CTA at CWA 2013
Working together for food and nutrition security in the Caribbean
Dear CWA Participant,

For many years, CTA has closely collaborated with Caribbean institutions – both national and regional – to advance food and nutritional security through sustainable agriculture in the region. CTA’s interventions range from facilitating multi-stakeholder policy dialogues on priority agricultural and rural development issues to enhancing inclusive value chains, strengthening producer organisations, reinforcing research and innovation networks, promoting youth entrepreneurship, building ICT skills of different user groups, buttressing regional media networks, providing access to timely information and facilitating knowledge exchange.

CTA’s work with its partners is providing solutions to the pressing issues of food and nutrition security and climate change, while practical inclusive approaches to ensure youth, women and the media have a greater opportunity to play their role. This will help to guarantee the future of the agricultural industry in the Caribbean.

CTA will sponsor several participants from the Caribbean and a few from other ACP regions to facilitate exchange of lessons.

We trust that the rich interactions during the CWA will contribute to designing and implementing policies, strategies and practices that will advance food and nutritional security and sustainable agricultural development in the Caribbean.

I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable CWA 2013.

Michael Hailu
Director

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture is the premier annual regional event that brings together major stakeholders from across the region—senior-level policy makers, farmers’ representatives, private sector, researchers, educators and youth and women’s groups.

CTA is pleased and honoured to be part of the CWA Steering Committee in 2013 actively contributing to the planning and organization of this important event. As in previous years, CTA is co-organising a large number of workshops with partners on key themes such as food and nutrition security policy; climate change adaptation; fisheries; women entrepreneurship; ICTs and youth in value chains; developing a roadmap for the coconut industry and mass media in agriculture. In addition, CTA will announce two competitions – on “youth blogging” and “film and video”. This is not all… CTA will launch a book on climate resilient agriculture and a film on participatory mapping highlighting local marine and fisheries resources in Union Island.

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The emerging trends and projections in food and nutrition security strongly suggest that the Caribbean will need to, at least in the medium term, ensure that FNS issues remain high priority. Indications such as potential food price crises, adverse impacts of climate change on food production and the extensive and rapid incidences of chronic non-communicable diseases are already a top priority on the region’s development agenda. It is imperative that the region explores all possible response options to the FNS challenge. Hence, the Caribbean continuously strives to mobilise support, individually and collectively, from international development in the search for innovative, practical and sustained actions to these challenges. CaRAPN has contributed to that search by helping to provide clarity on the critical issues as well as document and disseminate appropriate responses and practices to inform more effective policies and interventions.

**Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) is a hugely complex issue. This complexity has led to much misinformation, misunderstanding and misinterpretation around FNS and its relationship with agriculture, industry, health and nutrition, education, retailers/wholesalers, the environment and other cultural, socio-economic and political-institutional issues.**

The Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP) and Action Plan provide the basis for action by the stakeholders and decision makers. It identifies a number of short-term priorities in Phase 1 addressing the main pillars of the FNS. Following the approval of the Action Plan, several critical steps were identified as requiring immediate attention to ensure a timely implementation of the RFNSP. These included the strengthening of inter-ministerial/multi-stakeholder national FNS bodies (councils), developing/revising national FNS policy and priority actions, and the establishment of dialogue and partnerships with stakeholders.

The project will continue to make contributions for wider and sustained impacts.

**Food and nutrition security**

Connecting and balancing food and nutrition security in the Caribbean
“Food utilisation should be front and centre in the multisectoral approach to nutrition in the Caribbean.”

Taking action

CTA supported the CaRAPN/IICA project ‘Enhancing coherence and linkages in Food and Nutrition Security Policy in the Caribbean’. Through its policy research, documentation of experiences and promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue activities, the project has generated data and information to strengthen the evidence-base for policy implementation associated with a number of the priority actions of the RFNSP. These include:

- Identification of the major players and their role in supporting achievement of FNS in member states;
- Research on types and scope of connections in food production and consumption, with particular attention to local content e.g., school feed programmes;
- Research and recommendations on good and/or effective areas for Government interventions to enhance achievement of FNS goals;
- Identification of linkages between FNS household vulnerability and practical options for enhancing household self-reliance, e.g., backyard gardening;
- Documentation of initiatives of ‘ordinary citizens’, communities and governments that have the makings of ‘best bets’, ‘best practices’ that can be replicated as ‘smart solutions’ throughout the Caribbean.

Next steps

Over the last four years, the focus of FNS dialogue has taken place primarily at regional level. However, it has become evident that there is now a need for dialogue and action at national level. Those countries who will be the first to start discussions are those where adult obesity concern is greatest i.e., Trinidad, Antigua & Barbuda, St. Vincent & Grenadines and Dominica. In fact, CTA, FAO, IICA and CaRAPN are bringing together regional stakeholders at CWA 2013 to share and evaluate national level experiences on the implementation on FNS policies. They will make policy recommendations on the way forward based on the lessons shared and new needs identified during the workshop.

Other activities have already been planned and include the generation and dissemination of FNS policy research, reviews and synthesis; stakeholder specific publications; establishment and development of a community of practice of policy planners; and support to the development and implementation of national FNS policies through, among others, national policy dialogues and linkages with regional policies.

2 Fisheries governance

Small-scale fisherfolk – Safeguarding their livelihood today and in the future
In addition, they have been participating in the implementation of the EU-ACP Fish II Project, which is aimed at assisting in fisheries policy development and execution in the CARIFORUM region and other parts of the ACP. They are also involved in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems Project which has a focus on governance of fisheries at regional, national and local levels adopting an ecosystems approach to fisheries (EAF).

The fisheries sector ensures nutrition security in the Caribbean by guaranteeing a major source of protein. This is especially important for those communities with a higher percentage of poverty than the national average, as fish is a low-cost food in the region.

Fisherfolk leaders recognise that they need to play a role in fisheries policy development at both national and regional levels if their livelihood is to be sustained. In order to do this effectively, they have to stay informed and share information on current and emerging fisheries policies and related matters.

Indeed, this community is already very active. Representatives are highly engaged in the ongoing discussions on the elaboration and implementation of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy. They are ensuring their voices are heard in the talks on operationalising the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on IUU fishing as well as matters related to the trade in fish and fish products at the national, regional and international levels.

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Taking action

CTA and its partners, CRFM and CNFO are working together to strengthen the capacity of fisherfolk to develop informed policy recommendations and have their voices heard at policy level through a variety of tools and mechanisms. These include a consultation of representatives of national fisherfolk organisations on major regional policies held in February 2013. As a result of this meeting, CNFO and its member organizations have developed a position as well as specific action points to move into implementation of the policies. These will improve small-scale fisheries governance taking into consideration economic, social and environmental factors. To support the policy interventions of fisherfolk, a comprehensive advocacy strategy and plan have been developed which include media work and the preparation of policy briefs and issue papers. In this context, an important element of CTA support is the development of a web-based knowledge sharing platform that will greatly improve the evidence base for the design and implementation of sound fisheries policies.

Next steps

For the first time, there will be a workshop on fisheries policies at CWA in 2013. The workshop participants will develop specific recommendations for the Ministers who will meet during CWA. Representatives of small–scale fisherfolk will continue to conduct active advocacy work, including focused media work and direct engagement with senior technocrats and policy makers for the implementation of regional fisheries policies.

“Comprehensive fisheries policies will have a positive impact on nutrition, income and ecosystems in the Caribbean.”
Participatory 3D modelling (P3DM) is a community-based mapping method that attempts to make visible the association between the land and seascapes, and local communities using the language of cartography.

Participatory 3D mapping exercises bring together entire communities and call upon them to share and plot out their knowledge of land and waters using pushpins (points), yarns (lines) and paints (polygons). On completion, a scaled and geo-referenced grid is applied to facilitate data extraction or importation. Data depicted on the model are extracted, digitised and plotted. On completion of the exercise the model remains with the community.

The mapping process and the end result help communities to articulate and share spatial knowledge with external authorities. It enables them to record and safeguard local knowledge and can help in spatial planning and resource management. It has also been shown to enable communities to advocate for change and address resource-related conflicts.

In collaboration with national and regional partner organisations, CTA has been supporting the dissemination and adoption of P3DM practice in ACP countries. In fact the impact of P3DM was recognised in 2007 when it was awarded the World Summit Award for its deployment in Fiji in 2005.

The practice is now well established in Africa and the Pacific and was introduced in the Caribbean in 2012 in the context of climate change adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The first mapping exercise took place in Tobago in October 2012. CTA and UNDP GEF-SGP supported the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and UWI in organising and running the mapping of the entire island and surrounding waters at a 1:10,000 scale. More than 100 residents of Tobago Island contributed their knowledge in the production of the 3D model. The exercise served also as training ground for representatives from government and non-government organisations from the Caribbean Region. The Tobago exercise resulted in the production of a Civil Society Climate Change Agenda.

As a spin-off of this capacity building effort, the method was rolled out in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Union Island) and Grenada in March and April 2013 respectively. The project was implemented by Sustainable Grenadines with support provided by CTA and The Nature Conservancy. Two films were produced to cover the Tobago and Union Island exercises. The Union Island film will have its première during CWA 2013.
“Climate change presents fresh challenges in pest management requiring new knowledge and technologies acquired through investment in research and practice.”

One of many consequences of climate change in the Caribbean is a growing pest population. The increasing number of these pests is impacting both the quality and quantity of crop yields. This in turn is threatening food and nutrition security in the region.

It is not just the population that climate change is affecting. Experts have also noted changes in the composition, distribution, biology and ecology of both the pests and their natural enemies, which normally keep the pest population under control.

These alterations mean that the effectiveness of current crop protection strategies used by farmers will be reduced, impacting the productivity and profitability of farming operations. Caribbean farmers need to be prepared with mitigation and adaptation strategies to tackle these challenges.

Making information available to farmers is essential in order for them to respond quickly and make appropriate long-term pest management decisions. Knowledge of the pest composition and abundance, life cycles, spatial and temporal distribution with respect to weather/climate patterns and suitability of pest management practices to reduce populations below economic levels will be a prerequisite for success. Therefore, the latest reliable information on these and other aspects should be made widely available.

Some solutions for dealing with the growing pest population have already been identified. They include surveillance programmes which encompass early warning systems that alert producers to impending threats and the timing of corrective actions, as well as the deployment of innovative tactics e.g. use of resistant/tolerant cultivars, cultural practices, biological control, physical measures etc.

CARDI and CTA’s other Caribbean partners have been gathering knowledge and producing information on key policy influencing factors that must be considered when formulating policies critical for the sustained management of pests under climate change conditions.

Taking action

Since 2010, CTA, CARDI and other regional institutions such as 5Cs, CIMH, UWI, IICA, with the support of international organisations, have been working to design climate change resilience policies. So far these have included protected agriculture, water resources management and management of plant genetic resources. The approach, which has proved effective, is the generation of evidence from research and practice through synthesis and case studies, e-consultations, country-based consultations and direct engagement of stakeholders and technicians with policy-makers through CWA and the CARICOM Secretariat.
Next steps
During CWA 2013, experts will address the threat of pest outbreaks under climate variability and change. Along with stakeholders, they will debate the current state of agro-meteorological prediction tools and information systems that can respond to the needs of the farming community, review pest population dynamics in selected CARICOM countries, outline innovative strategies for the management of increased pest populations, and examine climate modelling in the context of meeting anticipated pest threats.

They will formulate policy proposals for the attention of decision-makers at the highest level in the Caribbean recommending adaptation and mitigation measures that address changing pest dynamics under climate change.

The workshop will be followed by national consultations in a number of countries. Case studies on innovative adaptation practices have also been planned, as well as direct and indirect engagement with policy processes and decision-making at the regional and national levels.
Historically, the coconut industry was an important source of employment for rural communities in the Caribbean until market demand for coconut oil shrank. Pest and disease outbreaks and low investments made the situation worse. To revitalise the industry and make it more competitive and resilient, certain actions need to be undertaken in the years ahead.

A needs assessment study commissioned by the European Commission on behalf of the ACP Group of States and its sub-regional Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) identified challenges, opportunities and strategic interventions for supporting future industry development. The final report was published in May 2013.

Two streams of strategic interventions were proposed, namely: broadening the range of higher value-added quality food and non-food products and expanding business and entrepreneurial activities and; improving production, productivity and efficiency.

Accompanying measures included enhancing scientific capacity, characterising and selecting local varieties that are resistant to disease, acquiring new and improved planting materials, establishing nuclear collections and coconut gene banks, improving field management, and promoting the economic management of pests and diseases. The report also recommended phased rehabilitation and establishment of new cultivations as well as capitalising on existing cottage/artisanal industries and raising consumer awareness.

**Next Steps**

It is expected that industry stakeholders will achieve consensus at the coconut workshop during the CWA 2013 and that a 3-5 year roadmap will be finalised. The workshop outcomes including the 3-5 year roadmap for industry development will be presented for endorsement by the Ministers of Agriculture attending the CWA 2013 prior to submission to national governments.

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**Uncovering ICT innovation in value chains**

ICTs in value chains
“We need to adapt and implement ICT innovations that strengthen agricultural value chains.”

ICTs are widely recognised for providing effective channels connecting stakeholders, conveying market information, and modernising extension services. Increasingly, ICTs are thus being used to support the development of agricultural value chains. Despite evidence of innovation in the area of ICTs in value chains in the Caribbean, a limited understanding of the use and potential impact of ICTs on value chains prevails among most stakeholders. Moreover, there is a limited knowledge of key regional initiatives in this area and innovative international experiences that could be adapted to a local or Caribbean-wide context. In 2012, CARDI, in collaboration with CTA, launched a project to review the integration of ICT tools in agricultural value chains in the Caribbean. During the CWA 2012, an expert workshop was organised to inform key agricultural stakeholders of this initiative and to use their feedback to fine-tune the project’s terms of reference. Their input and recommendations for its implementation were also considered.

Following that meeting, a study, which is the key component of the CARDI/CTA project, was conducted in five target countries (Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis). The provisional findings demonstrate that various innovations in the use of ICTs in value chains have been developed throughout the region. A key observation made was the weak connection or collaboration among ICT and agricultural stakeholders to fully harness the potential of ICTs for the sector. An e-readiness analysis (which illustrates how the agricultural sector is prepared to adopt and use ICT) has been undertaken and a directory of those ICT applications in value chains identified in the research has been produced. Value chains for roots and tubers and small ruminants were studied closely, as they have been recognised by public authorities as crucial for the Region’s food security.

Follow-up

A workshop planned during the CWA 2013 will review the findings of the study and discuss challenges and opportunities identified. It will also set out follow-up actions to implement recommendations made. Representatives of key producer organisations, agricultural businesses, national and regional governments’ bodies, youth agribusiness representatives, as well as ICT for development experts and institutions will attend the event. Participants will come from various Caribbean countries, including those not covered by the study.

A joint session is planned between participants of this workshop and participants of a youth workshop on value chains which will also be held during the CWA. The joint session will share findings and pinpoint areas for possible synergy and collaboration.

The YoBloCo Awards are an initiative of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), in the framework of the ARDYIS project.

Are you the next top agricultural blogger?

Submit your individual or institutional blog and give your career a boost. WIN up to €3,000!

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The YoBloCo Awards are an initiative of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), in the framework of the ARDYIS project.
Youth participation in agriculture is essential if there is to be a future for the sector in the Caribbean. There is, however, a real lack of youth engagement.

The CARICOM Common Agricultural Policy (CCAP) acknowledged that ‘rural livelihoods and youth programs must be improved and expanded to make the countryside more attractive for those who decide to earn their living in the food and agriculture sector.’ The Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP) also explicitly recognised ‘the need to provide increased opportunities for women and youth to become more involved in the food and agricultural sectors.’ The importance of focusing on youth was also emphasised in the 2009 Liliendaal Declaration on agriculture and food security which called for actions to encourage youth to become more engaged in the sector.

Youth are typically small-holders and tend to be marginalised and/or not adequately represented in official meetings and other formal policy dialogue. This is why the CCAP prioritised ‘Youth and Rural Modernisation’ as a policy pillar. It seeks to promote the modernisation of rural communities by improving the quality of life through increasing opportunities in agribusiness, strengthening institutions supporting agribusiness and community development at all levels and building social capital in rural communities.
“Engaging youth in value chains represents a tremendous opportunity for the agricultural sector and modern jobs for young people.”

Youth engagement and involvement in economic activity is central to building social capital and to enable agricultural transformation and sustainability. Hence the need for an enabling environment for the participation of youth in agribusiness.

Complete and ongoing integration of youth into agriculture and rural development policy processes is a pre-requisite to support and sustain such an enabling environment. This has been the premise for the engagement of youth by a number of stakeholders in the agricultural community including CaFAN, IICA, CaRAPN, CTA, FAO and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Taking action

At a Regional Youth Policy Forum hosted by CaFAN and CARAPN with CTA support during the 2012 CWA, the specific issue of “why youth and why agriculture” was highlighted. A number of critical points were raised concerning the potential of youth as volunteers (public advocacy and education); influencers of home consumption behaviours (directly influencing food and nutrition security at the household level and practices (including resource and energy-saving); important contributors to innovation and changing the negative perception of agriculture through a focus on a ‘new’ agriculture model; and as the best long-term return on investment option for local economies. Importantly, the forum brought to the fore how youth “fit” within a sustainable development agenda and value chain development as opposed to the more traditional commodity/sub-sector development discussion.

As a follow-up to the policy forum, multi-stakeholders national consultations on the development of CCAP Youth and modernisation pillar were held. Study visits on youth initiatives, lessons and best practices in policies regarding agricultural production and marketing of agriculture produce were undertaken. A regional workshop on policies for improved business efficiency for youth was also organised. Activities around the engagement of youth groups with policy-makers and key stakeholders in agricultural and related policies resulted in the production and dissemination of an advocacy newsletter on youth and modernisation policies; preparation of briefing papers with policy options, which were submitted to national and regional policy-makers and key stakeholders; and attendance at and contribution to relevant CARICOM Secretariat and COTED sessions.

Next steps

Further activities are planned following CWA 2013. These include a situational analysis and mapping study on youth in agriculture value chains and the promotion of viable careers and positive engagement of youth along agricultural value chains as well as research on the use of green technologies and practices.

Additional engagement of agriculture stakeholders on national youth in agriculture policy frameworks under CCAP Youth and Rural Modernisation Pillar is foreseen, as is the creation and management of a Caribbean Youth in Agriculture resource hub and virtual business incubator with CAFAN and CAFY.
An inclusive approach to media coverage

The Pacific Action Plan identifies strengthening networks and expanding market access as the priority areas, with the following specific activities: develop new channels; develop new products; build partnerships; develop technical capacity; scope policy initiatives; disseminate information and promote women in agriculture on the regional agenda.

Next Steps
To continue the discussion, a Women’s Forum will take place at CWA 2013 supported by CTA, IICA and the U.S. Department of State. Among the objectives is the preparation of Action Plans for Caribbean-Pacific collaboration to enhance economic empowerment of women, and presentation of an executive summary to the Alliance of Ministers of Agriculture and to Pacific ministerial delegations present at CWA.

Participants developed Regional Action Plans for each region with clear strategic priorities and concrete action items. Both placed an emphasis on strengthening inter-regional linkages in areas including women’s contribution to food and nutrition security; agro-tourism; and in particular food tourism; sharing lessons in adaptation strategies for increasing resilience to climate change impacts; regional branding and access to niche markets based on adding value to indigenous products and the incorporation of cultural and local traditions.

The Caribbean Action Plan leverages and builds on the existing network of rural women producers, the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP). The plan establishes several priority areas: expanding opportunities for capacity building, education and training of women farmers; developing strong brand and communications strategies; strengthening networks within the region; strengthening the focus on important issues of advocacy and increasing access to markets and capital.
Access to timely information and knowledge is critical in enabling agricultural and rural development (ARD) actors along agricultural value chains to contribute to the national and regional development of agriculture in ACP countries. It facilitates and bridges communication asymmetries along these value chains and at policy processes such as CWA.

Media has a role to play in this process; and CTA, together with partners in the Caribbean have been designing approaches to empower media to carry out its role effectively, informing policy processes and practice.

The media-science workshop held at CWA in Antigua in 2012, involved mapping the way forward for agricultural reporting in the Caribbean. It was emphasised that successful ARD reporting will involve journalists working together with government information networks (GINs), farmer groups, researchers/scientists, policy makers and other communication for development actors (e.g. PANOS). Among the resolutions for action that were presented to, and supported by, COTED included:

• participation of ACM/journalists in the development of major policy initiatives (including but not limited to agriculture),
• facilitation for journalists’ coverage of the CWA 2013, producing content for commercial and other media entities; and
• training Caribbean communication/media workers affiliated to agricultural ministries, research centres and other entities in communication/media; and repackaging information for various audiences.

“Don’t leave anybody behind.”

Follow Up

A media workshop planned for CWA 2013 will follow up on the resolutions from the 2012 media – science workshop. With the message ‘Don’t leave anybody behind’, the focus is on ensuring that the Caribbean region mobilises its media capital and other stakeholders for inclusive evidence-based coverage of ARD issues to influence policy decisions and practices. Participants will be made aware of ARD issues of particular interest to the Caribbean, such as: role of ICTs in agriculture, integrated pest management, blue economy (fisheries), food security and nutrition, research-policy linkages, climate change, coconut industry, livestock in the Caribbean, agro-tourism and agricultural value chains.

Participants will also discuss issues related to challenges in reporting ARD issues and the necessary enabling environment. Areas such as support mechanisms, synergies, linkages, partnerships and resources at national and regional levels will be debated.

There will also be an examination of the current state of media reporting of ARD issues in the Caribbean. Participants will address challenges, opportunities and possible solutions for the enabling environment necessary for better evidence-based reporting.

Peer learning sessions using new technologies for communication have also been planned.

Several participants will have the chance to put their new skill into practice as they attend and cover the CWA 2013.
Showcase your talent as a young leader in science and film/video production and put Caribbean food and agriculture under the regional and international spotlight.

Several global trends highlight that opportunities exist for high quality added value Caribbean agricultural products. Who would not want to watch a video on YouTube showing how Usain Bolt’s athletic success is linked to his love of yams?

We are looking for young enterprising and innovative young scientists, farmers and film makers:

“to engage cutting-edge digital film and video technology to produce compelling films/videos that promote value addition through science and technology to boost Caribbean agriculture”.

Entries are now being accepted for the 2013/2014 Caribbean Agriculture and Science Film and Video Competition. This year’s theme is ‘Adding value to local foods’.

The competition is open to young Caribbean individuals or teams (18-35 years) who are:
- Engaged in agriculture, science and related enterprises or;
- Mid-level film/tv professionals or emerging film makers or;
- Ready for a challenge and want to make a difference.

Up to 25 - 30 semi-finalists will be selected to take part in an intensive six-day training workshop on various aspects of film/video production. They will then be mentored by Caribbean scientists and experts to produce high quality films/videos based on their original concept note or script. Films/videos will be judged by online viewers as well as by an independent jury of eminent scientists, filmmakers and communications experts.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded for:
- Best film (professional category)
- Audience Award
- Spirit of the Caribbean Award

The top five winners will also attend the Caribbean Tales Film Festival in Barbados in 2014 where they will showcase their work and network with international filmmakers.

The winning films and videos will be shown on television across the Caribbean.

The 2013/2014 Science and Film & Video Competition is organised by CTA in collaboration with CCST, CARDI, UWI and TTFC.
“Linking the Caribbean and the Pacific will allow the two regions to tap into a wealth of agricultural knowledge and experience.”

The Caribbean and the Pacific face similar challenges, including climate change, high food import bills, nutrition insecurity, small farm size, dependence on international trade and an ageing agricultural population. As a result, each region has been generating knowledge and expertise that are potentially useful to the other region.

Within the overall Intra-ACP Policy Programme for the Caribbean and the Pacific, CTA’s interventions are aimed at facilitating access to, and exchange of, experiences and best practices between the two regions in the areas of agricultural policies, value chains and improved agricultural technologies.

While ICT mediated communications will be the main vehicle for the exchanges, it is recognised that the development and sustainability of inter-regional cooperation also require face-to-face interactions in order to foster mutual trust and long-term relationships.

Through those exchanges, stakeholders, technocrats, farmers and decision-makers will gain additional insights into issues and practices that will enable them to formulate more effective regional agricultural policies.

**Taking action**

In close cooperation with its partners, CTA will support a comparative synthesis on agricultural policies and value chains in the Caribbean and the Pacific, the engagement of Caribbean and Pacific experts and stakeholders in regional and global policy dialogues; as well as capacity development, technical workshops and exposure to international research initiatives and programmes.

**Next steps**

CTA will facilitate the attendance of high level policy makers from the Pacific at CWA in 2013 so that they can share with their Caribbean counterparts their experiences and views on policy development, dialogue and decision-making mechanisms. In addition, Pacific experts will make contributions to technical workshops on topics of common interest.

A Website Knowledge Sharing Platform will be created, communities of practice established, face-to-face interactions supported, publications produced and media work undertaken to facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and materials between the two regions.

**About CTA**

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). Its mission is to advance food and nutritional security, increase prosperity and encourage sound natural resource management in ACP countries. It provides access to information and knowledge, facilitates policy dialogue and strengthens the capacity of agricultural and rural development institutions and communities.

CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is funded by the EU.

For more information on CTA visit: www.cta.int
For more information on CTA’s products and services visit:
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At CWA 2013, CTA works in partnership with: