

Agriculture Donor Conference

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**SUMMARY OF REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSALS
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE AGRICULTURE
DONOR CONFERENCE**

May 9, 2007

REGIONAL PROJECTS

PROJECT 1: UP-SCALED CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY (CRPFS)

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Four years
Estimated Cost: US \$158.3 million

Summary

The development goal of the up-scaled CRPFS is to contribute to ensuring long-term food security in CARIFORUM countries. Three specific objectives characterize the programme a) to strengthen agricultural production, marketing systems and enterprises including building up institutional capacity to support their development; b) to improve the capacity of policy and program frameworks for managing key threats to food security and c) to promote the consumption of safe and nutritious food by strengthening institutions and organizations working in the areas of agricultural health, food standards, and improved nutrition. The total budget for the CRPFS is US\$158.3 million. The programme is presented for funding in two stand alone modules. Firstly, there is a regional module, module 1, that supports activities in all three areas of the specific objectives across all the CARIFORUM countries. This module will implement activities at both the regional and national levels and is budgeted for funding at US\$21.8million. It is designed to provide support to both on-going national and regional activities and new projects. The CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with other institutions will be responsible for the implementation of the regional module. The second module consists of those national projects in each country which have the most direct relation to the food security program's objectives. These national projects have been selected from the set of project profiles prepared as a part of the FAO/CARIFORUM National Medium Term Investment Plans and associated national projects. Each of these national projects could be funded separately through arrangements that would be agreed between the respective national governments and the interested funding agency. Together they have a total budget of US\$136.5 mill. National agencies designated by the Government will be responsible for implementation of the national projects.

PROJECT 2: SUPPORT FOR HOT PEPPER PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND TRADE

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Three years
Estimated Cost: US \$1,231,925

Summary

The general objective of this project is to increase hot pepper production in CARICOM in responsive to the needs of the marketplace (fresh peppers for the domestic, regional or international markets; peppers to supply processing industry – thereby replacing imported pepper mash and subsequently for the region to become a net exporter of pepper mash.). Stakeholders in the public and private sectors will be brought together to come up with a workable plan to achieve the This project will link the major regional buyers of imported pepper mash to production in the countries with major resources / production potential through crossborder trade.

PROJECT 3: REGIONAL SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND TRADE

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Seven years
Estimated Cost: US \$4,732,466

Summary

The general objective of this project is to increase goat / sheep production in CARICOM in response to the needs of the marketplace (domestic and regional markets). Stakeholders in the public and private sectors will be brought together to come up with a workable plan to achieve the This project will link the major regional buyers of imported sheep / goat meat to production in the countries with major resources / production potential through crossborder trade. The project would address issues such as breeding, feeds and deeding and pest and disease management within the context on improved management of commodities for defined and quantified markets.

PROJECT 4: **PROMOTION OF IMPROVED CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS**

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Three years
Estimated Cost: US \$ 2,092,200

Summary

This project is designed to simultaneously promote throughout CARICOM, the adoption of specific crop production technologies and methods that will in the short to medium term, significantly increase crop production output, enhance farmers' ability to compete within domestic and export markets and in turn increase the prospects of employment and sustainable incomes flowing into rural mileu. The goal of the project is to reduce the region's food import bill by enhancing the competitiveness of farming enterprises and support institutions in the Caribbean Region.

The project will support young, medium sized and small scale farmers to establish 30 greenhouses and organic farms in Member States and will train farmers and agri-entrepreneurs in operationalization and management.

This project will have an applied research component as well a production / productivity component. The entire project will be market-oriented and cater to support commercial and home-based production systems. Stakeholders will ensure that the cue is taken form the marketplace and that there is a trade component / agri-tourism linkages and where possible cross-border trade.

PROJECT 5: **INCLUSIVE RURAL FINANCE FOR COMPETITIVE AGRIBUSINESS**

Project Area: OECS and Barbados
Duration of Project: Three years
Estimated Cost: US \$779,000

Summary

The purpose of the project is to increase access by rural agro-entrepreneurs and their families to modern financial services, business know-how and production skills. The expected outputs will be to: modernize and strengthen rural credit unions; to certify, upgrade and expand agro-enterprises; to improve, strengthen farmers' and fishermen's cooperatives and organizations; enhance business, food safety and community awareness; to improve the capacity of farmers and others to access financial resources from institutions; and to improve farmers' capacity to better manage financial risk associated with agricultural credit.

PROJECT 6: **CARIBBEAN INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION PROGRAM**

Project Area: CARICOM

Duration of Project: Three years
Estimated Cost: US \$15,624,106

Summary

CISSIP is the first increment in the construction of a Greater Caribbean Region-wide invasive alien species surveillance, distance diagnostic information system. Phase I of CISSIP proposes the creation of “hubs” in a system where 6 countries (Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago) will participate. Phase II of CISSIP proposes an additional 5 countries forming the “spokes”. These countries include The Bahamas, Barbados, St. Lucia, Guyana and Suriname.

CISSIP will, in part, effect the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Invasive Species Intervention Strategy (CRISIS), which has been accepted as a Region-wide strategy to cope with invasive species by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Governments of France, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic and by USDA-APHIS. CRISIS is a framework for strengthening the safeguarding capabilities of individual countries and territories and for linking them into a protective network. Thus CRISIS seeks to establish a system of collective security strategies and measures to protect the agriculture, natural resources and human health of the individual countries and territories in the Greater Caribbean Region from the depredations of invasive alien species (IAS). In addition, the focus of the CISSIP program is seen as a major step towards removal of one of the key binding constraints to agriculture faced by the CARICOM countries with respect to ‘inefficient and uncoordinated sanitary and phytosanitary systems’.

CISSIP will facilitate rapid diagnosis and timely collection, analysis and dissemination of information on pest and disease threats throughout the Region. The information provided will facilitate appropriate decision-making.

It is envisaged that CISSIP will consist of four major components and be supported by several auxiliary components as follows: Pest Survey and Inspection Program, Caribbean Regional Diagnostic Network, Invasive Species Information System (ISIS and Public Education Program. Auxiliary components of CISSIP will provide project management; in-service training needed to conduct the major components; and advanced graduate training to develop the professional cadre needed to lead the program into the future.

PROJECT 7: DEVELOPMENT OF BIOLOGICALLY-BASED AREA-WIDE PEST MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR HORTICULTURAL CROPS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Five years
Estimated Cost: US \$926,000

Summary

The primary purpose of this project is to develop an area-wide pest management strategy to support the commercial production of horticultural crops in the region. The objectives are to: (a) develop surveillance systems to improve the knowledge of the distribution, population dynamics and dispersion of key pests affecting fruits and vegetables; (b) develop biologically-based area-wide pest management strategies; and (c) develop systems to facilitate the adoption of area-wide management programmes within the region.

The outputs of this project include: areas zoned in pest occurrence for selected crops; standardized surveillance protocols for key pests; biologically-based IPM strategies over large acreages; and improved quality and quantity of target crops.

PROJECT 8: DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MARKETING SYSTEM FOR THE OECS

Project Area: OECS
Duration of Project: Six years
Estimated Cost: US \$6,482,534

Summary

The goals of this project are to: increase the contribution of the Agri-business Sector to the OECS Economic Growth and Food Security; and increase the output value of OECS agricultural food and non food products by 50 percent above the estimated 2003 value by the end of 2009.

Expected Results will include:

General Improved Marketing Systems such as: (a) National and sub-regional strategic and operational marketing plans developed; (b) industry analysis of priority commodities completed and industry development plans prepared; (c) commodity associations, marketing boards, national chapters of agricultural/agri-business associations, regional agri-business associations, CABA, CAMID activated and industry development plans implemented; (d) modernised agri-business intelligence service developed consisting of product supply and demand forecast mechanism; agricultural marketing and production database; planning database; and transportation database; (e) improved handling storage and processing infrastructure; (f) quality assurance protocols for the major traded fresh and processed products developed; and (g) increase the output value of OECS agricultural food and non food products by 50 percent above the estimated 2003 value by the end of 2009.

Agriculture – tourism linkages such as: (a) Inventory of status of linkages and available resources in support of agro-tourism linkages prepared; (b) Developed Methodology for delivering accurate and timely market intelligence data on demand and supply of available products and services; (c) Documented case studies and videos on success stories and Best Practices in Agro-Tourism linkages; (d) Diagnostic Tool with Best Practice benchmarks for assessment of agro-tourism initiatives developed; (e) Business modules for meeting tourism demand requirements and realization of agro-tourism partnership and investment opportunities prepared; (f) Investment Proposals for the development of Agro-Tourism Products and Services prepared; (g) training manuals and, where applicable and appropriate, practical tools for field use, on quality, safety and service standards and business management techniques prepared; and (h) Established

programme of on-site training and reciprocal visits between tourism industry personnel and rural communities within and between countries.

A harmonized incentives regime including: (a) A participatory appraisal exercise (PRA) undertaken in each of the OECS member states that provides information on the physical, economic, social, gender equity and other problems and constraints that impact on the commercialization of agriculture in the sub-region; (b) Determination of the key variables that define “commercial-readiness” in the context of each member state; (c) Base data for the compilation of profiles of key stakeholders, at both the national and sub-regional level, within the agricultural production and marketing chain in the OECS.

Increased governance such as: (a) Establishment of a Chamber of Agriculture; (b) National and sub-regional body for the coordination and integration of the agricultural transformation process; and (c) Enhanced agri-business capacity and capability of existing commodity organisations, institutions and working groups and to establish new ones where necessary.

Improved planning framework: (a) An Agri-business marketing development plan for each OECS Member State; and (b) An integrated OECS sub-regional agri-business marketing strategy which will contain a list of Special Products for the trade and protection purposes

PROJECT 9: IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS (AHFS) IN THE OECS

Project Area: OECS
Duration of Project: Three years
Estimated Cost: US \$922,680

Summary

The goal of this project is to facilitate increased production, trade and competitiveness of agricultural commodities. The expected results are: (a) Increased human and financial capability; (b) Increased participation of the private sector in the operations of the AHFS Systems; (c) AHFS Systems to facilitate trade and market access; and (d) AHFS Systems with upgraded technical capacity. This project will also have the following components: the implementation of an agro-chemical management system; the implementation of Gaps and other Good Practice Codes of Conduct, the development of a system for informing management decisions; and the provision of improved agro-chemical use and management.

PROJECT 10: IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY, QUALITY, AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR WATER IN AGRICULTURE

Project Area: OECS
Duration of Project: Two years
Estimated Cost: US \$550,400

Summary

The goal of the project is to assist the OECS Member States to improve water quality and management systems in Agriculture. The expected results include: (a) A hydrological GIS-based database incorporated into the national land and water resources information system and personnel of the respective Ministries trained in the operation and maintenance of the database; (b) A study on the current and projected water resources availability of the islands; (c) A study of water use, supported through GIS technology; (d) Watershed management programmes developed for pilot communities; and (e) Pilot demonstrations of appropriate irrigation and water harvesting systems established in selected communities

PROJECT 11: MITIGATING THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF NATURAL AND MAN MADE HAZARDS ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

Project Area: OECS
Duration of Project: Four years
Estimated Cost: US \$416,200

Summary

The goal of this project is to maintain stability and food security in the agriculture sector in the OECS by mitigating the effects of hazards on agriculture. The expected results are: (a) Implementation of hazard mitigation strategy; and (b) Operational sub-regional insurance facility for agriculture.

PROJECT 12: ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND USE PLANNING AND AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION

Project Area: OECS
Duration of Project: Two years
Estimated Cost: US \$284,300

Summary

The goal of the project is to secure existing agricultural land base for future agricultural development. The expected results include: (a) The establishment of a preliminary land use database and maps for specific pilot areas in BVI, Anguilla and Montserrat that will enhance the capabilities of operational GIS/LRIS systems; (b) Update the existing LRIS in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines through the acquisition of satellite imagery data; (c) Formulation of mechanisms for optimising the use of available arable lands for agricultural production; and (d) Review of existing policies and legislation on land use planning, land tenure and registration and land valuation/taxation measures in the countries where such a review has not been conducted.

PROJECT 13: DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS CLUSTERS IN THE CARIBBEAN AGRIBUSINESS INDUSTRY

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Two years
Estimated Cost: US \$2,145,000

Summary

The primary objective of the initiative is to collectively mobilise stakeholders within selected the agriculture community so as to effectively and efficiently increase the strength of the agriculture sector and encourage the development of the agriculture sector throughout the region. Specific interventions include: (a) the establishment of a coordinating office for each country (US\$264,000); (b) technical assistance - contracting a resource persons to coordinate Chapter matters and the agribusiness cluster initiative (US\$1.05 Million); (c) the provision of office equipment (US\$16,500); (d) the identification and mobilization of cluster groupings (US\$82,500); and (e) the implementation of cluster coordination activities. (US\$550,000); (f) institutional strengthening, capacity building (US\$66,000); and export facilitation US\$110,000).

PROJECT 14: CREATING A COMPETITIVE ANTHURIUM INDUSTRY

Project Area: CARICOM
Duration of Project: Three years
Estimated Cost: US \$622,985

Summary

The overall goal of the project is to develop the necessary scientific information and technologies to support the development of the anthurium industry. The specific objectives are: (a) understanding the genetic diversity of the populations of the nematode, *R. similis* in the Caribbean and develop a screening method capable of identifying resistance to nematodes; (b) studying the genetics of resistance to nematodes and develop a breeding strategy to incorporate resistance from indigenous Caribbean varieties into elite tropically adapted varieties; (c) understanding the molecular biology of the flavonoid biosynthetic pathway in anthurium and genetic transformation to obtain blues and yellows; (d) understanding the role of shade, nutrition, hormones and spacing in improving productivity; (e) developing a micropropagation system based on somatic embryogenesis and temporary emersion systems for the rapid multiplication of planting material at low cost to the farmer; (f) obtaining market information - Caribbean tourism and hospitality markets; and international export markets and the development of a marketing strategy for anthurium; and (g) developing an information transfer system for dissemination of information on technology, support services, market information; as well as short-training courses and e-learning modules for the local stakeholders; and (h) developing business plans for small, medium and large size growers, and develop a strategy of incentives, credit, insurance for attracting greater investment.