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CAES Executive 2009-2011

The 28th West Indies Agricultural Economic Conference, the biennial flagship activity of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society (CAES) was held in collaboration with the Barbados National Agricultural Conference 6th - 10th July 2009 at the Savannah Hotel in Barbados. Some forty technical papers dealing with food safety, modern development in Caribbean agriculture, rural development, food prices and food security issues, economics of food crop production, agribusiness issues and marketing and trade issues were presented by experts from countries within the region, as well as the United States of America.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director General of the Inter American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) gave a stirring call for a new development model for regional agriculture.



**Figure 1 Dr. Chelston Brathwaite,
Director General of the Inter-American
Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
(IICA)**

He countered the recent calls for a new ‘Green Revolution’ in agriculture, reminding experts present, of the negative consequences of that development paradigm: exclusion of small farmers; dependence on pesticides and fertilizers and disregard for environmental issues. The new model he proposed should focus on strategies to increase investment in agricultural research, innovation and technology transfer, a new agricultural education curriculum, and the transformation of Ministries of Agriculture in the region. Dr. Brathwaite indicated that the Caribbean is dependent on agriculture yet this is not emphasized in the educational system. He stated the need to revise the curriculum so as to incorporate those elements that are critical to the development of education.

Professor Neville Duncan, Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), U.W.I., Jamaica in giving the Lewis-Beckford Memorial Lecture under the theme “World Hunger and Food Crises in a Chaotic Crises – Ridden World: Caribbean Needs and Responses’ stated that much more state support is needed for research and extension activities to farmers as well as the provision of low cost or cost-free finances for crop failure or damage and theft. Further he urged regional experts present to ensure that the bulk of regional food is produced by small farmers, working either individually or in cooperatives to supply domestic markets, utilizing modern food production technologies. Professor Duncan also indicated that ‘the global food crisis is often understated’. For the Caribbean and for the poor, the global issue is fundamentally linked to the right of each person has to ‘a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of self and family’ including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary services’ as stated in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights’.



Figure 2 Professor Neville Duncan, giving his speech at the 28th AgroEconomic Society Conference in Barbados 2009

A special section was held on the ‘University of the West Indies (UWI) Contribution to Regional Agriculture’. Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, former Deputy Dean of Enterprise, Development, Distance Education and Outreach, Faculty of Science and Agriculture, St. Augustine campus who represented the St. Augustine Campus Principal of the St Augustine Campus, Professor Clement Sankat outlined some of the academic and research programmes offered in agriculture at the St Augustine Campus. Dr. Carlisle Pemberton, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension (DAEE) spoke on the programmes offered in the DAEE. There was a short and lively panel discussion. Mrs. Jennifer Maynard, Director of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Antigua suggested that the UWI should place more emphasis on: development studies and agricultural sector administration; agricultural Leadership and plant protection and health. Another panelist, Dr. Wayne Ganpat, Deputy Director, Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago suggested that UWI should reengineer its human capacity to become more fully integrated into regional agriculture. He claimed that UWI was not always fully up to date and needed to use more modern tools for its outreach delivery and should seek to be a driving force in technological development in the Region. Dr Derick Deslandes, adviser to the Minister of Agriculture in Jamaica and Lecturer in Management Studies at UWI, Mona, outlined the new agricultural programme which would be offered at Mona, Jamaica. He stated that ‘UWI has not been at the forefront of agricultural development in Jamaica, and that the Government of Jamaica Ministry had been calling for a greater contribution’. The Jamaican Government was particularly interested in reorganizing the Ministry along a market “Value Chain” approach and thus the programme would concentrate on agribusiness. Mr Bruce Lauckner, Head Strategic Alliances/Biometrician, Caribbean Development Institute (CARDI) acknowledged the important contribution that UWI had made to regional agricultural development and questioned the criticism that UWI was receiving for the state of regional agriculture. He suggested that UWI should concentrate on instilling in its students the “visionary aspects” of a university, particularly leadership, ethics and entrepreneurship. This concentration would equip the students to be agents of change and development in society. He also advised that the links between scholarship and practice in agriculture at UWI should be strengthened. The session was chaired by the Professor Emeritus Carlton Davis, the University of Florida, USA.

At the Conference, a new Caribbean Agro-Economic Society (CAES) executive was elected for two years comprising of Dr. Carlisle Pemberton, (Senior lecturer, UWI) as President (re-elected), Ms. Sarojini Ragbir (Communication Coordinator, UWI) as Vice-President, Mrs. Hazel Patterson-Andrews (lecturer, UWI) as Secretary Dr. Neela Badrie (Senior lecturer/researcher, UWI) as Director of Publications, Mr. Edric Harry (Policy Analysis and Planning Specialist, IICA) as treasurer, Mr. Bruce Lauckner (Head Strategic Alliances/Biometrician, CARDI), Dr. Carel Ligeon (Associate Professor, Auburn University Montgomery), Dr. Edwin Joseph (Associate Professor, Grand Valley State University, Michigan), Dr. Wendel Parham (Consultant), Dr. Wayne Ganpat (Deputy Director, Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago), Dr. Edward Evans (Assistant Professor and Associate Director, University of Florida) as members.

Article submitted by Drs. Neela Badrie (Director of Publications, CAES) and Wayne Ganpat (Ordinary Executive Member, CAES)



Dr. Wayne Ganpat, Mrs. Sarojini Ragbir, Dr. Carel Ligeon , Mrs. Hazel Patterson-Andrews, Mr. Edric Harry , Dr. Carlisle Pemberton, Mr. Bruce Lauckner.

Three Honoured with the Caribbean Agro-Economics Society (CAES) Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Caribbean Agro-Economics Society held its fourth New Year Dinner and Award ceremony on Saturday 16th February, 2010 at the University of the West Indies Social Club. Dr. Ranjit Singh, Mr. Bruce Lauckner and Mr. Hesdie Grauwde were bestowed with Distinguished Contributor Award, in the category of Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Ranjit Singh first became a member of CAES when he joined the Department of Agricultural Economic and Extension, Faculty of Science and Agriculture, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Dr. Singh was first elected to CAES executive in 1984 serving as Secretary from 1984-1986. In 1986, he was elected to the post of President for two consecutive terms, 1986-1990. He was further elected as President from 1994-2004. He served as the Chair of the ad-hoc conference planning committee and Society's fund raising committee. As the Director of Publications, he edited many of CAES Conference Proceedings and was Editor-in-Chief of Farm and Business, the Journal of the Caribbean Agro-Economics Society (now merged with Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad).



Mr Hesdie Grauwde studied in Holland various aspects of agriculture and agricultural Economics. From early in his career, he showed his commitment to regionalism by then entering the University of the West Indies in St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago to study for the MSc (Agricultural Economics) degree. As a student at UWI, St Augustine, he first became acquainted with the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society. Having graduated from UWI, he returned to his native country Suriname, where he joined the Ministry of Agriculture. He became the Representative for Suriname in CARICOM agricultural matters and was instrumental in the conceptualization of CARIFORUM, which proposal was accepted by the Heads of Government of CARICOM in 1992. He joined the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Barbados in 1996, as a Policy Officer and it is this position, he greatly facilitated the operations of the Society, especially in fund raising and in the organization of Conferences in Barbados and Suriname. He also served as the Barbados Country Representative and was Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the 28th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference in Barbados in July 2009. The

great success of this Conference is a tribute to his organizational skill and dedication to the Society.

Mr. Bruce Lauckner is currently the Head of Strategic Alliances and Biometrician at CARDI. He first joined the CAES in 1977 when he attended the CAES conference in Antigua. More recently, Mr. Lauckner has served on the Executive as President, Treasurer, Trinidad and Tobago Representative and ordinary member.



The Caribbean Agro-Economic Society was formally launched on April 8, 1974 at the Ninth West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference in Jamaica. The major activity of the Society has been the organization of the Annual West Indies Agricultural Economics Conferences. This conference series started in February 1966 at the University of the West Indies. Some objectives of the Society are to: (1) provide a forum for the examination of all agricultural institutions, policies, systems and practices in the Region and (2) focus attention on the economic problems of agricultural production and marketing with a view to improving economic efficiency.

Welcome remarks were given Ms. Sarojini Ragbir, CAES Vice-President while Dr. Carlisle – Pemberton, CAES President gave a brief history of the Society. Members were entertained by Latin dancing by UWI students Ms. Suzie Hassanally and Mr. Shannon Francis and instrumentals by the Browne sisters and treated to a sumptuous dinner.

Twenty-ninth CAES Meeting in St. Vincent 2011

The theme is “Agribusiness as the Path to Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Caribbean”.

The conference will be held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the 17th - 21st July, 2011

Don't forget to keep checking our website www.caestt.com



CARIBBEAN AGRO-ECONOMIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Email: info@caestt.com

Name :		
Occupation :		
Employer :		
Business Address: _____		

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email : _____		
Field(s) of Specialization or Area of Interest:		
Agronomy [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Economics [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Agribusiness [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Extension [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Livestock [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Other (specify) [<input type="checkbox"/>]

YEAR: 2011		
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP FEE : Regular US\$ 70 [<input type="checkbox"/>] Student/Junior US\$ 40 [<input type="checkbox"/>] Retirees US\$ 50 [<input type="checkbox"/>]		
Fees entitle Regular members to the issues of the <i>Tropical Agriculture</i> for the subscription year. *Students and Retired members would only receive electronic copies of the Society's Publications.		
Fees are payable by January of each year. The deadline for payment of fees to maintain membership is June 30 th 2011. After July 1 st 2010 an Application fee of US\$75 will become due. Please remit fees using money orders or cheques payable to:		
<p>CARIBBEAN AGRO ECONOMIC SOCIETY c/o The Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension Faculty of Science and Agriculture The University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad, West Indies.</p>		
<p>Telephone: 868-662-2002 ext. 2088/2308 Fax: 868-663-8355 Email: info@caestt.com</p>		

