

CAISNews

“To facilitate improved access to agricultural technology and marketing information to support competitiveness in the agricultural sector”

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Introduction

CAISNews focuses on activities associated with developing the capacity in information and communications management in the Caribbean region. CAIS support to national networks is important to us at the Secretariat and we look forward to working with you to implement the key programmes identified by stakeholders as priorities. Please remember that CAISNews is also available on the CAIS website www.caisnet.org. Many thanks to the readers who sent us feedback and remember your contributions are important in making this our newsletter. Happy reading.

The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)

The first meeting of the ICA Hemispheric Advisory Board (HAB) took place in Washington, D.C. 9-10 May and was the occasion to officially launch the Institute. The HAB brings together 15 representatives of the Americas' foremost digital pioneers active in ICTs for development in the region. HAB members stem from the private and academic sectors, government, international institutions (Organization of America States, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank), non-government organisations and civil society in the hemisphere. Board members will provide the ICA with valuable regional intelligence and feedback, and assist with establishing the proper network of contacts throughout the region.

The first Board meeting provided an opportunity for the regional representatives to exchange views and provide guidance for development of the ICA programme. In determining the strategic vision and positioning of the Institute, three major areas of focus were identified, namely Knowledge Networking, Policies and Strategies, and Innovation and Demonstration Projects.

For further information visit: <http://www.icamericas.net>

ICA Caribbean Consultation

A two day seminar is planned for the end of July in Barbados, aimed at compiling the opinions of participants on the major thematic areas for the Institute's policies and programs for the next year. The objective of this consultation is to bring together senior level experts in connectivity and Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) of the region (active in ICTs for development within the private sector, government sector, and applied research sector) to help develop the strategic direction for the ICA within the framework of the Summit of the Americas.

Participants will interact in working groups to identify and initiate dialogue about the needs and priorities of the region in the ICT field, identify potential ICA affiliates in the region, gather recommendations of the regional stakeholders regarding the lines of work and priorities to be tackled in the ICA Work Plan and assess current ICA priorities. Each group will analyse and integrate the input and present final conclusions in a plenary session.

For further information visit: <http://www.icamericas.net>

Electronic Networking Workshop Held

Regional Coordinators of the PROCICARIBE Networks came together on 24 May at CARDI Headquarters to attend a one day training workshop. This training workshop on “Electronic Networking: making the best use of electronic forums” was organised by the Caribbean Agricultural Information Service (CAIS). The resource persons were Samuel Inniss, Senior Agricultural Assistant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Barbados and Pat Thomson, CAIS Consultant. The objective of the workshop was to demonstrate the key features of electronic groups available to support the use of electronic means for communicating and exchanging information among network members. Regional Coordinators came from CASRUNET, CAPGNET, CIPMNET, CAMID, CAROT, CARINET and CARIFRUIT. Kelly Belgrove and Claudette de Freitas represented CAIS. A representative also came from the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago (ASTT) which is the Secretariat coordinating efforts for the formation of a Caribbean Agricultural Farmers and Non-governmental organisations Network (CaFANN). The Supervisor and Research Assistant from PROCICARIBE also attended. At the end of the workshop the Regional Coordinators and the PROCICARIBE Secretariat agreed to set up an electronic group to improve communication among members. It was also recommended that a similar workshop be held nationally to facilitate development of national networks. The regional networks without electronic groups are now equipped to set up these groups. In all, participants were pleased with the outcome of the workshop. The CAIS Secretariat acknowledges the financial support of the ACP EU Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) for the hosting of this workshop.

ACURIL Conference

Claudette de Freitas, CAIS Regional Coordinator; Claudette Milford-Allen, Director Information Services – Jamaica and Kathryn Duncan, Information Specialist Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) attended the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) XXXII conference in Jamaica held between 27 May - 1 June. ACURIL is a diverse multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual, educational and professional association in the field of information science. The theme of the conference was “ the new librarian.com: developing skills for knowledge management, information literacy and the community”. Mrs de Freitas presented a paper titled “Implementing information and knowledge management systems: the CAIS experience”. A display was mounted featuring the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation’s (CTA) services, the Jamaica Agricultural Document and Information Network (JADIN), CARDI/ CTA publications and the Agricultural

Information & Documentation System for the Americas (SIDLAC). There were also posters on CAIS, CTA Regional Branch Office for the Caribbean and the Question and Answer Service (QAS) in Jamaica called ASK – Agricultural Service for Knowledge. Over 300 persons visited the booth and especially gave those resident in Jamaica the opportunity to learn about JADIN and all the other information providers featured in the booth. The ASK in Jamaica is funded by CTA and managed by JADIN.

CAIS in the Countries

Dominican Republic

The CAIS National Coordinator in the Dominican Republic, Centro para el Desarrollo Agropecuario y Forestal Inc. (CEDAF) assisted the CTA Regional Programme Coordinator for the Caribbean in a recent CTA promotion at the ACP Council of Ministers meeting held at the Barcelo Bavaro Convention Center between 24-29 June.

Jamaica

(See article on ACURIL)

St Vincent

A draft project proposal for the improvement and development of the library and documentation services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries was prepared and submitted to the CAIS Regional Coordinator. This proposal will be sent to the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Cooperation (CTA) in a bid for financial support.

Trinidad and Tobago

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, Extension Division is in possession of a proposal developed with the assistance of the CAIS Regional Coordinator to facilitate a course in the preparation of training CD ROMs. CAIS is awaiting feedback from the Ministry as to the proposed implementation of the project (2002 or 2003) so that financial support could be secured.

Publications and Websites

Websites

www.siinstitute.com

The Strategic Information Institute is dedicated to a collaborative process of defining, promoting, and educating strategic information professionals.

<http://computer.org>

The IEEE Computer Society is the world's oldest and largest professional association of people in computing. Explore information on publications, conferences, technical communities, and other benefits.

www.eClickz.net

Promote your site with eClickz.net!

www.agromisa.org

Agromisa has a new office address which is Duivendaal 7/8, 6701 AR Wageningen. The postal address is P.O. Box 41, 6700 Wageningen, The Netherlands

www.fao.org/inpho

New INPhO framework now available

Three sections of information are currently available in a simplified structure:

- 1) Fact-sheets (Product, Equipment, Traditional Storage and Cookbook).
- 2) Publications (Post-harvest Compendium, Full Text Library, Photo Gallery and Videos).
- 3) Services (Who's Who, Question and Answer archive, and Database Link).

www.businessmonitor.com/lat2k.html

A new quarterly forecast service on Latin America's major economies which provides corporate strategists, treasurers, economists and researchers with an in-depth authoritative and independent appraisal of political risk, macroeconomic performance and outlook, leading industry sectors and global growth assumptions through 2002, 2003, and end-year 2004.

www.odi.org.uk/agren/index.html

The Agricultural Research and Extension Network (AgREN) links policy-makers, practitioners and researchers in the agriculture sector of developing countries. It aims to provide its members with up-to-date information and the opportunity to maintain a dialogue with others who have similar professional interests.

www.farmradio.org

Developing Countries Farm Radio Network support broadcasters to strengthen small scale farmers and rural life through radio, their primary method of communication. They produce radio scripts in print format, and distribute them free of charge to network members who in turn, share the information with an audience of millions of farmers and their family members around the world.

www.pmi.org

The PMI website which can be used to access the Newsletter of the Project Management Institute (PMI), southern Caribbean Chapter. Secretariat Contact information is cheryl@trainx.com

www.capacity.org

A web-site dedicated to advancing the policy and practice of capacity building in international development cooperation.

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