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# CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 1998**

**Rural Agricultural Development Authority  
Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica**

*“Enhancing Regional Food Security and Exports  
by Integrating National Strategies”*

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## PREFACE

The Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society was jointly held with the Jamaican Society for Agricultural Sciences and from reports received, it was a huge success.

It was indeed an honour for Jamaica to host the conference and to welcome more than one hundred visitors and friends to our shores for this meeting. The Secretariat and Planning Committee was housed in the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, the extension agency of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The feature lecture entitled “*Enhancing Food Security*” was presented by Dr. Edward Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a panel discussion was held on the theme of the meeting “Enhancing Regional Food Security and Exports by Integrating National Strategies”. The distinguished panelists represented organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM).

The technical papers presented at the meeting are documented in this proceeding. Papers are grouped into seven technical areas namely:

- ◆ Agricultural Production (Strategies/Improvement)
- ◆ Crop Production (General)
- ◆ Crop Production (Nutrition, Soil Fertility)
- ◆ Agricultural Development (Environmental Issues)
- ◆ Agro Industry/Marketing
- ◆ Animal Production
- ◆ Pest Management

A wide range of areas was covered from crop and animal production systems to environmental and pest management issues. In general, the papers documented the current research of important issues in agriculture in the Caribbean Basin and were generally well received. The emergence of new and exotic pest diseases in the Caribbean was reflected in the number of papers on pest and disease management.

This proceeding, therefore, is a short compendium of the results of some of the recent investigations carried out or currently underway in the Caribbean and should, therefore, serve as a valuable reference source.