



## **The Caribbean Agro Economic Society (CAES) Newsletter**

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The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago  
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### **The 29th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference, St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

The 29th West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference was held for the first time in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July, 2011. This conference marked 45 years since the first Conference was held in 1966 at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. The conference theme was on “*Agribusiness as the Path to Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Caribbean*” with sub-themes of : Trade Policy, Agriculture in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Rural Transformation and Agricultural Development Strategies and Synergies, Agricultural Production and Marketing, Value Chain Analysis and Agribusiness Development.

The Conference was declared open by the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon. Girlyn Miguel on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the Opening Ceremony at the National Insurance Service’s Conference Room. In her speech, the Acting Prime Minister stressed on the importance of agriculture to the economy of St Vincent and the Grenadines and supported the thrust of the Conference to promote agribusiness as an approach to agricultural development. She advocated that there should be analyses and documentation of successes in agribusiness such as Winfresh, as a stimulus for agribusiness development. She also stressed the relationship between agriculture and rural development and suggested a greater role for the University of the West Indies in the solution of rural development challenges. She also highlighted the risks and challenges of agricultural production and commented that St Vincent and the Grenadines had suffered damages in the order of \$86.1 million in October 2010, with Hurricane Tomas. The ceremony was chaired by the Mr. Nathaniel Williams, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation Fisheries and Forestry.

### **Dr. Carlisle Pemberton re-elected as President of CAES, 2011-2013**

Dr. Carlisle Pemberton a senior lecturer and past Head in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine was re-elected as President of the Caribbean Agro-Economics Society (CAES). The other members of the

executive are Dr. Edward A. (Gilly) Evans as vice-president (University of Florida); Dr. Hazel Patterson-Andrews as secretary (UWI); Ms Sarojini Ragbir as assistant-secretary (UWI); Professor Neela Badrie as director of publication (UWI) and Mr. Edric Harry as Treasurer (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Govind Seepersad (UWI); Dr. Wayne Ganpat (UWI); Mr. Winston Ramautarsing (Proplan Consultancy, Suriname); Trinidad); Mr. Bruce Lauckner (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Trinidad (CARDI, Trinidad)); Dr. Carel Ligeon (Auburn University, Alabama) and Dr. Ronald Gordon (Univ. of Florida) were elected as ordinary members.



**Photo shows CAES executive 2012-2013**

Front row L to R: Dr. Edward A. Evans, Dr. Carlisle Pemberton and Dr. Hazel Patterson-Andrews  
Back row L to R: Professor Neela Badrie, Dr. Ronald Gordon, Mr. Edric Harry, Mr. Bruce Lauckner,  
Mr. Winston Ramautarsing, Dr. Wayne Ganpat, Dr. Carel Ligeon and Dr. Govind Seepersad.  
Missing from photo is Ms. Sarojini Ragbir

### **Professor Jolly delivers Sir Lewis-Beckford Memorial Lecture**

The traditional Sir Lewis- Beckford memorial lecture was given by Professor Curtis Jolly, Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University, Alabama, USA. Professor Jolly in his thought-provoking presentation on '*Can Agribusiness serve as the Catalyst for Economic Development in Small Nation States? Myths and Realities*' asserted that the Caribbean countries should have abandoned long ago, the European trade preferences, since they were probably of more harm than good for the economies, since they did not promote sustainable development in the region, because they were not based on indigenous knowledge and technology. He suggested that it may be difficult for agribusiness to make a

serious contribution to the economies of the Caribbean, if the agricultural sector itself continues to decline. Hence, there should be a concerted effort to reverse the trend of the declining importance of agriculture in Caribbean economies, by the use of creative measures to increase innovation and exploit economies of scale and scope in small and medium scale agri-business enterprises. He also stated that Caribbean countries should specialize in the production and marketing of niche goods and services, such as organic foods and ethnic and heritage foods. Some of these new areas may require intensive use of human and physical capital, and the implementation of new ideas, which can be facilitated by government policies which encourage micro-enterprise development.

### **CAES Life-time Achievement award 2011**

A subcommittee of the CAES strongly recommended and the General Meeting at the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference approved, Dr. Carlisle Pemberton for the CAES Lifetime award. He has been a CAES member for over 35 years. Since 1982, he has served as President (1982-1986, 1990-1995, 2007 – present); Vice-President (1986-1988, 2006-2007) and Director of Publications (1988-1990). Dr. Pemberton has published 12 papers in the *Proceedings of the West Indies Agricultural Economics Conferences* and five papers in *Farm and Business* (Journal of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society (CAES)) and 2 papers recently in *Tropical Agriculture* (Trinidad). (*Farm and Business* has now merged with *Tropical Agriculture* (Trinidad)). Dr. Pemberton holds a B.Sc Agriculture, M.Sc (Agricultural Economics) and M.Sc (Statistics) from the University of the West Indies and a Ph.D (Agricultural Economics) from the University of Manitoba.



**Dr. Pemberton delivers an address at the Opening Ceremony at the Conference**

Our congratulations to Dr. Pemberton on this well-deserved CAES Lifetime award.

### **CAES Technical Field Trip**

As part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, there was a technical field trip organized by the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Transformation Forestry and Fisheries. Participants visited the Owia Salt Pond Recreation Park and sea food processing plant, St. Vincent Arrowroot plant at Orange Hill, a cassava farine plant, the plant tissue culture laboratory set up by the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Rabacca Agricultural station, pig breeding section, Winfresh processing company, the Mesopotamia valley.

You are invited to visit the CAES web site for photos at: [www.caestt.com](http://www.caestt.com)

### **Next Conference - 30<sup>th</sup> West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference**

The proposed venue for the 30<sup>th</sup> West Indies Agricultural Economics Conference is Trinidad, West Indies.

Please continue checking our web site for updates: [www.caestt.com](http://www.caestt.com)