adopted by the ITC-PGR, within the FAO Global System for the conservation and utilization of PGR.

The country-driven preparatory process for the Conference was co-ordinated by FAO, in co-operation with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and other organizations.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in these proceedings do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever, on the part of FAO, IICA or IPGRI, concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Consultation Meeting was convened by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute - Regional Office for the Americas with the assistance of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. It was conceived as a complementary activity under FAO's International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources, for preparing a Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture.

The Consultation Meeting aimed at developing a joint Eastern Caribbean programme on PGR. Its results were expected to inform ICPPGR's Sub-regional Meeting for Mexico/Central America and the Caribbean, in Costa Rica, August 1995, as part of the process to prepare the Global Plan of Action.

It was funded by ICPPGR through IPGRI, with additional resources from the OECS Agricultural Diversification Coordinating Unit and IICA.

A cadre of high-level Ministry of Agriculture representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines attended the Consultation Meeting, along with support professionals from ADCU, CARDI, FAO, IICA, IPGRI and a Consultant contracted by IPGRI (Annex 3.1).

The two-day technical programme (Annex 3.2) was inaugurated by the Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture/Saint Lucia. It covered an overview of the ICPPGR process, the state of PGR activities in the Caribbean in general, the specific situation of PGR activities in the Eastern Caribbean States, and support of cooperating institutions to PGR management in the Caribbean in general and the ECS in particular.

On that basis, the participants worked out an institutional, technical and financial framework to set up a Sub-regional PGR Programme.

2.0 AGREEMENTS

2.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1.1** The MOA/St Lucia, the host country and Leader of the ECS Task Force on PGR (comprising the Focal Point from each OECS-member country) will prepare the draft Proceedings of the Consultation Meeting and circulate the document among participants to gather feedback for its finalization.
- 2.1.2** Saint Lucia will present the Eastern Caribbean States position on Plant Genetic Resources at FAO's ICPPGR Sub-regional meeting to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, August 1995.
- 2.1.3** Saint Lucia will ask ADCU to send to FAO a Technical Cooperation Proposal requesting the services of a consultant for a period of one month before the end of 1995, to formulate an ECS cooperative programme on PGR, with particular emphasis on training, technical workshops, in situ-conservation and economic development of under-utilized plant species.
- 2.1.4** Saint Lucia will ask ADCU to approach FAO/ICPPGR, requesting support for developing and implementing the joint ECS programme on PGR.
- 2.1.5** CARDI and IICA will assist the Focal Point in developing the national corresponding PGR programme in each of the OECS-member countries.
- 2.1.6** Saint Lucia will request ADCU to coordinate international cooperation with the national PGR programmes in the ECS.

2.2 PRIORITY PGR MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

- 2.2.1 Insufficient information on PGR diversity**
 - undeveloped inventory of PGR
 - scarce documentation on PGR
- 2.2.2 Accelerated genetic erosion**
 - insufficient provision for maintaining biodiversity at country level
 - increasing utilization of hybrids
 - decreasing use of indigenous species and land races
 - under-utilization of PGR due to insufficient prospection, characterization of germplasm and application of new biotechnologies.
- 2.2.3 Low level of awareness about PGR management**
 - absence of clear and comprehensive policies
 - scarcity of relevant legislation
 - inadequacy of education at all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary)

2.2.4 Deficient allocation of resources for modernization of PGR management

- insufficient capability and quantity of human resources
- inadequate infrastructure
- scarce financial resources
- cumbersome procurement of funds

2.3 PROPOSED PRIORITY PGR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

2.3.1 Information

2.3.1.1 Undertake inventory of all plant species, prioritizing

- commercial food crops
- threatened and rare wild plant species
- medicinal plants
- industrial crops
- marine plants
- ornamentals
- endangered forest plant resources
- commercial forest species
- crop land races
- other plant species

2.3.1.2 Establish computerized information system and databases

2.3.2 Biodiversity

2.3.2.1 Develop PGR Conservation Programme

- *in-situ*
 - . natural vegetation
 - . farmers fields
 - . field collection of indigenous or naturalized plants
- *ex-situ*
 - . in vitro collections
 - . working collections
 - . field germplasm banks
 - . botanical gardens and herbaria
 - . repositories at research/development centres of excellence

2.3.2.2 Expand and Improve Propagation of Germplasm

- seed industry
- . nurseries (public, private)
- . tissue culture laboratories

2.3.3 Awareness

2.3.3.1 Set Policies

- examine/evaluate current policies
- propose appropriate policies
- establish institutional framework to implement, monitor and modernize policies

2.3.3.2 Improve legislation

- review existing laws
- develop appropriate legislation
- enact modern laws

2.3.3.3 Improve and Expand Education

- sensitize policy makers to importance of modern PGR management
- develop and implement public awareness programmes
- introduce PGR management topics into curricula of the national education system

2.3.4 Human, Physical and Financial Resources

2.3.4.1 Assess needs

- inventory of human resources and physical infrastructure
- identification of professional capability requirements and training sources
- determination of financial requirements and funding sources

2.3.4.2 Access and secure financial resources

- preparation and marketing of investment projects for securing internal and external funding
- organisation of intra- and extra-regional cooperation, strategic alliances and networking

2.4 PRIORITY PGR TARGETED FOR ENHANCED UTILIZATION

The Task Force will seek technical assistance from ADCU, CARDI and IICA to develop specific externally funded projects for enhanced socio-economic utilization of the following priority commercial crops and under-exploited plant species, through genetic improvement and industrial processing.

2.4.1 Fiber, Beverage and Medicinal Plants

- mauby (*Colubrina sp.*)
- bois bande (*Richinia grandis*)
- cotton
- lemon grass (*citronella*)
- bay leaf
- arrowroot
- spices
- lufa
- seamoss

2.4.2 Ornamentals

- ferns
- orchids
- heliconias

2.4.3 Food Crops

- edible roots and tubers (cassava, yam, tannia, dasheen, eddoe, sweet potato, water chestnut)
- legumes

2.4.4 Fruits

- golden apple
- sugar apple
- soursop
- passiflora
- mango
- Artocarpus (breadfruit, breadnut, jack fruit)

2.4.5 Vegetables and Condiments

- hot pepper (*Capsicum spp*)
- amaranthus (Caribbean spinach)
- mushrooms
- calaloo (various species)

2.4.6 Timber and Non-Timber Forest Plants

- *Hieronyma caribaea*
- white cedar (*Tabauia pallida*)
- latanier palms (for brooms)
- larouma (for handicraft)

2.5 PRIORITY AREAS FOR NETWORKING IN PGR

2.5.1 Awareness

- harmonization of policies
- harmonization of legislation
- development of joint public awareness programmes

2.5.2 Inventory

- sharing of professionals
- sharing of information

2.5.3 Training

- joint programming of short, medium and long term training programmes
- participation in ECS sub-regional training activities

2.5.4 Documentation

- sharing of information
- establishment of ECS sub-regional database on PGR, in cooperation with the FAO-funded CSEGRIN

2.5.5 Conservation and Exchange of PGR

- sharing of collections
- joint exchange of plant germplasm with R/D centres of excellence

2.5.6 Utilization of PGR

- joint identification, formulation and implementation of specific ECS sub-regional projects on prospection and utilization of PGR
- joint approach to external funding of specific PGR utilization projects

2.6 FORMALIZATION OF COOPERATION ON PGR

2.6.1 The ECS Task Force will submit sub-regional proposals to OECS and SCMA Secretariats for political endorsement and support, to access external funding for formulating and implementing PGR conservation and utilization Projects.

2.6.2 Through ADCU, the Task Force will endorse and expand mandate of CMPGR to include national representation from the ECS.

2.7 ECS COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME ON PGR

2.7.1 ECS Task Force on PGR will outline the Programme's structure, comprising

- technical activities**
- institutional organization**
- funding**

2.7.2 A Consultant will be contracted, through ADCU, to formulate the Programme.

2.7.3 IICA will provide logistic support to the consultant, through the IICA TCA in Saint Lucia.

2.7.4 Consultant will visit

- CARDI Headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago**

- IICA TCA in Trinidad and Tobago**

- ADCU/Dominica**

- PGR Focal Point in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada**

- IICA TCA in Saint Lucia (CMPGR Secretariat)**

2.7.5 Consultant will draft Programme Document and send it to ADCU.

2.7.6 ADCU will send draft for review to

- ECS Countries**

- CARDI (Headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago)**

- CMPGR Secretariat (IICA/Saint Lucia)**

- IPGRI (Cali, Colombia)**

2.7.7 Reviewers will return comments to ADCU for preparation of final document by Consultant.

2.7.8 Consultant will submit final Programme Document to ADCU.

2.7.9 ADCU will submit approved Programme to FAO, requesting funding for specific PGR activities in the ECS.

2.8 ASSISTANCE TO THE ECS COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME ON PGR

- 2.8.1 In partnership to support the ECS Cooperative Programme on PGR, through the respective OECS Ministries of Agriculture, the five external agencies represented at the Consultation Meeting on PGR agreed to carry out the **Plan of Technical Assistance** summarized in Table 2.8.1.1.**
- 2.8.2 Financial assistance will be based on specific projects which will be prepared by the supporting allied agencies, in cooperation with the ECS Task Force on PGR.**

Table 2.8.1.1

MATRIX FOR PLAN OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ECS COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME ON PGR

PGR MANAGEMENT ISSUE	PARTNER INSTITUTION ^{1/}				
	ADCU	CARDI	FAO	IICA	IPGRI
1. Information dissemination	R	R	R	R	R
2. Short Courses					
- PGR curatorship	C	R	C	C	R
- nursery and field collections management	C	C	R	R	R
- study tours	C	C	R	R	R
3. Training Workshops					
- inventory methodology	C	C	R	R	R
- characterization	C	C	R	R	R
4. Seminars					
- intellectual property rights	C	C	R	R	R
- movement of germplasm	C	C	R	R	R
5. <i>In situ</i> Conservation Projects					
- farmers	C	R	R	R	R
- MOAs	C	R	R	R	C
6. Economic Utilization Projects	R	R	C	R	C

^{1/} Code: R = Responsible
 C = Collaborator

3,0 ANNEXES

Annex 3.1: LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

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Annex 3.2: PROGRAMME

DAY/TIME	AGENDA ITEM
Thursday, August 10	Moderator: C Paul Rapporteur: E Ambrose
0900 - 0920	OPENING REMARKS C Paul A M Pinchinat W Charles J Polius
0920 - 0930	SELF-INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS
0930 - 1030	INTRODUCTION Purpose and goals of the meeting Discussion and approval of agenda, and Briefing on the ICPPGR Process (KA Okada) The Conference, preparatory process in Latin America and the Caribbean, subregional synthesis reports, sub-regional meetings (KA Okada) The preparatory process in the Caribbean and production of country reports (AMPinchinat) Questions and comments (Plenary) Survey on plant genetic resources of the Caribbean (L Degras) Questions and comments (Plenary)
1030 - 1050	B R E A K
1050 - 1235	COUNTRY REPORTS Antigua and Barbuda (LGrant) Dominica (WMagloire) Grenada (AThomas) Questions and comments Saint Lucia (JNorville-John) St Vincent and the Grenadines (CWhite) Questions and comments Montserrat (CGerard) Questions and comments

1235 - 1400 **L U N C H**

1400 - 1500 :< **PRESENTATION FROM INSTITUTIONS**

FAO (WCharles)
 IICA (AMPinchinat)
 ADCU (LDaisley)
 CARDI (CPaul)

Questions and comments

1500 - 1515 **B R E A K**

1515 - 1700 :< **JOINT PROGRAMME ON PGR**

Bases of a joint PGR programme for the Eastern Caribbean (general discussion)

Organization of Task Forces for the Joint PGR Programme
 Group 1: Political and Technical Issues
 Group 2: Technical and Financial Assistance

Friday, August 11 **Moderator: A M Pinchinat**
 Rapporteur: E Ambrose

0830 - 1230 :< **PARALLEL TASK FORCE WORKSHOPS**
 Group 1: Country Representatives
 Group 2: Support Institution Representatives

1230 - 1400 **L U N C H**

1400 - 1630 :< **TASK FORCE PLENARY**
 Presentation of Proposals by Group
 Recommendations

1630 - 1700 :< **CLOSING REMARKS**
 IPGRI (KA Oakada)
 IICA (AMPinchinat)
 MOA/Saint Lucia (JPolius)
 Vote of Thanks (CGerard)

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