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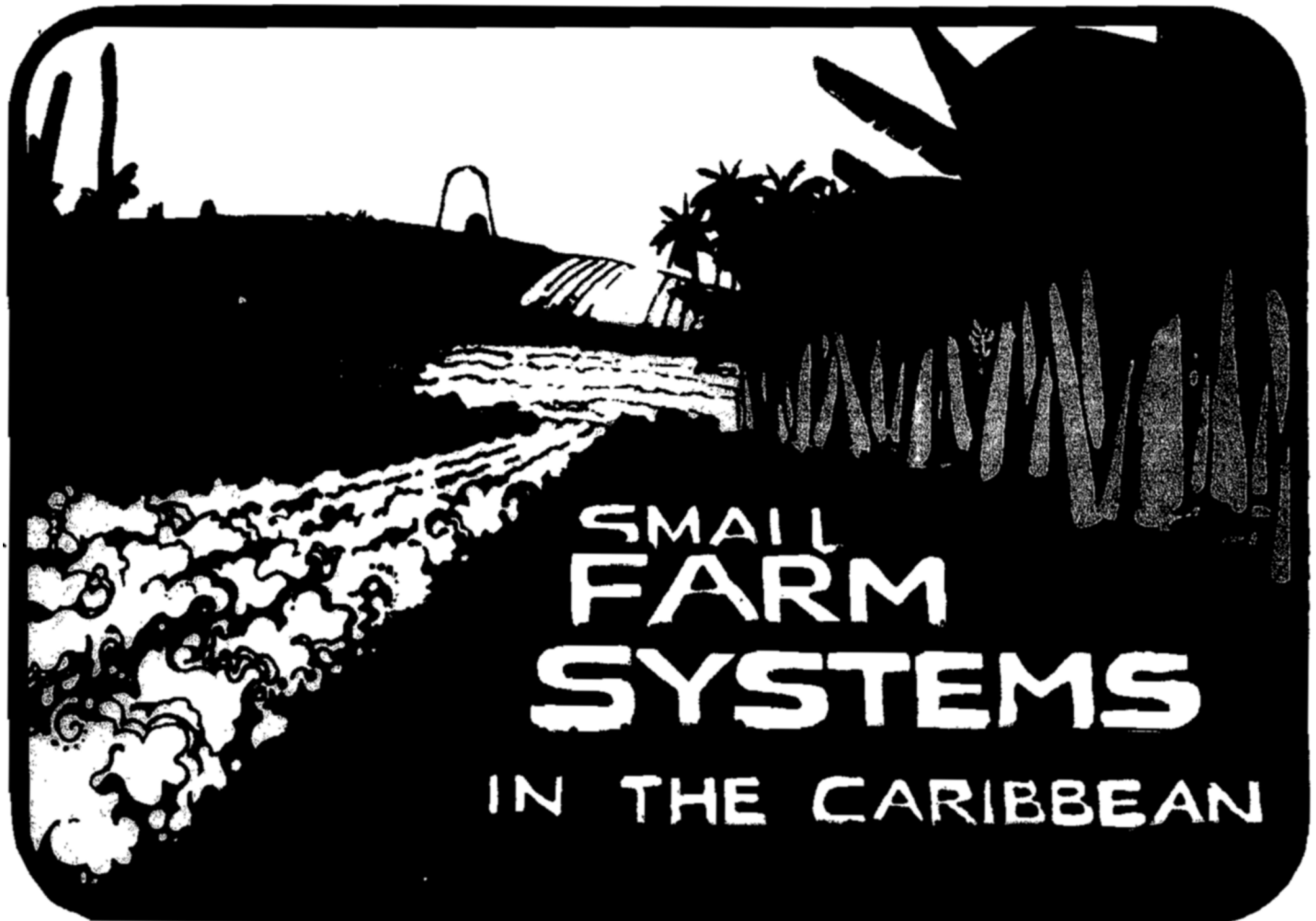
**CARIBBEAN
FOOD CROPS
SOCIETY**

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Sociedad Caribeña de Cultivos Alimenticios
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 20th ANNUAL MEETING — ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — OCTOBER 21-26, 1984



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The Caribbean Food Crop Society

How it All Started

Hugh C. Miller
A Founding Member

How pleasant it is to recall the years which followed close on the end of World War II! Years which witnessed the creation of many cooperative institutions reflecting man's eagerness to share experiences and activities with his comrades.

The mood of the times found expression in many publications but perhaps the most widely circulated of these was Wendell Wilkie's *One World*.

During the war, the menace of the German U-boats which had, at one time, threatened to isolate the Caribbean islands from supplies from outside the area, had been effectively blunted by the activities of a Caribbean Commission—representing the nations which exercised sovereignty over most of the Caribbean Islands in those days. This Commission had organised movement of supplies up and down the Caribbean island chain with minimal exposure to the submarine threat. So impressive was the success achieved by the Commission in this activity that the member governments decided, despite the pressures and preoccupations of World War II, to expand Caribbean cooperation into the social, educational and economic fields.

But for the individual islands, the early post-war period ushered in the era of the "Winds of Change" and the emergence of movements towards independence and national sovereignty.

Reflecting these developments, the Caribbean Commission with membership drawn from metropolitan countries exercising sovereignty in the area, was replaced in 1961 by the "Caribbean Organisation" with membership drawn from the Federation of the West Indies, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, France for its departments in Guyana, Martinique and Guadeloupe, the Netherlands Antilles, Surinam and Guyana. The governments of Great Britain, the United States of America and The Netherlands were represented in the Council of the Organisation as "observers."

Itself a creature of the trend toward international cooperation, the Caribbean Organisation established as its main objective the promotion of cooperation, sharing of knowledge and experience between member countries, and exploring and exploiting opportunities for united action on a broad cultural, social and economic front.

Among the areas to which special attention was addressed were intra-Caribbean trade and sharing of agricultural experience and research. In pursuit of these objectives the Caribbean Organisation with the cooperation of the government of the Commonwealth and the University of Puerto Rico organised in February 1962 a demonstration tour in Puerto Rico on the production and marketing of vegetables and food crops.

Some 70 participants representing 21 Caribbean countries, and including research and extension specialists, farmers and other persons with an interest in the production, processing and/or marketing of food crops and farm supplies attended the five-day tour.

With the help of the translating services provided by the Caribbean Organisation, papers were circulated and discussion facilitated between persons who previously had been separated by differences of language as well as by metropolitan affiliation.

It is not surprising that, by the time the tour had ended, considerable interest had been generated in the idea of creating facilities for securing, on a permanent and continuing basis, cooperation and sharing of experience and knowledge between scientists and farmers and, indeed, all persons within the Caribbean area interested in any aspect of food production and distribution.

Among the tour participants, Dr. Richard Bond, Officer in Charge of the U.S. Federal Experiment Station at Kingshill, St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Dr. Arnold Krochmal, Horticulturist attached to the Station, decided to take positive action to secure the establishment of the facilities needed.

With characteristic enthusiasm and persistence, Arnold Krochmal, aided and abetted by his chief, set about the task of securing support and active assistance from the Caribbean Organisation and certain key personnel within the Caribbean region who enjoyed wide respect and repute.

The Caribbean Organisation readily placed secretarial, translating and interpreting services fully at the disposal of the small team (A. Krochmal, F. Aponte Aponte and Hugh Miller), which had begun working to establish a society or association to achieve the objectives sought. As a result, contact was made with important agricultural leaders in the Caribbean countries served at that time (1963) by the Organisation. The planners were greatly encouraged by the many warm expressions of agreement and enthusiastic promises of support which they received.

Accordingly, the date for an inaugural meeting for establishment of the society was set as May 3, 1963 to be held at the offices of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Organisation in Haro Rey, Puerto Rico. Invitations for attendance were issued to all those persons who had expressed interest.

A number of persons responded advising inability to travel to Puerto Rico to attend but asking that their interest in the formation of the Society and willingness to seek membership be noted.

The Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting was duly convened. In attendance were persons resident in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, ten persons resident in Puerto Rico, one person representing Barbados, and four persons representing the Secretariat of the Caribbean Organisation.

OBJECTIVES:

The meeting agreed that the main objective to which the Society should be dedicated "is the improvement of Caribbean nutrition and living standards" and stated that "to this end the Society would seek to:

1. Stimulate and assist in research and the dissemination of information on food crop production processing and marketing in the Caribbean area.
2. Provide a consultant service aimed particularly at assisting the smaller territories in the area.
3. Encourage cooperation between agricultural experiment stations and between research and extension workers in the area of Caribbean agriculture.
4. Work in close cooperation with the Caribbean Organisation and other regional organisations dedicated to the promotion of cooperation between the countries of the Caribbean area."

At the inaugural meeting a decision was taken that annual meetings of the Society would be rotated between the various countries represented in its membership.

MEMBERSHIP:

The meeting also agreed that membership should be open to all persons in sympathy with the aims of the Society and that there should be (i) Active members paying dues of US\$5.00 per annum; (ii) Sustaining members paying a minimum of US\$100.00.

It was decided that Honorary Membership could be awarded to persons who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, had made outstanding contributions to the achievement of the objectives sought by the Society.

It was also agreed that all persons attending the inaugural meeting and Dr. G.P. Tiggelman of Surinam should be rested as founding members. The list of founding members is as follows:

Founding Members of the Caribbean Food Crop Society

Dr. R. M. Bond	Officer in Charge Federal Experiment Station, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
Dr. Arnold Krochmal	Horticulturist - Federal Experiment Station, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
Mr. A. de K. Frampton	Chief Agricultural Officer, Barbados
Mr. Francisco Aponte Aponte	Horticulturist - Agriculture Extension Ser., University of Puerto Rico
Mr. Miguel González Flores	Horticulturist - Agriculture Ext. Services, University of Puerto Rico
Dr. J. Vélez Fortuño	Head - Plant Breeding Dept. Agr. Exp. Station, University of Puerto Rico
Dr. H. Azzam	Plant Breeder, Agriculture Experiment Sta., University of Puerto Rico
Dr. Jorge Mejia Matrei	Director, Division of Marketing Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, Puerto Rico
Mr. Carlos D. Colorado	Representative of Agriculture Chemicals, The Shell Co. (P.R.), Ltd.
Mr. C.P. Erskine Lindo	Chief Admin. Officer, Central Secretariat Caribbean Organisation

Mr. G.C.L. Gordon	Development Officer (Social Affairs), Central Secretariat, Caribbean Organisation
Mr. A.J. Seymour	Development Officer (Culture and Information) Central Secretariat Caribbean Organisation
Mr. G.P. Tiggelman	Director of Agriculture -Surinam
Mr. H.C. Miller	Development Officer (Natural Resources) Central Secretariat Caribbean Organisation

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Meeting elected the persons listed below to serve as the first Board of Directors of the Society.

President	Dr. Richard M. Bond The United States Virgin Isls.
Vice President	F. Aponte Aponte The University of Puerto Rico
Other Directors	Hugh C. Miller of the Caribbean Organisation Dr. Arnold Krochmal of the United States Virgin Islands Dr. H. Azzam of the Agriculture Experiment Sta., University of Puerto Rico A. de K. Frampton of Barbados R. Osbourne of Jamaica

The inaugural meeting was then adjourned. A short meeting of the Board of Directors was convened and at this meeting Mr. H.C. Miller was elected Secretary and Dr. A. Krochmal, Treasurer, to serve until the first annual General Meeting.

Second Meeting of the Board of Directors

The second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society was held at the Central Secretariat of the Caribbean Organisation on May 14, 1963.

At this meeting draft articles of Association and regulations were approved for legal documentation.

The president proposed and the meeting agreed that, in view of the short period of time normally needed to secure registration in St. Croix, the Society should be registered in that island.

It seems that this decision was later found impractical of implementation, and that registration of the Society as a legal entity was delayed until the early 1980s, during the tenure of Dr. Alejandro Ayala as president.

It was decided that the first Annual General Meeting of the Society would be held in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, on October 7th to 11th, 1963.

Between Inauguration and the first Annual General Meeting, Dr. Krochmal devoted considerable effort and skill to promoting the development of an active service of expert technology transfer directed mainly at the smaller territories of the West Indies Federation. He eagerly sought out problems, discovered appropriate experts who would assist and raised funds and exploited all possible means to secure that the necessary assistance was given. For his pioneering efforts and his skill in securing financial assistance, in the difficult early years of the Society's life, we owe him a great debt. Indeed, he played a dominant role not only in the conception of the Society but in its pre-natal, infant and early childhood stages.

On the occasion of the Society's Coming of Age, it is fitting that we all pay special homage to Arnold Krochmal—to his vision, his dedication and to the zealous and assiduous activity on behalf of the Caribbean Food Crop Society, which he displayed all the time he served in this region of the world.

At our First Annual General Meeting held in St. Croix in October 1963, Arnold Krochmal was elected secretary/treasurer and in that position he continued to provide dedicated and energetic service to the Society until his transfer from the area in 1964 when these duties of secretary/treasurer were transferred to Dr. George Samuels and later shared between Dr. George Jackson serving as secretary and George Samuels serving as treasurer.

The invaluable services rendered to the Society by these distinguished scientists and by our present treasurer Dr. Miguel A. Lugo-Lopez and secretary Carlos Cruz, are well known and appreciated by the great majority of our membership. To all these gentlemen, as well as to our past presidents and members of our board of directors, we all, I am sure, would wish to pay fitting tribute on this the twenty-first anniversary of the establishment of the Caribbean Food Crop Society.