

CWA Technical Seminars

AACARI Concept Note

Background/ Introduction

Agriculture Alliance of the Caribbean (AACARI) has committed to hosting a 2-part forum on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. The event begins with the Official Launch of the 2,000,000 Trees, Plants & Shrubs Planting Initiative and is followed by a Panel Discussion on “Towards Food Sovereignty and Nutrition Security - A Regional Farmer’s Perspective”.

We deemed this Initiative an essential part of the coordinated, intersectional, multidisciplinary response needed to arrest, correct, and prevent further erosion and degradation of our region.

Climate Change is an existential threat to all Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Climate change has had and will continue to have an economic, social and environmental impact on every country but more so on the Islands of the Caribbean. There are plans and discussions at every level from COP28 to small communities with no apparent resolution in sight as we approach COP 29 in November 2024. Farmers of AACARI in conjunction with other farmers are convinced we must act now to make a serious and steady contribution towards mitigation and adaptation in the fight against Climate Change.

Recognizing these milestones and the importance of achieving food and nutrition security as mandated by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2030) - SDG 1: Eradicating poverty, SDG 2: Zero hunger, SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing, SDG 4: Good education, SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13: Climate change, SDG 15: Life on land and SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the goal.

Taking all these factors into consideration, the project will serve to increase environmental awareness, the adoption of climate smart agriculture practices, biodiversity preservation, ownership, responsible attitude, understanding of integrated natural resource management, the supply chain and social inclusion and participation at the community and eventually national level.

Objectives

The objectives include planting 2,000,000 Trees, Plants & Shrubs across the Caribbean Region. This Initiative will incorporate Climate-Smart Agriculture, Agroecology, Regenerative Agriculture, Permaculture, Information & Communication Technology and Digitalization to achieve Food & Nutrition Security in the Caribbean Region while utilizing a Sustainable Comprehensive Agriculture & Resilient Food Production System through Smallholder Farms, Community Gardens & Backyard Farms - A Caribbean Regional Farmers Approach to Climate Action, Food Sovereignty and the protection of Biodiversity.

As we plant trees, plants and shrubs in support of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation, AACARI Local Chapters will coordinate efforts at the national level and will partner with government ministries of agriculture, education, social services, forestry, environment, marine resources and culture to develop and/or support Backyard Farms and Community Gardens in response to CARICOM's mandate to reduce food imports by 25% by 2025 and to continue our quest to reduce food insecurity in our region. The agriculture and food systems segment will work in conjunction with all farmers, processors beekeepers and value-addition agencies to build capacity in food production.

Target Audience

Every resident of the Region.

Proposed Agenda of Seminar

See attached

Budget

Travel by farmers to CWA 2024	\$10,000.00
Accommodations & related expenses	\$5,000.00
Items for the event & Incidentals	\$2,500.00