



Regional Briefing : Agribusiness forum: enhancing regional trade and adding value to Caribbean agrifood products

Organised by: IICA, CTA

Grenada, 16-18 November 2014

BIODATA OF SPEAKERS

Chris Addison – Senior Coordinator, Knowledge Management, CTA

Chris Addison is senior coordinator for knowledge management (KM) at the technical centre for agriculture and rural development (CTA). He has worked in the ICT and knowledge management for development sector for the last 18 years and as director of the non-profit One World Europe, worked with a range of development organisations with their online KM needs. He has joined the CTA last year from the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC where he was head of online communications.

He is currently running projects to develop knowledge platforms for: The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and Caribbean Network to support discussions on blue economy; The Melanesian Spearhead Group in the Pacific on their green growth policy e-discussions and with the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (**CANROP**) on their Knowledge Management and Communications.

Donald Keith Amiel - Corporate Affairs Manager, Caribbean Broilers

Dr Amiel is the Manager Corporate Affairs, Caribbean Broilers Group. He is the past President of the Caribbean Poultry Association (CPA), Professional Societies Association of Jamaica (PSAJ) and Caribbean Agri-business Association (CABA). Dr. Amiel is the Founding Member of the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) and the Professional Societies Association of Jamaica (PSAJ). He currently represents Agribusiness sector on the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CARICOM) Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and the CARICOM Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). He was also an original member of the Caribbean Regional Agricultural Planning Network (CaRAPAN). He chairs the Jamaica Meat Industry Development Committee (IICA), is a member of the Jamaica Bureau of Standards feeds and meats committees as well as the Breed Societies of the Jamaica Livestock Association. He holds a number of certificates in specialist areas. Amongst them is a Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Certificate on Zoonoses Control with special reference to Leptospirosis and rodent control from the PAHO Centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Amiel is a graduate of Kingston College. He attended University London, (B. Vet. Med.); Royal Veterinary College (MRCVS); the University of Queensland (MVSC) and the University of the West Indies (Dip Mgt. Studies).

Damion Barette - Purchasing and Warehouse Officer

Damion is working at Galley Bay Resort and Spa for the past twelve years. He started as a steward, moved to supervise all the goods that were being delivered to the hotel and was given the responsibility to order the goods locally for the hotel. For the past two years he is the Warehouse manager.

Jacqueline Benoît - Vice-President, Marketing, Jardins Hydroponiques d'Haïti

Teacher by training, Jacqueline has various experiences mostly in bookkeeping in various US firms (Excelsion, Worldly Goods, Borg Warner, Estelle Schneider, Ann Arbor, Mi, Elm Group). She is currently the administrator and personnel Manager of the Jardins Hydroponiques d'Haïti.

Pierre François Benoît - President, Jardins Hydroponiques d'Haïti

Pierre François occupied various positions at political and technical level. Ambassador of Haiti to the White House -1988-1990 and Permanent Representative of Haiti at the Organization of American States. Human Resources Manager - Bigio Group- and employee of the Minister of Foreign Affairs; former General Manager MiraBreak (Miragoâne, Haiti); former Chief Executive/General Manager Alpha Communications Network (Internet Service Provider); Treasurer and General Manager of the Provisional Electoral Council. From 2008 to present, President of Jardins Hydroponiques d'Haïti.

Donaldson Bernard – Farmer, the Riogran Health Farm, Jamaica

After retiring as High School Principal in 2006, Donaldson has been giving full time attention to the family farm, which he started developing in 1986. His involvement in the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement includes formerly chairing the North-East Region .of JOAM. The Farm is one of the Demonstration Sites for Organic Agriculture. They provide accommodation for individuals and groups, provide training in organic agriculture, organise hikes into Wild Hog hunting territory and host riverside cookouts specializing in Maroon dishes. The Farm is the centre of the Community Tourism initiative which we have been developing. As a member of the Moore Town Community, he also ensures that maroon Culture is a central part of their operations.

Lisa Binns – Farmer, Zionites Farm, Jamaica

Nestled in the hills of Free Hill, St. Ann is Chris and Lisa Binns' 15 acre organic farm. They live, work, and play here. They grow vegetables from organic seed. They compost and nurture the soil. They make sauces, dressings, preserves, and breads. They give tours and teach. They cater, share. Their award winning product line, STUSH in the BUSH - 2 Jamaica Observer Table Talk Food Awards in "Best New Food" and "Best Producer," a Sustainable Agriculture Award from Jamaica Environment Trust, and an inspiring spread in MACO Caribbean Magazine, Vol 16 Issue 2 - details their commitment to a lifestyle that embraces healthy living, sharing, and great food!

Isolina Boto – Manager, CTA Brussels Office

Isolina Boto is the Manager of the CTA Brussels Office. Isolina has more than 20 years of experience in development. She worked for the European Commission, various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Within CTA, she worked in various positions at headquarters, in the Netherlands, especially on co-funded technical programmes implemented at regional level. Since 2004 she heads the CTA Brussels Office, dealing with policy issues related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development and leads CTA policy group on regional trade. She coordinates and organizes the regular Brussels Development Briefings on topical development policy issues (<http://brusselsbriefings.net>). The office produces a daily news service on key policy areas of ACP-EU cooperation on trade, fisheries and development policy (<http://brussels.cta.int>).

Xavier Charvis – Marketing Extension Officer, RADA Westmoreland

Xavier Charvis is employed to the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) as the Marketing Extension Officer for the Parish of Westmoreland. He has worked in this capacity for the last six (6) years. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a Major in Marketing and a minor in Human Resource Management. He was also a Chinese Government Scholarship recipient in 2013 where he was granted the opportunity to attend Asia's number one University, Peking University. There he acquired a Master of Science (MSc.) in Management and Public Policy. Mr. Charvis currently pioneers the management of the Negril Farmers' Market which is to date the longest running, largest and most profitable Farmers' Market operated by RADA. The success of the Negril Farmers' Market has resulted in other major tourist areas, such as, Montego Bay and Ocho Rios, emulating such an event and they are now operating their own.

Juan Cheaz - Senior Programme Coordinator Agricultural Policy and Value Chains, CTA

Juan Cheaz is Senior Programme Coordinator Agricultural Policy and Value Chains at the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (ACP-EU). He has worked in programme development and cooperation for the sector since 1993. Firstly, at the CGIAR, in agricultural research management training and institutional innovation; secondly, with Oxfam GB, as Regional Policy Coordinator. He has joined CTA six months ago from the Latin American Centre for Rural Development (Rimisp) where he was Principal Researcher and Coordinator for the regional project "Partnerships for Economic Empowerment". While at Rimisp, he served also as the Coordinator of the Livelihoods Support Organisations Learning Group sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Just after joining CTA, one of his first tasks was to coordinate CTA's participation and support to the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA 2014). He is currently leading on the development of the regional business plan of CTA for the Caribbean, and also supporting other plans within ACP regions.

Christine A. Curry – Grenada Goat Dairy Project

The Grenada Goat Dairy Project, Inc. (The Goat Dairy) is led by Co-founder Christine A. Curry, who established this non-profit project organization to train and empower Grenadian farmers, particularly young people, in achieving independent, dignified livelihoods in sustainable agriculture. Christine grew up in the State of Iowa, United States, with a passion for animals, nature, people, art and the environment. As a young adult, Christine moved to San Diego, California where she pursued her strong interest in marine animals, environmental issues, especially food cultivation. She has been working and living in the Caribbean since 2000 and has been a passionate advocate for furthering environmental and agricultural projects. Using her talent for networking, Christine has engaged experts from diverse fields in launching projects such as a marine veterinary non-profit program. This eventually brought her to Grenada with her role as Co-founder/Director of The Grenada Goat Dairy Project. This well-received program produces quality goat dairy products for the local market to help sustain the operational expenses of The Goat Dairy. In doing so, the local population benefits in learning worthwhile skills in agriculture.

Caudley George - Agro-tourism Officer, Ministry of Tourism

Trained in the UK, journalist, travel agent and Currently employee of the Ministry of Tourism involved with special development projects in relation to Agricultural linkages with the Tourism sector for the past 6 years which involve possible export potential of specialised tropical produce.

Jethro Greene, Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN), St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Jethro is the Chief Coordinator who leads CaFAN's. He ensures the networking, information sharing/knowledge management, coordination/advocacy and capacity building amongst its members in support of CaFAN objectives. He provides strategic leadership to ensure technical and operational support such as production planning on a regional scale and brokering producer-buyer relationships.

Ena Harvey - IICA Representative, Barbados & Management Coordinator

Ena Harvey is passionate about linking agriculture with tourism and over the past 12 years, she has been spearheading IICA's initiative in Agrotourism linkages while serving as the Representative, IICA Office in Barbados and Hemispheric Specialist in Agrotourism, and Management Coordinator for the 14 IICA offices in the Caribbean. Her work has included strengthening of the institutional framework for linkages, sharing of best practices and success stories, and diagnostic assessments for investments in rural tourism. She has delivered numerous feature addresses and lead papers on agrotourism at national, regional and international meetings, and currently serves as IICA's representative on the Board of Directors, and the Sustainable Tourism Committee of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation. Ena holds an M.Sc. in Process Engineering and Food & Postharvest Technology from the University of Guelph, Canada, and a B.Sc. First Class (Hons) degree in Tropical Agriculture from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad. She has over 20 years' experience and has completed some 60 consultancy projects in development of the agro-industrial sector in the Caribbean.

Berletta Henlon Forrester – Market Development Manager, JAMPRO

Mrs. Berletta Henlon Forrester is the Market Development Manager in the Government of Jamaica's trade and investment promotion agency, JAMPRO. She has served Jamaica through the agency for over 15 years during which her responsibilities have encompassed provision of business facilitation, business development and international trade promotion support to existing and aspiring exporters. She also has over a decade of private sector experience spanning media and management consulting.

Her current area of focus is facilitating sustainable growth of Jamaica's non-traditional export products in global markets. In this regard, her work takes her to numerous international trade forums and events, where she coordinates and leads delegations of Jamaican private sector firms, facilitating their access to new market opportunities.

Mrs. Forrester's project management and technical assistance experience includes administration of internationally funded service contracts, as well as proposal writing and management of grant funded development projects aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of private sector firms.

Sydney Henry - Projects manager for the Sandals Foundation

Sydney Henry is the projects manager for the Sandals Foundation, which is the charitable and philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International. The organization's mission is focused primarily on the pillars of education, environmental protection and preservation as well as community development. He is currently engaged in developing a policy framework for public private partnerships in education at the early childhood level. This platform develops linkages between the hotel and its guest as well as sustainable parental involvement through the development of targeted interventions in the relationship between policy makers, institutions and the community.

He has worked in both the private and public sectors serving marginalized groups as well as with international non-profit organizations in Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. He has developed interventions for youth at risk and youth in state care. He is the chair and founder of a community development organization and school for rural marginalized youth, providing access in education and entrepreneurial opportunity through agriculture.

Mr. Henry serves as a consultant/facilitator in Trinidad/Tobago serving with the Akoma Development organization where he supports training for the Heroes Foundation, Police youth club, and is currently implementing an intervention in the Laventille community geared towards violence prevention among at risk youth. He also serves as a practicum supervisor for the social work department at the University of the West Indies, Mona and guest lectures for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department at the College of Science Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago. He holds a MSc degree in Social Policy and a BSc in Sociology from the University of the West Indies.

Beverly Johnson – Owner, JLB International Ltd

JLB International Ltd., was incorporated in 1989 as a Non Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC) and International Freight Forwarding Company. Today, JLB International has expanded its core business, which saw the formation of three additional subsidiaries/associates: Johnson's International Freight Network Ltd (JIFNET), JLB Foods International and ISOCON-JLB International, a joint venture partnership fostering collaboration with a Scottish engineering entity. The venture won the IADB/Compete Caribbean Award for Innovation & Vision in 2013.

JLB is a 'One Stop' logistics provider recognized (recently won the coveted **Jamaica Times UK 2014, Entrepreneur Award**). The Head office is located in Jamaica with branch offices in the United Kingdom & Trinidad supported by our global network of agents.

The Company is owned and operated by Beverly Johnson, a Jamaican, whose experience in the maritime industry has spanned over 30 years. She is the Immediate Past President of the Freight Forwarders Association of Jamaica and a former trainer for the United Nations/Trainmar Programme on International Freight Forwarding assigned to the English Speaking Caribbean. Presently she is one of the trainer/facilitators of the Jamaica Customs' – Customs Regulation and Documentation/Trade Facilitation Programme at the Management Institute for National Development (MIND); also a Workshop Presenter for JAMPRO.

She is passionate about making the movement of goods and services, Import or Export a simple process.

Samuel Kruiner - Special Advisor, Export Development, Caribbean Export Development Agency

Over twenty-four (24) year's professional experience at middle and senior management levels in public and private sector entities: Fourteen (14+) years in donor funded Trade and Private Sector Development programme activities in developing countries (CARIFORUM) including skills and knowledge in enterprise competitiveness (Business Development Services, Trade Promotion, Matchmaking); and ten (10) years senior level Private Sector experience in the Agriculture sector (Food Processing), Commercial business (import, sales and distribution). Strong interpersonal skills and experience with network development in the Caribbean. Language skills include Dutch and English.

Dennis McIntosh - Executive Chef, President, Culinary Federation of Jamaica

Dennis is the President of the Culinary Federation of Jamaica. His experience includes Executive Chef at Cardiff Hotel & Spa, Executive Chef at Secrets Resorts St James in Montego Bay, Executive Chef at Tryall Golf & Spa Resort and Executive Chef Ritz Carlton Hotel & Spa Resort.

Donna Noble – Farmer, Woodford Farmer's Market, Jamaica

Donna Noble has operated a film production company producing commercials and documentaries in Jamaica for 40 years. She also owns and operates a certified organic farm for the last 20 years, and in 1994, her company became the first Jamaican company to offer value added packages of locally grown, specially selected variety of organic salad greens to the Jamaican market. Her company recently collaborated with another Jamaican farm to produce a line of seasonings and salad dressings which are now on the Jamaica market. Donna is also a food stylist and has worked with major companies in the food industry in Jamaica and is currently working on a cookbook collection of her product and farm recipes.

Shadel Nyack Compton - Managing Director, Belmont Estate, Grenada

Shadel Nyack Compton is the visionary that transformed Belmont Estate, from a floundering farm to the premiere agri-tourism destination in Grenada. An attorney by profession, she holds a Juris Doctor and Masters in International Law from Georgetown University in Washington DC, USA, and a Masters in Agribusiness from Kansas State University, in Manhattan, Kansas, USA. Ms. Nyack Compton currently serves on the Board of the Grenada Tourism Authority and also serves as the President of the Grenada Organic Cocoa Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd. She is actively involved in contributing to sustainable projects in organic & sustainable farming, sustainable tourism, environmental preservation, community development, and women's issues. She founded The Belmont Foundation, the Charitable arm of Belmont Estate, that focuses on children's education, elderly care, emergency relief and community development. She lives on the island of Grenada where she continues to develop her business and make contribution nationally in her areas of interest.

Richie Richards – Youth Farmer –TFPC –CaFAN

Richie Richards is a youth farmer who owns and operates his own farm – Greenworld Farms. He is from a line of family farmers, following in his grandmother and mother's footprints. Two years ago he became a member of TFPC Antigua and Barbuda's local - CaFAN. Shortly after he attained the position of youth team leader and has represented TFPC at a number of workshops and seminars. Mr Richards is the brains behind a climate smart agriculture project that his team recently received funding approval for from GEF (Global Environmental Facility). He is determined to revolutionize agriculture in his twin island nation and to woo as many youths to see agriculture as a professional career choice.

Dorienne Rowan-Campbell

Dorienne is the Chair of the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement and the Owner of Rowan's Royale organic Farm. She is the Vice president of the Coffee Farmers Association of Jamaica with the responsibility to promote organic Jamaica Blue Mountain and sustainable practices. She is also an International Development Consultant on Gender and Environment. She provides training on change management. She is the 1st Head of Women and Development Programme at Commonwealth Secretariat, the 1st Coordinator Portrayal of Women Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Broadcaster and author, Dorienne has recently been nominated as 2nd Vice president in the Jamaica Coffee Growers Association with a responsibility to promote and develop cultivation and certification of Organic Jamaica Blue Mountain.

Dane Horace Saddler - Caribbean Villa Chefs

Founder and owner of Caribbean Villa Chefs, I gained my training after graduating from Queens College at The Hospitality institute in Barbados before continuing studies at Johnson and Wales University in Miami where I graduated with honours with his Bachelor of Science in Hotel Management. My culinary experiences have seen me managing kitchens in 4 and 5 diamond hotels in the Caribbean. Jade Mountain in St Lucia, The Cotton House in Mustique and The Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados are just a few and I have also been featured at The Scotia Banks Private Clients Group Taste of the Caribbean Polo competition and food festival in Jamaica in 2011 and The local Food and Wine and Rum Festival for the last 3 yr in Barbados. I am also an advocate for the local farming industry and try to promote the use of local produce and livestock through any of my showcases.

Vassel Stewart - President, Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA)

Vassel Stewart is an International Agri-business Development and Marketing Specialist with over 20 years of *diversified and practical experience in agri-business development and marketing* in the Caribbean gained through working with national, regional and international public and private sector organizations, as a manager, C.E.O, director, adviser, consultant and investor in CARICOM. He has been engaged in long term and short term assignments and positions in a management or advisory capacity with public and private sector agricultural, food processing and export companies and export development institutions in 14 Caribbean countries. He is currently the President Caribbean AgriBusiness Association and was previously the Chief Executive Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Agri-business Association (TTABA), a "Development Company" involved in agri-business value-chain development and management. Mr Vassel holds an MBA in International Marketing and Entrepreneurship, a Post Graduate Diploma in Food Technology, a B.Sc. in Agriculture and a Certificate in Quality Management.

Acres Stowe - Technology & Business Specialists Ltd Friars Hill Road St Johns

Acres Stowe has 21 years of proven track record in the Information Technology Industry having spent 18) of those years in Senior Executive Management and Marketing roles. He is currently serving as an Executive Committee member of the Antigua & Barbuda Employer's Federation (ABEF), Director on the board of the Caribbean Confederation of Employers. He served as President of the Antigua & Barbuda Employers Federation (ABEF) for four consecutive terms (2009 - 2013). Acres has been affiliated with CAFAN for the past two (2) years as a Marketing Executive. He has also served in advisory roles and on various committees in Antigua & Barbuda such as: The National committee on the economy; the State Insurance divestment advisory committee; the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) implementation steering committee and the Tax reform committee.

Pamella Thomas - Farmer, Director and Agriculture Coordinator, CaFAN

Pamella is an English Language High School Teacher by Profession. She holds a Master's degree in Management and is presently on secondment to the Ministry of Agriculture – Antigua and Barbuda as CaFAN Agriculture Coordinator. She Owns and operates a two acre family farm for the last 15 years and is also president of local TFPC- CaFAN Antigua and Barbuda and Director - CaFAN Regional. Ms Thomas sits on the United Nations SIDS Steering Committee as the representative for Caribbean Farmers and as such has attended many conferences and workshops on farmers' behalf.