



The Future for Small-Scale Producers



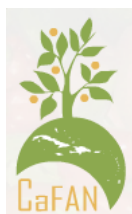
Issues Facing Small Farmers in the
Caribbean & Redefining Their Role in a
Changing Global Economy

Caribbean Agriculture Sector & The Role of Small Farmers

- The total Caricom/Cariforum population is approximately: 27, 058 607
- Traditionally sugar, rice, banana & arrowroot on large plantations.
- With independence, estate workers utilized these lands for small-scale agriculture.
- **Now, 80% of Caribbean farming population operates on plots of five acres or less – contributing significantly to national GDPs in the region.**



About the Caribbean Farmer's Network (CaFAN)



- CaFAN is an agricultural network representing 500,000 farmers across the Caribbean.
- Eastern Caribbean Trading, Agriculture and Development Organization (ECTAD) is the secretariat

Members from 13 countries:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Saint Vincent & The Grenadines | • Dominica |
| • Barbados | • Antigua & Barbuda |
| • Saint Lucia | • Jamaica |
| • Grenada | • Belize |
| • Saint Kitts & Nevis | • Guyana |
| • Trinidad & Tobago | • Bahamas |

Socio-Political Policy Environment

- Loss of preferential markets in Europe
- Uncertainty/vulnerability by new market demands (e.g. Fair Trade; Organic Produce)



- Limited control and benefits that farmers get from the value chain
- Governments focus diverted to other sectors (e.g. tourism)

Critical Issues & Problems

- Market competition;
Market access (both domestic & overseas)
- Praedial Larceny
- Agriculture lands being used for tourism and transportation infrastructure development
- Climate change – weather & natural disasters
- Topography

Critical Issues & Problems (cont'd)

- Poor infrastructure & transportation; and related costs
- High cost and sporadic supply of inputs

On farm challenges:

- lack of managerial skills
- lack of business skills
- outdated technology
- access to financing
- farmer collaboration

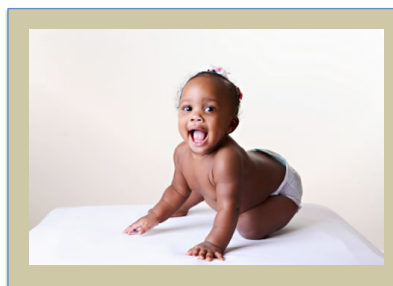


CaFAN's Activities

- Best practices & Capacity Building for small farmers
- Information collection/distribution of technical manuals and farming publications
- National & Regional Government Advocacy
- Advocacy of Agriculture linkages to:
 - health & nutrition
 - food security
 - tourism
 - employment creation
 - value addition
 - social stability

CaFAN's Activities (cont'd)

- Cluster Building & Production Planning
- Value chain ownership
- Health
- Market Access
- Food Security
- Promotion of Agriculture with Caribbean Youth



Our Supporters



More partners: Oxfam GB; Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (CARUTA Project); Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); University of the West Indies (UWI); Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CEDMA); Coady International Institute; national Ministries of Agriculture; traditional private sector stakeholders; EU All ACP Agricultural Commodities Programme Project; Regional Food Security Project (Italy)

The Future

- Continued strengthening and building capacity of farmers' organizations and regional institutions
- Use of science, technology and combined R&D for improved productivity and market focus
- Formation of farmers groups
- Increased ownership by farmers of the value chain



To Conclude

- Facilitating an environment that promotes the formation of agricultural clusters is an integral strategy in the empowerment and success of small-scale producers.
- With a united effort, and support through capacity building and advocacy, farmers groups and organizations can meet the needs of new and expanding markets, and reap greater fiscal rewards in a changing global economy.

Contact



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