Role of the New Faculty of Food and Agriculture

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Professor Carlisle Pemberton

Professor Carlisle Pemberton officially took over as Dean of the new Faculty of Food and Agriculture on August 1, 2012. Prof Pemberton will fill the post for one year. He talked to UWI Today about his vision for the new Faculty.

UWI Today: What do you see as the benefits of the split in the Faculty of Science and Technology?
The new Faculty of Food and Agriculture allows the University to pay greater attention to the problems of agriculture in the region. Also the formation of a new Faculty of Science and Technology will increase the relevance of these Faculties to Caribbean society by their orientation to a greater technological focus. But by focusing on food and agriculture, the formation of the new Faculty will allow the University to concentrate on the development of the new technologies and systems that are needed to revolutionize agriculture in the Caribbean. And I say here the “University”, since the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, although located on the St Augustine Campus, remains a single Campus Faculty with responsibility for teaching, training and research of food and agriculture for all the contributing countries to the University.

UWI Today: What do you see as the immediate challenges?
• To mould the new Faculty into a force for change in the regional agricultural sector.
• To meet the...
Role of the New Faculty of Food and Agriculture
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great expectations of stakeholders for the solution of the various problems facing the regional food and agricultural sector. For example:
• Regional farmers and processors are expecting the University to provide solutions for the rapid death of their coconut trees,
• Many Governments of the region want to find solutions to the decline in cocoa and coffee production
• St. Vincent and the Grenadines would like the University to assist in solving the problem of declining arrowroot production.
• CARICOM Ministers of Food and Agriculture are expecting the University to contribute meaningfully to the perennial problem of food and nutrition security in the region, and the areas where the Faculty is expected to contribute are readily identifiable in the recent CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP).
• To attain the highest academic standards within the Faculty and to ensure that all our programmes are internationally accredited.

UWI Today: You are interim Dean, but you must have a vision; would you care to share it?
I look forward to a Faculty offering programmes so attractive to young people leaving high schools and other first-time University entrants from the region and beyond, that we become largely a Faculty of first choice. Also to become a Faculty offering to the region a stream of technological innovations and operational solutions that could assist the region’s agriculture to be a developmental vehicle and a meaningful contributor to the alleviation of our food and nutrition security concerns.

UWI Today: How long have you been at the Faculty?
I was a student in the Faculty since 1967 and after graduating in 1970, I went on to do the MSc (Agricultural Economics) here at the then Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management. After doing my PhD in Canada, I returned to the Faculty as a Lecturer in 1976 and I have been here since then, with short stints of teaching at the University of Georgia and Florida State University.

UWI Today: What in your view was the most significant change that took place while you have been there?
I suppose the most significant change has been the increase in the number of females on the staff and in the student body of the Faculty. But academically the most significant change has been the expansion of the range of programmes offered in the Faculty. When I was a student, the only undergraduate degree offered in the Faculty was the BSc (Agriculture) General degree. Now our offerings include programmes in Agribusiness Management, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Geography, Family and Consumer Sciences, Tropical Landscaping and Environmental and Natural Resource Management. The Faculty also now offers a wide range of graduate degrees.

Source: UWI Today, June 2012

Agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago: How Do We Move Forward?

“Agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago: How Do We Move Forward?” is the title of an article by Dr Sharon Hutchinson, Lecturer and Deputy Dean, Outreach and Internationalization in the book, “Trinidad and Tobago: 50 years of Independence”, which was launched by the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development to mark the nation’s 50 years of Independence. The book, which is published by the award-winning publishing house FIRST, is intended to be an information resource for citizens, researchers, students, tourists or anyone inquiring into the various aspects of life in Trinidad and Tobago. It gives an historical context of the nation while providing the reader with insight to chart the course over the next 50 years into the future of Trinidad and Tobago, according to the Ministry.
Sustainable Food Production Practices in the Caribbean, was launched on 2nd October 2012 in the UWI St Augustine Campus Principal’s Office.

A large gathering, representing various organizations, was present for the launch, including the Minister of Food Production, Senator the Honorable Devant Maharaj, who gave the feature address.

The Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Prof Carlisle Pemberton, noted that the book "is geared towards sustainable production systems that economize on the use of water, pesticides and other chemicals and also conserve the region's natural resources". He added that, "the book presents a number of articles written by many staff and graduate students of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture and several of our university graduates".

Professor Dyer Narinesingh, who wrote the preface to the book, stated as follows, “Unlike most books on food production which tend to focus on the science and/or technology aspects, this book is unique in that the authors use a non traditional approach to sustainable food production practices”. He added that, “the book fulfills its mandate as an important vehicle for spreading sustainable practices among all food producers and the population at large so that “future generations can have access to a consistent supply of safe nutritious food and still enjoy all that nature has given us”.

You can contact the editors, Drs Wendy-Ann Isaac and Wayne Ganpat, at Wayne.Ganpat@sta.uwi.edu or Wendy-Ann.Isaac@sta.uwi.edu, for information on sourcing the book.
Mr Eddie Edghill, a Barbadian, donated a piece of agricultural land to develop “proper and up-to-date teaching and training facilities” in the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. A proposal was subsequently developed by Dr Chelston Brathwaite, for the UWI Cave Hill Campus, to use the land for a “UWI Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship”.

Dean Professor Carlisle Pemberton, represented the PVC Clement Sankat, Campus Principal, St Augustine, at a ceremony to mark the transfer of the land to the Cave Hill Campus by the Edghill Family, on Monday 17th September, 2012 At the ceremony, Professor Pemberton noted that, “it was an important event for the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA), since it represented the first event outside of Trinidad and Tobago and the St Augustine Campus, in CARICOM, at which the FFA has been represented”.

He added that, “over the years the faculty had been fortunate to have many brilliant Barbadian students and hoped that the initiative will increase that flow”. He continued that, “the event marked an important development for the Region’s agriculture and that the aim to establish a Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship was certainly a novel and timely one”. According to Professor Pemberton, “food security continues to be highlighted by recent events and in the CARICOM Secretariat’s Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP). This Policy aims to achieve for the Region, the following major objectives:

1. Increasing the availability and access to food in the Region;
2. Improving the nutritional status of the Region’s population; and
3. Stabilizing the Regional food supply.

However, these objectives can only be achieved by Regional food production that is internationally competitive and which ensures that food is made available to consumers at the lowest cost, while maintaining the highest nutritive standards. In other words, entrepreneurship must play a key role for the achievement of food and nutrition security. Thus the selection of joint foci of Food Security and Entrepreneurship for the proposed Centre is indeed to be highly commended”. He further stated that, “the FFA stands committed to support actively and participate in the proposed Centre. One immediate area of collaboration can be with respect to our graduate programme in Food Security, which is currently being planned in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension”.

He noted that, “the the creation of a farm at the site for the training of a new cadre of skilled persons would certainly be a milestone in agricultural and economic development in Barbados”.

Professor Pemberton commended “the generosity of the “Economic Heroes” in the Edghill family, whose gracious donation of the land has made this whole event possible.”
Promotion to Professor

On Wednesday 3rd October, 2012 Dr Carlisle Pemberton was promoted to the rank of Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University Appointments Committee meeting. He currently serves as the Dean of the new Faculty of Food and Agriculture.

Professor Pemberton holds a BSc (Agriculture), MSc (Agricultural Economics) and MSc (Statistics with Distinction) all from UWI and a PhD (Agricultural Economics) from the University of Manitoba. He has published over 30 refereed articles and chapters in books and monographs. He has also been the major presenter at the thirteen West Indies Agricultural Economics Conferences held since 1986. Professor Pemberton now serves on the Editorial Boards of Tropical Agriculture and the Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies.

Professor Pemberton has been instrumental in the design and implementation of a number of programmes offered by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension. These include designing and organizing the MSc (Agricultural Economics) and the MPhil and PhD (Agricultural Economics) degrees. He also designed (with Errol Simms and Vidya Seejattan) the BSc (Agribusiness Management) degree.

Professor Pemberton teaches in the areas of quantitative methods in Agricultural Economics, Research Methodology and Economic Theory. Prof Pemberton was also Visiting Professor in the Department of Economics, Florida State University 2001 to 2002, where he also taught in the College of Human Sciences.

Professor Pemberton’s research has spanned agricultural production and marketing, particularly with respect to the cocoa industry, but he has also done research in the area of non-market valuation especially with respect to the valuation of wetlands. Currently he is Trinidad Project Leader of CARIWATNET, a joint project with Wageningen University the University of Haiti and CIRAD, Martinique on watershed management planning in the Caribbean.

Professor Pemberton has been particularly devoted to the mentoring and development of graduate students in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, having supervised 4 PhD, 6 MPhil and 13 MSc (Agricultural Economics) theses and 38 MSc Research Projects. Aside from his teaching and research, Professor Pemberton has served and continues to serve a number of professional societies. Currently he is the President of the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society (CAES) and for the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, he now serves as the Chair of the Committee on the Opportunities and Status of Blacks in Agricultural Economics (COSBAE) and is a Member of the Quality of Communication Awards Committee. He is also the Trinidad and Tobago representative on the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

In the wider areas of public service, he is currently the Chairman of the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board of Trinidad and Tobago (CCIB) and serves on the Board of Management of the Bishop Anstey High School East and Trinity College East and is a former Chairman of the University School Association.

Professor Pemberton’s has received a number of awards, including “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Caribbean Agro-Economic Society, Senior Fulbright Fellowship, World Bank Institute Award and Scholarship (Development Marketplace), Honourable Mention, Annual Competition Academic Royale des Sciences D’Outre-Mer Bruxelles, Belgique and an Association of Commonwealth Universities Fellowship and a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship.

Aside from all his academic work and achievement, Professor Pemberton also finds time to serve actively in the Anglican Church being on the Vestry of St Mary’s Church, Tacarigua and a volunteer tutor at the St Mary’s Children Home.

Thus, we the members of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Carlisle Alexander Pemberton on his promotion.
In keeping with the pedagogical objectives of the Department of Food Production (DFP), Faculty of Science and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies (UWI), to train critical thinkers and problem solvers to address issues in food and agriculture, and based on an external review of the Department, it was agreed that a reform of the undergraduate programme was necessary. Specific recommendations made by the reviewers in this regard included:

(i) the need for greater flexibility of the programme at the upper end to permit students to pursue their interests;

(ii) strengthening of the internships so that students could have a better professional experience; and

(iii) discontinuation of the Major in Agricultural Science.

Consultation among major stakeholders

To achieve these reforms and develop more relevant programmes for food and agriculture in the Caribbean, an exercise was begun in April 2009, which sought to identify key competencies required for the BSc Agriculture programme in accordance with best practice. The process involved wide stakeholder consultation among major stakeholders across the region in the public and private sectors, current and past agriculture students and staff. While there was satisfaction with the level of scientific and technical knowledge, a major concern among all groups was inadequate use of a hands-on approach in the delivery of the current BSc programme. In addition, to the apparent weakness in practical knowledge, both students and employers felt that the programme was deficient in areas such as agricultural extension, business training, management skills and familiarity with some important issues impacting the agriculture sector regionally and internationally.

To address these short-comings and to provide more relevant training, a departmental curriculum committee comprising representatives from each discipline developed two programmes – a BSc Agriculture degree and a Major in Agricultural Technology, with key themes of food and nutrition security, competitiveness and sustainability of the agricultural sector and environmental management. These competency-based programmes provide comprehensive theoretical and practical training in the major fields of agriculture, including agricultural sciences, production, postharvest and utilisation/value addition technologies, agribusiness, agricultural extension and human nutrition.

Degree options

The degree offers options in Commodity Utilisation and Food Quality, Entrepreneurship (Special), Livestock Production and Management, Crop Science and Management, Soil and Water Science, Agricultural Extension, and Integrated Production Systems. Another highlight of the revised degree is the enhanced internship programme that will not only provide work experience and training in life skills, but will also allow students to elect the option of one academic year (two full semesters) of work experience. Greater emphasis on technology in the new major makes it more compatible and useful with the other relevant majors and minors e.g. Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. Thus, both programmes will provide students with core competencies in agriculture while catering for their professional interests and competencies in a range of specific but relevant areas, and emphasise the development of critical thinking and practical skills through experiential learning. Depending on the qualifications of new students, the BSc programme in its revised format will have a duration of three to four years, while that of the Major will be two to three years.

These programmes were approved by the Board of Undergraduate Studies (BUS) of the UWI in July 2011, and by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) early this year. The programmes will be offered by the Department of Food Production, Faculty of Food and Agriculture from September 2013.

Submitted by: Dr Laura Roberts-Nkumah, Lecturer, Department of Food Production
NIHERST Top Awardee for Excellence in Applied Science and Technology 2012

Professor Neela Badrie, Deputy Dean of Research and Innovation, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, University of the West Indies, St Augustine was awarded the Rudranath Capildeo Prize for excellence in applied science and technology by the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIHERST). The selection was made by a panel of international experts. She also received the gold medal for microbiology, specializing in the field of food science and technology. A gala ceremony was held at Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre on the 29th September, 2012, however Prof Badrie was unable to attend due to her travel to Canada.

NIHERST is mandated to promote the development of science and technology in Trinidad and Tobago. An important aspect of NIHERST's work is to recognise and reward citizens for their outstanding achievements in science and technology.

Professor Badrie has been the recipient of several awards, among the most recent are the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) fellow 2011, Trieste, Italy and a Fulbright USA scholar 2009.

Agriculture Blog Winners

The Agribusiness Society (ABS) of The UWI has won the first edition of the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation’s (CTA) Yobloco (Youth in Agriculture Blog Competition) Awards.

Last year the society began a blog which highlights technologies, techniques and methods, both old and new that can be applied to the agricultural sector at any level. The blog won in the Institutional Category for the Caribbean Region. As part of the prize package, winners in that category as well as those in the Individual category were invited and sponsored to attend the 3rd International Association of Agricultural Information Specialist (IAALD) Africa Chapter Conference in Johannesburg in May 2012.

The Caribbean was represented by Keron Bascombe, author and creator of the blog and representative of the ABS. Other regional representatives include Barbadian, Keeley Holder of the Caribbean Farmer’s Network and Jamaican Ivy Gordon of Jefferson Farms. The winners, runners-up and their prolific blogs can be found at the CTA ARDYIS website.

The society’s blog is entitled “Technology4agri” (http://technology4agri.wordpress.com/)

Source: UWI Today, June 2012
The Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA), UWI, St Augustine joined the globe in observation of World Food Day on October, 16th 2012. This year’s theme was “Agricultural Cooperatives – Key to Feeding the World”. This theme was chosen to highlight the role of cooperatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger.

Food is now at the very top of the global agenda and food security has become “buzz words’ in the Caribbean. In 1996, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations defined “food security, at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels [is achieved] when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”.

Among the mandates of the National Action Food Plan of Trinidad and Tobago 2012-2017 are the reduction of the food import bill, and inflation driven by food prices, and improvement of the country’s food security status.

A cooperative is a special type of enterprise. It is a social enterprise that balances two goals (1) satisfying its members’ needs and (2) pursuing profit and sustainability according to the Food and Agriculture Organization. Cooperatives and producer organizations are central in building small producers’ skills, providing them with appropriate information and knowledge, helping them to innovate and adapt to changing markets. Some enable farmers to build their capacity to analyze their production systems, identify their problems, test possible solutions and eventually adopt the practices and technologies best suited to their farming systems. There are many examples of local cooperatives such as:

- Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society Cooperative,
- Cunupia Farmers Cooperative Society Limited
- Citrus Cooperative Growers Association,
- Coconut Growers Association
- Cedros Fishing Cooperative

which all play roles in meeting the growing demand for food in local, national and international markets. Therefore, they contribute to poverty alleviation, food security and the eradication of hunger.

The FFA is collaborating with the Cunupia Farmers Association Cooperative Society in the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)/CARICOM Food Security project on the theme ‘Improving the nutrition and health of CARICOM populations by increased food availability and diversity through sustainable agricultural technologies’. There is a general agreement that smallholders must provide much of the extra food needed to feed more than nine billion people by 2050. In Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) about 87% of agricultural holdings are on plots of land of 5 acres or less. T&T’s small farmers produce a range of food crops, animals and products for both their families and for the market.

One of the major strategic initiatives for the FFA will be to increase food production through the discovery of new technology and the translation of that technology into valued-added products via the promotion of agribusiness to contribute meaningfully to the improvement of food security in the Caribbean region. One major area of investment in the new FFA is the relocation of the University Field Station to Orange Grove. The development of the 200 acres would involve commercial activities.

World Food Day was commemorated with a display by “the Division of Science and Technology, Food and Agriculture at UWI Main library”, Faculty of Food and Agriculture booth displays and demonstrations at the agricultural exhibition at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago, organized by the Tobago House of Assembly, participation by the Dean of FFA, Professor Carlisle Pemberton and other academics at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda.

Submitted by Professor Neela Badrie, Microbiologist and Deputy Dean of Faculty of Food and Agriculture
Faculty of Food and Agriculture Celebrates World Food Day in Tobago

Staff from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension interact with primary school children and their teachers

Students from the Department of Food Production demonstrate how to prepare goat’s cheese

Student from Agribusiness Society demonstrates hydroponics system
Faculty of Food and Agriculture Prize Giving Ceremony

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture held its prize giving ceremony, together with the Faculty of Science and Technology, on 23rd October 2012. Students who received prizes for academic achievements are listed below.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND EXTENSION RECIPIENTS

Year I
Mikhail Samaroo. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Agribusiness Management
Rheva Davidson. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Human Ecology
N’Yasha Cabera. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Human Nutrition and Dietetics

Year II
Ashley Dowden. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Agribusiness Management
Rhonda Charles. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Human Ecology
Mikhail Lutchmed. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Human Nutrition and Dietetics

Year II & III
Chrystal Joshua. The Joe Pires Memorial Prize (formerly The Caribbean Chemicals & Agencies Ltd. Prize)-Awarded for the Best Performance in Agricultural Extension over Years II & III

Year III
Jeal Nicholas. Dr. Sunney D. Alexis Memorial Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Human Nutrition and Dietetics
Carla Beache. Dr. Sunney D. Alexis Memorial Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Human Nutrition and Dietetics
Sheen Pantin. The IICA Prize (formerly The Chelston W.D. Brathwaite Prize)-Awarded for the Best Final Year Project demonstrating excellence in Agribusiness Management
Kernelia Thomas. The IICA Prize (formerly The Chelston W.D. Brathwaite Prize)-Awarded for the Best Final Year Project demonstrating excellence in Human Nutrition and Dietetics
Randel Esnard. The Marketing and Distribution Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Marketing
Randel Esnard. The Scotia Bank Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in Finance & Accounting
Cherisse Bob-Mitchel. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in BSc Human Ecology
Petal Joseph. The Head of Department Prize (Evening University)-Awarded for the Best Performance in BSc Human Ecology
Randel Esnard. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in BSc Agribusiness Management (replaces Petrotrin prize)
Faculty of Food and Agriculture Prize Giving Ceremony

Elijah Williamson. The Head of Department Prize (Evening University)-Awarded for the Best Performance in BSc Agribusiness Management
Tricia Maingot. The Dean’s Prize-Awarded for the Best Performance in the Diploma in Institutional and Community Dietetics and Nutrition
Dianne Ramdhian. The Agribusiness Community Service Prize-Awarded for Outstanding Service to the Agribusiness Community donated by Agribusiness Alumni

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PRODUCTION RECEPIENTS

Year I
Teshawn Maynard. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in B.Sc. General Agriculture
Christopher Saunders. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in Geography
Zakita Bethel. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in Agricultural Science

Year II
Renold Ramdial. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in B.Sc. General Agriculture
Kenson Richards. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in Geography
Ariel Pantin. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in Agricultural Science

Year III
Nekelia Gregoire. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in B.Sc. General Agriculture
Kiron Neale. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in Geography
Rajiv Jalim. The Head of Department Prize-Awarded for the best performance in Agricultural Science

Year II - III
Russell Smith. Frederick Hardy Prize-Awarded to the Part III student who obtains the highest marks in courses taken in Soil Science at the Parts II and III examinations including the Project.

Year I - III
Nekelia Gregoire. Principal’s Prize-Awarded for the best performance in B.Sc. Agriculture-General

Year II-III
Nekelia Gregoire. Le Gendre & Co. Ltd Prize-Awarded for the best performance in crop science over years II & III
Nekelia Gregoire. W.E. Freeman Prize-Awarded for the best undergraduate final year project in cocoa and is joint School of Agriculture/School of Science prize
Alicia Jessamy-Benjamin. Thompson, Badrie-Maharaj & Associates Attorneys-at law Prize- Awarded for the best final year project in microbiology or food safety in Agriculture.
Ayanna Ramsumair. Norman Girwar Award for excellence -Awarded to the academically excellent student, best final year undergraduate project in the Department of Food Production
Kiron Neale. T. P. Lecky Award Challenge Trophy Donated by CARDI-Awarded for the best performance in all the degrees in School of Agriculture over Years I to III
Winston Scott. Currie Memorial Prize -For the student who excelled in extra curricular activities, subject to satisfactory academic performance
Jesse Jarvis. The Professor Lawrence Wilson Prize-Awarded for the best undergraduate final year project in Post Production Technology.
Avidesh Seenath. The Exim Bank Prize-Awarded for best graduating student in Geography

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Upcoming Conferences

The Caribbean Agro-Economic Society announces the 30th West Indies Agricultural Economic Conference which will take place from June 30th – July 6th, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, W.I. Papers are invited within the broad theme of the Conference:

Agribusiness Essential for Food Security: Empowering Youth and Enhancing Quality Products

and may focus on one of the following subthemes:

- Enhancing Quality for Food Security
- Value Chain for Sustainable Agribusiness
- Tertiary Education for Food and Nutrition Security
- Price Volatility
- Agro tourism
- Risk to Food and Agriculture
- Global Impact of Food and Nutrition Insecurity

The Conference will be held jointly with the Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS), and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). For more information please contact: Dr Hazel Patterson-Andrews, Secretary of the CAES, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Faculty of Food and Agriculture

The University of the West Indies
St Augustine, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, West

hazel.PAndrews@sta.uwi.edu or check the CAES at www.caestt.com

The International Congress on the Management of Amazonian and Latin American Wildlife (CIMFAUNA), will be held in Trinidad and Tobago from August 17 to 22, 2014.

The Congress will be held for the first time outside of the South American continent. The congress aims to help advance and improve the management of wildlife [non-domesticated animals] in the Neo-tropics [the Tropics of the New World (Central America, South America and the Caribbean)]. It is the only congress of its kind that focuses on Neo-tropical Animals and related Subjects and Issues.

The Congress will be conducted in three languages, English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Accommodation would be at Sir Arthur Lewis Hall of Residence of the University of the West Indies.

For more information contact:
Professor Gary Wayne Garcia
President/Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee
Department of Food Production, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies
St Augustine, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

garygwg1@gmail.com or gary.garcia@sta.uwi.edu

Faculty of Food and Agriculture Prize Giving Ceremony

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Nekelia Gregoire. The Gary Garcia Prize-Awarded for the best graduating student in Livestock Science

Kiron Neale. CIC Insurance Brokers Ltd. Prize-Awarded for the best final year Geography Project

Ayanna Ramsumair. The ADB Prize-Awarded for the Best Livestock Project

Laurence Salandy. TECU Credit Union Prize-Awarded to the Best Year 1 Tropical Landscaping Major

Clyde Griffith. The Garden Club Prize-Awarded for the Best practical paper on a horticulturally related topic

Sherrae Franklyn. Prize for the Honorable Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs-Awarded for the best performing student in the core courses of the Diploma/M.Sc Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance
For the past 10 years the Business Development Unit (BDU) has been conducting Landscape Management courses which have trained over 1,000 individuals over 2005 to 2012. Although the course is targeted towards landscapers, home gardeners, groundsmen and entrepreneurs, people from all walks of life including teachers, accountants, machine operators, therapists and more recently nurses, civil technicians and secretaries have expressed a keen interest in the field, some even hoping that the knowledge they acquire would enable them to start and conduct successful businesses.

On 20th August, 2012, the BDU conducted another Landscape Management Short Course. The facilitator, Mrs Wendy Lee Yuen held discussions and exchanged ideas with 25 participants who obtained skills in garden design, garden maintenance, site preparation, garden establishment, and preparation of a basic proposal for a landscape project. Participants attended six evening sessions from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and also enjoyed a field trip to Mrs. Lee Yuen’s home in Talparo, where they gained practical experience.

At the closing ceremony, participants were awarded certificates of merit, honours and distinction and the general comments were that the course had proven to be extremely informative, effective and well structured and that the opportunity for group study helped in sharing experiences and ideas. The Landscape Management for Entrepreneurs short course has proven to be one of the courses that continues to attract a variety of audiences, from Customer Service Representatives to Mechanics. Participants who have completed the Landscape Management Short Course have gone on to establish small corporate ventures of their own whilst other members went on to establish the Landscape Association of Trinidad and Tobago, which was formed in 2005. Eighteen potential members were present at its first meeting on Thursday September 15th, 2005. The group felt the need to come together to start an Association that would serve as a vehicle to help solve many problems identified and to serve as a facilitator in the establishment and improvement of businesses in the industry. The membership has since grown to 105 landscapers. The association is mainly involved in the development of the knowledge and skills and looking after the needs of the members. The Association has also been involved in Corporate Social Responsibility activities such as giving presentations to CEPEP contractors and employees of Phoenix Park Gas Processors on establishing a garden.

The BDU has also trained persons throughout the region by Distance Education and face to face short course programmes. It was developed out of the expressed need for relevant, up-to-date and cost effective training specific to the needs of the private and public sectors. The goal of the BDU is continuing education for adults of all ages and in particular, entrepreneurship training so as to foster the nurturing of a business-oriented cohort empowered to create their own jobs and generate their own wealth.

Submitted by: Sally Ann Henry, Clerical Assistant, BDU