

Winston R. Rudder

Winston R. Rudder is a celebrated Trinidad and Tobago Agricultural Economist and Development Consultant who has spent over five decades leading in development policy and planning at the national and international levels. This has included project implementation in post-disaster and post-conflict emergency rehabilitation operations as in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. As Representative of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), he arrived in the Maldives establishing the organisation's post-tsunami office in Malé, coordinating relief and recovery across fisheries and agriculture.

An alumnus of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1965, Rudder went on to complete his Master's in Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba and was a Fellow of the Economic Development Institute, on the World Bank Agricultural and Rural Development Project Analysis in 1980. He spent his early career rising through Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Agriculture. From 1988 to 1998, he served as Permanent Secretary across three government ministries, providing strategic leadership during a decade of institutional change.

His international work took him far beyond the Caribbean. As FAO Representative to Nepal from 1998 to 2002, and later Sub-Regional Representative for the Caribbean, he helped shape agricultural policy in two sub-regions. After the Maldives, he led FAO's Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit in Russia's North Caucasus, coordinating agricultural recovery for Internally Displaced Persons from the Chechen War.

Rudder's leadership continued at home with his serving as President and CEO of the Cropper Foundation; Chair of Trinidad and Tobago's Agricultural Development Bank and Cocoa Development Company; Chair of the Cocoa Research Advisory Board at The UWI, St. Augustine since 2013; and Chairman of the Public Service Commission (2020 to 2026).

For his work, Winston R. Rudder was recognised in 2012 among 50 outstanding public servants marking Trinidad and Tobago's first 50 years of independence, and was awarded the Chaconia Medal Gold in 2016.