Research and Development Initiatives in Support of Economic Diversification

Wednesday March 15th 2017
Institute of Critical Thinking
Lecture Rooms 1 & 2
3rd Floor, Centre for Language Learning, UWI, St. Augustine Campus
PROGRAMME

8:00 – 8:30 REGISTRATION

8:30 – 8:35 Chair
Mr. Winston Rudder – Chairman, Cocoa Research Advisory Board

8:35 – 8:45 Welcome Remarks
Prof. Rhoda Reddock – Deputy Principal, UWI St. Augustine Campus

8:45 – 8:55 Remarks on The Strategic Planning Exercise
Ms. Jaqueline Rawlins - CDCTT

8:55 – 9:05 Remarks – Overview of presentations and their impact on diversification
Prof. Pathmanathan Umaharan – Director, Cocoa Research Centre, UWI St. Augustine Campus

9:05 – 9:15 Address by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
Senator Clarence Rambhart

9:15 – 9:45 COCOA BREAK

Conservation and Exploitation of Genetic Resources

9:45 – 10:00 The International Cocoa Genebank Trinidad (ICGT) - a potential Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) site.
Frances L. Bekele, Gillian G. Bidaisee and Junior J. Bhola

10:00 – 10:15 Current estimates of mislabelling in CRC's cacao germplasm collections.
Antoinette Sankar, David Gopaulchan, Saila Ramkissoon, Amrita Mahabir, Michel Boccaura, Rena K. Kalloo and Lambert A. Motilal

10:15 – 10:30 SNP insights into Trinitario cacao.
David Gopaulchan, A. Mahabir, A. Sankar and L.A. Motilal

10:30 – 10:45 Improvement of the Trinidad Selected Hybrids through breeding.
Julia C. Parris
Mitigation of Risk – Frosty Pod, Cadmium Bioaccumulation

10:45 – 11:00 Frosty Pod Rot Disease: reducing the risk of its introduction to the ICGT. 
Romina Umaharan and G. Martijn ten Hoopen

11:00 – 11:15 Preventing the spread and mitigating the impact of cocoa diseases in the Caribbean. 
G. Martijn ten Hoopen and Romina Umaharan

11.15 – 11:30 Genetic variation of cadmium bioaccumulation in cocoa. 
Caleb Lewis, Adrian Lennon, Gaius Eudoxie and P. Umaharan

11:30 – 11:45 Mitigation of cadmium bioaccumulation in cacao through soil remediation. 
Gideon Ramtahal and P. Umaharan

Branding, Start-up Support and Market Development

11:45 – 12:00 What's really at the end of the cocoa rainbow….lessons from the private sector. 
Ashley Parasram

12:00 – 12:15 Building a branded and value added cocoa industry in Trinidad and Tobago. 
Darin Sukha, Naailah Ali, Matthew Escalante, Kerry Ann Deo and S. Ramkissoon

12:15 – 1:15 LUNCH BREAK

Food Technology and Product Development

1:15 – 1:30 The impact of pollen donor on flavour in cocoa. 
D.A. Sukha, P. Umaharan and David R. Butler

1:30 – 1:45 An assessment of the effect of cinnamon spice on cocoa nibs: An approach to change flavour in stored roasted cocoa nibs. 
Matthew Escalante, Gerrit Meerdink and P. Umaharan

1:45 – 2:00 An investigation of metabolic and cognitive function in a Cafeteria Diet-Induced Obese Rodent Model. 
Aneisha R. Lewis, Farid Youssef and Shamjeet Singh
2:00 – 2:15 Exploiting the nutraceutical value of cocoa (*Theobroma cacao* L.) germplasm. **Naailah A. Ali, Gail S.H. Baccus-Taylor, D.A. Sukha, Saila Ramkissoon and P. Umaharan**

**Innovations in Agronomy to Improve Productivity**


2:30 – 2:45 Genetic basis of flowering time and pod development period in cocoa: relationships to yield. **Surja Chakrabarti and P. Umaharan**

2:45 – 3:15 COCOA BREAK

**Reducing the Cost of Production through Mechanisation – Small Holder Innovations to Support Farmer Profitability**


3:30 – 3:45 Engineering innovation to enhance the regional cocoa industry. **Renique Murray**

**Investment Support through Development of an Information System**

3:45 – 4:00 The application of GIS modelling to aid decision making for cocoa production and management. **Pritam Kumarsingh**

**DISCUSSION AND CLOSING REMARKS**