



## PARTNERSHIP TO FACE GLOBAL TREND

The global trend that embraces Suriname and all other Countries of the America, has made more and more urgent the need to discuss political, economical and social alternatives in a more collective and consultative mode to guarantee strong alliances and partnership among the Countries of the Americas and also within the same Countries.

Under this scope the IIIrd Summit of the Americas took place, in April 2001, in the city of Quebec, Canada. His Excellency the President of Suriname, Mr. Ronald R. Venetian, was also present at that meeting. This IIIrd Summit, like the previous ones (1994 in Miami,

USA and 1998 in Santiago, Chile), brought together all the Heads of State of the Americas to discuss and decide on their political commitments and suggestions for a major partnership among their Countries to achieve economical and social development within the frame of integration.

Taking the opportunity during this IIIrd Summit, the Head of States, for the first time, recommended the inclusion of "Agriculture and Rural Life" as a strategic topic in the Summit process.

To effect this inclusion the Heads of State recommended that all the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas should prepare a *Ministerial Declaration for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas*, through a process of participation with the different stakeholders of the sector.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), charged by the same Heads Of State to be the Coordinating Agency for these processes, completed a very dedicated effort of participatory consultations with every one of the 34 Countries of

the Americas. The results were presented to the Ministerial Meeting of Agriculture (IABA) in the Dominican Republic during the last week of November 2001, at which the Ministers of Agriculture of the 34 Countries gave their formal approval.

It is also timely to announce that during the Agricultural Ministerial Meeting held in Dominican Republic at the end of November, the 34 Member Countries voted for a new Director General of IICA who for the next four years (2002-2006) will command the organization in its important responsibilities during the challenging times to come in the Americas. Elected was Dr. Chelston Brathwaite - a native of Barbados. To Dr. Brathwaite our best wishes for a successful mandate. Dr. Brathwaite replaces Dr Carlos Aquino Gonzalez, who was Director General of IICA for the last 8 years. The Head Quarters of IICA is in San José, Costa Rica in Central America.

Ernani-Fiori  
IICA Representative in Suriname

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*As we come to the end of another year of fruitful work, cordial relationships and good friendship in Suriname, we take the opportunity to convey to all our readers our Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and Good Fortune in the New Year.*



## DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE HEMISPHERE

In response to the recommendation of the IIIrd Summit of the Americas the Ministers of Agriculture (IABA) meeting in the Dominican Republic at the end of November approved a Joint Declaration for the improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

This Declaration arrived at through a process of consultations involving stakeholders in all branches of the agricultural and rural communities within the 34 countries of the Americas which yielded national consensus on the need to implement medium- and long-term strategies for the sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life.

Among the major commitments agreed to in this Declaration are the following

- The sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, must be based on objectives of greater equity and competitiveness, sustainable management of natural resources and democratic governance.
- Food security, food safety and food quality in national policies are of the highest priority.
- Dialogue among all levels of government, business and agricultural organizations and civil society is a must for reaching agreement on strategies and commitments related to the management of agriculture and rural development.
- Agriculture should generate economic growth with equity and provide alternatives to illicit crops, prevents the degradation of natural resources, and creates employment opportunities for vulnerable groups.
- Improving information and technological opportunities among the countries of the Hemisphere is fundamental to enhance their international competitiveness, ensuring the optimum use and sustainability of the resources.
- Support the creation of free trade areas in the Americas according to WTO conditions and other multilateral trade negotiations in place in the Region.
- Support the agri-food production and trade, with special emphasis on rural financing, agricultural health and technology innovation and transfer.

### IICA SURINAME AND COUNTERPARTS IN DIALOGUE



The Consultative Process beginning in Suriname

During the month of September last IICA Suriname called for a dialogue with the main stakeholders of the Agricultural Sector to revise and continue strengthening its plans and strategies of technical cooperation for Suriname.

Three IICA professionals, one from IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica and two from the Regional Directorate, came to Suriname to work together with IICA Suriname staff to participate in this exercise, and, over a period of one week various meetings were conducted with 50 stakeholders from the private and public sectors, non-governmental organizations and the University.

### AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ANALYSIS BEING ORGANIZED

The Government of Suriname, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV), is organizing a comprehensive Analysis of the Agricultural Sector. This is to be implemented through a participatory process involving public and private sector stakeholders of the Sector under the leadership of LVV. According to LVV this exercise will take about six months. The scope of the study is precisely described by its proposed

title: "Agricultural Sector Analysis and Preparation of a Medium to Long-term Agricultural Policy and Strategic Directional Frame" The exercise is timely, considering the strong challenges facing a Suriname Agriculture emerging into very complex macroeconomic situation within a world which is imposing new competitiveness demands on Suriname in the international marketplace. This Sectoral Analysis may be an important guide to mechanisms to

coordinate the common efforts of the government, the private sector and the international community for the achievement of a sustainable development of the agricultural sector in the long term. IICA, together with other international aid and donor agencies, has been supporting this effort which may be implemented with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

## FORWARD TOGETHER: THE CARICOM NATIONAL CONSULTATION IN SURINAME

Following the recommendation of the Heads of State for the Caribbean Region, CARICOM Countries held National Consultations involving the civil society in each country, aimed at creating one strategy for the development of the Region and its peoples (Forward Together). The following three papers are synopses of presentations made by various private sector representatives at the National Consultation for Suriname hosted by the Caricom Secretariat and IDB on 12 October last.

### THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

(Mr. Georgine de Miranda, Legal Consultant)

#### Functional Democracy

The traditional system of representative democracy in which citizens have the chance to choose the government once in four or five years, does not seem to work well enough nowadays as an instrument to guarantee a sustainable participation of the civil society in the social-economic development of countries. New forms of participation require a new approach to ensure a truly functional democracy.

#### Charter of Civil Society and Good Governance

In February 1997 the Heads of State of the Caribbean Community accepted the "CARICOM Charter of Civil Society" as the instrument to settle, among other things, the principles of a free media and an honest and open democracy. In that Charter the Member States came together to safeguard also, among other considerations, the use of all relevant actions to promote good governance.

To achieve these principles, every Member Country is required to hold sincere consultancies with the social partners within the state, to establish conformity between these partners.

#### Consultation Platform of Non-governmental Actors or the Civil Society

Normally such consultations have not been held, and, when they have

been held, they were limited to specific aspects of socio-economic development. The successful efforts are characterized by a firm groundwork, a proactive attitude, a high degree of organization and expertise.

The ultimate aim of this Platform is to establish agreement on the content, aims and execution of socio-economic policies which have radical consequences for the society.

The objectives of this "Consultation Platform" are:

- 1 To give the government the opportunity to
  - utilize the expertise of non-governmental organizations,
  - enlarge the basis for policies,
  - deepen the content of policies.
- 2 For the non-governmental actors or the civil society in general, to allow a more efficient use of their time and their more effective contribution to policy-making.
- 3 To allow more efficient use of the scarce financial resources available for development.

Main priorities to consider in the establishment of such a Consultative framework are:

- 1 Equality in representation.
- 2 Democratic representation - the preconditions being:
  - democratic selection
  - professionalism of all actors.
- 3 Ability to hire expertise.

- 4 Preserving interest and voting rights of all actors, including those in the weaker groups in the socio-economy;
- 5 A sound structure with an effective supervisory mechanism.

Potential members of this platform are:

- 1 The Business Community
- 2 Employers and Employee Organizations, e.g. SER
- 3 NGO sector (including Organised Rural Communities)
- 4 The non-institutional and non-formal sectors

The Platform should focus on guidance on:

- 1 Establishing a Code of Conduct for public servants, which will make their performance measurable and accountable.
- 2 Creating the institution of Ombudsman.
- 3 Establishing education in civics
- 4 Implementing the CARICOM Charter of Civil Society.

#### Design of Good Governance

In any event legislation will be required for the design of good governance, safeguarding

- 1 An independent and unbiased judicial system
- 2 An effective administration
- 3 Respect for the constitutional state
- 4 Protection of human rights.



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Ron Adama - Education Consultant

### Some Basic Assumptions:

Globalization is a great threat, but it is also a great challenge to Suriname. The development of the human capital is a major contributor to the economy. Restructuring of the vocational educational system in Suriname is required to establish modern, affordable and high-quality school and training facilities.

### Vocational Training as the "Motor" of the Economy and the Society

Vocational training covers the entire course of education:- Primary, Technical and Higher Technical School, including Polytechnic College. The social partners (government, employers and labor unions) need to recognize the important role that "human capital" plays in economic development. "Human Capital" is a sustainable means of production that can be used to ensure that Suriname maintains a place in the international market despite rapidly changing technology. A well-educated population can be a decisive factor in determining the competitiveness of Suriname within and outside of the Caricom region. This willingness to invest in the learning and development of people and therefore in the economy and the

society is a must for the social partners. Education, in particular vocational training, is listed very high on political agendas because without learning there can be no employment, without employment there is no growth in production and productivity, no economic development and no new employment.

### Wise Investment in Human Resource Development (Vocational Training) for Suriname

We must recognize that in Suriname today vocational training is in a state of crisis. There is a great shortage of educational tools and the numbers of dropouts and repeaters are very high. If we look at developments in industrial production, the dominance of the Internet and other ICT-innovations, and at globalization, we can see that it is now a prerequisite that the educational facilities are re-organized to meet the needs and demands of today's job market. The existing vocational training is not successfully making the connections between skills education and the current job market.

The burning question is: how can vocational training be developed as a efficient and effective tool to educate

people given the limited resources now available. The social partners suggest a program to make vocational training more dynamic by a restructuring with the following objectives:

Removing communications barriers between job markets (business community and industry) and vocational training facilities

Increase in the speed of adaptation vocational training facilities to the new demands of the job market.

Flexibility in the delivery of this training to students in order to create shorter tuition periods and a greater number of graduates with nationally and internationally recognized certificates.

The acquisition of fundamental skills such as social competence, civic responsibilities, the capacity to learn on the job.

Strengthening the relationship between vocational training and the business community to guarantee the relevance of the curricula.

Strengthening cooperation between educators, labour unions and the business community in the education and re-training of workers and job seekers.

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### C. Key Elements

on which our competitiveness as a Region depends are costs, energy-policies, environmental standards, and production qualities and quantities. And for Suriname a Bureau of Standards should be developed

### D. Restructuring of the Financial Environment of the SME

is needed with the focus on:

- > development of an affordable and reliable communications network
- > modernization of legislation, rules and regulations, etc.
- > management of financial crises

Furthermore for small and medium sized enterprises there is a need to study and implement of International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendations and to support their growth and competitiveness.

### E. Innovative Actions to Invite Foreign Capital and Stimulate Capital Growth

require that basic conditions are

created which are investor-friendly, such as improving the method of allocating Foreign Exchange, modernizing the Investment Law and the climate for Investment, modernizing Labour Legislation and systematizing Economic Planning. The growth of local capital will require advice and training at different levels in accounting, administration, commercial negotiations, etc., and improvements in the operation of the informal sphere in order to minimise delays

### F. Enlarging the Productive Base of the Region

requires that the Government

- follows the recommendations of the BF regarding skills development
- improves land use
- introduces programmes for working parents, school dropouts, school-leavers, the handicapped, persons with HIV-Aids, etc.

and requires that the Private Sector

- centralizes all opportunities in the private sector in one institu-

tion

- encourages young entrepreneurs to adopt modern technologies
- adopts life-long training part of the enterprise culture

and requires that Trade Unions

- improve redundancy schemes
- develop the cooperative sector

### G. Improving the Financial Environment

Besides the generating of government revenues the tax system also has to focus on encouraging the growth and development of the private sector by dealing with unfriendliness towards local and foreign investors, old and misunderstood laws, bureaucracy and the absence of free market ideas

### H. Free Movement and Employment of Qualified Personnel within Caricom Borders.

Not only must there be a free movement of skilled personnel throughout the region but there must also be freedom to establish businesses anywhere in the region.

## PURSuing EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE CARIBBEAN - THE ROLE OF CACHE

Responding to the mandate of CARICOM which in July 1996 was considering a Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture, the Caribbean Council for Higher Education (CACHE) was created. Its formation in 1997 was led by the University of the West Indies together with IICA through its Regional Centre and its Representations throughout the Caribbean.

The main concern that brought CACHE into existence was the need to modernize the agricultural sector in the Caribbean Region through the development of human resources in agribusiness. To achieve this objective the private

and public organizations related to higher education in the Caribbean were called upon to participate actively.

Since November 1997, Cache has been actively working in eleven universities in the region: four (4) from the Dominican Republic, two (2), from Guyana and one from each of the following countries - Suriname, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Specific activities during the last two years include: Establishing a Caribbean-wide accreditation mechanism among core

members. Incorporating as Ordinary Members, diploma-awarding tertiary organizations with strong agriculture or agribusiness programmes. Inducing organization and support for the operation of Local Chapters of CACHE in Caribbean Member countries.

Publishing a CACHE Brochure in English, Spanish and French. Expanding the scope of CACHE's actions through a membership drive and strategic alliances. Promoting Faculty and Student Exchanges among CACHE's Core and Ordinary Members.

## COMPETITIVENESS AND THE CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME)

by Mr Marcel Meyer - Representative Business Forum

### A. General View

Due to the so-called 'globalization' we live in a world in which a majority of commodities and services move across borders through Trans-National Enterprises. Competitiveness will increase on the local market. The question now is how the groupings of Social Economic Partners and the Civil Society (NGO's) will develop strategic alliances within our countries.

### B. The Business Forum (BF)

The Business Forum was established in Suriname in May 1999, with the objective of creating a platform for Public Sector - Private Sector Partnership (PPP). The aim is to formulate a national strategy by consultation between the Government and the Civil Society.

The BF will be concerned with execution of the Cotonou Agreement and with business opportunities in

Caricom, Mercosur and the FTAA. Its long-term objective is strengthening the productive capacity and competitiveness of the private business community in Suriname. Its short-term objective is to formulate national strategies for development of the business community, the government and itself.

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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROJECT

### CURRENT PASSION FRUIT PRODUCTION

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, with the cooperation of the IICA Office in Suriname, carried out a quick survey to assess the status of yellow passion fruit production in the country. The survey revealed that most of the 70 yellow passion fruit producers interviewed are located in District Para (35), followed by District Saramacca (22) and District Wanica (10). District Commewijne, now recorded as having only 2 of the total in the country, used to produce considerably more passion fruit [data from Tropica Food Industries]. Growers in this area have indicated, however, that they intend to go into production again. The 70 producers interviewed, together grow 90 hectares of yellow passion fruit. The average production per ha/year is 12 000 kg. The most common production system is the single trellis sub-optimal system, which means that no intensive prun-



A young passion fruit orchard

ing or hand-pollination is employed. But it has been demonstrated in Suriname and in other countries that yields per hectare can be substantially increased through the adoption of improved cultural techniques such as pruning and hand pollination.

Most of the small producers sell the fresh produce to processors, while some larger ones either process the pulp and market themselves as "concentrate" or sell it frozen to processing companies.

### YELLOW PASSION FRUIT PRODUCTION MANUAL



Demonstration hand pollination

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agricul-

ture (IICA) Office in Suriname jointly prepared a manual on optimization of yellow passion fruit production in Suriname. The manual is a practical guide for

Technicians, Agricultural Extension Officers and Passion fruit producers.

Passion fruit production in Suriname is characterized by a sub-optimal production system resulting in both low productivity and production per unit area. Application however of the proper cultural practices as described and illustrated in that manual, have led to significant increases in yield in most producing countries.

Suriname can become a competitive producer of yellow passion fruit, given its favourable agro-ecological conditions, provided the proper technology is applied.

The manual is now available and is already being used for training extension officers and passion fruit growers.

## AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY PROJECT CONTINUES IN SURINAME

During the last months meeting between the IICA Specialist in Animal Health and Food Safety, Dr Maxine Parris-Aaron, the Permanent Secretary and Senior Technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, it was concluded that at the inception of the current project in Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AH&FS) two lines of action would produce the most immediate and effective results:

- To concentrate on consumer education on Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AH&FS) aspects.
- To concentrate on training food producers and processors in the main elements of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP's) and

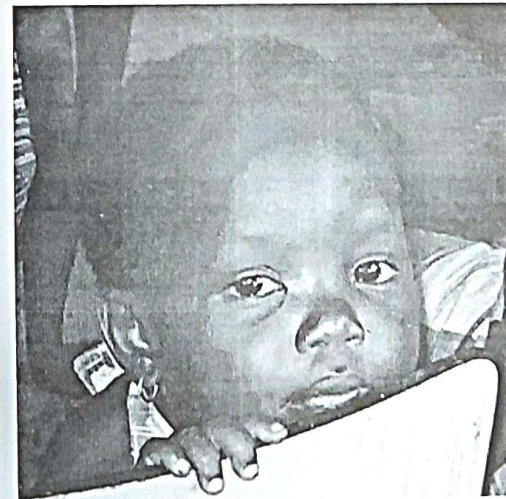
Hazard Analysis and Control Point (HACCP) Compliance according to the World Trade Organization regulations.

These two lines of actions will be pursued with the focus on the Promotion and Improvement of the Viability of Agri-commercial Chains (Competitive, Equitable and Sustainable).

It is envisaged that as a result of next year's activities, Suriname will make concrete progress towards WTO/SPS compliance and setting standards for the production and the processing of agricultural products.

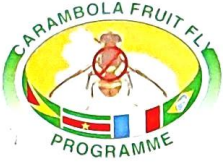
To achieve this scope and objectives, IICA will continue provid-

ing technical cooperation to LVV and other national institutions involved in the AH&FS efforts. Two major efforts will be pursued by IICA in support to Suriname. One as the Executing Agency of the IDB-LVV-IICA Project in the same area to strengthen the capacity of the Country to establish and operate an Agricultural Health and Food Safety Unit for Suriname. The second through special resources of IICA contributing to the improvement of the capacities of the Suriname Poultry Sector to achieve its better positioning within the frame of compliance with the Animal Production Requirements for an Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program in the Country.



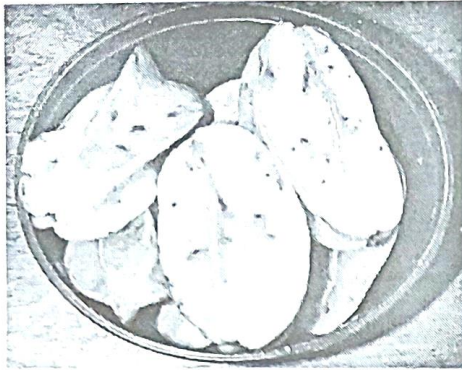
*Bright eyes looking  
to the future...  
Let us prepare this  
bright future for  
them...*





## THE HOST PLANTS OF THE CARAMBOLA FRUIT FLY

*Alies van Sauers-Muller*



In our last article in Partnership II, we spoke briefly about the host plants of the Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF). We would like to discuss these in more detail in this issue. A host plant is a plant in which an insect pest (in this case the CFF) can complete part or all of its lifecycle from egg to adult insect.

For the Carambola Fruit Fly more than twenty host plants are known - many more than there are for the native fruit fly species. The Carambola Fruit Fly, main

hosts are the carambola and the Curacao apple. Fruit of one of these two fruit species can be found at any time of the year, which greatly simplifies reproduction for this fruit fly species.

The Carambola Fruit Fly host other local fruit as: guava; sapodilla, star apple, hog plum, mango and W.I. Cherry and occasionally some citrus species.

In guava the large variety (Lucknow) is the one usually attacked, while the small local variety is only attacked by the guava fruit fly. In mango the "tété" and "cayenne" varieties are usually attacked while the other varieties are hardly ever infested by fruit flies.

Occasionally Carambola Fruit Flies have been found in sapodilla, star apple, Surinam cherry, malay apple, cashew, grapefruit, orange, mandarin, tangelo, sour

orange, jujube, tropical almond, hog plum, pomme de cythere, whitey (Inga species - Guyana) and mami (French-Guyana). These fruits do not necessarily increase the fly population, but they can maintain a population if more compatible hosts are not available. Cashew, tropical almond and hog plum were only found infested in areas with dense populations of Carambola Fruit Flies.



**IICA OFFICE IN SURINAME**  
Letitia Vriesdelaan 11 - Paramaribo

### IICA AND PEACE CORPS SIGN AGREEMENT

During October last a Letter of Intent was signed between IICA Suriname and Peace Corps Suriname (PC/S) establishing a collaborative arrangement for the improvement of agricultural efforts in the hinterland of Suriname. Based on a development philosophy of community participation and capacity building, this joint collaboration seeks to improve the quality of life of rural people in interior districts by increasing informal and formal transfers of agricultural technology, at the same time enabling these communities, through their

participation, to take responsibility for their own development. The joint interventions proposed will have a direct impact on food production, income generation, environmental conservation and small livestock rearing at the community level.

As a first step in this collaboration PC/S have assigned a seasoned P C Volunteer - Christian Ogle - to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and IICA for a period of one year.

#### Editor-in-Chief:

Ernani Fiori

IICA Representative in Suriname

#### Editor:

I.E. Telfer

#### Specialist Advisors:

H. Ormskerk

L. Sampai

A. van Sauers

P.O.Box 1895

Tel (597) 410861, 41095, 478187

Fax (597) 410727

e-mail: [iica@sr.net](mailto:iica@sr.net)