

## **CWA Technical Seminars**

### **Concept Note: From Talk to Action: Young People Championing Regional Food Systems**

#### **Background/Introduction**

The Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) 2024, held in St. Vincent, presents a vital opportunity for young people across the region to shift from dialogue to concrete action in championing sustainable and resilient regional food systems. Agriculture in the Caribbean faces significant challenges, including climate change, limited land resources, and the need for modernized agricultural practices. However, these challenges also present opportunities for innovation, particularly among the region's youth, who are increasingly at the forefront of integrating climate-smart and digital technologies into agriculture.

This panel, "From Talk to Action: Young People Championing Regional Food Systems," brings together dynamic young leaders from across CARICOM to discuss and present actionable strategies in key areas such as policy development, agroprocessing, incubator projects, and the implementation of digital and greenhouse technologies. The discussions will focus on resilience, sustainability, and the incorporation of climate-smart practices into agricultural systems, emphasizing the role of youth in leading these efforts. By fostering regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the panel aims to catalyze tangible progress in transforming the Caribbean's agricultural landscape.

#### **Objectives**

- To showcase and share best practices and innovative projects led by young agricultural leaders in the Caribbean.
- To identify and discuss key policy recommendations for supporting youth-led agricultural initiatives in the region.
- To facilitate networking, collaboration, and the formation of strategic partnerships among young agricultural professionals and stakeholders.
- To highlight the importance of integrating climate-smart and digital technologies into Caribbean agriculture to build resilience and sustainability.

#### **Target Audience**

- Young agricultural professionals and entrepreneurs
- Policymakers and government officials
- Regional and international agricultural organizations
- Private sector stakeholders in agriculture

- Educators and students in agricultural fields
- Representatives of women and indigenous groups in agriculture

### **Proposed Agenda of Seminar (1 hour and 30 minutes)**

#### 1. Opening Remarks (10 minutes)

- Overview of the session and introduction of panelists.

#### 2. Panel Presentations (40 minutes)

- Teesha Mangra Singh (Guyana): "Incubator Projects: Cultivating the Next Generation of Farmers"
- Jerad Darville (The Bahamas): "Policy Development: Creating an Enabling Environment for Youth in Agriculture"
- Keriiah Scantlebury (Barbados): "Agroprocessing: Adding Value to Caribbean Produce"
- Chenille Humes (Jamaica): "Digital and Greenhouse Technology: Innovating for Resilience and Sustainability"

#### 3. Interactive Q&A Session (20 minutes)

- Engage the audience with questions and discussions on the presented topics.

#### 4. Breakout Sessions (15 minutes)

- Small group discussions on specific themes such as climate-smart agriculture, digital innovation, and policy support for youth in agriculture.

#### 5. Closing Remarks and Call to Action (5 minutes)

- Summarize key takeaways and encourage ongoing collaboration among participants.

### **Additional Thematic Objectives**

- Empowering Women in Agriculture: Promote gender equality by encouraging more women to take leadership roles in agriculture and related industries.
- Supporting Indigenous Agricultural Practices: Preserve and integrate indigenous knowledge and practices into modern agricultural systems for more sustainable and culturally respectful outcomes.

- Building Capacity for Youth in Agribusiness: Provide training and resources to enable young people to become successful agripreneurs, driving economic growth and food security in the region.

This initiative will help to reinforce the vital role of young people in transforming Caribbean agriculture and ensuring the region's food security in the face of future challenges.