



Caribbean Agro-Economic Society

NEWSLETTER

September 2006



New CAES Executive

CARDI's Executive Director is CAES New President 2006 – 2007

At the Annual General Meeting of the CAES held on 12th July 2006, a new Executive was voted in according to the CAES Constitution. The new President is Dr Wendel Parham, Executive Director of CARDI. In a thank you message, Dr Parham expressed gratitude to the membership for voting him as President and informed the members that he would do his best to ensure that the CAES continues to remain a vibrant society.

Other members voted in were:

Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Director of Publications
Elected Members

Dr. Carlisle Pemberton
Ms. Sarojini Ragbir
Dr. Andrew Jacque
Dr. Neela Badrie
Mr. Edric Harry
Professor Curtis Jolly
Dr. Edward Evans

The following members were nominated as Country Representatives

<i>Country</i>		<i>Representative</i>
Antigua	-	Julie-ann Laudat
Bahamas	-	Carl Smith
Barbados	-	Hesdie Grauwde
Belize	-	Yvette Alonzo
Canada	-	Richard Carew
Dominica	-	Emaline L. Harris-Charles
Dominican Republic	-	Jesus de los Santos
Europe	-	John Ronald Deep Ford
Grenada	-	Randolph Mark
Guadeloupe	-	Marie-Francoise Zebus
Guyana	-	C.Y. Thomas
Haiti	-	Budry Bayard
Jamaica	-	Donald Palmer
Montserrat	-	Claude Gerald
Puerto Rico	-	Carmen Alamo
St. Kitts and Nevis	-	Jerome Thomas/Frederick Merchant
St. Lucia	-	Lench Fervrier
St. Vincent	-	Ashley Cain
Suriname	-	Winston Ramautarsing
Trinidad and Tobago	-	Bruce Lauckner
US Virgin Islands	-	Kwame Garcia
USA	-	Curtis Jolly (South) Edmund Tarvenier (New Jersey)

CAES to meet in Belize in 2007

“Improving marketing and sustaining Natural Resources Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

This is the theme of the joint CAES/ALACEA (Asociacion De LatinoAmerica Y Del Caribe De Economistas Agricolas) conference that will be held in Belize from 23rd to 27th July, 2007.

Dr Pemberton has already represented the CAES Executive at a meeting with the Local Organizing Committee in Belize in August 2005. Another visit is being planned for December. We are still working on details like hotels, field trips etc and will get back to you as soon as all plans are finalized.

Opening Remarks by CAES Past President
Presented at the 42nd Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society
26th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference (Caribbean Agro-Economic Society),
Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico

This is an abbreviated version of the opening remarks by Mr. Bruce Lauckner, Past-President (2004-2006), Caribbean Agro Economic Society, CFCS Board Member and Manager for Research and Development, CARDI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

The Caribbean Agro Economic Society (CAES) is very pleased to be here with the Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS) at the 42nd annual meeting.

The CFCS meetings are very scientific gatherings with many excellent technical presentations concerned with many aspects of crop and animal production. However, the presentations at CFCS meetings do not place much emphasis on economic analysis and perhaps some agronomists, animal scientists, plant health specialists, pest and disease specialists etc., are occasionally a little wary of economists and economics.

Likewise the CAES meetings are well known for many excellent technical presentations many of which are highly mathematical. These presentations usually lead to quite heated discussions, as the members of the CAES are not afraid to be critical. Whereas the CFCS presentations are being allowed 15 minutes, the CAES has allowed 30 minutes for its presentations and our moderators must be vigilant in not allowing any extra time. However, we must remember the CAES tradition of discussion and bring the presenters to a conclusion at around 20 minutes. If both sets of moderators (CFCS and CAES) are vigilant this will allow persons who wish to move between the sessions to do so and the CAES is looking forward to seeing CFCS members during its sessions and CAES

members are looking forward to going to hear some CFCS presentations.

The CFCS annual meetings are very important networking occasions. They bring together scientists who speak English, who speak Spanish, who speak French and who speak Dutch. This is quite a remarkable thing in a region where networking is often quite difficult. Likewise, the biennial meetings of the CAES are famous networking occasions bringing together people who do not always meet regularly. This joint meeting brings another dimension to this networking, and should help to overcome the suspicion that agricultural scientists in disciplines served by the CFCS have of economists and vice versa the economists can be critical of work presented at the CFCS.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some organisations who have facilitated attendance of delegates at this meeting. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)/CARICOM/Government of Italy Food Security Project has sponsored the guest speaker, Mr. Byron Blake, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United

Nations and formerly Assistant Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM who will

be giving the guest lecture after the coffee break this morning. The FAO Project has also sponsored a number of other attendants who will be presenting papers based on some of the work of that project. The FAO sub-regional office in Barbados has also funded attendance of a number of delegates. Thanks are also due to the Office of the Principal of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, who have ensured a strong registration from the University at this meeting. The Netherlands based Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) has funded a number of economists to deliver papers at the CAES sessions and also (facilitated by CARDI)

two persons from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Production in Trinidad and Tobago to deliver papers at the CFCS sessions. The kind of support from FAO and CTA is very important as it allows researchers from Ministries of Agriculture to attend these meetings. Many regional ministries find it quite difficult to find funds for their staff to attend conferences of this nature.

Ladies and gentlemen we are looking forward to networking.

CAES executive member invited back to Puerto Rico

Edric Harry, a member of the newly elected CAES, returned to Puerto Rico one month after attending the joint CFC/ CAES conference in that country. Edric was the guest and invited speaker at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Colegio de Agronomos of Puerto Rico, a professional group of scientists and academics from Puerto Rico. The theme of the meeting was: *Perspectiva del Desarrollo Económico Agrícola, Suelo, Agua, y Tratados Comerciales. (Perspectives on Agricultural Development , Land, Water and commercial Agreements).*

The invitation was extended to him by Mr William Suárez, Executive Director of the last organization, who happened to be present at our last CAES conference. Mr Suárez indicated to Edric, at that conference, that he was interested in his presentation and, the rest is history.

The meeting, which took place from 18-20th of August, was attended by 137 delegates from Puerto Rico, and was held in the north western town of Aguadilla, 2.5 hours drive from the capital of San Juan. The town is close to Mayaguez, the campus of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Puerto Rico,

which has approximately 13,000 students on roll.

Edric was among eight persons who made presentations at the meeting. His presentation was entitled. *“A methodology for Estimating the Real Contribution of the Agriculture Sector to the Economy of Trinidad and Tobago that was designed by the IICA.”* Other presentations were made by the following persons:

- Dr Gladys Gonzáles, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Science *“Impact of the economy on the Agriculture Sector in Puerto Rico.”*
- Hon Javier Vélez Aroccho, Secretary of Natural Resources *“A Water Plan for Puerto Rico”*
- Enid Díaz, Director of Land Use Planning *“A land Use Plan for Puerto Rico.”*

- Charles Gonzáles, President of the Puerto Rico Planning Society ‘*A land use plan for Puerto Rico*’
- Jessica Medina, of the Extension Services ‘*Delimitation of Agricultural Lands and General Recommendations.*’
- Sigfredo Torres of the Caribbean Water Science Center ‘*Hydrological Studies*’
- Damarias Quiñónez, of the Aquifer Authority ‘*Perspectives on Infrastructure and the Handling of Water.*’

Edric’s presentation was well received and while there, he took the opportunity to net-

work and make new friends and contacts for the CAES, including Ramirez Medina, Assistant Secretary for Development of the Economy and Agriculture; Rivera Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Agricultural Insurance Programme of Puerto Rico and Dr Gladys Gonzales, who was present at our CAES Conference. Mr Gonzalez indicated his willingness to share information on his insurance programme scheme with Trinidad and Tobago. Edric also met many other scientists and researchers who spared no effort in making his short stay comfortable and memorable. He was also fortunate to be given a guided tour of the University at Mayaguez by his host, William Suárez, a former assistant lecturer and graduate of the University.

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



The Caribbean Agro Economic Society
Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension
Faculty of Science and Agriculture
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (US\$30)

Title (Dr. / Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. or Other): _____

Full Name (given name first): _____

Address: _____

Telephone (include international code): _____

Fax (include international code): _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE

Membership fee received: Yes No

Membership Number: _____