FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOCAL INSTITUTIONS**

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The broad objective of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) is to manage the resources of the country to maximize output for the benefit of present and future citizens. The government envisions an agricultural sector that is modernized and internationally competitive, that generates sustainable income levels for producers comparable to those obtained in other sectors of the economy, that enhances the country's renewable natural resources and bio-diversity, and that enriches the lives of all citizens.

The agricultural sector is viewed as comprising production, processing and marketing activities in the crop, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors, and activities associated with sustainable management and conservation of the country's farm land and water and renewable natural marine resources. The agricultural sector so defined is consistent with the responsibilities of the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources (MFPMR).

The MFPMR being the premier agricultural development institution in the country has several responsibilities in fulfilling the vision of the GORTT. The MFPMR is responsible for promoting the efficient production, processing and marketing of food and non-food farm products and food products harvested from the marine resources of the nation. The MFPMR is also responsible for sustainable management of the nation's marine renewable resources, and the land and water resources devoted to farming.

**POLICY GOALS**

**Role of the State/MFPMR**

The State/MFPMR will be;

1. a facilitator of private sector production, and
2. an efficient producer of public goods and services in support of private sector and improved livelihoods for citizens.

Scope of Responsibilities of the MFPMR

1. The MFPMR will seek to influence the entire food system through a focus on managing commodity systems and strategic relationships with other Ministries and agencies. The MFPMR has oversight and regulatory responsibilities for the production and marketing of primary agricultural (farm and fisheries) commodities.
2. The MFPMR will effectively manage the renewable natural marine resources and the farm land and water under its jurisdiction.

VISION of the MINISTRY

To be Performance Driven, Value Obsessed, Knowledge Invested, Innovation Propelled and Environmentally Conscious.

MISSION of the MINISTRY

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources will be the driving force in sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and food production in Trinidad and Tobago by ensuring the delivery of a range of agricultural services consistent with state policy and the expectation of all stakeholders through the use of modern technology.

**REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

1. CARICOM

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which was signed by Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago and came into effect on August 1, 1973. Subsequently the other eight Caribbean territories joined CARICOM. The Bahamas became the 13th Member State of the Community on July 4, 1983. Suriname became the 14th Member State of the Caribbean Community on July 4, 1995.

In July 1991, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos became Associated Members of CARICOM. Twelve other States from Latin America and the Caribbean enjoy Observer Status in various Institutions of the Community and CARICOM Ministerial bodies.

Caricom Members

Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago.

Caricom aims at the eventual integration of its members and economies, and the creation of a common market. From its inception, the Community has concentrated on the promotion of the integration of the economies of Member States, coordinating the foreign policies of the independent Member States and in Functional Cooperation, especially in relation to various areas of social and human endeavor

1. CARIBBEAN FOOD AND NUTRITION INSTITUTE (CFNI)

CFNI is a specialized Centre of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), which was established in 1967 to forge a regional approach to solving the nutrition problems of the Caribbean. It serves a total population of about six (6) million, a third of whom live in Jamaica.

**The institute aims to attain food security and achieve optimal nutritional health for all peoples of the Caribbean through collaboration with Caribbean countries to enhance, describe, manage and prevent the key nutritional problems and to increase their capacity in providing effective nutritional services.**

CFNI collaborates closely with CARICOM secretariat in ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in the Caribbean. This is achieved through the implementation of activities emanating from the Regional Food and Nutrition Strategy (RFNS), particularly through activities in health care delivery system and the training programmes in food economics and food and nutrition policy and planning



1. CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB)

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was established by the Agreement which was signed on October 18, 1969, at Kingston, Jamaica, and entered into force on January 26, 1970, for the purpose of contributing to the harmonious economic growth and development of the member countries in the

Caribbean and promoting economic cooperation and integration among them, having special and urgent regard to the needs of the less developed members of the region (Article 1 of the Agreement establishing CDB).

 FUNCTIONS of CDB

Under Article 2 of its Charter, CDB has the following functions:

1. to assist regional members in the coordination of their development programmes with a view to achieving better utilization of their resources; making their economies more complementary, and promoting the orderly expansion of their international trade, in particular intraregional trade.
2. to mobilize within and outside the region additional financial resources for the development of the region.
3. to finance projects and programmes contributing to the development of the region or any of the regional members.
4. to provide appropriate technical assistance to its regional members.
5. to promote public and private investment in development projects by, aiding financial institutions in the region and supporting the establishment of consortia.
6. to co-operate and assist in other regional efforts designed to promote regional and locally controlled financial institutions and a regional market for credit and savings.
7. to stimulate and encourage the development of capital markets within the region.
8. to undertake or promote such other activities as may advance its purpose”.



1. CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)

Established in 1975, CARDI’s aim is to contribute to agricultural development by conducting research and by exposing farmers and other persons involved in agriculture to appropriate technologies.

CARDI’s Membership comprises all Members of the Common Market as well the Associate Members of CARICOM.

The Institute is governed by Ministers of Agriculture from each Member State. It also has a Board of Directors comprising representatives of Member States, the CARICOM Secretariat, the CDB, the CFC until 1999), the UWI and the University of Guyana.

The Institute has its headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago with branches/units in all Member States

1. UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

The St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies is committed to the development of Caribbean countries. At all times, it will seek to contribute to that development by producing graduates and research of high quality, relevance and usefulness in sufficient quantity and at minimum cost.

The St. Augustine Campus, by the conduct of its own staff and students as well as by the content of its academic programmes, will strive towards the inculcation of social values of shared communal responsibility, social justice, and respect and tolerance for differences in beliefs, philosophy, ethnicity, and culture.

The St. Augustine Campus aims at being an intellectual bridge to the wider Caribbean region and the rest of the world, assisting its member countries to benefit from the rapidly growing and constantly changing world of stock ideas, knowledge, and expertise and itself contributing to that stock in ways that enhance the international standing of the Caribbean.

The enduring mission of the University of the West Indies is to propel the economic, social, political and cultural development of the West Indian society through teaching, research, innovation, advisory and community services and intellectual leadership.

The Faculty of Science and Agriculture (formerly the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Sciences) was established at the St. Augustine Campus of the The University of the West Indies in 1996 from the merger of the former Faculties of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. The former was established in 1960 and continued the tradition of excellence in teaching and research of its predecessor, the Imperial College of Agriculture, while the latter was established at St. Augustine in 1972 from the former College of Arts and Science, which began teaching Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics in 1963. Today the FSA is among the largest in the University offering B.Sc. degrees with majors in Agriculture, Agribusiness Management, Biochemistry, Biology, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Human Ecology, Environmental and Natural Resources Management, Mathematics, Physics, and Zoology. In addition majors in Science may be combined with a major from another faculty (e.g. Social Science) subject to pre-requisites and availability. The number of students registered in the FSA in 2002/2003 was 1,304, 1237 of whom were registered full-time and 67 part-time.

In addition, the Faculty offers ten (10) M.Sc. programmes (including one by distance teaching) and M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees are offered in each department. Undergraduate diplomas in Agricultural Extension and Institutional and Community Nutrition and Dietetics are also offered by the School of Agriculture.

1. COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

‘The College of Agriculture, Science and Education, a multidisciplinary institution, is committed to providing education and training of the highest quality in agriculture, science and teacher education to men and women in Jamaica, and also in other Caribbean countries, through teaching, research and outreach. The College intends to promote and foster the development of individuals who are professionally qualified, articulate, culturally aware, environmentally and health conscious, morally sensitive, ethically motivated and service oriented and in so doing, respond to the needs of Jamaica and the region for persons dedicated to excellence and to increased productivity in their chosen fields.

1. EASTERN CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The mission of ECIAF is about improving the standard of living in the Agricultural Sector in the Eastern Caribbean by providing quality training for nationals at the sub-professional level in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and agriculture teacher education.

1. GUYANA SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE

The Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) is a post-secondary college of agricultural education in Guyana, established in 1963. It offers two-year diploma and certificate courses

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

1. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization was founded in October 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations.

Today, FAO is the largest autonomous agency within the United Nations system with 180 Member Nations plus the European Community (Member Organization)

Since its inception, FAO has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and the pursuit of food security - the access of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life. The Organization offers direct development assistance, collects, analyses and disseminates information, provides policy and planning advice to governments and acts as an international forum for debate on food and agriculture issues.

FAO is active in land and water development, plant and animal production, forestry, fisheries, economic and social policy, investment, nutrition, food standards and commodities and trade. It also plays a major role in dealing with food and agricultural emergencies.

A specific priority of the Organization is encouraging **sustainable agriculture** and rural development, a long-term strategy for the conservation and management of natural resources. It aims to meet the needs of both present and future generations through programmes that do not degrade the environment and are technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable.

1. INTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American System, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations. The Institute has its Headquarters in Costa Rica, and Offices in 34 countries of the Americas.

1. EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The European Union (EU) is a union of twenty-seven independent states based on the European Communities and founded to enhance political, economic and social co-operation. Formerly known as European Community (EC) or European Economic Community (EEC).

Date of foundation: 1st November, 1993.

1. ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

 

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world’s oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States. The OAS was established to achieve among its member states, as stated in Article 1 of its Charter, “an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence.”



1. INTER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

The regional bank that serves as the main source of multilateral financing for economic, social and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Like the World Bank the IDB has a concessional (FSO) and a market-based loan window. Its major shareholders are the USA and Canada, along with the Latin American emerging market countries. Extra-regional members like Japan and the EU members hold minor shares.



1. CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA)

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is Canada's lead agency for development assistance.

 CIDA's aim is to:

1. manage Canada's support and resources effectively and accountably to achieve meaningful, sustainable results and;
2. engage in policy development in Canada and internationally, enabling Canada's effort to realize its development objectives. CIDA was established in 1968 to administer the bulk of Canada's official development assistance (ODA) program. CIDA works in concert with its development partners, fragile states and countries in crisis, countries of focus, and the Canadian population and institutions.