

7th January 2013

Greetings Colleagues

On behalf of the Association of Caribbean Beekeepers’ Organisations, it’s my pleasure to invite you to meet with the Caribbean beekeeping community as we congregate at the University of the Virgin Islands, Albert A. Sheen Campus, Kingshill, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, for the joint staging of our 7th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress and the 2nd Caribbean Bee College, from 26th to 30th May 2014. The joint event is being staged in collaboration with our partners; the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of the Virgin Islands, the Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab at the University of Florida, and the East Caribbean Bee Research and Extension Center at the St. George’s University .

The Caribbean with its many and varied islands and mainland states, offers unique opportunities for beekeeping. At a time when there are well-documented global concerns about the multifaceted challenges confronting the honeybee and the sustainability of beekeeping practices, the 7th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress and the 2nd Caribbean Bee College will provide status reports on beekeeping in the region, as well as classroom and training sessions on proven sustainable beekeeping practices.

Our congress series, started in Tobago in 1998, is now firmly established as the premier Caribbean beekeeping activity and has served to stimulate the growth of beekeeping in all host countries. The joint staging of this year’s congress and college is intended to further stimulate sector growth by addressing specific development and training needs. The five day event will consist of two-days of congress presentations with a keynote address by Dr. Nicola Bradbear, cofounder of Bees *for* Development, followed by a one-day combined session of meetings, technical tours and cultural evening, and two-days of lectures and workshops on a variety of beginner and advanced honey bee and beekeeping topics.

I’m personally looking forward to welcoming your to our 7th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress and the 2nd Caribbean Bee College in the United States Virgin Islands, from 26th to 30th May 2014, and invite you to contact me for further information at: [associationofcaribbeanbeekeepers@yahoo.com](mailto:associationofcaribbeanbeekeepers@yahoo.com) or check the www @ <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/caribbean_bee_college.Shtml>

Gladstone Solomon,

President, Association of Caribbean Beekeepers’ Organisations