

Workshop Report

December 31st, 1998



Global Market Integration and the Agri-Food Sector Conference

November 18th - 20th, 1998 - Torarica Hotel
Suriname

prepared by

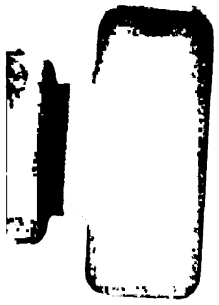
Diana E. Francis and Dr. Patrick Antoine
[Economist] [Head]

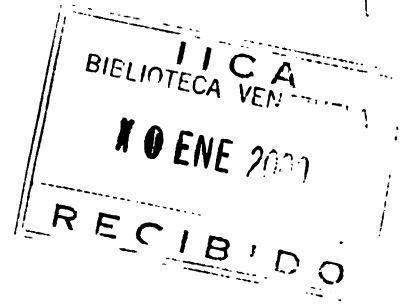
of the

Policies and Trade Programme
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Caribbean Regional Centre
Office in Trinidad and Tobago


Inter-American Institute for
Co-operation on Agriculture


U.S. National Centre for
Food and Agricultural Policy





Workshop Report

December 31st, 1998

Global Market Integration and the Agri-Food Sector

Table of Contents

Background to Workshop	3
Summary of Discussions	4
Module I – The New Global Environment	4
Module II – Regional Trade Arrangements	6
Module III – Competitiveness and Private Sector Initiatives for Competing in Global Agri-Food Markets	8
Conclusions and Recommendations	11
Annex I: Participants Contact Information	16
Annex II: List of Presentations Circulated	20

00006253

11CA
E71
60

Global Market Integration and the Agri-Food Sector Workshop

Background

The decade of the 90s represented a turning point for the agri-business sector in many countries in the Americas. The changes in the global economic and trading environment, occasioned by the 1994 GATT Agreement and the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) brought agriculture under the multilateral disciplines of the WTO. For Caribbean countries, this is a particularly tumultuous period as they are also engrossed in several high level negotiations, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and a successor arrangement to the Lomé Convention. Developments relating to the landmark 1994 Agriculture Agreement as well as the developments regarding the deepening of the CARICOM integration process hold significant implications for the agri-food sector competitiveness. Suriname has had a particularly difficult time adjusting to its WTO commitments, adjustments which have been compounded by its accession to CARICOM in 1996. For Guyana, the agricultural sector adjustment's was facilitated by the unilateral economy-wide reforms begun in the late 1980s.

Even as the region enters into negotiations on the WTO mini-Round and the FTAA, and discusses arrangements for a post Lomé IV arrangement, trading patterns will continue to change led by new products and/or market saturation for other products. In response, Caribbean countries will need to seek facilities which will enable them to take advantage of these emerging market opportunities. In order to do so, these countries must acquire, rather quickly, the knowledge and competence necessary to better position their products, firms and industries in the global marketplace. Providing relevant information to enhance the knowledge of public and private sector actors was one of the primary objectives of a series of sub-regional workshops on Global Market Integration and the Agri-Food Sector conducted for Caribbean member states in 1998. Specifically, the workshops sought to:

- strengthen the knowledge base regarding the on-going process of integration at the sub-regional, regional and hemispheric levels;
- deepen understanding of the implications resulting from the implementation of commitments under international and regional trade agreements;
- build capacity to assess the scope of agricultural production and trade policy within the context of global integration; and to
- increase awareness in critical areas, particularly those related to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues and food safety requirements for agri-food export products to major markets.

This third and final workshop in Suriname, was financed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with support from the US-based National Centre for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP). The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and Ministry of Trade and Industry of Suriname cooperated in the hosting of the workshop. The workshop was targeted at persons directly involved in agri-business development from both the public and private sectors in Guyana and host country, Suriname. The collaborating institutions anticipate that effective use will be made of the information provided in this summary workshop report and that the information would contribute towards improving the position of the region's agri-food sector in its efforts to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the new millennium.

Summary of Discussions

The workshop was divided into three main modules which focused on the new global trade environment, regional trade arrangements, and competitiveness and private sector initiatives for competing in global agri-food markets. In addition to the presentations, there were also a number of panel discussions which provided an opportunity for further discussions of the topics presented. The following provides a summary of the main discussions arising from presentations and panel discussions.

Module I: The New Global Trade Environment

Module I addressed the main elements of the WTO Agriculture Agreement, the new elements on Anti-Dumping, Safeguards and Countervailing Measures, as well as the impact of the WTO Agreements on CARICOM agriculture. The module also addressed the SPS Agreement and Food Safety Issues.

- It was noted that the concerns of developing countries, particularly from net-food importers, of the possible adverse impact of the WTO on the price of food imports were not subject to rigorous analysis. The growth in the food import bill in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries was reported to be the result of population and income growth and a shift in preferences to consumer-ready and consumer-friendly products for which regional capacity continues to lag.
- There was the general consensus that CARICOM countries were ill-prepared for the WTO negotiations. Additionally, any benefits CARICOM derived from the WTO Agreements resulted indirectly from the commodity-specific interests of the US (Section 22 commodities) and EU (sugar) and were not the result of concerted negotiations by the countries themselves. Other countries, such as Brazil and a few members of the EU, will be far better prepared to enter into the next Round of negotiations than they were in the 1986-1994 Uruguay Round. Some countries have indicated their reluctance to make any further concessions in respect of agriculture. The next WTO mini-Round could therefore see token advances in liberalisation or extremely hard-earned gains in specific negotiating areas. In this regard, it is imperative that the Caribbean countries become more active participants and facilitate the processes leading up to the negotiations so as to secure whatever benefits might emerge for the region's agriculture.
- Sentiments from the Surinamese private sector suggested that they were not opposed to signing agreements (WTO, Protocol V of the Revised CARICOM treaty, FTAA, etc.), since in most instances the objective is to achieve both freer and fairer trade. They however contend, that governments need to undertake a more thorough evaluation of the terms and conditions of the various treaties before committing and "locking-in" the private sector to terms and conditions that the current macroeconomic environment does not allow them to satisfy. They further argued that such evaluation and preparation for the negotiations prior to the signing of

multilateral agreements was severely lacking in the past and continues to be an area of major concern for them in relation to the ensuing agricultural trade negotiations.

- It was noted that the most difficult negotiations were the negotiations at home (national level consensus). Unfortunately, in Suriname, the national consultative process did not occur, hence the alienation by the private sector was therefore not totally unexpected. There was a strong plea for efforts to be made in the ongoing process to include the private sector. The meeting was reminded of the fact that countries cannot easily revert to higher levels of protection (increased tariff levels, etc.) and therefore the orientation must be to seek ways to exploit the benefits from the agreements which were already signed. There remained a number of issues which must be addressed at the national level - these are as important as the consummation of international agreements. Consequently, respective Governments need to find modalities to advance the domestic reform agenda as well as to find ways to incorporate the concerns of the private sector.
- The administration of tariff rate quotas (TRQ) was identified as one of the more significant issues which will emerge in the next Round of negotiations. The manner in which tariffs and quotas have been administered has been a source of great contention in the international community. CARICOM countries have not used tariff rate quotas as part of the tariffication process.
- Many countries have not been notifying the WTO in respect of changes to their sanitary and phytosanitary laws and regulations etc. It was pointed out that these issues were likely to arise within the context of the next WTO round. It was further noted that the more significant issues will surround new technologies and genetically altered food products, standards and labelling, etc. These emerging issues have already altered the pattern of trade and will continue to define the trade policy agenda in the post-1999 era. In addition to focusing on present patterns of comparative advantage, the sources of future patterns of comparative advantages will be important to the upcoming negotiations. One issue which must concern the region's agricultural negotiations is how to negotiate arrangements with certain safeguards which provide some degree of flexibility.
- It was noted that CARICOM countries stand to benefit tremendously under the WTO-SPS Agreement through the ability to strengthen scientific standards. Applied science has been a major weakness in the region for years and the responsibility as a region must therefore be to develop technical capabilities in testing and relevant scientific knowledge, and to generate scientifically sound and credible data.
- The significance of food safety issues to agri-food trade as well as the importance of international standards compliance was emphasised. Of note was its increasing significance in marketing, particularly to the developed markets in the EU and US was noted. It was also observed that in relation to accreditation or country compliance to international standards, countries must satisfy specific legislative requirements. The inadequacy of the legislative framework in many countries of the region was identified as one of the major stumbling blocks in complying to

international standards. There was also the recognition that such compliance was often expensive both in terms of financing and technical requirements, but that countries no longer had a choice if indeed they desired to develop agri-food exports. The meeting was informed of the sources of assistance in developing SPS capabilities and strengthening compliance to international standards through the IICA Agricultural Health Programme and the CARICOM/USAID projects.

- The experience of Jamaica in terms of the arrangements made with the US-FDA to pre-clear goods in order to minimise the likelihood of SPS-based barriers to US trade was discussed. The importance of these arrangements for Suriname was also emphasised.
- Suriname is moving towards greater integration with the global market. However, information on the operations and functions of specific product markets continues to be deficient. Even at the regional level (the country being a member of CARICOM), it was noted that national farmers' organisations were quite often unaware of developments in the rest of CARICOM. Although farmers' organisations exist, because of the lack of consistent government policies in Suriname, farmers' attentions have been diverted from addressing the real issues emerging from globalisation, such as market research, quality improvements, establishing standards etc., to the basic issues of the day to day survival of their farms and families.
- It was noted that in terms of developing information systems and information centres, that equal emphasis must be given to developing mechanisms to transfer and relay critical information to the farmers, particularly as it relates to interaction between producers and users of the commodities.
- With respect the small farming community, the following analogy was used to summarise their views regarding integration, globalisation and trade liberalisation:
We (Suriname) are members of CARICOM, the WTO and in fact, this is posing a dilemma for our farmers, what I term a "Siberian dilemma". During the Siberian winter, the lakes and rivers are frozen. If you walk on such a lake or river, you may suddenly fall through the ice. This fall creates real problems for you and you have two choices: if you stay in the hole you will die in three minutes because of the cold; if you manage to get out of the hole, you freeze to death within one minute, so you make your choice.

Module II: Regional Trade Arrangements

The focus in this Module was on the examination of the major regional trade arrangements of which CARICOM countries are a party.

- In terms of the legal status of CARICOM with respect to the WTO, it was emphasised that CARICOM is registered as a customs union with the WTO. Unlike the EU, however, CARICOM itself does not have voting rights, it has only observer status. Such rights and obligations lie within the domain of the individual member

countries. CARICOM members which are signatories to the WTO must first fulfil their obligations to the WTO while simultaneously reconciling their CARICOM obligations.

- There was general consensus from the participants that the CARICOM Secretariat (CARISEC) should seek to negotiate on behalf of its members since the individual countries are not sufficiently strong to negotiate on their own. A strong case was made that the negotiations would be more effective as a group, represented by the CARISEC. It was re-emphasised that the CARISEC cannot speak on behalf of the member states in the WTO, however, CARICOM can facilitate bi-lateral negotiations between affected CARICOM and third countries. It was also noted that the establishment of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) implied that CARICOM has recognised the need for a mechanism to guide the region in multilateral negotiations.
- The meeting was informed that a draft document "*Cooperation and Consultation for Support of Multilateral Negotiations*" was currently being reviewed by the CARICOM Ministers of Economic Integration. Consensus on the framework for cooperation and consultation would serve to increase the efficiency and strengthen the position of the region's negotiating mechanism.
- Attention was also drawn to the need for countries to mobilise national expertise in order to articulate national concerns and arrive at consensus on trade policy issues to inform the regional negotiating machinery. As part of this process, there is need to quantify potential benefits and losses from the pursuit of a particular negotiating position, particularly if certain strategic issues are only of relevance to a single member state.
- Noted the concern from the Suriname's perspective of the inconsistencies which existed in tariff ceiling bindings between ceiling bindings under the CET and the WTO. Suriname committed to a fixed tariff binding for agriculture under the WTO of 20%, compared to the 100% tariff binding of the rest of CARICOM countries. This divergence derived primarily because Suriname acceded to CARICOM in 1996 after its accession to the WTO in 1995. It was further noted that countries did not have the option of easily reversing WTO commitments and that in the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), of which the CET is an essential element, this tariff divergence will require expeditious resolution.
- In terms of concerns regarding Suriname's relatively low contribution to intra-regional trade, this was thought to be partly due to the country's late accession to CARICOM (February 1996). At that time, the private sector was adjusting to the structural adjustment programmes of the late 1980s and early 1990s. In addition, the institutional and regulatory framework in Suriname did not facilitate export sector development. Although the progress towards the CSME has been slow, concern was raised regarding Suriname's relatively low level of participation in that process. Suriname is currently undertaking studies to determine market opportunities for its

fresh, manufactured and processed products in the CARICOM market as a means of off-setting the negative intra-regional trade balance with CARICOM.

- The meeting was informed that the protective rates of the CET were set to encourage production and trade within the region. This was based on the assumption that there was a level of production which was sufficient to satisfy the domestic market. There was also the assumption that the demand did exist and thus the imposition of a tariff level to discourage third country imports would effectively promote trade within CARICOM. It was noted that the practical evidence emerging, and the frequent requests for rate suspensions to facilitate imports of products from third countries implied that such supplies may not in fact exist, either in terms of quantity or quality requirements, or at competitive prices. It was observed that although these suspension requests were approved based on the grounds that regional supplies were either unavailable or inadequate, that in most cases, the issues of whether or not actual supply capability existed remained unaddressed. It was further noted that the procedures as they were developed did not enable the matter of supply capacity to be determined. This may be one of the factors contributing to the low levels of intra-regional trade.
- The fact that some CARICOM members remained reluctant to sign Protocol V was discussed. It was reiterated that Protocol V merely established a framework or guiding principles for the development of the agricultural sector within CARICOM. In fact, the Protocols may actually provide the kind of environment that enables a country to put in place the necessary regulatory and institutional environment to facilitate balanced development. The Protocols were essential to the revisions of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and to the efforts aimed at developing a Single Market and Economy.

Module III: Competitiveness and Private Sector Initiatives for Competing in Global Agri-Food Markets

Module III addressed the issue of competitiveness in global markets, specifically requirements for competing in the US and EU markets, as well as issues, concerns and facilities available for developing firm level competitiveness.

- In terms of the objective of the WTO which among other things is based on the reduction of distortions to trade, it was noted that the multilateral agenda cannot make a country's agricultural sector competitive, - that a country must also undertake unilateral actions aimed at creating an enabling environment which allows firms and industries to become competitive.
- Comparisons were drawn between disproportionate levels of investment in promoting the tourism product and agriculture. It was noted that discussions on various mechanisms to establish a tourism-agriculture sector link as a means of enhancing the development and competitiveness of agricultural products have been on-going for years with little success.

- The importance of effective marketing and distribution systems to improving commodity competitiveness was emphasised. It was noted that this was an area of deficiency in the Caribbean. While the post-WTO experience has not been as beneficial as anticipated, there continued to be a significant number of policy reforms which CARICOM countries needed to implement in areas such as marketing and distribution. Such reform measures will go a long way in stimulating exports and developing industry competitiveness.
- The importance of relevant research and development (R&D) and effective extension to facilitate the development of competitive production systems was noted. The meeting also noted the difficulties with R&D in the region and the poor track record of Government-funded R&D project/initiatives. There was an acknowledgement that a wide range of research capacity and information existed in the hemisphere. In spite of the Internet access and availability of information, there continues to be problems in the area of accessing, generating and exchange of information within CARICOM and between CARICOM and the outside world. There was agreement that the traditional systems in place for R&D and extension in the region are inadequate to meet the new technological demands of the sector. Greater attention should be placed on practical ways of accessing existing R&D for adaptation to the conditions of the Caribbean.
- In developing competitiveness of the regional agricultural sector, there was agreement that lessons should be drawn from the experiences of Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA), national agencies and individual Caribbean exporters who have achieved success both in the regional and international markets. Participants emphasised the need to form alliances, not only in areas such as trade, but in science and technology, information, transportation, within a well structured development programme.
- Noted that the CEDA programmes were largely market driven. A range of assistance was available to companies (mainly for small and medium sized companies) in terms of export development, mainly of manufactured products (including processed products). Noted that while some services and assistance were extended to fresh produce exporters in the area of market research and promotion in overseas markets, CEDA should seek to increase its level of involvement in the development of fresh agricultural products.
- The following individual country experiences in developing agri-food competitiveness and promoting market opportunities for agri-food products were shared with the meeting and noted:
 - The Agri-Business Council (ABC) of Jamaica concluded an arrangement with the locally-owned Sandals Hotel Resort chain which supported the development of a farming group to supply their fresh produce requirements. This group was provided with the seed varieties, fertiliser and other necessary inputs to facilitate efficient production of high quality products. This initiative's success has

prompted its expansion to other parishes in Jamaica with plans to expand into other Caribbean territories.

- The establishment of a fresh produce market information system by the Jamaica ABC which will link into a modern agricultural production information system, will provide pre- and post-harvest information on fresh produce. Agro-processors, fresh produce exporters and wholesalers will have daily access to that information as well information on cost, location of produce, and transportation systems for delivery.
 - The implementation of a modernisation programme for the Suriname banana industry (SURLAND) in 1989, has greatly improved the industry's survival prospects. Aspects of the programme are financed by the EU (4 million ECU), SURLAND and loans from the buyer, Ffyfes, representing a total investment of 12 million ECUs. An important element of the programme was the introduction of new technology to increase efficiency.
 - Guyana has streamlined its approach towards commodity selection for priority focus. This new approach has resulted in the short-listing of non-traditional commodities from a list of 40, in which Guyana has a competitive advantage. The short list comprises pineapples, plantains, coconuts, palm oil, mangoes and peppers. This approach was initiated by the IICA Technical Cooperation Agency in Guyana and followed through by the Ministry of Agriculture, marketing boards, farmers and processors with collaboration from other international agencies. This approach is based on planning and concentrating efforts on the development of the selected crop, and putting all the requirements in place to ensure that it becomes and remains competitive. The success of this approach is based on co-operation from all stakeholders at all levels. It was felt that this was one means of ensuring that the small resource-constrained farm communities will be able to compete and compete well.
 - Guyana has also undertaken institutional restructuring in order to meet the demands of diversification and developing commodity competitiveness. This process has resulted in the creation of two Ministries each with specific areas of focus in the agricultural sector: (1) the Ministry of Agriculture focusing on traditional crops and (2) the Ministry of Crop, Livestock and Fisheries focusing on non-traditional crop development.
-

Conclusions and Recommendations

The final working session served to articulate some of the critical issues requiring priority attention within the framework of the scope of reference of the workshop. The session was geared towards the development of a working agenda supported by the formulation of fairly specific recommendations.

Issue: Facilitating Agricultural Development in Suriname

Critical issues which need to be addressed include a clear identification of the national development objectives for Suriname, particularly in terms of the preparedness of the agri-food sector to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. In this regard, there is need to identify the key constraints to national development, perhaps through the articulation of a national development strategy which will address macroeconomic and social priorities, as well as strategies to improve productivity and to re-energise the country's productive sectors.

In this regard, Suriname is in the process of finalising its Draft National Reconstruction Plan which was recently presented to the National Assembly. Of note also is the development of individual sector plans, including an Agricultural Policy Plan developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries based on consultations with the farming community.

Recommend that:

- the officials concerned should accelerate efforts and define a time-frame for the finalisation of the National Reconstruction Strategic Plan which should seek to integrate the individual strategic plans of the various sectors.
- the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries should seek facilities to include the private sector in the development and finalisation of the Agricultural Policy Plan for the country.

Issue: Harmonization of tariff regime between Suriname and the Rest of CARICOM

There was consensus that the apparent incompatibility between Suriname's commitments to the WTO and the arrangements under CARICOM needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. That within the context of forging a strategy for the Region, this presented a dilemma for the convergence towards a harmonised tariff regime for the region. Recognising that under the WTO, it is difficult for countries to "backslide" on ceiling bindings, there was consensus that strategic interventions should be made to harmonise ceiling bindings within CARICOM, particularly given the impending negotiations with the WTO. This requires a clear understanding of the scope within the WTO arrangement to unbind Suriname's 1995 WTO ceiling binding commitments before attempting to harmonize the country's tariff structure with the rest of CARICOM.

Agreed that:

- a strategy paper should be prepared to examine the problem and provide direction on the possible courses of action available to Suriname within the framework of the WTO. The strategy paper should also seek to identify options for developing consistency between Suriname's WTO commitments and the country's commitments under the CARICOM market. It was agreed that IICA will assist the Ministry of Trade in Suriname in preparing a proposal to submit to the CARICOM Secretariat - Advisor, Single Market and Economy, requesting assistance to undertake this initiative.
- the CARICOM Secretariat will prepare and disseminate information clarifying the legal, institutional and operational status of CARICOM as a regional grouping within the framework of Article XXIV of the WTO Agreements and those of individual member states. Information should also be provided to clarify the issue of CARICOM as a political block and its role as an economic block through the formation of the CSME". Completion and dissemination of this information sheet - February 1999.

Recommend that

- while CARICOM and/or the CARISEC cannot negotiate on behalf of individual member states at the WTO, that they should play a key role in co-ordinating activities to ensure that member states adopt negotiating positions which do not diverge radically from each other thus weakening the position of the region.

Issue: Facilitating Investment in Agri-Business

The representative of the Agricultural Bank in Suriname informed the meeting of the ongoing discussions with the Government regarding the role of the bank in terms of its development and commercial functions. Concern was expressed regarding the compatibility of the two objectives given the need for the bank's operation to be market driven.

Agreed that:

- IICA would facilitate a workshop which addresses the role of financial institutions in agricultural development in the first half of 1999.
- the IICA Suriname office would provide the usual co-operation through the establishment of a co-ordinating committee comprising representation from the Central Bank, Agricultural Bank, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and the private sector. The first task of the Co-ordinating Committee will be the elaboration of the scope of coverage of the proposed workshop.

Issue: Improving Regional Capability to Implement the WTO SPS Agreement:

Noted the existence of SPS working group recently launched in Guyana among personnel from various Ministries and other stakeholders. Noted the non-existence of a similar group in Suriname and identified this as a major constraint to the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement. Other constraints were outdated legislation on quarantine and phytosanitary measures.

Recommend that:

- the Plant Quarantine unit be afforded the legal authorisation for the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement
- the Plant Quarantine Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries spearhead the formation of an SPS Working Group in Suriname.
- the SPS Working Group in Guyana and Suriname expand the focus and coverage to include representatives from the Ministry of Trade, Bureau of Standards, Commodity Associations, Forestry etc, and also expand its scope to address food safety related issues.
- the SPS Working Group, as a matter of priority, should update legislation consistent within the CARICOM region.

Agreed that:

- IICA's Agricultural Health Programme will support the formation of this SPS Working Group in Suriname, as well as to provide further technical training on SPS related issues in 1999.
- the discussions and recommendations relating to strengthening the legislative framework for plant and animal health be forwarded to FAO, emphasising the importance of proceeding expeditiously with the 1999 programme of assistance to countries in these areas.

Issue: Increased Cooperation between Ministries of Agriculture

Noted the national expertise in Suriname in the area of adoption of international standards (fisheries, aquaculture, bananas, etc), particularly in relation to the EU market. It was agreed that mechanisms must be developed to facilitate horizontal cooperation agreements for the exchange of such information and technical expertise within the Caribbean.

Recommend that:

- Suriname's technical expertise in the areas of international standards could be shared with the rest of CARICOM through technical cooperation among the Ministries of Agriculture. Identified possible beneficiary countries as Guyana and the OECS.

- similar horizontal technical cooperation agreements could be used to facilitate technical assistance from Guyana to Suriname in the area of fruit and vegetable development.
- the Ministries of Agriculture in Guyana and Suriname collaborate in the first quarter of 1999 to explore facilities for the operationalisation of the recommended horizontal technical cooperation programme.

Issue: NTBs and Suspension and Derogation to the CET

Emphasised that suspension requests for import supplies from non-regional sources are approved based on the claim of inadequate regional supply. There is need to either concretely determine whether or not countries have the production base and for which products, as well as to determine what assistance will be necessary to increase the level of production in terms of quality etc, to satisfy the demands of consumers and processors. This would entail consultations between producers, intermediate and end-product users which would address the practical problems which exist in the sector. In most cases, these users of the product activate the process by requesting a suspension to the CET. In several instances, commodity producers are not provided an opportunity to respond.

Recommend that:

- for specific cases of suspension granted, follow-up should be undertaken in order to identify who in the region are producers and intermediate users so as to determine whether it is indeed a supply capability problem.

Issue: Research and Development for the Agriculture sector

There remains a need for fundamental reorganisation of the R&D agenda and institutional framework, including efforts to privatise certain services. Participants agreed that a holistic approach needed to be adopted towards agricultural development. There was the view that the emphasis should be on agri-business development and efforts made to incorporate all the necessary support services required along the production - marketing-consumption chain. Noted that information systems are closely linked with the transfer of technology, marketing etc., and that information systems development needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Agreed:

- that investment in R&D is costly and that the pay-offs are derived over the long-term. In the short term, there remained a need to invest in transfer of existing R&D within the hemisphere while actively working on the long term strategies.
- that the matter of R&D is particularly critical for competitiveness and that various options should be examined, including an examination of the macro environment and the need to include incentives, concessions and other policy

measures to stimulate the generation and adaptation of R&D. Efforts should be made to benefit from the spill-over effects of R&D at both the national and regional levels by facilitating information exchanges.

- to forward this broad recommendation to the relevant R&D institutions which are in the position to take further action in this regard.

Issue: Human Resource Development (HRD)

The meeting identified HRD considerations as being critical, particularly in the context of the changes taking place at the global level. Recognised that given the declines in resources for HRD, that government should seek means to refocus its expenditures and action in this area:

Recommend:

- that the CARICOM Secretariat assist the countries in identifying and accessing available resources for training in specific critical areas, such as the food safety, testing of residues and the development of environmentally friendly production areas. Possible options include the OAS multilateral fund, the Lomé IV Agricultural Sector Programme, CIDA, FAO and others.

Issue: Institutional Strengthening

There was consensus that the development strategy and policy options which Caribbean countries needed to take must be reoriented along the lines of agribusiness with a strong market orientation.

Recommend:

- that countries must undertake an inventory of existing institutions and evaluate their effectiveness in terms of delivery of agribusiness and marketing support services.
 - that the possible options available for the provision of the required services to agricultural producers required either widening the mandate of the existing institutions to ensure that they accommodate agri-business priorities, or to upgrade or establish such capabilities within the traditional institutions, such as the Ministries of Agriculture to provide agri-business development services.
 - that the Suriname Government combine the efforts of all relevant institutions involved in stimulating exports, thus erecting a network of institutions capable of addressing the information requirements and marketing services to the agri-business sector.
-

Annex I: Participants Contact Information

PRESENTERS

<p>Dr. Patrick Antoine Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture #3 Herbert Street, Newtown Port of Spain TRINIDAD & TOBAGO Tel: (868) 628 4403/ 4079/ 4079 Fax: (868) 628 4562</p>	<p>Dr. Maxine Parris-Aaron Agricultural Health Specialist IICA Technical Cooperation Agency Lot. 18 Brickdam Stabroek Georgetown GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 68835 / 68347 Fax: (592) 2 58358</p>	<p>Dr. John Stovall National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP) 1616 P. Street, NW First Floor Washington, DC, 20036 U.S.A Tel: (202) 328 5048 Fax: (202) 328 5133</p>
<p>Mr. Gregg Rawlins Economist Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development Graeme Hall Christ Church BARBADOS Tel: (246) 428 4150 Fax: (246) 420 8444</p>	<p>Mr. Vincent J. Atkins Senior Project Officer PO Box 10827 Caricom Secretariat Georgetown GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 52961 / 65 Fax: (592) 2 57341</p>	<p>Mr. Patrick Sibblies Chairman CEO Coffee Industries Ltd. 9 Barbados Ave Kingston JAMAICA Tel: (876) 968 0688 Fax: (876) 926 7266</p>
<p>Mr. Allan Marsh Marketing Officer P.O. Box 34B, Brittons Hill Hastings Main Road Christ Church St. Michael BARBADOS Tel: (246) 436 0578 Fax: (246) 436 9999</p>	<p>Mr. Stanley Odle Consultant PO Box 10827 CARICOM Secretariat Georgetown GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 52961 / 65 Fax: (592) 2 57341</p>	<p>Dr. Gregory Simpson Toxicologist/Analyst Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Services Division P.O.Box 309, Kingston 6 JAMAICA Tel: (876) 977 2489 Fax: (876) 977 0885</p>

PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

SURINAME

<p>Mr. Winston Ramautarsing Managing Director PROPLAN Consultancy Heerenstraat 6 Bov. SURINAME Tel: (597) 411141 Fax: (597) 411151</p>	<p>Mr. John Wijdenbosch Chairman of ASFA (Association of Surinamese Manufacturers) Coppenamestraat 187 Paramaribo SURINAME Tel: (597) 439797 Fax: (597) 439798</p>	<p>Mr. Allan Thijm General Manager Suriname Poultry Industries Livorno 1 A Paramaribo SURINAME Tel: (597) 480421 / 482784 Fax: (597) 485977</p>
--	--	---

<p>Dr. Robert Power EU-Consultant Surland NV (Banana Sector) Prins Hendrikstraat 22 Paramaribo SURINAME Tel: (597) 473244 Fax: (597) 475129</p>	<p>Mr. Andre Graanoogst Consultant Federation of Agricultural Farmers (FAL) Keizerstraat 150 Paramaribo SURINAME Tel: (597) 473995 Fax: (597) 475147</p>	<p>Mr. Arthur Zalmijn Chairman Surexco (Rice Institute) Virolastraat 23 Paramaribo SURINAME Tel: (597) 437856 Fax: (597) 499334</p>
<p>Mrs. Yvonne Cheuk A Lam Owner / Manager YCHAL Trading Co. (PESCA Fish & Seafood products) Industrieterrein Dijkveld Hal 3 Stiviweg SURINAME Tel: (597) 484955 / 487300 Fax: (597) 494377</p>		<p>Dr. Edmund Rozenblad Director of Animal Husbandry and Health Veterinary Inspection Beekhuizen Paramaribo SURINAME Tel: (597) 402459 Fax: (597) 404407</p>

PARTICIPANTS

GUYANA

<p>Mr. Nigel Durrant Head APCU Ministry of Agriculture Regent and Vlissengen Roads Georgetown, GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 61003 Fax: (592) 2 75357</p>	<p>Mr. Dev Anand Sharma Senior Executive Officer G/T Chamber of Commerce And Industry WaterlooStreet 156, GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 63519 / 55846 Fax: (592) 2 63519</p>	<p>Mr. Bisheswar Chandraballi Chairman New Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) Robb & Alexander Str. Georgetown, GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 57808 / 62078 Fax: (592) 2 62547</p>
	<p>Mrs. Satyawattie Sawh Administrator Ministry of Trade & Industry Southroad, GUYANA Tel: (592) 2 74346 Fax: (592) 2 63400</p>	

SURINAME

Private Sector/Associations/Organizations/University/Embassies

<p>Mr. Armand Dongen Financial Manager COMAS (Comewina Shrimp) Gravenstraat 115 b Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 425915 Fax: (597) 425915</p>	<p>Mrs. Djaienti Levens-Hindori Assisting Director Agricultural Bank Lim A Postraat 32 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 475945 Fax: (597) 411965</p>	<p>Mr. Armand van Alen Director, (Comfish) NV Verenigde Cultuur Mij Hoek Winston Churchill /Weg Sluis P.O. Box – Paramaribo Zuid 1999 Paramaribo /Suriname Tel: (597) 480391</p>
--	---	---

<p>Ms. Thersa Wijdenbosch Coordinator Human Resources Development Suriname Trade Promotion Organisation Mr. Dr. J.C. De Mirandastr. 10 Tel: (597) 420360 / 420373 Fax: (597) 420360</p>	<p>Mr. Iwan Poerschke Director Eco Agro Suriname Kankantriestraat 9 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 400030 Fax: (597) 400030</p>	<p>Mr. John Bouterse Agronomist CELOS (Centre for Experimental Agricultural Research in Suriname) University Complex Leysweg 14 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 490128</p>
<p>Mr. Frederik Soerodimedjo Director Tropica N.V. (Juices) Tropicaweg 5 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 453190</p>	<p>Mr. Ray Graanoogst Laan van Louisehof 24 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 463259</p>	<p>Mr. Anand Ramkisoensing Staff member Eco-Agro Suriname Kankantriestraat 19 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 400030 Fax: (597) 400030</p>
<p>Mr. Henk Ramnandanlall Director Caribbean Development Partners N.V. (CARID) Rust & Vredestraat 33 Paramaribo Tel: (597) 422877 Fax: (597) 424169</p>	<p>Mrs. Siegmien Staphorst President National Women Movement Verl. Gemenelandsweg 132b Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 465626 / 432921 Fax: (597) 433167</p>	<p>Mr. Ewald Leeftang Chairman of ASFA (Association of Surinamese Manufacturers) Coppenamestraat 187 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: (597) 439797 Fax: (597) 439798</p>
<p>Mrs. Joyce Bainathsah Economic Commercial Specialist US Embassy in Suriname Dr. Sophie Redmondstraat 129 Tel: (597) 425690 / 472900 Fax: (597) 425690</p>	<p>Mr. Rampersad Hanoewant Vice Chairman Dairy Farmers Union Ankielaan 1 Paramaribo Tel: (597) 431161</p>	<p>Mr. Harrypersad Ramautar Farmer Commissarisweyting weg Br.800 Wanica Tel: (597) 0328172</p>

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

L. Vriesdelaan 7

Paramaribo

Suriname

<p>Dr. Robby Lieuw A Joe Permanent Secretary Tel: 597 476887 Fax: 597 475919</p>	<p>Mr. Jaswant Sahtoe Director Agricultural Experimental Station Tel: 597 472442 Fax: 597 475919</p>	<p>Mrs Tura Nanden-Amattaram Head Division Mycology / Bacteriology Agricultural Experimental Station Tel: 597 425019</p>
<p>Mr. Franklin Grauwde Quarantine Officer Kankantriestraat 9 Paramaribo / Suriname Tel: 597 402040</p>	<p>Mrs. Soenita Rosan Economist Tel: (597) 476654 / 476641</p>	<p>Mr. Rashied Baboe L. Vriesdelaan 7 Paramaribo Suriname Tel: 597 476887</p>

Mrs. M. van der Kuyp Economist Tel: 597 476641 / 476654 Fax: 597 475919 / 470301	Mr. Raymon Nojodimedjo Economist Abattoirstraat, Paramaribo Tel: (597) 402270 Fax: (597) 404407	Mr. Debidajal Chedammi Region Leader Narsingstreet 49 Paramaribo Tel: 597 435861
Mr. Lloyd Nemele Director LM Patamacca Tel: (597) 476424 Fax: (597) 476424		Mr. Iwan Soe-Agnie Tel: (597) 476641 / 476654 Fax: (597) 475919 / 470301

Ministry of Trade & Industry
Nieuwe Havenlaan
Paramaribo
Suriname

Mr. Roy Wong Lun Hing Chief Division International Economic Relations Tel: (597) 404776 Fax: (597) 402602	Mrs. Cherida Keerveld Staff Employee Tel: (597) 403566 Fax: (597) 402602	Mr. Paul Soebai Staff Employee Tel: (597) 403742 Fax: (597) 402602
	Mrs. Lorette Ford Staff Employee Tel: (597) 403742 Fax: (597) 402602	

List of Participants-Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
Regeringsgebouw
Dr. Sophie Redmondstr. 118
Paramaribo
Suriname

Mr. Johannes Consen Senior Staff Member Tel: (597) 471108 / 471938 Fax: (597) 421056		Mr. Inder Rambharse Senior Staff Tel: (597) 471108 Fax: (597) 421056
--	--	--

Annex II: List of Presentations Circulated

Copies are available from the IICA Technical Cooperation Agency Office in Suriname and from the IICA Caribbean Regional Centre Office in Trinidad and Tobago.

WTO Agriculture Agreements, Anti-Dumping and Safeguards - A Summary, *Dr. John Stovall, NCFAP*

Countervailing Measures - Case Study Suriname Poultry Industry, *Mr. Allan Thijm, Suriname*

WTO Agreements - Implications for Caribbean Agricultural Exports, *Mr. Gregg Rawlins, Barbados*

The WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Implications for CARICOM, *Dr. Sandra Vokaty and Dr. Maxine Parris-Aaron, IICA*

Food Safety - Issues, Concerns and Implications for Small States, *Dr. Gregory Simpson, Jamaica*

Update on EU Negotiations - Implications for Guyana and Suriname, *Mr. Gregg Rawlins*

Notes on the Common External Tariff (CET) of the Caribbean Common Market - Structure, Operational Features and Provisions regarding the Suspension of Tariffs, and

Notes on the Rules of Origin of the Caribbean Common Market CET Regime - Nature and Operation, including Provisions Enabling Derogations from Certain Origin Criteria, *Mr. Stanley C. Odle, Former Trade Programme Coordinator, CARICOM Secretariat*

Agriculture and Trade Within the CARICOM Common Market - Scope and Recent Developments, *Mr. Vincent J. Atkins CARICOM Secretariat*

Pre-requisites for International Competitiveness in Agri-Food Markets and

Competing in the Non-Traditional Fresh Fruit U.S. Markets, *Dr. Patrick Antoine, IICA*

Competing in the U.S. Specialty Food Markets and

Competing in the European Agri-Food Markets, *Mr. Allan Marsh, CEDA*

Internationally Accepted Quality Standards and Application in the Agricultural Industry, *Dr. Robert Power*

Developing Competitiveness: Major Issues and Concerns for Agri-Food Sector in Suriname, *Mr. Winston R.D. Ramautarsing*

Developing Competitiveness at the Firm Level - Experiences from the Private Sector - *Mr. Patrick Sibblies, Chairman, Agri-Business Council of Jamaica*

Plant Health Workshop September 15-17, 1999.

Budget (US\$)

Airfares participants (15)	\$5000.00
Per diems 13 participants x 4 nights @ 128	\$7280.00
Per diem 1 participant (Suriname) x 7 nights @ 128	\$896.00
Per diem 1 participant (Belize) x 5nights @ 128	\$640.00
Conference room	N/C if 10 hotel rooms
Coffee breaks	\$410.00
Lunch \$12x25x 3days	\$900.00
Local transport(airport transfer)	\$600.00
Photocopying/stationary	\$300.00
Communications	\$200.00
Subtotal	\$16226.00
Resource person IICA airfare and per diem	\$690.00
Resource persons APHIS	
Airfare and per diem	Contributed by USDA/APHIS
Project Management Cost	Waived by IICA
Total	<hr/> \$16916.00 <hr/>

10



**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
OFFICE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

3 Herbert Street, Newtown, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago / P.O. Box 1318

Tel: (868) 628-4403/4078/4079; 622-7050/7086/7093; Fax: (868) 628-4562; Cable: IICAPOS; Email: iicatt@iicacarc.org