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**Integrated National and Regional Approaches to Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Caribbean**

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*Executive Summary*

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre is a regional specialized agency of the Caribbean Community established in 2002 by the CARICOM Heads of State to coordinate the region’s response to climate change. It provides policy advice to governments and develops and implements programmes to reduce the region’s vulnerability to climate variability and climate change while promoting a climate friendly development path. The Centre collaborates with existing regional institutions to implement these programmes.

Agriculture has been identified as one of the sectors particularly vulnerable to climate variability and climate change. Several interventions have been undertaken to begin to address this threat. One component of the regional project, Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) funded the vulnerability assessment of the agriculture sector in Guyana. This led to the development of a National Adaptation Strategy to Address Climate Change in the Agriculture Sector in Guyana. The Centre partnered with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the FAO and UNDP’s Caribbean Risk Management Initiative to provide training to the region’s agricultural experts in the use of crop simulation models for climate change studies. The outputs of the training were used to prepare Guyana’s study and were also used by experts in Belize to prepare vulnerability assessments of citrus and sugar for their Second National Communication to the UNFCCC. The outputs were also used to train the staff of the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) in the use of crop simulation models in their work. The Centre has partnered with UNITAR to install automatic weather stations in all 10 CARDI agricultural plots across the Caribbean to complement their phonological and crop yield studies.

As part of the GEF pilot programme in undertaking adaptation actions in the Caribbean through the SPACC project the Centre is currently installing an irrigation system in Dominica to demonstrate the effectiveness of climate proofing agriculture. This is expected to increase the banana yield from 9 to 11 tons per acre.

In March 2012 the CARICOM Heads of Government approved the Implementation Plan for the “Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change” One objective identified in the Plan is to “Limit the effects of climate change on agriculture and food security. The actions identified in the Plan will result in “enhanced food security through adequate food supplies being produced to meet the region’s food and nutritional needs by 2021, enhanced and secured livelihoods in the agriculture sector and added value to agriculture production through processing. The agencies identified as leading or collaborating in these actions include CARDI, the OECS Secretariat, the University of the West Indies (UWI), Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Economic Development, and Trade, CDEMA, and NEMOs, Farmers Organizations, CANARI, PANOS, CBOs, NGOs, the private sector, UNDP and IICA.

The Centre is now actively engaging with its international partners in identifying the resources to develop programmes to implement these and the other activities elaborated in the Implementation Plan. The entire Implementation Plan can be accessed from the Centre’s website [www.caribbeanclimate.bz](http://www.caribbeanclimate.bz).