



Promoting regional trade and agribusiness development in the Caribbean

2nd CARIBBEAN AGRIBUSINESS FORUM:

STRENGTHENING THE AGRIFOOD SECTOR and EXPANDING MARKETS

Organised by CTA, IICA, CABA, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Tourism

Barbados, 5-6 November 2015

BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS

Chris Addison – Senior Programme Coordinator, Knowledge Management, CTA

Chris Addison is Senior Coordinator for Knowledge Management (KM) at the ACP-EU 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. He has worked with a range of development organisations with their online KM needs. He contributed to the OpenAire Open Data report as joint author of the Agriculture chapter. Whilst at IFPRI, he commissioned the conversion of the Global Hunger Index data to linked open data and is currently working on a project to publish the CTA archive as a linked open dataset. He is currently running a series of CTA activities to support better use of data for agriculture and nutrition through the Data Revolution for Agriculture project.

Terry Adlington, Managing Director, Tanna Coffee, Vanuatu

Terry's initial background is in building construction and civil and structural engineering which progressed to heavy industry raw production and mining development. His work involves now Estimating, quantity surveying commercial coffee farming and rural industry development.

Terry worked in the Australian coffee industry establishment and promotion and focused on Vanuatu coffee industry revival and establishment. He manages the Tanna Coffee Development Company.

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).

Adela Aru – Principal Product Development Officer, Manager of Vanuatu Tourism

Adela is the National Coordinator at the Vanuatu Tourism Ambassador Programme 2013 to 2015. She managed the Pilot Project funded by NZ Aid Programme with linkage to transport and handicraft industry. Some elements of the programme covered value addition on agro tourism products with the aim of improving quality of visitor experiences and income profitability of participating businesses.

Adela has also been the Principal Product Development Officer at the Department of Tourism from 2008 to 2015. She managed a portfolio for developing the destination as a competitive tourism destination by developing a range of tourism products and services that will contribute to provide a diverse range of experiences for the tourist. This involves working with Department of Industry for developing linkages between tourism and agriculture.

Previously, she was the Strategic Skills Development Manager- TVET Program 2012 to 2013, an Australian funded program focused on skills development with the aim for developing skills for economic development. Priority programs on tourism, agriculture and industries.

In her capacity of Tourism Community Training Officer- 2004 to 2008, she managed the training division of the office by designing awareness materials on how to increase ni-vanuatu participation into the tourism sector.

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 on Agriculture and Rural Development 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, climate change, food security and development policy (<http://brussels.cta.int>).

Pamela Coke-Hamilton – Executive Director, Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA)

Pamela Coke Hamilton has more than 20 years experience in trade policy formulation, capacity building, negotiations and implementation, working at national, regional and multilateral levels.

Prior to joining Caribbean Export, Pamela served as Regional Hub Coordinator for the Caribbean in the Integration and Trade Department of the Inter-American Development Bank and prior to that as Director of Trade and Competitiveness at the Organization of American States. She was also instrumental in the design and implementation of the Masters in International Trade Policy (MITP) Programme at the University of the West Indies, which has provided increased depth to the region's trade policy capability.

Pamela holds a Juris Doctor in Law from the Georgetown University School of Law in Washington, DC, and a BSc in International Relations and Economics from the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. She has published several papers on trade policy, the most recent being "Aid for Trade and the Caribbean: Why It Matters."

Mrs. Coke Hamilton was appointed Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in November 2010 where she has been charged with driving the region's exports and helping to position the Caribbean brand on the world stage to successfully compete.

Alison DeGraff – Participatory GIS, University of West Indies

Ms. DeGraff is an award-winning ethno-cartographer and certified GIS Professional (GISP) with a strong

focus on participatory mapping in island and coastal environments. She has considerable experience in ArcGIS, the Adobe Creative Suite, and web-based mapping platforms and has been received awards for her cartography from the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS), the American Association for Geographers (AAG), and the National Geographic Society. Ms. DeGraff has received research and GIS grants from the Community Foundation for the Virgin Islands (CFVI), the United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Fund – Small Grants Programme (UNDP GEF-SGP), the Compton Foundation, and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri). In 2015, she was elected to the Society of Woman Geographers, a non-profit association exclusively “for women who know no boundaries” designed to stimulate intellectual exchange among traveled women engaged in the study of geography. Ms. DeGraff is currently pursuing a postgraduate degree in Geoinformatics at the University of the West Indies (UWI) - Saint Augustine in Trinidad, and holds an undergraduate degree in Geography from Middlebury College in Vermont, USA. She also took an international course in the Azores (Portugal) on the use and development of geotechnologies to support climate change adaptation in coastal and island environments.

Stephan Durand - Executive Chef/Culinary Consultant | President/Co-Founder of the Haitian Culinary Alliance | Founder and Organizer of Haiti Food & Spirits Festival

Stephan B. Durand is an award winning and highly acclaimed Chef who has made a name for himself as a Culinary Ambassador for home country Haiti. A Graduate of one of the top culinary schools in the USA: Johnson & Wales University, he brings over 16 year of Culinary experience to his curriculum. As the creator of the Haiti Food & Spirits Festival, his vision was to create a platform to give Haitian Culinary talent the visibility they would not normally have, to promote Haiti gastronomy through its local products and to help develop the next generation of culinarians through the support of the local culinary programs. Chef Stephan has been invited all over the world to present and promote Haiti's gastronomy at various culinary events.

Deep Ford – Director of FAO Caribbean Office, Barbados

Dr. J.R. Deep Ford is a national of Guyana and is an Agricultural Economist with over 30 years of experience working as a professional in the food and agricultural sector. Dr. Ford received a B.A. (Economics) from State University of New York; an M.A. (Economics) from McMaster University (Canada) and a PhD (Agricultural Economics) from Purdue University (USA). For the last 15 years, he has worked in various capacities within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), mainly in the areas of food security, trade policy and agricultural investment. Currently, he is the Director of FAO's Office for the Caribbean, Barbados. Prior to this appointment he was based in Panama as the Director of FAO's office for Mesoamerica. Before joining FAO Dr. Ford worked as a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics of the University of Vermont for fourteen years and also taught at the University of Guyana (Economics Department).

Jethro Greene – Chief Coordinator, Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN)

The Chief Coordinator leads CaFAN's 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.

Michael Hailu – Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) based in the Netherlands. CTA is a joint institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union working under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience in agricultural research and development in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining CTA in mid-2010, he held senior leadership positions at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) based in Nairobi, Kenya and at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. Mr. Hailu has led the development and implementation of CTA's 2011-2015 strategic plan

refocusing the Centre's work on three priority themes—supporting agricultural policies and strategies; enhancing inclusive value chains; and strengthening capacities of ARD institutions and networks in knowledge management and ICTs. He has degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Addis Ababa University. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

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.

Milton Haughton – Executive Director, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

Milton Haughton is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism which is headquartered in Belize. He attended the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, University of Buckingham, London Metropolitan University and the University of Law, London; and has training in fisheries, aquaculture, management and law. He has more than 33 years of practical work experience in fisheries and aquaculture. Mr Haughton worked for over 8 years with the Fisheries Department, Jamaica, approximately 2 years in the private sector (marketing and trade of fish and seafood), and over 23 years at the regional level in the Caribbean and Latin America. He has substantial experience working at multiple levels with fisherfolk and coastal communities, national and regional policy-makers and government officials. Mr. Haughton has written and published extensively on various aspects of fisheries, aquaculture and ocean governance in the Caribbean.

H.E. Dr. Len Monica Ishmael – Ambassador of Eastern Caribbean States (ECS)

Dr. Ishmael is a citizen of St. Lucia. She graduated from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica in 1974 BA (Honors) Economics and Geography; University New York City MA Urban Planning 1978 and the University of Pennsylvania, (PENN) Philadelphia PhD Development Economics & Planning 1988. She was awarded the Order of Merit of the Kingdom of Spain in March 2010 in recognition of her work in deepening ties between the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Kingdom of Spain and the Medal of Merit of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in May 2005 for her work in deepening relations between the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the OECS counties. In February 2014 Dr. Ishmael was appointed Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States Missions to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union representing the countries of St Vincent & the Grenadines, St Lucia, Dominica and St Kitts & Nevis. From May 2003 – December 2013, Dr. Ishmael was the Director General of the OECS - an intergovernmental, international organization established by Treaty in 1981 comprising nine Member States. Under her leadership the OECS drafted and ratified a new Treaty on June 18, 2010 to establish the OECS Economic Union and associated new institutions. From August 1997 to May 2003 Dr. Ishmael was the Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) for the Caribbean servicing 23 countries in Central and South America and in the insular Caribbean.

Janak P. Gafar– Hilo Import, Holland

Janak He is currently working for a Dutch Company call EXOTIMEX BV, as their procuring person for all their fruits and vegetable, such as hot peppers, chille, okra and garden egg from Uganda. From the 1th October 2015, he re-started the trading operation of Hilo Import in the Netherland.

Janek has 25 years experience in the trade /marketing of ethnic produces from the Caribbean and East & West Africa, for markets in England, Holland, Belgium and France. He owns for 8 years the largest Tropical Supermarket in the Netherland, Hilo Supermarket.

He worked for the Caribbean Agricultural Trading Company (CATCO) in Barbados 1984 to 1987 as the European Market Adviser based in Rotterdam. He also worked for FINTRACT CONSULTANT as Market Adviser for Ghana and Uganda Vegetable Export and as director /adviser for Dutch Project POSM in Uganda on Pack house and Production of Vegetable and Fruits.

Additionally he was the director /adviser on COORDAITH project in Uganda on Vanilla Production and hot peppers and worked as director /adviser on Dutch Project POSM in Ghana on Fresh Frozen Cassava and Yams for export to Holland.

Mr. Jimmi Anderson Jones – Co Owner of JimSan Aquaponics Farm and Belizean Fresh

Mr. Jones is Barbadian by birth and married his wife Sandra Lee who is Jamaican by birth in 1999 and migrated to Belize 2 weeks after their marriage. They pioneered 2 churches a preschool and now their Farm JimSan Aquaponics and Belizean Fresh, the brand they sell their produce under. Jimmi was trained in 2008 at Morning Star Fisherman in Tilapia Framing and Aquaponics. He has since pioneered the first commercial Aquaponics Farm in Belize and hopes to start similar farms in the region. He and his wife are now currently expanding their facilities to meet the demand for their produce. Jimmi is trained in Leadership, Mediation, Entrepreneurship, communications, Sustainable Farming, Aquaculture, Hydroponics, Aquaponics and Customs Brokerage.

Junior Lodge – Team Leader, ACP-EU TBT Programme

Mr. Lodge is an international trade expert with over 20 years' professional experience. Currently, he serves as Team Leader, ACP-EU TBT Programme – an EDF-funded trade capacity building vehicle. Prior to that, he worked as an independent consultant with key assignments being writing two ECDPM-commissioned papers on the political economy of the ACP work in both the WTO and international organizations; and a paper on “ACP Successes and Failures” as part of the EPG reflection on the ACP future.

Previous jobs include Programme Director, ACP MTS Programme (2013-2014); Technical Coordinator, DDA Negotiations, Geneva (2008-2012); Technical Coordinator, CARIFORUM EPA Negotiations, Brussels (2002-2008) - both at the now CARICOM Office of Trade Negotiations. He also spent 5 years based in London as Executive Director, JAMCO – a Jamaican Government-owned firm representing the commercial and trade policy interests of the banana industry. He began his career as Director of Trade Policy at JAMPRO – Jamaica's trade promotion agency, including work on both FTAA and BITS negotiations.

Mr. Lodge has published on international trade issues from the perspective of small, vulnerable economies, including co-authoring the book: *CARIFORUM-EU EPA – A Practitioners' Analysis* (Kluwer). He completed post-graduate studies first in Monetary Economics at Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies in Kingston, Jamaica and later in International Trade Policy Research at the Institute of World Economics (IfW)in Kiel, Germany.

Ken Lohento – Coordinator youth entrepreneurship in agriculture

Ken Lohento joined the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) in 2009 and where he coordinates ICT use and youth entrepreneurship in agriculture projects in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. He manages the “Agriculture, Rural Development and Youth in the Information Society (ARDYIS) project, which supports capacity building and opportunities for youth in agriculture through ICTs. Two key activities of this project include the *Youth in Agriculture Blog Competition* (YoBloCo Awards) and the AgriHack Talent initiative which promotes mobile and ICT

applications development and service provision by youth in agriculture. Ken also co-manages the web 2.0 and social media training program, oversee the implementation of youth in agriculture projects by partners, and is involved in e-agriculture strategy activities.

He has over 15 years of experience, holds a master of research on information sciences and has studied business management. He has worked with institutions including the Panos Institute West Africa, UNESCO, the International Organisation of French speaking countries (OIF), as well as in the Oridev association he has founded and through which he contributed to pioneering ICT use for development in Benin. He was a member of the United Nations' Internet Governance Forum Advisory Group from 2006 to 2009.

Matthew McNaughton – SlashRoots Foundation Executive Director Jamaica

Matthew McNaughton is the Executive Director of the SlashRoots Foundation, a civic tech non-profit building technology and communities to address development issues in the Caribbean. In this role he develops strategies and leads projects to improve the design and delivery of public services and development programmes. He focuses on the process by which institutions be become more data-driven, utilizing open data, user-centred design, and beneficiary feedback loops emphasizing local capacity building and tech ecosystem development.

Riyad Mohammed – Assistant Manager, Baron Foods Limited

Riyad Mohammed is the Assistant Manager at Baron Foods Limited from 2010 to 2015. He currently works directly with the Managing Director, Mr. Ronald Ramjattan in assisting with the daily functions of the business. Mr. Mohammed is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Management at the University of the West Indies (UWI) – Open Campus in St. Lucia. In addition, he has also received certificates in other courses which he attended throughout his employment period with the company.

Guy Pierre Morel – Management and Marketing Consultant (MSc MBA)

Guy is an Agronomist and Management Professional with 23 years of corporate experience at leadership level in profit driven and non-profit driven organisations, spanning Agriculture, Telecommunications, Insurance, Airline, Beverage and Tertiary Education industries. Guy is an Associate Lecturer at University of Seychelles and Principal Consultant at SGM and Partners Consulting, a Strategic Network of Consultants in the fields of Management, Environment and Agriculture.

Marie Louis Norton-Murray – President, European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago (EUROCHAMTT)

Marie Louise is a Project Management Professional (PMP) and Economist whose main activity is support to SMEs in the conceptual design, development and management of projects especially in the area of sustainable development with emphasis on agroindustry, tourism and clean technology. She has worked in the international development field as the Handholding consultant then Contact Office in the Caribbean for the ACP-EU PROINVEST programme from 2004 to 2008 and as the Caribbean Regional Project Officer for the ACP-EU Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) in Santo Domingo (2008 to 2013) with responsibility for the project operations in the 15 CARIFORUM countries. Prior to involvement in international development, she spent much of her career in the international accounting firms in the business support area and now successfully combines her exposure to international development and business to provide very practical support in the field of sustainable development. She is a founding member and first President of the European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago.

Shailesh Naidu – Executive Chef – Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort

He's the first and only Fijian-born, 5-star executive chef in Fiji and is the nation's most decorated chef. After starting his career at a few Denarau 5 stars, Shailesh moved to Outrigger on the Lagoon Fiji in 2001

as an Executive Sous Chef and after successfully working under 3 expatriate chefs; he was promoted to Executive Chef.

He has national and international awards under his belt, key once being 2 time 'Fiji Chef of the Year', Gold medalist 'Oceania Chef of the Year' plus winning the 'One World Culinary Competition' in Johannesburg South Africa while representing Australasia.

His signature restaurant at Outrigger 'IVI' won 'Aon Excellence Awards Restaurant of the Year' in 2006 and 2012. Shailesh was also named the 'Front-liner of the Year in Tourism'.

A few years back Shailesh was voted as the President of Fiji Chefs Association with main event been the 'Moffat Salon Culinaire', Fiji's largest chef's competition to date, 360 entries for 3 ½ days of competition.

Shailesh has been working closely with culinary schools and gives opportunities to students from all over Fiji to get their industrial kitchen training completed. Shailesh has groomed many young upcoming chefs who now trade their talent worldwide.

Shailesh was also the brain behind to execute his dream project the 'School Chef Challenge' for high school students with over 100 students competing and the winners walking away with their respective medals, certificates and lucrative prizes.

Last year Shailesh got invited as a guest chef by the Crystal Cruises for their 2 week 'Food & Wine Festival'. A cruise through the Pacific Ocean did master class and gala dinner showcasing 'Island cuisine' in their cruise ship the 'Crystal Symphony'.

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.

Noemi Perez – President and CEO, FAST President and CEO

Noemi Perez is the President and CEO of the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST). FAST is a Canadian based association promoting access to finance for sustainable producers in developing countries while providing value added to socially and environmentally oriented financial institutions. FAST consists of 152 members in 31 countries including financial institutions, technical assistance providers, SMEs and other stakeholders in the sustainable trade arena. FAST represents socially and environmentally oriented institutions investing more than half a billion USD in SME sustainable agriculture. (www.fastinternational.org)

Noemi Perez holds a Master Degree in Business Planning and Regional Development. With more than 20 years of experience in sustainable production, trade and access to finance, Ms. Perez has worked with key stakeholders including: financial institutions, community based producers, SMEs, industry players, government, multilaterals and certification bodies around the world. She worked in the private sector as the General Manager of the third largest wooden door factory in Latin America with 600 employees. She has worked in international NGOs in leadership roles, including: FSC International and WWF. She has deep understanding of international sustainable certification schemes. She has worked/lived in Mexico, Costa Rica, Germany and Canada. She has carried out work missions in more than 40 countries in North, Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. As the Executive Director of FAST, she was the head of the Secretariat team for the first five years of operations of FAST, leading the start-up of this pioneer organization to a sustainable growth. Ms. Perez's international experience forging partnerships between private sector and NGO led sustainable trade and finance institutions has made her one of the world's leading experts in these areas.

Ms. Perez was an advisor to the Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance of the International Coffee

Organization from 2012 to 2015. She is part of the Steering Committee of the Forest and Farm Facility of FAO since 2013.

Robert Oliver – Chef, The Pacific

Robert Oliver is a New Zealand chef who was raised in Fiji and Samoa. He has developed restaurants in New York, Miami, Las Vegas and Sydney, "farm to table" resorts in the Caribbean and food programs feeding homeless people and African immigrants with AIDS in New York City.

Robert returned to the South Pacific from the Caribbean to write his first cookbook with Dr. Tracy Berno and Fijian photographer Shiri Ram.

Written with a development mission to connect Pacific agriculture to the regions tourism sector, "Me'a Kai The Food and Flavours of the South Pacific" stunned the food world by winning top prize, "Best Cookbook in the World 2010," at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in Paris, considered to be the Oscars of cookbooks, beating the books from NOMA (the worlds best restaurant) and The New York Times. In 2015 "Me'a Kai" was deemed by the Frankfurt Bookfair to be the 3rd best cookbook in the world in all categories for the years 1995-2015.

In 2013, Robert released "Mea'ai Samoa: Recipes and Stories from the Heart of Polynesia" (Random House). In May 2014, this book won the "Best TV Chef Cookbook in the World 2013" at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in Beijing in association with his television series REAL PASIFIK. REAL PASIFIK is the Pacific's first regional food television series and travels across the Pacific Islands connecting chefs to traditional cuisine and local agriculture

Robert is Chef Ambassador for Le Cordon Bleu and is a judge on the hit prime time cooking show "My Kitchen Rules" and is host for the Maori reality cooking show "Marae Kai Masters"

Please google Roberts TED talk called "Recipes For Development" to better understand his work

David Picking – Researcher, Natural Products Institute, University of the West Indies

Dr David Picking is a Research Fellow at the Natural Products Institute, University of the West Indies, (UWI), Mona, Jamaica where his research to date has focussed on the contemporary use of medicinal plants by Jamaicans and screening medicinal plants for their potential impact on pharmaceutical drugs, a key area in medicinal plant safety. The longer term aim of this research is to support the development of a strong evidence base for safe medicinal plant use within the Jamaican healthcare system and to support the development of a successful Jamaican nutraceutical industry. David's work has contributed to the Caribbean pharmacopeia maintained by the TRAMIL network that focuses on traditional medicines in the Caribbean region. David was recently appointed to the board of Directors of Perishables Jamaica, a leading producer of traditional herbal teas. David came to Jamaica through a Commonwealth Scholarship and successfully completed his PhD in biochemistry at the UWI, Mona. David is a graduate of the School of Integrated Health, University of Westminster, London, where he completed his training as a medical herbalist.

Dr. Bheshem Ramlal – Faculty of Engineering, UWI

Bheshem Ramlal is a senior lecturer attached to the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, Faculty of Engineering, UWI St. Augustine. He has worked at the UWI for the last 21 years. He completed his Ph.D in spatial information engineering in 1996 at the University of Maine. He obtained an MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Geoinformatics from the ITC, Netherlands and graduated with a BSc. in Land Surveying from the UWI in 1988. At present he is the public relations officer of the Institute of Surveyor of Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice President of WIGUT. He is also serving as deputy chairman of a Faculty of Engineering committee charged with developing a new Faculty Evaluation System for the Assessment and Promotion of Academic staff. Part of the mandate of the committee is to examine workload issues.

Dora Rossi – Chef

Born in New Zealand from an Italian father and Samoan mother, Dora Rossi was raised in Italy where she attended the Culinary Institute “Istituto Alberghiero Beltrame” in Vittorio Veneto.

Dora fine-tuned her skills at a variety of restaurants in Europe and New Zealand until she moved to Samoa where she is currently the Head chef and co-owner of Paddles Restaurant & Milani cafe’, Tripadvisor’s 1st and 2nd best eats in Samoa.

Sustainable and locally grown products are very important to Dora, and she loves to apply farm to table cooking to Samoan cuisine. She is featured in Real Pasifik’s television show with Chef Robert Oliver which aired in 33 countries and also features a recipe in his second global award winning cook book ‘Mea’ai Samoa’. Dora hand picks her produce every morning at the local market.

Dane Saddler – Executive Chef, Caribbean Villa Chefs, Barbados

Dane Saddler is a national award winning chef with over 15 years experience in fine dining cuisine under his belt throughout the Caribbean. He is the founder of Caribbean Villa Chefs, a company offering private chefs for villas, private homes and businesses in the Caribbean region. They are now contracted by major hospitality companies in 3 continents and their cuisine and flair are a hit with locals as well. Dane has appeared and hosted several cooking shows in Barbados and has auditioned for The Food Network in the USA. He has now recently partnered to form Nutritiously Inspired, a healthy cuisine line focused on offering healthy convenient options to the health conscious market. He works with the Heart and stroke Foundation, the council for Non Communicable Diseases and the Ministry of Health in Barbados to promote and educate the public on making food choices beneficial to their health and in doing this has partnered with the OGCA (The organic growers and consumers association) to promote organic produce.

Leonard Seale – Secretary and marketing officer, Addis Alem Cooperative, Barbados

Leonard Seale is the secretary and marketing officer of Addis Alem Cooperative Society Ltd. Addis Alem Co-operative Society Ltd is a agriculture marketing coop created to improve the standard of living of our members through co-operative self-help and a united approach to common problems that they may ultimately play a highly important role in the growth of our nation’s economy while ensuring its food sovereignty. Addis Alem Co-operative Society Ltd was founded on May 20, 2014.

Addis Alem developed the Cropguard application at CTA’s hackathon last year in Surinam. Cropguard won the Second Prize. Cropguard is an agriculture app that seeks to enhance food security by helping farmers to protect their crops through pest diagnosis, monitoring and control. Crop Guard is supported by the National Council for Science and Technology of Barbados.

Vassel E. Stewart – President, Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA)

Vassel E. Stewart is an Agri-business & International Marketing Development Specialist, with years of experience in agri-business and market development in the Caribbean, gained through working in various positions including Director, C.E.O, Adviser, Consultant and Investor. He has been engaged in many assignments with development organizations including the UNDP, FAO, IDB, Commonwealth Secretariat, CARICOM Secretariat, IICA and CARDI and with international private sector firms including Cargill, Fintrac and Sibley International. His work in the sector covers the full range of activities along the value chain from research, policy and strategy development and implementation of programmes.

He is currently the President of CABA and a member of the “CARICOM Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Cluster”. Mr. Stewart holds a EMBA in International Marketing and Entrepreneurship, a Post Graduate Diploma in Food Technology, a B.Sc. in Agriculture and a Certificate in Quality Management.

Winston Stona – International Expert – Speciality Food Sector

Co-funder of the Busha Browne’s Company and award-winning artisanal agro-processor, Winston Stona has over 40 years experience in international sales, marketing and distribution of value-added products.

He is recognised regionally for his contribution to brand development, product development and strategic marketing programmes in Agro-industry.

A former executive in Jamaica Tourist Board and the Jamaica Fashion Export Guild, he is also associated with the development of the Caribbean Herbal Sector through his direct involvement with the Jamaica Herbs & Spices Company, owners of Blue Mountain Aromatics –a premier range of personal care products.

He currently acts as consultant in international sales & Marketing for Associated Manufacturers Limited, who have recently acquired Busha Browne's Company and Walkerswood Caribbean Foods.

As Director of the Jamaica Exporters Association and the Competitiveness Company, he is deeply committed to regional development of the region.

Dr. Víctor M. Villalobos – Director General, IICA

Dr. Víctor M. Villalobos is a Mexican professional specializing in the fields of agriculture, natural resources and genetics. In the course of his long career, in which he has held a number of senior management and technical positions, he has made major contributions and supported innovation in the areas of plant production and the conservation of genetic and natural resources.

Dr. Villalobos was Undersecretary in the Federal Government for the Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP), and the second time, as Agriculture Undersecretary for the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA). Dr. Villalobos was the Director of the Agriculture Division (1986-1990) in the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE). He also served as Director of the Biotechnology Unit (1990-1995) and President of the Board of Directors (1999-2003) of CATIE.

He has also had over 70 scientific articles and chapters published in prestigious international journals and Dr. Víctor M. Villalobos was sworn in as the tenth Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in 2010 and reelected to serve a second term (2014-2018).

On August 20, 2013, he received an honorary doctorate from the Universidad Nacional de Asunción, in Paraguay, for his outstanding contributions to the agricultural sector.

Alberta Malielegaoi Vitale – Associate Director WIBDI, Samoa

Associate Director Alberta Malielegaoi oversees all of Women in Business Development Inc's operations, which includes the organic programme, finance, media and communications, donor projects and human resources. She currently sits on National Advisory Organic Steering Committee, the Private Sector Support Facility, the Samoa National Tripartite Committee, Samoa National Codex Committee, and Trade Commerce and Manufacturing Sector Plan Steering Committee. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration with a major in marketing and management from the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Troy Weekes – Addis Alem Cooperative, Barbados

Troy Weekes is the Eminent National Expert for mobile innovation in Barbados under the WorldSummit Award (WSA). Troy is a national development scholar and futurist on e-learning, human factors and ergonomics. The mission of Addis Alem Co-op is to improve the standard of living of our members through co-operative self-help and a united approach to common problems that they may ultimately play a highly important role in the growth of our nation's economy while ensuring its food sovereignty. Addis Alem Co-operative Society Ltd was founded on May 20, 2014. The Co-operative is governed according its well constituted By-Laws by a democratically elected Board and Supervisory Committee. Membership of the Addis Alem Co-op has combined experience in agronomics, crop production, agro-processing, marketing, technology, construction and sustainable development at the community level. Addis Alem developed the cropguard application at CTA's hackathon last year in Surinam. CropGuard won the Second Prize. CropGuard is an agriculture app that seeks to enhance food security by helping farmers to protect their crops through pest diagnosis, monitoring and control. Crop Guard is supported by the National Council for Science and Technology of Barbados.

Erik Wolf – Founder, World Food Travel Association

Erik Wolf is the visionary founder of the world's food tourism industry, and of the World Food Travel Association. He is a highly sought speaker, thought leader, strategist and consultant, in the US and abroad, on food and drink tourism issues, and is considered the go-to food tourism industry resource for media outlets that have included CNN, the BBC, the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, NBC, GQ, Forbes, PeterGreenberg.com, Huffington Post, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Arirang Korea, Sky Media (UK) and many more. Erik also advises to UNESCO's Creative Cities Network gastronomy program.