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REPORT OF WORKSHOP 1

Subject: Policy and Institutional Arrangements

Policy Statements - A Review and Evaluation

The Group decided to endorse the present policy of Government that sugar is to be kept as the mainstay of the economy of the country. In addition it was decided that:

- (i) attention should be directed to the alternative uses of sugar cane for the future in view of uncertainties in the world market for sugar, new technologies for the production of fructose from corn, and the rise in food and feed imports into the State;
- (ii) as a policy, Government should explore different organisations of production on the estates including the greater involvement of workers. In so doing, Government should guard against the fragmentation of land in St. Kitts;
- (iii) in the short-term, Government should seek to develop a livestock industry based on sugar cane as a feed throughout the State, but more so in Nevis. This would provide greater linkage effects in the economy and result in greater income and employment;
- (iv) there should be a food and nutrition policy for the State. The drafting of this could be the first task of the newly formed Food and Nutrition Committee; and
- (v) there should be a farm incomes policy to encourage and motivate young people to enter agriculture.

National Agricultural Organisational Structure

It was recommended that:

- (i) Government should seek greater coordination between the social services and the productive sectors in the State;
- (ii) the agricultural services in the State including marketing and the provision of agricultural inputs be strengthened; and
- (iii) there be greater coordination among the various agencies involved in activities related to agriculture, for example supplies, nutrition, planning.

National and Regional Institutions

1. It was suggested that Government recruit and train personnel having regard to the policy recommendations given earlier.
2. The Group was of the view that regional organisations could only service national objectives and suggested that every effort should be made to harmonise the work of the national and regional organisations.