Disaster risk reduction workshops address Safety of Schools and agriculture sector

Bridgetown, Barbados, February 3, 2012 (CDEMA) - The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the national disaster offices of Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, has organised a series of capacity building workshops to address disaster risk reduction related to the safety of schools and to the agriculture sector.

The workshops are supported under the CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme on disaster risk reduction and the first of these was held in Belize during the week of January 24 to 27, 2012.

The workshop held on January 24 in the Dangriga area of Belize, sought to build capacity in relation to the safety of schools and brought together disaster management and education stakeholders. The workshop, which was facilitated by Consultant, Dr. Balfour Spence, reviewed the Model Knowledge Management Toolkit which was drafted under an earlier phase of the project, and provided an opportunity for the engagement of stakeholders in adaptation of a Disaster Jeopardy Game which can be used to promote disaster awareness and interest in disaster risk management issues among school children ages 5-15 years.

On January 26 and 27, a workshop was held in the Central Farm area of Belize that brought together rural livelihood stakeholders with the objective of collectively identifying good practices utilized by farmers and fisheries to mitigate against the impacts from hydro-meteorological hazards. This workshop also sought to engage the stakeholders in the development of a community-based agricultural disaster risk management (CBADRM) plan with facilitation and oversight from Dr. Spence.

In his closing remarks at the workshop on January 27, the CDEMA Executive Director, Jeremy Collymore, acknowledged the support of the Government of Brazil for these activities under the Cooperation Programme, and urged participants to champion the advancement of some of the outcomes of the workshops.

In the upcoming week of February 6 to 10, 2012, similar workshops will be convened in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in Saint Lucia.

For information, please contact:
Sharon Layne-Augustine
Senior Programme Officer
Office of the Executive Director, CDEMA
E-mail: sharon.l-augustine@cdema.org