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# CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY

# 46

## Forty Sixth
## Annual Meeting 2010

## Boca Chica, Dominican Republic
## Vol. XLVI – Number 2
## T-STAR Invasive Species Symposium

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
46th ANNUAL MEETING

Caribbean Food Crops Society
46th Annual Meeting
July 11-17, 2010

Hotel Oasis Hamaca
Boca Chica, Dominican Republic

**"Protected agriculture: a technological option for competitiveness of the Caribbean"**

**"Agricultura bajo ambiente protegido: una opción tecnológica para la competitividad en el Caribe"**

**"Agriculture sous ambiance protégée: une option technologique pour la compétitivité de las Caraïbe"**

**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**
**Edited by**
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PANEL DISCUSSION: KEY SHORTCOMINGS IN SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS: WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY BE REMEDIED?

# PERSPECTIVE OF THE CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS GROUP ON KEY SHORTCOMINGS IN SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS: WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY BE REMEDIED?

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Arising from the annual meetings of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) Forum, certain key shortcomings in safeguarding arrangements are constantly and repeatedly mentioned. These include:

- Lack of resource personnel
- Lack of resource personnel training
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of money
- Little local pest data
- Out-dated legislation
- Not enough dialogue among member states
- No regional plant health agency

Although small developing states in the Caribbean suffer from serious shortcomings as listed above, not all of these are insurmountable. A suggested way of remedying these problems would require to first group the problems as follows:

- Things that cannot be changed. This group would include lack of money, and maybe lack of resource personnel and infrastructure.
- Things that can be changed slowly. This group would include training resource personnel training, new equipment, current legislation, developing a functioning regional plant health agency.
- Things that can be changed now. This group would include local pest data and increased dialogue among member states.

It is suggested that member states in the Caribbean concentrate on the things that can be changed now, while at the same time work on the shortcomings that can be changed slowly. In this regard, the following activities in recent times, concerning things that can be changed now, are encouraging signs of development.

With regard to local pest data:

- The CPHD Forum has mandated member states to develop their local pest databases. These databases would include both pests reported from the member states and pests not yet present but of serious plant quarantine importance.

- A Surveillance and Detection Technical Working Group was formed in the CPHD Forum with the aim of increasing the safeguarding capability of member states while at the same time increasing the knowledge of pests in and out of the region.
- A rapid identification and diagnosis system is being developed among member states with the assistance of the Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network (CPDN). This would greatly enhance the capabilities of member states in pest identification and also assist in the development of pest lists.

With regard to increased dialogue among member states, the CPHD Forum, together with CARDI and USDA, has developed a system of networking using D-groups.

If member states can concentrate on the above two aspects of things that can be changed now, and fully use the avenues developed for their implementation, safeguarding in the Region would be much improved.

International organizations and donor agencies are also important agents of safeguarding development in the Region. They can assist with both database development and dialogue among member states. International organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/International Plant Protection Convention (FAO/IPPC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) develop guidelines for international trade that safeguards the plant health of nations. These guidelines should be followed at all times during intra-regional trade.

International organizations and donor agencies are also valuable agents for things that change slowly (e.g.. training of personnel, equipment acquisition, and development of a regional plant health agency). Member states should make more use of these agencies.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.