CARIBBEAN WEEK OF AGRICULTURE 2024
"Climate Smart Agriculture for a Sustainable Future"

CAHFSA ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2024
CONCEPT NOTE

TITLE:Climate-Resilient Sanitary and Phytosanitary Practices: Safeguarding Agriculture in a Changing Climate

1. BACKGROUND

Agriculture is a vital sector for global food security and economic stability. It provides the essential commodities needed to sustain human life and contributes significantly to the economies of many nations. However, the sector faces unprecedented challenges due to climate change, which can disrupt agricultural ecosystems, alter the prevalence and distribution of pests and diseases, and impact the overall productivity of crops and livestock.

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures play a crucial role in protecting human, animal, and plant health by preventing the introduction and spread of pests and diseases. These measures include regulations and procedures that ensure food safety, such as limits on pesticide residues and protocols to control the spread of plant and animal diseases. Effective SPS measures are fundamental to agricultural trade, as they help maintain trust between trading partners and enable access to diverse markets.

As climate change continues to impact agricultural ecosystems, adapting and enhancing SPS practices is imperative to ensure they are resilient to these new challenges. Increasing temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and the increased frequency of extreme weather events can create conducive environments for the proliferation of pests and diseases. For instance, warmer climates may accelerate the life cycles of certain pests, expanding their geographical range and increasing their population sizes. Additionally, extreme weather events can spread pathogens due to flooding or the displacement of vectors.

This session explores how climate-resilient SPS practices can be developed and implemented to safeguard agriculture in an evolving climate landscape.

2. OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the impact of climate change on pests, diseases, and SPS measures.
2. To identify best practices and innovative strategies for climate-resilient SPS measures
3. To discuss policy and regulatory frameworks that support the integration of climate resilience into SPS practices
4. To foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of SPS measures in a changing climate.

3. KEY THEMES

1. Climate Change Impacts on SPS Measures: Understanding the implications of climate change on food safety and animal and plant protection.
2. Adaptive SPS Strategies: Discussing proactive measures to mitigate climate risks and ensure the effectiveness of SPS practices.
3. Integrated Pest and Disease Management: Approaches combining SPS measures with pest and disease management to reduce vulnerability.

4. Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience: Emphasizing the link between sustainable farming practices, SPS measures, and climate resilience.
5. Policy and Regulatory Frameworks: Examining the role of policies and regulations in supporting climate-resilient SPS systems
6. Technological Innovations: Leveraging modern technologies such as remote sensing, GIS, and data analytics to strengthen SPS measures.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

- Policymakers and regulators
- Agricultural scientists and researchers
- Plant health, animal health and food safety experts
- Extension officers and agricultural practitioners
- Farmers and farmer organizations
- Representatives from Regional and international organizations
- Industry stakeholders (e.g., agribusiness companies, technology providers)

5. FORMAT:

- Keynote Presentations: Expert speakers will provide insights into the latest research and trends.
- Panel Discussions: Panels of diverse stakeholders will discuss key themes and answer audience questions.
- Interactive Q&A Sessions: Opportunities for the audience to engage with experts and discuss specific concerns.

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Increased awareness and understanding of the impact of climate change on SPS measures.
- Identification of best practices and innovative solutions for climate-resilient SPS measures.
- Development of policy recommendations to support the integration of climate resilience into SPS measures.
- Strengthened networks and partnerships among stakeholders for collaborative action.
- Practical strategies and tools that stakeholders can implement to enhance the resilience of SPS measures.

7. CONCLUSION:

The session on "Climate-Resilient Sanitary and Phytosanitary Practices: Safeguarding Agriculture in a Changing Climate" addresses the urgent need to adapt SPS measures to the realities of climate change. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the session will foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the development of innovative solutions to ensure the protection of agriculture and food security in a changing climate.

Date and Venue: [To be determined]

Organizers: Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA

Contact Person 1: Dr Gavin Peters -Email Address: ceo@cahfsa.org

Contact Person 2 Ms Juliet Goldsmith- Email: juliet.goldsmith@cahfsa.org