

CAISNews

"An electronic newsletter of the Caribbean Agricultural Information Service (CAIS) to improve access to agricultural information in the Caribbean Region"

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Introduction

We extend warm New Year greetings to all our readers and wish you a productive 2003. Although this has just reached your desk, this is really the last issue of CAISNews for 2002 and includes news up to December 2002. We wish to thank you for your support in the last year and look forward to implementing priority programmes and publishing more articles in 2003. Remember that CAISNews is also available on the CAIS website www.caisnet.org Please send us feedback so we can make publications, workshops, programmes, e-forums etc. more relevant to you.

CAPNET BOOKFEST

The CTA / CARDI Regional Branch Office for the Caribbean was among over 30 booths represented at the first Bookfest held in Trinidad and Tobago from 3-5 November 2002. Bookfest was hosted and organised by the Caribbean Publisher's Network (CAPNET). The event was organised to promote the indigenous publishing industry. Its main goal is to link Caribbean publishers with markets all over the world, specifically in Europe and North America. The exhibition bought together and featured a wide and growing range of West Indian literature, children books, novels, contemporary writings, history, and textbooks. A number of persons expressed interest in the display at the CTA/ CARDI booth, in areas such as the ever popular Agrodok and Tropical Agriculture series, as well as items on communication and public awareness.



We got the training! So let's get the money!

Over 40 persons from the Caribbean region have been trained in resource mobilisation and project development. This training took place at the regional workshop titled "Strengthening the Resource Mobilisation and Project Development Capacity of Regional Networks" held during 9-14 December 2002 in Trinidad. Participants represented various agriculture and rural development national and regional networks, farmers associations and non-governmental organisations. CAIS Colleagues Marie-Louise Reid (St Lucia), Winston Magloire and John Foye (Dominica), Eric Evelyn (St Kitts and Nevis), Jethro Greene (St Vincent), Gladstone Solomon and Gaynell Seenath (Trinidad and Tobago) attended the workshop. While other persons such as C. Milford Allen, Winston George, Samuel Inniss and Mark Byer were not able to attend.

This intensive six day training was made possible through efforts of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), with financial support from the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The workshop facilitators Dr Colin Mc Donald from the University of the West Indies, Institute of Business (IOB) and Dr Helen Leitch, from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, Kenya were thanked extensively for a job well done.

The workshop was timely, given the fact that a number of networks are funded by government agencies and government funded regional institutions and are therefore subject to the limited supply of Government funding. The workshop aimed to improve the region's capacity to attract and better manage funding from non-government sources example international donors and the private sector. At the end of the workshop, participants were trained in identifying potential donors, developing concept notes, preparing a funding proposal and better managing the post-proposal submission period.

Although there was no opportunity to shop, participants felt that the workshop was well worth the effort. So, in 2003 we hope to put the skills into practice by developing proposals for funding of all those plans we continue to write. So let's get the money!

MIS Training

Winston George from CAIS St Vincent attended a training of trainers' workshop on Management Information System (MIS) in The Hague between 18-29 November 2002. The workshop was organised by the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) and co-sponsored by the CTA, who facilitated Winston's attendance. The main Facilitator was Mr Hope Webber, Research Analyst at ISNAR supported by other facilitators which included Dr Ajit Maru, Information Analyst at ISNAR.

The workshop sought to provide the participants with opportunities to develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills required to implement a MIS in the national agricultural research systems in their country.

QAS Statistics for 2002

Reports from St Lucia, Jamaica and CARDI Headquarters show a total of over 1500 questions answered in 2002 under the Question and Answer Service (QAS) offered. Even St Vincent and the Grenadines, where the service is still developing answered 20 questions.

St Lucia	253
Jamaica	941
CARDI Hq	359

CAIS in the Countries

St Vincent and the Grenadines

An information and policy framework was drafted and submitted for comments to Ministry management.

St Kitts and Nevis

A proposal to strengthen the Question and Answer Service (QAS) and Documentation Centre in Nevis was submitted and is being reviewed for funding.

Barbados

The proposal for support to data entry and development of the Information Centre's bibliographic database has been approved in principle. The mechanism of getting the job done is currently being developed.

St Lucia

Cataloguing of records for Fisheries and Forestry departments are underway.

Publications and Websites

Publications

Calvert, Patricia. 2000. *The Communicator's Handbook*. This book guides you through the fundamentals of crafting messages for print, radio, television, for speeches, over the Internet, and satellite to improve the impact of your public information campaigns. For further information visit www.aceweb.org

Websites

www.icmfocus.com

This website is an Internet resource from *CABI Publishing*. Here you will find free high quality reports on current developments in Integrated Crop Management, many other free resources, and access to hundreds of thousands of records from CABI's renowned abstract database.

www.stc.org

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Caribbean Agricultural Information Service
c/o CARDI
UWI Campus
St Augustine
Trinidad

Tel. 868-645-1205/6/7
Fax. 868-645-1208
Email ic@cardi.org
Website www.caisnet.org

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