



## Caribbean Agro-Economic Society

### *Newsletter*

November 2008

#### © Letter from the President!

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to another exciting year in the life of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society! At this time we are busily preparing for our next conference in Barbados next year, and also reviewing papers received at last year's conference. We are also on a major drive to recruit new individual and institutional members to the Society, as well as make our publication more widely available. Some of our past publications of Farm and Business journal, as well as the proceedings of the 2006 West Indies Agricultural Conference (held in Puerto Rico) are now available online at AgEcon Search. Our mission is to make future proceedings available online, subject of course to the consent of authors. This new initiative makes our work more visible to the regional and international agricultural economic community, and also provides a much needed repository and library for our work. We have also been actively sending our work to key libraries and stakeholders in the area of agriculture and agribusiness. We hope to have our publication in every tertiary institution, and any research or policy firm in the agricultural sector.

The enrolment of agribusiness management students at the University of the West Indies has grown steadily over the past years, and this year, UWI has recorded a significant increase in its new batch of agriculture students. This is encouraging, especially as the Caribbean region, and the rest of the world, is now battling major increases in food insecurity, spurred on the one hand by rapidly rising oil prices, but also fuelled at the same time, by the climate change, the increasing use of food for biofuel production, and the overall decline in agricultural production and productivity.

The Caribbean Agro-Economic Society must therefore play a greater role in helping to solve these intensified problems of the regions, and work more closely with our many partners and with farmers, to engage our members in more research, research which is relevant now to the end-users and which will make a difference. A new executive was elected in Belize last year, and I invite you to work with us more closely in the coming year to make this change!

Regards,  
**Carlisle**

## Ⓢ Current Executive



From Left to Right: Mr. Wendel Parham (Outgoing President); Dr. Neela Badrie (Vice President); Dr. Edward Evans (Elected Member); Dr. Curtis Jolly (Elected member); Dr. Edwin Joseph (Elected member); Ms. Sarojini Ragbir (Secretary); Dr. Carlisle Pemberton (President); Mr. Edric Harry (Treasurer); Ms. Hazel Patterson-Andrews (Elected member); Dr. Sharon Hutchinson (Director of Publications)

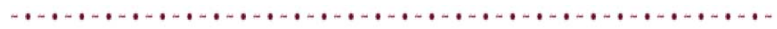
Absent: Mr. Bruce Lauckner (Elected member)

---

## Ⓢ Get Ready for Barbados!

- **28<sup>th</sup> West Indies Agricultural Conference to be held in Barbados**  
Every year the Ministry of Agriculture hosts an agricultural conference in Barbados over a few days which brings together local farmers, local manufacturers, policy makers, researchers, government officials and many other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. This is usually very well attended and many persons look forward to this forum as an opportunity to network and find solutions for common problems. Next year, we are proposing to hold our conference jointly with the National Agricultural Conference of the Ministry of Agriculture of Barbados. The date and venue are still to be finalized, but we are thinking of 6<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (as we manoeuvre around CFCS Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> July) and Barbados' Crop Over in August!)
- **Theme: Food Security, Investment Flows and Agricultural Development in the Caribbean**
- **Sub-themes:**
  - Food Prices and Food Security in CARICOM
  - Biofuels and other alternatives to sugar production in CARICOM, under new International Trading Arrangements
  - Future of Banana Production

- Changing International Investment Flows and Impact on CARICOM Agricultural Development
- National Budgetary Allocations to Agriculture and Agricultural Development in CARICOM
- Climate Change and Impact on National Resource Systems
- Implications of "Payment for Environmental Services (PES)" to farmers
- International Trade and Food Safety
- Successful Examples of Modern Development in Caribbean Agriculture
- Policies for Sustainable Fisheries Management and Trade
  
- **Deadlines:**
- **Abstract due on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.**



© **Latest News...**

- **The proceedings from the Puerto Rico conference** and the latest *Farm and Business Journal* were available on AgEcon Search.
- **Proceedings of the 26<sup>th</sup> West Indies Agricultural Conference** that was held in Puerto Rico are now available for US\$20.
- **Next year, CAES will begin donations of an annual prize worth TT\$2000** to a undergraduate or graduate student based on their academic achievements. Further details of the criteria for the award are underway by the Executive.
- **Despite several calls for presenters of last year's conference to submit their papers** to the Director of Publications, only a few persons have submitted their papers for review. The papers submitted were reviewed for publication in the journal Tropical Agriculture (TA). Papers that are not selected for publication in TA, would be considered for publication in the conference proceedings. A final call is therefore being made for these papers to be submitted by Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. Tropical Agriculture is currently under review and re-positioning, and this has contributed significantly to the delay in the publication process. This however, was outside CAES's control. After very recent deliberations, it has been agreed by the Faculty of Science and Agriculture that TA will now be managed and published by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension (DAEE), Faculty of Science and Agriculture, UWI. However, due to the backlog of TA publications, papers of last year's conference would appear in a 2007 issue, and should be available by June of 2009.
- **The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS)** will be held in St. Kitts from July 12 to 18, 2009. The theme of the meeting will be on agricultural diversification. Dr. Hermia Morton Anthony (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Agriculture, Fisheries and Co-operatives, St. Kitts and Nevis) will serve as CFCS President for 2008-2009, and Mr. Alistair Edwards, Agricultural Officer, will serve as the President of the CFCS Organizing Committee for 2008-2009.



- **International congress on tropical agriculture** will be held from November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Trinidad. The Theme is: **"Overcoming Challenges to Developing Sustainable Agri-Food Systems in the Tropics"**

For further information, please contact: Mrs. Indira Ousman, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Science and Agriculture, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, Tel: 868-663-1334 Ext 3903, Fax: 868-663-9686, Email: [tacongress.uwi60@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:tacongress.uwi60@sta.uwi.edu)

#### ⊙ Events this Year

- The CAES New Year function, which took place at the UWI Staff Social Club on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2008, was a success. Awards went to **Dr. Suresh Birla, Dr. Curtis McIntosh** and **Prof. Carlton Davis** as Distinguished Contributors to CAES. **Mrs. Indira Ousman** was also presented an award for her valuable contribution to the work of CAES for several years.

#### ⊙ A look at CAES Conference 2007

The last conference was a mixture of hard work and lots of fun.



At the Opening Ceremony, there were distinguished presentations by (L-R): Mrs. Sandra Hall (CEO, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belize); Mr. Wendel Parham (CAES President 2006-2007); Mr. Said Musa (Prime Minister of Belize); Dr. Carlisle Pemberton (CAES President 2007-2009); and Mr. Eugene Waight (Chief Agricultural Officer and Chairman, CAES Local Organizing Committee)

#### Contact Info

President	-	Dr Carlisle Pemberton
<a href="mailto:Carlisle.Pemberton@sta.uwi.edu">Carlisle.Pemberton@sta.uwi.edu</a>		
Vice President	-	Dr Neela Badrie
<a href="mailto:Neela.Badrie@sta.uwi.edu">Neela.Badrie@sta.uwi.edu</a>		
Secretary	-	Ms. Sarojini Ragbir
<a href="mailto:Sarojini.Ragbir@sta.uwi.edu">Sarojini.Ragbir@sta.uwi.edu</a>		
Treasurer	-	Mr. Edric Harry
<a href="mailto:eharry@iicacarc.org">eharry@iicacarc.org</a>		
Director of Publications	-	Dr Sharon Hutchinson
<a href="mailto:Sharon.Hutchinson@sta.uwi.edu">Sharon.Hutchinson@sta.uwi.edu</a>		

Don't forget to keep checking our website [www.caestt.com](http://www.caestt.com).

Tel: 868-662-2002 ext: 2088/2093

Fax: 868-663-8355