

# Caribbean Agro Economic Society

## NEWSLETTER

*Issue: September 2014*



## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING: The Ramsaroop Family

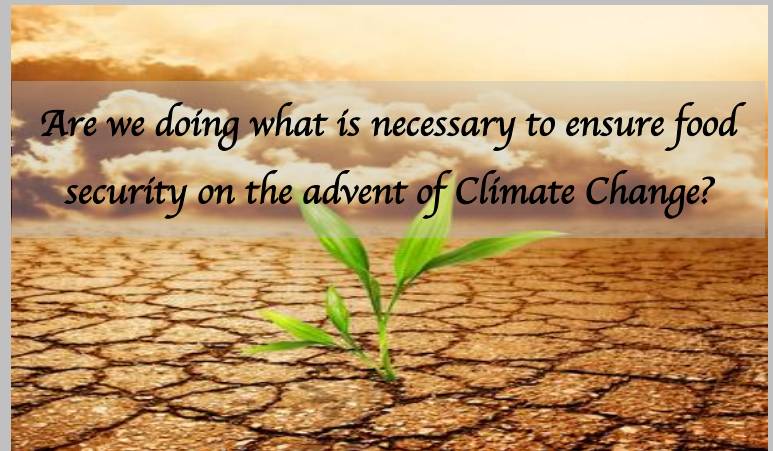
Mr. Chemraj Ramsaroop and Mrs. Sita Ramsaroop have been farming together for the past twenty (20) years on 40 acres of land in Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Ramsaroop began farming thirty-five (35) years ago with his father, after which he married and took over the operations with his family of two children.

While other children lime with friends, the Ramsaroop children help their parents on the farm on weekends and holidays, along with operating the family's booth at the Chaguanas market and Macoya Farmers' Market on weekends.

The Ramsaroop family mainly cultivates cassava along with pumpkin, sorrel, pigeon peas, spinach and watermelon. However, they also encounter challenges in the agricultural sector, such as, labour shortages and praedial larceny.

Out of these challenges the Ramsaroop family became innovative by converting scrap metal into tools for farming, which have reduced their cost of production by 50% since the tools are used for planting, harvesting and spraying. For their innovation and creativity in building tools out of scrap metal, they have received an Honorary Award by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

By *Makanzwa Pita*  
CAES Country Representative, Trinidad



Source: <http://maureenholland.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/agriculture-climate.jpg>

## Risk Mitigation to Ensure Food Security - 31<sup>st</sup> West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference 2015

CAES and the University of the Virgin Islands will be hosting the upcoming 31st West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference which will be held on the beautiful island of St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands in 2015. Focus would be placed on research that provides answers to the potential impact of climate change on the food systems of the Caribbean.

The dates of the conference are the 9-14<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 and the sub-themes are as follows:

- Improvements to value chains
- Risk mitigation measures for climate change
- Novel extension methods for addressing climate change challenges
- Economics of:
  - New varieties of crops, improved animal breeds, protected agriculture, aquaculture
- Effects of climate change on farm profitability, price volatility etc.
- Threats to food and nutrition security

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## CAES Awardees

At the 30<sup>th</sup> West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference held at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad W.I. from the 30<sup>th</sup> June-5<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 Mr. Winston Ramautarsingh received the Distinguished Contributor Award and Prof. Curtis Jolly received the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Awardees: From left Mr. Winston Ramautarsingh and Professor Curtis Jolly

## CAES & AAEA: EMERGING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN & SOUTHERN USA

The Caribbean Agro-Economic Society (CAES) collaborated with the Committee on the Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (AAEA), the University of the Virgin Islands and the Southern Risk Management Education Center in hosting a Symposium on Sunday 6th July, 2014.

This Symposium was held during the Caribbean Food Crop Society meeting in St. Thomas US Virgin Islands and it provided an in-depth understanding of the Emerging Local Food Systems in the Caribbean and Southern USA. There were two sessions, with the first having five presentations and the second being a panel discussion.

Presenters provided aspects of their research on:

1. Overview of trends in Local Food Systems Frameworks and Key Research Issues
2. Key Extension and Research issues of Local Food Systems in the USVI
3. Developing Farm-to Fork Linkages in Caribbean School Feeding Programmes
4. Consumer Perceptions of Labeling of Local Foods in the Caribbean'. University of the West Indies
5. Research and Extension Opportunities in Local Food Systems



The elected CAES Executive 2013/2015: From left to right: Ms. Afiya De Sormeaux; Dr. Carel Ligeon; Mr. Edric Harry; Dr. Hazel Patterson-Andrews; Mr. Nkosi Felix; Prof. Carlisle Pemberton; Dr. Erecia Hepburn; Mr. Winston Ramautarsingh; Prof. Edward Evans; Mr. Arnold De Mendonca. Missing: Dr. Govind Seepersad – Director of Publication; Dr. Kwame Garcia - Executive Member

## CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Deacue Fields was promoted to Professor, and succeeded Ag Economics Professor Curtis Jolly as the chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University, Alabama, USA.



## IMPORTANT DATES

The 31<sup>st</sup> West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference to be held in St. Croix, US Virgin Islands:

- Submission of Abstracts: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015
- Notification of Acceptance: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- Submission of Final Papers: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- Conference 2015: 9-14<sup>th</sup> August 2015
- Publication of Proceedings: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015

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29<sup>th</sup> West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference Field Trip