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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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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b>	<b>vii</b>
----------------	------------

### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - STRATEGIES / IMPROVEMENT

<b>STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT IN JAMAICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR 2000 AND BEYOND</b>	<b>1</b>
--	----------

*Charles A. Panton and Terrence W. Thomas*

<b>NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE JAMAICAN DAIRY SECTOR</b>	<b>8</b>
--	----------

*Jack Bailey and Ram Aneja*

<b>PASSION FRUIT EVALUATION IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>	<b>11</b>
--	-----------

*Thomas W. Zimmerman and Jacqueline A. Kowalski*

<b>REVIVAL OF COMMERCIAL <i>DIOSCOREA ALATA</i> CV. WHITE LISBON (YAM) PRODUCTION IN BARBADOS.</b>	<b>16</b>
--	-----------

*Angela T. Alleyne, Leonard W. O'Garro and Michael Grant*

<b>EVALUATION OF PAPAYA GERM PLASM IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>	<b>24</b>
---	-----------

*J.A Kowalski and T.W. Zimmerman*

<b>A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTED BREADFRUIT GERMPLASM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, TRINIDAD</b>	<b>29</b>
---	-----------

*Laura B. Roberts-Nkrumah*

<b>EVALUATION OF FOUR OPEN-POLLINATED AVRDC TOMATO CULTIVARS UNDER JAMAICAN CONDITIONS.</b>	<b>34</b>
---	-----------

*Carla Bucknor and Don McGlashan*

### CROP PRODUCTION (GENERAL)

<b>THE INFLUENCE OF MULCH TYPE ON YIELD OF PARSLEY AND CHIVE PRODUCTION IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.</b>	<b>40</b>
---	-----------

*S.M.A. Crossman and M.C. Palada*

<b>PRODUCING POTTED POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.</b>	<b>46</b>
--	-----------

*C. Ramcharan and A. Bulbulla*

<b>PLANTING DENSITY AFFECTS GROWTH AND YIELD OF BUSH OKRA</b>	<b>52</b>
---	-----------

*Manuel C. Palada and Stafford M.A. Crossman*

<b>COMPARISON OF TRANSPLANTING AND DIRECT SEEDING TECHNOLOGY FOR FOUR ONION CULTIVARS</b>	<b>58</b>
<i>Edward A. Biney</i>	
<b>DETERMINING THE MOST OPTIMAL TIME FOR HARVESTING DASHEEN (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott var. <i>esculenta</i>) CORMS GROWN IN CONTRASTING AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES OF DOMINICA</b>	<b>62</b>
<i>Gregory Robin and Theodore Ferguson</i>	
<b>BREEDING ANTHURIUMS (<i>Anthuriums andreanum</i> L.) FOR RESISTANCE TO BACTERIAL BLIGHT CAUSED BY <i>XANTHOMONAS CAMPESTRIS</i> PV <i>DIEFFEN-BACHIAE</i></b>	<b>67</b>
<i>Guy Anais, Armelle Darasse and Philippe Prior</i>	
<b>AN IMPROVED PROTOCOL FOR ANTHURIUM CALLUS INDUCTION</b>	<b>72</b>
<i>Litta Paulraj</i>	
 AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	
<b>PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON THE EFFICACY OF THREE HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANTS TO SUPPRESS ANTHURIUM DECLINE</b>	<b>76</b>
<i>Dave G. Hutton</i>	
 CROP PRODUCTION - NUTRITION / SOIL FERTILITY	
<b>DRY WEIGHT ACCUMULATION AND NUTRIENT UPTAKE BY ARRACACHA GROWN UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS</b>	<b>81</b>
<i>Carlos E. Ortiz, Essau Orengo-Santiago and Nilsa M. Acín</i>	
<b>NITROGEN RELEASE FROM BIOSOLIDS APPLIED TO SANDY SOIL AMENDED WITH LIME</b>	<b>85</b>
<i>Rosa M. Muchovej and J.E. Rechcig</i>	
<b>INFLUENCE OF SALINITY ON THE MORPHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF <i>AMARANTHUS DUBIUS</i> [CALLALOO] AND <i>CAPISCUM CHINESE</i> VAR. SCOTCH BONNET.</b>	<b>89</b>
<i>Sasikala D.P. Potluri and P.V. Devi Persad</i>	
<b>PEANUT (<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.) GROWTH AND YIELD USING THE NUTRIENT FILM TECHNIQUE.</b>	<b>95</b>
<i>D.G. Mortley, J.H. Hill, A.A. Trotman, P.A. Loretan, C.K. Bonsi, W.A. Hill, and C.E. Morris</i>	
<b>UTILIZATION OF PHOSPHOGYPSUM ON PASTURE GRASSES</b>	<b>99</b>
<i>J. E. Rechcigl, I. S. Alcorido, R. C. Littell and C. E. Roessler</i>	
<b>EFFECTS OF FERTILIZER AND GOAT MANURE ON NUTRIENT PRODUCTION OF KING GRASS</b>	<b>102</b>
<i>F.H. Asiedu, A.L. Fearon and J.M. Seaton</i>	

**PRELIMINARY STUDY INTO NUTRIENT EFFECT ON PLANT GROWTH,  
PRODUCTION AND SELECTED PESTS AND DISEASES INCIDENCE IN  
SCOTCH BONNET PEPPER** 109

*R. D. Martin, J. I. Lindsay, F. Eivazi, M. Smith and D. McGlashan*

**AGRO-INDUSTRY / MARKETING**

**EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF  
PARVIN AND TOMMY ATKINS MANGOS AND A PULP PRODUCT** 117

*Idamarie Santiago-Quñones, Edna Negrón de Bravo, Arturo cedeño-Maldonado and  
Guillermo Colón-Burgos*

**FOOD VALORIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES** 132

*B. Ganou-Parfait and L. Fährasmane*

**QUALITY CHANGES IN CHILI PLUMS (*Spondias purpurea* L.) DURING  
STORAGE** 135

*Owen S. Graham, Majeed Mohammed and Lynda D. Wickham*

**PARTICIPATORY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN A MARKET- DRIVEN  
ENVIRONMENT - A Case Study on Marilissa Farms** 144

*Norman R. Gibson and Rishi K. Basdeo*

**ELIMINATION ENZYMATIQUE DE L'AMIDON DANS LA PULPE DE PRUNE  
DE CYTHERE (*Spondias dulcis*) VERTE APPLICATION POUR LA PRODUCTION  
DE NECTAR** 154

*Sonia Eugene and Odile Marcelin Francois-Haugrin*

**ANIMAL PRODUCTION**

**DEFOLIATION MANAGEMENT EFFECTS ON TROPICAL GRASS-LEGUME  
YIELD, QUALITY AND PERSISTENCE. I. LOW RAINFALL SITE.** 160

*M.B. Adjei, W.F. Brown, E. Valencia, K. Boateng and P. Flemming*

**STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE BROILER MEAT PRODUCTION DURING  
SUMMER HEAT STRESS** 165

*Michael O. Smith*

**THE IMPACT OF IMPROVED BREEDS ON GOAT PRODUCTION IN JAMAICA** 171

*Albert L. Fearon, Francis H. Asiedu and Julian M. Seaton*

**LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF THE  
JAMAICAN GOAT: SELECTION AND PERFORMANCE OF IMPORTED  
BOER GOAT SEED STOCK** 180

*Dalton R. McWhinney, Louis C. Nuti, Freddie L. Richards, Alfred L. Parks, David L. Miller,  
Albert L. Fearon, Ludlow A. McWhinney, and Paul Jennings*

<b>THE IMPACT OF HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPERATURE ON AFLATOXICOSIS AND THE EFFECTS OF MANNANOLIGOSACCHARIDE (MOS) AS A BINDING AGENT</b>	<b>185</b>
<i>Victor G. Stanley, Georgia Jones and Clive Quarrie</i>	
<b>ADAPTABILITY OF THE ANGLO-NUBIAN GOAT AS MEASURED BY IT'S REPRODUCTIVE PARAMETERS IN A NUCLEUS HERD.</b>	<b>191</b>
<i>David Miller</i>	
<b>PERFORMANCE TESTING IN BEEF CATTLE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>196</b>
<i>Jasmin Holness</i>	
 <b>PEST MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>WEED POPULATION RESPONSES TO HERBICIDE-CROP ROTATIONS</b>	<b>202</b>
<i>María de L. Lugo, Wanda I. Lugo, Felix M. Román and Agenol González</i>	
<b>WEED MANAGEMENT IN DRY BEANS IN PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>206</b>
<i>N. Semidey, E. Acevedo, and L. E. Flores</i>	
<b>AMERICAN FOULBROOD DISEASE AND OTHER BEE PESTS IN THE CARIBBEAN WITH SPECIFIC EMPHASIS ON JAMAICA.</b>	<b>209</b>
<i>Hugh A. Smith</i>	
<b>THE EFFECT OF TOBACCO ETCH VIRUS ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF TWO PEPPER (<i>Capsicum chinense</i>) VARIETIES</b>	<b>216</b>
<i>Lisa Myers, Raymond Martin and Sharon McDonald</i>	
<b>OUTBREAK OF GINGER (<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Rosc.) RHIZOME ROT IN THE MAJOR GROWING AREAS OF JAMAICA</b>	<b>220</b>
<i>Phillip Chung</i>	
<b>IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR PESTS AND A SAMPLING PLAN FOR LEPIDOPTERA LARVAE IN <i>AMARANTHUS VIRIDIS</i> (CALLALOO) IN JAMAICA</b>	<b>229</b>
<i>D.O. Clarke-Harris and S. J. Fleischer</i>	
<b>DISTRIBUTION AND INCIDENCE OF A NEW PEST (DIPTERA: CECIDOMYIIDAE) IN WESTERN PARISHES OF JAMAICA</b>	<b>237</b>
<i>Raymond Martin, Janet Lawrence and Frank McDonald</i>	
<b>INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OF THE SWEET-POTATO WEEVIL: A Pilot Study in South Central Jamaica</b>	<b>242</b>
<i>J. Lawrence, J. Bohac and S. Fleischer</i>	
<b>APPROACHES TO MANAGING CITRUS TRISTEZA VIRUS (CTV) DISEASE IN JAMAICA.</b>	<b>246</b>
<i>Fabian Edman and Florence A. Young</i>	
<b>THE SCREWORM AS A PEST IN THE CARIBBEAN AND PLANS FOR ITS ERADICATION FROM JAMAICA AND THE OTHER INFESTED ISLANDS USING THE STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE (SIT)</b>	<b>250</b>
<i>George H. Grant, J. Wendell Snow, Moises Vargas Teran and C. Lazarus</i>	

## 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.