“Assuring Caribbean food and nutrition security in the context of climate change”

United States Department of Agriculture,
T-STAR Sponsored Invasive Species Symposium

Toward a Collective Safeguarding System for the Greater Caribbean Region:
Assessing Accomplishments since the first Symposium in Grenada (2003)
and Coping with Current Threats to the Region

Special Symposium Edition
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SESSION 1: INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT: PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONS

CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS (CPHD) FORUM—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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Recommendations contained in the reports of the Forum are usually presented to the Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) for its consideration and possible adoption as regional policy in the current year.

The issue of sustainability and access to a safe supply of food in the region in the context of food security remains high on the regional agenda.

The mandate of COTED to the CPHDs for the development of agricultural trade protocols in the facilitation of agricultural trade.

CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture had also expressed deep appreciation for the work being done by the CPHDs forum and by the USDA, FAO and IICA as partners in the process.

CPHD FORUM

First Meeting – Georgetown, Guyana, 23-25 April 2008
Second Meeting - Georgetown, Guyana, 4-5 March 2009
Third Meeting – Trinidad & Tobago, June 7-8, 2010
Fourth Meeting - Trinidad & Tobago, May 11-12, 2011
At the first meeting of the CPHD, it was agreed that there was a need to establish several technical working groups to address the issues relating to various pests of economic importance to the region. The groups are expected to investigate and advise on all relevant matters related to pests and at times make recommendations for the consideration of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).

The Working groups so far are:
- Giant African snail (now Mollusc Working Group)
- Palm Pests
- Tephritid Fruit Flies
- Emergency Response Preparedness
- Safeguarding

Currently, Barbados chairs the Mollusc and Safeguarding WG's.

The annual meetings of the Forum address matters such as:
- WTO SPS measures and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)
- Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFS/A)
- Plant Health Safeguard System
- Offshore Risk Management - Pre-clearance Program
- Pest Diagnostics
- Plant Health Surveillance Pest Response System
- Emergency Response Plans – mitigation of pest introductions
It is important to keep the CPHD Forum alive:

- In the absence of CAHFSA and even NAHFSA’s in numerous member states, it is the only avenue available for a regionally united front on plant health issues at the international level
- It is an important source of advice for COTED
- CPHD Forum should be the body which assumes the role of the Regional Plant Protection Organization (mandated under Article 9 of the IPPC)(regional Governments through COTED should inform FAO that CPPC no longer exists)
CPHD FORUM

Constraints
- Increase communication among PHD – issues with D-groups e-mail
- Duration of annual meetings – large agendas and only 2 days to accomplish