Dear Participants

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), implementing agencies for Components 3, and 2 respectively of the Agricultural Policy Programme, which is funded by the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) take pleasure in welcoming you to participate in this very important workshop.

About the APP

The “Caribbean Action under the Programme entitled Agricultural Policy Programme (APP) focuses on the Caribbean and the Pacific, and is one of three Intra-ACP projects funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). The CARIFORUM APP is executed through a Contribution Agreement signed between the European Union (EU) and IICA, with the CARICOM Secretariat and CARDI as Implementing Partners.

The overall objective of the Action is to contribute to enhance the regional (Caribbean and Pacific) and interregional capabilities of the agricultural sectors in eradicating poverty. The specific objective is to increase the capability of Regional Agricultural Development Organizations of the Caribbean and Pacific regions to address the development needs of smallholder agriculture.

The Action targets smallholder producers as the main beneficiaries and the activities in the three components are expected to improve, inter alia, the capacity of national and regional institutions to address their development needs and to increase production and productivity of selected commercial and nutritionally valuable agricultural produce by using technological and organizational solutions that address their specific development constraints.

Background to the Workshop

During 2015, the technical activities executed under the APP generated a wealth of raw data, information and analysis, including:

1. farmer traditional knowledge and innovative practices (Component 2’s baseline surveys);
2. harmonisation of protocols for movement of plant and animal germplasm across the region (Component 2); and
3. commodity-based market value chain development initiatives, including financing for and market information needs of MSMEs stakeholders (Component 3’s rapid assessments).

To date, discussion and dissemination of the findings and recommendations of these activities have been largely through activity-specific ‘validation workshops’ and direct engagement with targets specific stakeholders.

In 2016, the APP Implementing Partners and their collaborators will implement a number of additional actions that will further augment, validate and/or attempt to apply the findings and recommendations towards achieving the project’s objectives. These interventions are defined at the:

1. Regional level, with a focus on strengthening regional coordination mechanisms established for more effective institutional collaboration and delivery of support and technical advice to stakeholders, related to development of both priority themes and commodity-based industries;
2. National level, with emphasis on strengthening the enabling environment through direct engagement with Ministries of Agriculture for the development and/or strengthening of national plans in keeping with national policy/strategic frameworks, and aligned with regional policies and strategies;
3. Producer group/enterprise level, with emphasis on adding value to their existing initiatives, particularly as it relates to, inter-alia, expanding business and market opportunities.

Purpose of the Workshop

This Regional workshop is a joint APP Component 3 and 2, Action at the regional and producer group/enterprise levels, and is intended to:

(a) To strengthen the leadership of regional and national commodity producer/enterprise groups, for improved representation of and services to their membership
Regional Workshop on Producer, Enterprise Group/Network Governance, Organization & Dynamics

Regional producer organizations and networks would have demonstrated that they are on their way toward implementing improved governance procedures and organizational competences to deliver services to their members, and at least 5 producer groups/50 primary farmers in CARIFORUM have adopted improved technologies.

Workshop Agenda
Please see attached.

Workshop Venue
The Workshop will be held at:
- Beachcombers Hotel (Day 1 and Day 2)
- National Insurance Services Training Room in Kingstown (Day 3)

Hotel Accommodation
Participants will stay at one of the following hotels:

Beachcomber Hotel
Villa Beach, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 784-458-4283, Fax 784-458-4385,
Email: beachcombers@vincysurf.com
Website: http://www.beachcombershotel.com

Sunset Shores Beach Hotel
P.O. Box 849; Villa, , Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 784-458-4411
Website: http://www.sunsetshores.com

Paradise Beach Hotel
Villa Beach, P.O. Box 639, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 784-457-4795/570-0000
Email: info@paradisesvg.com
Website: http://www.paradisesvg.com

Airline Reservation and Ticketing
An economy ticket to and from St. Vincent and the Grenadines (via the most direct route) as well as Travel Insurance will be paid for each participant.

IICA-APP Component 3 will advise participants of issued tickets.

Each participant must retain their incoming airline boarding pass and submit same to the workshop secretariat.

Participants and Resource Persons
Over fifty (50) persons include leaders of producer and enterprise groups/networks; (including representatives of women and youth groups) National Value Chain Facilitators; Business Development Officers; and IICA Specialist from 11 CARIFORUM countries have been invited to participate in the Workshop.

Several panelist and resource persons with relevant expertise and experience will lead technical sessions in the areas of Producer/Enterprise Group Dynamics; Entrepreneurship; Enterprise Credit – readiness and Investment Assessments; and Good Agricultural Practices.

A list of all confirmed participants and profile of Workshop Resource Persons will be circulated.

Expected outcome
At the conclusion of the Workshop, it is expected that Leaders of Regional and National Producer and Enterprise groups (including youth and women groups) as well as support agents/extension officers would have increased their knowledge and capacity to manage producer groups and enterprises and so that by the end of the APP project at least 10 National and
Participants are also advised that the following persons within the IICA Delegations and CARDI Offices have been advised of their travel arrangements:

**IICA**
- Antigua and Barbuda – Craig Thomas
- Barbados – Damien Hinds
- Belize – Maximilliano Ortega
- Dominica – Kent Coipel
- Grenada – Derek Charles
- Guyana – Arnold Demendonca
- Jamaica – Ainsworth Riley
- St. Lucia – Brent Theophile
- Suriname – Stanley Oosthuizen
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Michael Dalton
- Trinidad and Tobago – Edric Harry

**CARDI**
- Antigua and Barbuda – Greg Robin
- Belize – Hector Reyes
- Bahamas (IICA) – Manuel Messina
- Dominica – Dorian Etienne
- Dominica Republic (IDIAF) – Gregory Lagombra
- Grenada – Reginald Andall
- Guyana (IICA) – Wilmot Garnett
- Jamaica – Albert Fearon/Dionne Clarke-Harris
- St. Lucia – Ronald Pilgrim
- St Kitts and Nevis – Laurence Knight/Vashti Dunrod
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Greg Robin
- Suriname (CELOS) – Inez Demon

- Trinidad and Tobago – Norman Gibson/Heidi Jack

**Transportation**
Arrangements will be made for participants to be transported from the airport to the hotel and back on the date of departure. Transportation would also be provided for the planned GAP Field Trip.

**Per Diem and Meals**
Each participant will receive a per diem allowance to cover dinner and other incidentals.

Arrangements have been made for each participant to collect their Per Diem on the first day of the Workshop.

For persons travelling into and out of St. Vincent and who have to overnight in another country, per diem allowance will cover accommodation, meals and ground transportation in the transit country.

**Workshop Contact Persons**
Kathleen Blackman; Technical Coordinator APP- C3: kathleen.blackman@iica.int

Richard Rampersaud: Technical Coordinator APP-C2 rrampersaud@cardi.org