

# CARIB AGRI NEWSLETTER

*Strengthening knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue on  
Caribbean Agriculture and Food Security*

NOVEMBER 16, 2015

**Dear Subscribers,**

Here's the latest update from the Carib Agri LISTSERV: a Forum started and managed by the Caribbean Sub-regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in order to strengthen knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue on Caribbean Agriculture and Food Security.

Please disseminate the information featured in this newsletter and contribute to the expansion of the Carib Agri network by encouraging others to subscribe to the LISTSERV via the subscribe button found on the following web page:  
<https://listserv.fao.org/cgi-bin/wa?A0=carib-agri-l>

Kind regards,  
**Carib Agri Moderator,**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean**



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## NEWS FROM FAO

### FAO CARIBBEAN SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE (FAO SLC)

#### FAO to launch discussions on agriculture and food security in the Caribbean

The FAO Caribbean Sub-regional Office will be launching weekly policy discussions on Caribbean agriculture and food security. We'll update you soon on our plans to improve our communication with you, as well as the upcoming schedule of the discussions.

### World Food Day Statement from FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean on the Occasion of World Food Day 2015 – 16 October, 2015

Achieving and safeguarding food and nutrition security - one of the most basic human needs - is under increasing threat in the Caribbean sub-region, due to rapid shifts in the economic and political landscape as well as increasing environmental instability caused by the effects of climate change.

The mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which aims to promote and ensure food security – the availability of adequate amounts of healthy and high-quality food- is therefore now more relevant than ever. [Read more here.](#)

### BARBADOS COUNTRY OFFICE

#### FAO Promoting Cassava Farmer to Market Linkages in the Caribbean through Contract Farming

**(Bridgetown, 19 October, 2015)** - The FAO is partnering with other regional agencies and programs to promote contract farming in the Caribbean as a means to better coordinate links between farmers and agribusiness firms. Farm leaders, agribusiness executives, government officials, NGOs and development practitioners from various CARICOM countries participated in the first training workshop in the region held to promote cassava farmer to market linkages through contract farming. [Read more here.](#)

## ST KITTS AND NEVIS COUNTRY OFFICE

### St Kitts and Nevis Approved National Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing



The Honourable Eugene Alastair Hamilton, Minister for Agriculture, on behalf of the Government, has signed the National Plan of


Action on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

The signing of the National Plan of Action on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing demonstrates that St. Kitts and Nevis is committed to the objectives outlined in the International Plan of Action on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and that the Federation is taking a proactive approach to combat and deter IUU fishing while maintaining the sustainability of the global fisheries resources. [Read more here.](#)

## ST. LUCIA COUNTRY OFFICE

### School Feeding Programme opens in St. Lucia

The Saint Lucia Electricity Services limited, (Lucelec), on Wednesday, September 23, officially presented the school feeding programme project at the Vieux-Fort Primary School. The project is part of the action plan of St. Lucia's food and nutrition policy.

Watch highlights from launch of the project on YouTube via the following link:  <https://youtu.be/Ci1fNqwZk8o>

## MEETING IN PANAMA

### Experts meet to improve regional management of Caribbean billfish resources through innovative approaches

(Panama City, 11 November, 2015) – 54 experts from over 20 countries from the Caribbean and the USA met in Panama City on November 9, 2015 for a three day workshop on Caribbean Billfish Fisheries Management and Conservation. [Read more here.](#)

## NEWS FROM CTA

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Pacific Agri Food Forum, Barbados, 2-6 November, 2015

#### Lower import bills, improved health with indigenous roots and tubers

A panel on *Opportunities in the Roots and Tubers Industry*, held on the first day of the [2nd Caribbean Agribusiness Forum](#), explored the scope for creating the right environment for the private sector to develop these sectors.

"The opportunity is there. The knowledge is there. What we need is to understand how to use those opportunities," said Deep Ford, Director of the Caribbean Office of the Food and Agriculture



Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Barbados.

"We are talking about building a cassava value chain in the region; we are talking about diverse

products; we are talking about the public and private sectors." Developed properly, cassava could help to replace the previous staple Caribbean commodities of banana and sugar in terms of economic generation, he added.

Already, a number of food and beverage manufacturers are starting to use cassava to replace some imported or non-native ingredients. Among these are Red Stripe Jamaican beer and Purity Bakery in Barbados, which is producing bread using 40 per cent cassava flour instead of wheat flour. [Read more here.](#)