

## **Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean Project**

### **Concept Note**

#### **Session Title:**

**“An inclusive Market Systems Approach- the Foundation for Climate Resilient Agriculture”**

#### **Background/ Introduction**

The WUSC Caribbean facilitated session will use examples and experience from the Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean (SAC) Project to explore why building Inclusive Market Systems (IMS) for climate-resilient agricultural systems requires a multifaceted approach. This approach demands strong partnerships and collaboration across various sectors, including government agencies, research institutions, NGOs, and the private sector.

At the heart of SAC's strategy is the understanding that no single entity can address the challenges posed by climate change alone. By fostering partnerships, the systems approach leverages the expertise, resources, and networks of multiple stakeholders, enabling the development and implementation of innovative solutions tailored to the unique needs of Caribbean agriculture.

This panel session will explore the importance of coordinated efforts to maximize the impact of climate-resilient practices, making them accessible and practical for farmers across the region and will be shared through the voices and experiences of producers and other market actors from across the countries in the region where SAC is operational.

The Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean (SAC) Project is being implemented by WUSC Caribbean with funding support from the Government of Canada.

#### **Objectives**

By sharing lessons from the SAC project through the voices of stakeholders WUSC Caribbean hopes that the experiences and lessons learned, particularly with the implemented methodology can support the broader agriculture sector in the Caribbean and support small scale farmers (particularly women and youth) to become engaged in agricultural markets to increase production and profitability. At the same time, highlighting the importance of enhancing resilience through the application of climate smart agricultural practices by working with multiple stakeholders in those agricultural markets. We would also like to acknowledge the Government of Canada's support to the agriculture sector in the Caribbean.

#### **Target Audience**

The target audience, given the multi stakeholder participatory approach of the SAC project would be quite wide, from producers, policy makers, government agriculture and extension services and private sector market actors.

### **Proposed Agenda of Seminar**

The session will start with a very brief presentation on key elements / approaches of the SAC project – with a focus on the inclusive market systems approach and the promotion of climate smart agriculture practices. There will then be two panels – the first from the perspective of producers who will each briefly outline their interactions with the inclusive market systems and the impact. The moderator will start with directed questions before opening up to questions from the floor. The second panel will be from the perspective of ‘other market actors’, which will include private sector input providers, buyers, chamber of commerce, government research and extension services and an entrepreneurial female educator supporting capacity building of small scale farmers.

### **Meet our Panel Participants:**

#### **Master of Ceremonies:**



**Mrs. Nelsa English-Johnson** is an experienced project management practitioner with a strong commitment to agriculture and sustainable development. Nelsa is the WUSC Caribbean Country Coordinator in Jamaica.

#### **Panel Moderator:**



**Mr. Munish Persaud** possesses 31 years of experience in development including in sustainable agriculture, rural development, and in making markets work for the poor. Munish is the WUSC Caribbean Deputy Project Director and Advisor on Agriculture and Capacity Building for the Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean (SAC) Project.

**Panel 1 - Producers:**



**Mrs Gilles Carbon** - a female producer from Dominica who was the 2023 National Awardee - Sustainable Agriculture Female Farmer.



and Consumers Cooperative and farmer from Saint Lucia



**Apapoe Chamiel Sefinio** - A dedicated youth farmer from Suriname that has introduced climate smart agriculture onto his farm to increase resilience, productivity and profitability.



**Ms. Wendy Mitchell**- President of the Brandon Hill Farmers Group in Jamaica, a dedicated female farmer producer and processor of pepper jam and pepper sauce, and actively involved in cultivating coffee,

yellow yams, peppers, and vegetables using climate smart agricultural practices.



**Latoya Smith** - is a female producer from Jamaica who has used the IMS approach to help her expand production and integrate CSA practices on her farm.

**Mr. Aster Mondesir** - Vice President of Black Bay Producers

**Panel 2 - Market Actors**



**Shaniza Pirbux** - works with HJ Agro N.V., a private sector input provider in Suriname who has facilitated trials alongside SAC with smallholder farmers to enhance crop health/resilience, productivity and incomes.



**Eloi Alexis** - Chief Extension Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture in Saint Lucia has been very supportive of facilitating climate smart practices (pest and disease management, nutrient and soil management) to small farmers in Saint Lucia in collaboration with other market actors.



**Brian Edwards** - is the Chair of the Agriculture Sub-Committee of the Guyana Chamber of Commerce and

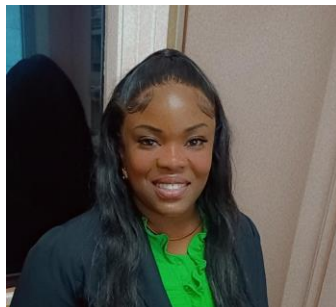
also runs Green Agro, a private sector input provider in Guyana. The chamber has worked with SAC to increase the reach and buy-in of project initiatives promoting the use of an inclusive market approach.



**Winston Scott** - Caribbean Chemicals Jamaica,

facilitator in SACs hot pepper trials in Jamaica promoting the use of the IMS approach to facilitate access to cost-effective,

high-quality inputs coupled with the use of appropriate CSA approaches and extension and technical support to maximize farmers' productivity.



**Jewel Honore** - a trained teacher, a female farmer & capacity development advisor notably around the issue of the importance of

farm record keeping, including benefits such as improved access to credit.