

Promoting Agribusiness within the CSME

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UPDATES
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Four key proposals were tabled at the Public-Private Sector Consultation on Agribusiness, held in Georgetown Guyana May 27-28, 2009:

1. Facilitation of a platform for on-going and effective public-private sector dialogue that can inform the COTED and Heads of Governments Meetings.
2. Strengthening private-private sector collaboration through a more representative Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA)
3. Establishment of a more effective mechanism for dissemination of information on developments in the sector
4. Explore opportunities with Trinidad and Tobago's National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporations (NAMDEVCO) to implement the National Agricultural Marketing Information System (NAMIS) model in other Member States.



Since then, progress has been made on the following fronts:

- ✓ The Liliendaal Declaration, coming out of the Thirtieth Heads of Government Meeting held in Guyana this past July, identified the development of reliable information systems, including a Regional Marketing Information System and a platform for monitoring developments in the sector as a priority focal area.
- ✓ The four proposals were endorsed by the Thirty-Second Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) (Agriculture), held in Guyana this past September
- ✓ Funds have been sourced from UNDP/CARUTA program to assist with the development and implementation of proposal #3.
- ✓ The Secretariat and NAMDEVCO have held meetings with a number of national, regional, and international agencies to follow-up on implementation plans for the Marketing Information Systems. The aim is to have an operational NAMIS in at least four CARICOM Member States within the next 18 months. Plans are currently underway for convening at least two stakeholder consultations, one at the political level and the other at the technical level.