



# CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

ISSUE 1 · JUNE 2021

## NEWSLETTER

BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION



### Chairman's Message

Mr. Brian Crichlow  
*Assistant Director*  
*Department of Agriculture*  
*Cayman Islands*

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Plant Health Community understands the threat of global diseases, pests and emerging threats. Pests such as *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) and *Tuta absoluta*, among others have not gone away. In fact, they have become more critical. The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis that has already had severe devastating impacts on the world economy and these impacts are also being felt by the Food and Agriculture Sector. Now, more than ever, the CPHD has to remain vigilant, keeping the Caribbean Region connected and informed, as this is key to its continued safeguarding and capacity building efforts.

Over the years, the CPHD has employed a number of platforms to disseminate information relating to the forum and other plant health issues. In 2021, we are now pleased to announce, adding to its list of communication channels - an e-newsletter, as a means of reaching an even wider audience to raise the awareness of the role of the CPHD Forum in safeguarding the plant health resources of the Caribbean, advancing safe agricultural trade, and building capacity to manage new and existing pest threats.

We welcome member countries and plant health partners to actively contribute to the newsletter as we publish more editions in the future. Thank you for your continued support of the CPHD.

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# CPHD'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Understanding the challenges that COVID-19 presented to the plant health community, the CPHD Forum in 2020 took to an online format. Among partner countries, the CPHD Forum is particularly important for capacity building in pest risk identification, monitoring and surveillance and harmonizing phytosanitary measures across the region aimed at addressing food security and safe agricultural trade, especially during this age of COVID-19. In 2020, the CPHD successfully hosted a number of activities virtually.



## WEBINAR # 1 - MAY 22, 2020

On May 22, 2020, the Caribbean Plant Health Director's Forum (CPHD) in collaboration with USDA APHIS, the CARICOM Secretariat, and the Caribbean RPPD – the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), kicked off its first installment in a series of planned plant health webinars. The session “Caribbean response to the COVID 19 Pandemic and the implications for the Plant Health Community” was hosted via zoom and attracted over 60 participants from member countries, as well as regional and international plant health organizations.

### Suggested Action for Member States

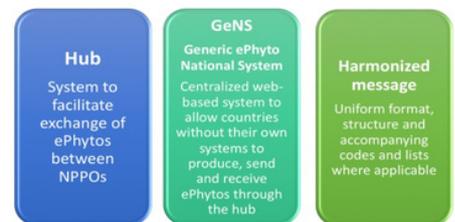
► The Framework Document as a guide to support the development of COVID-19 National Operational Plans.

### Risk Management Strategies



The objective of the webinar was to highlight and share information relevant to plant health technicians and professionals on the regional impact and potential responses to the pandemic. It featured strategic presentations from the CARICOM Secretariat and CAHFSA on topics related to the newly formed CARICOM COVID-19 Food Security Task Force and upcoming risk mitigation plans. APHIS PPQ also presented on how the APHIS continues to facilitate safe trade during a pandemic with the use of key concepts such as ePhyto and Risk Based Sampling. Finally, participants also gained insight into Trinidad and Tobago's efforts to continue regional trade during the pandemic, which was recognized by the IPPC as a COVID-19 success story.

### ePhyto solution



### Overview of ePhyto in 3 minutes

This captures in simple terms the dynamics of the system and the benefits it holds both for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and Industry.



[www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org)



## Managing the Risks and Facilitating CARICOM Trade in the COVID-19 period

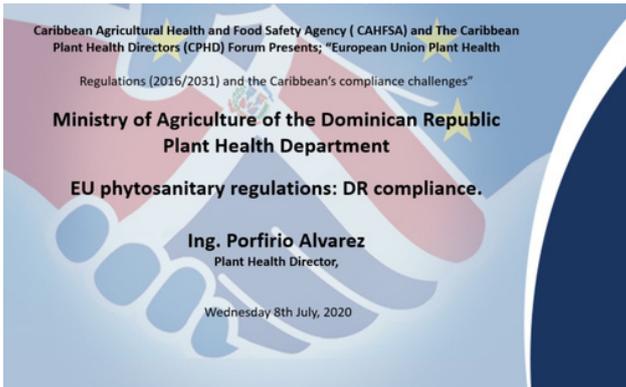


As a direct result of the webinar one of the main outcomes was a renewed effort by the Caribbean Plant Health Organizations to have their member states use the GeNS ePhyto solution. It was agreed that the way forward will include (i) the required use of the free online GeNS training tool (<https://training.ephytoexchange.org/>), (ii) the collection/collation of baseline data to determine countries capacities and capabilities, (iii) the grouping of countries into appropriate clusters based on simple criteria, (iv) the development of programs of work for each cluster, and (v) engagement of PPQ PIM for relevant assistance during the process.

### WEBINAR # 2 - JULY 8TH, 2020

**On July 8th, 2020**, the Caribbean Plant Health Director’s Forum (CPHD) in collaboration with the USDA APHIS and the Caribbean RPPO – the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), hosted a second webinar in the series. The virtual session “European Union Plant Health Regulations (2016/2031) and the Caribbean’s compliance challenges” again attracted over 60 participants from member countries as well as regional and international plant health organizations.

The feature presentation was delivered by The Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) who provided an overview of the new EU Plant Health Regulation (2016/2031). This new regulation supersedes the previous legislation that existed since 1977, and adopts a major change in approach. The importation of plants and plant products will be subject to far more stringent conditions. Also on the agenda was the experiences and challenges of Jamaica and the Dominican Republic with compliance to the new EU Regulation.



## COLEACP PLANT HEALTH GUIDES



**GUIDELINES ON THE EXPORT OF FRESH EGGPLANT AND TOMATO**

NEW PLANT HEALTH RULES FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

READ MORE



- Clear explanation of what needs to be done to ensure compliance with EU phytosanitary requirements
  - Information to be provided, actions to be taken, at all stages from production to export by producers and exporters, as well as by the NPPD
- Mango, Capsicum, eggplants and tomatoes, Citrus



**On August 11-12, 2020** the CPHD Executive and USDA APHIS, in collaboration with the Caribbean RPPO – the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the CARICOM Secretariat and the 32 member state forum of the CPHD convened the 13th Annual CPHD meeting in a virtual format.

Due to the pandemic and inability to travel, the CPHD adjusted its regional work plan from its usual annual face to face meeting to an online meeting structured according to various plant health themes. The meeting provided relevant and timely updates on plant health matters and initiatives in the Caribbean region that will impact or require the CPHD’s membership support and involvement. The regional body made recommendations for the development of a five year strategic plan to guide the work of the CPHD as it entered its thirteenth year in existence and second year as the Technical Committee to the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) CAHFSA.

Specific technical discussions included *Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4)*, which continues to be of great concern to the region’s banana industry and the achievements of the Musa TWG. Productive discussions and plans for *Citrus Canker* and *Citrus Leprosis*, Fruit Fly species and other priority pests were also achieved. Other milestone achievements included the signing of a Caribbean Plant Diagnostic Network (CPDN), MOU between CPHD and the University of Florida (UFL). Protocols for the importation of cut-flowers into the region and guidelines for the establishment of inspection facilities at ports of entry were also achieved.

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## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PRIORITY PEST OF MUTUAL CONCERN

On October 6-9, 2020, IICA, in collaboration with USDA APHIS, and University of Florida hosted the “Tomato Leafminer (*Tuta absoluta*) Diagnostic and Surveillance Regional Virtual Training Course”. The workshop was attended by twenty (20) Plant Health Officers from sixteen (16) countries; Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of Plant Health Technicians in basic diagnostic and surveillance techniques for the Tomato Leafminer, *Tuta absoluta*, which is present in Haiti. The course, the first of its kind for CPHD, was a blend of virtual lectures and laboratory work and included training using pre-mailed specimens and trapping materials supplied by the University of Florida and the USDA APHIS. Sessions were led by experts from PPQ, Florida Department of Agriculture, and IS-Trinidad and covered topics on basic anatomical features of the Lepidoptera Order, key diagnostic features/tests, detection tools and surveillance methodologies. Countries that benefited from the training were required to initiate a 3-month *Tuta absoluta* surveillance program in their respective countries, guided by IICA and USDA APHIS.

On December 3rd, 2020, IICA and University of Florida, with assistance from USDA APHIS, hosted a Follow-Up Meeting with the 16 participating Caribbean Countries of the Regional Tomato Leaf Miner, *Tuta absoluta*, Diagnostic and Surveillance Regional Virtual Training Course. The aim of the December “check-in” was to ascertain group responses and feedback as it relates to trapping and have a general discussion on the lecture/resource material posted for participants use.



# SPOTLIGHT ON JAMAICA

The export of mangoes to the USA from Jamaica has been affected primarily by two species of fruit flies, *Anastrepha obliqua* and *Anastrepha suspensa* and other plant diseases. In 2019, after 20 years of being out of the USA Market, Jamaica through its Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) signed a Framework Agreement and Operational Work Plan with the USA allowing for the export of mangoes from Jamaica under Irradiation Programme. Jamaica continues to maintain export of mangoes to the USA under the Mango Programme by implementing integrated pest management practices in mango production areas.

Jamaica’s Fruit Fly Trapping and Surveillance Programme is also a key pillar to the success currently being reaped under the programme, which could not be possible without the continuous support of the CPHD Fruit Fly Technical Working Group (TWG) and the USDA APHIS Fruit Fly Initiative in the Caribbean.

The Jamaican Mango Programme has seen a 200% increase in the number of approved farmers participating in the programme, moving from 2 to 18, and 9 approved exporters representing a 50% increase over 2020. Mango exports have moved from 1338 boxes (8151 kg) in 2019, when the programme began to 17,281 boxes (85,860 kg) in 2021.

Jamaica is now seeking to establish a Hot Water Treatment Facility, and again the reliance on its strong integrated pest management approach centered around its fruit fly monitoring and surveillance programme will see Jamaica being able to meet the USDA technical SPS requirements. Jamaica looks forward to the continued growth and expansion of its mango export programme and remains grateful to our USDA and CPHD partners for their continued support at every aspect of Jamaica’s mango re-entry into the USA.



*Farmers receiving training on setting up Fruit Fly Monitoring Traps in their Mango Farms*



*Minister Floyd Green, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Jamaica with a Plant Quarantine Officer at the Jamaica Montego Bay Export Complex securing the first shipment of mangoes for 2021.*



## RAISING THE CARIBBEAN'S AWARENESS ON FUSARIUM WILT, TR4

With the recent detection of the TR4 in Peru in mid-April, the Musa Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD) convened, with the assistance of the USDA APHIS, a regional TWG meeting on April 30th, 2021 for its members.

The Working Group members presented their current drafted work plans for the prevention, surveillance and detection of TR4, much of which were negatively impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and now only hinges on basic public relations via social media.

Subsequent to the TWG meeting, on June 7th, 2021, CPHD Musa TWG in collaboration with the USDA APHIS hosted the webinar: "Raising the Caribbean's Awareness on *Fusarium Wilt, Tropical Race 4*", in acknowledgement of World Pest Awareness Day celebrated on June 6th annually.

The session, presented via zoom, attracted over 80 participants from 20 member countries as well as regional and international plant health organizations.

The objective of the webinar was to share information about Fusarium Wilt, Tropical Race 4 and raise the Caribbean's awareness of the disease, considering the recent detection of TR4 in Peru and Columbia and the Federal Order for TR4 issued by USDA on May 21st, 2021. Presentations were made by Dr. Miguel Dita, Senior Scientist from the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and Mr. Victor Prada, Secretary of the World Banana Forum. Dr. Dita's presentation focused on the "Disease Epidemiology, Pathways, Proposed Safeguarding and Response Systems in an Island Context". Mr. Prada presented, "The World Banana Forum (WBF) - Funding and Collaborative Opportunities, Strategies to combat the threats of TR4".

“

*The Musa TWG is currently working virtually to finalize their National Actions Plans for TR4 which will allow for the region to benefit from the pending FAO TR4 Global Project and future collaborations with WBF TR4 Global Network.*

”

# ACCESS TO FREE, RAPID, DISTANCE DIGITAL DIAGNOSTICS FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION

The Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) Forum has long recognized the limitations faced by the Greater Caribbean Region with regards to pest diagnostics and the risk this creates for the entry and movement of pest within the region and to neighboring countries.

In this regard, the CPHD Forum in collaboration with its regional partners such as the USDA-APHIS, has consistently supported and promoted initiatives for the building of regional competency and capacity to rapidly and accurately diagnose and manage plant health issues. The Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network (CPDN) was one such initiative.

## The Goal of the CPDN

To Provide

Plant Quarantine, Extension & Surveillance Units  
in Member Countries with the Facility for the

Rapid, Preliminary identification of  
Arthropod, Disease or Plant Samples

**“Is this Potentially a Pest or Invasive Species of  
Immediate and Serious concern ?”**

In order to Initiate Appropriate Phytosanitary Actions

- Detain, Destroy or Return
- Justify Actions to Importers or NPPO's of the exporting country
- Expand Surveillance
- Initiate Emergency response Plans

NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE CONFIRMATORY ID OF PHYSICAL SAMPLES



The CPDN is a network and an internet-based Lab Information Management System (LIMS) which facilitates the digital upload of samples obtained in the field or ports of entry for rapid diagnosis and pest identification. Diagnoses are made online through interactions between agriculture inspectors or extension officers (from the Caribbean) and plant protection experts (from the University of Florida). The problems presented are quickly assessed and the results/solutions communicated.

## *CPDN Memorandum of Understanding*

The date June 22nd, 2020 was recognized as a noteworthy day for the Caribbean Plant Health Directors' (CPHD) Forum, Chairman of the CPDN Technical Working Group (TWG) and The USDA APHIS. After having invested more than 1 years' worth of meetings, dialogues and negotiations with the University of Florida, on that day, the Chairman signed a two-year MOU with the University of Florida (UF) to provide 32-member states free access to rapid (within 24 hours) digital diagnostics via the Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network (CPDN). Diagnoses are made online through interactions between agriculture inspectors or extension officers from the Caribbean, and plant protection experts from UF.

**THIS SERVICE WILL ALLOW COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE THE RISK POSED BY THE PEST INTERCEPTIONS AND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE CLEARING OF POTENTIALLY HELD CARGO MAKING TRADE FASTER AND SAFER.**

**THE USDA APHIS IS OFFICE IN TRINIDAD ACTS AS THE MOU ADMINISTRATOR AND COORDINATES THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE UF AND MEMBERS STATES OF THE CARIBBEAN.**

### *4-point Regional CPDN Mobilization Plan*

As part of the 4-point Regional CPDN Mobilization Plan, on December 9th, 2020 an online workshop hosted by the USDA APHIS IS office in Trinidad, was conducted, and over 100 participants from various partner agencies and 27 Member Countries were trained in the use and capabilities of this distance digital diagnostics network.

The training agenda covered topics such as the CPDN Website – an Introduction and Navigating the Website as a Registered User, Digital Photography for Diagnostics, Specialists and Diagnosticians Directory, and University of Florida Diagnostic Resources, the CPDN Mobilization Plan and more. A second training session was held on April 27th, 2021 for Ministry of Agriculture Officials from the Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti. Materials developed by UF and USDA APHIS for the previous training held in December 2020 were translated and presented using live simultaneous interpretation.

It is expected that with the completion of this activity, countries like the DR and Haiti will be more inclined to make the most of this free distance digital diagnostic tool whilst ensuring their countries' confidentiality and accountability. All training material (English and Spanish) and bilingual video presentations can be accessed via the CPHD Members Website <http://www.cphdforum.org/members>.



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#### How does the **CARIBBEAN PEST DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK (CPDN)** work?

**C**

- **CAPTURE** - clear photos of the pest using any smartphone with a camera or digital camera, microscope attachment for smaller insects or handheld microscope. Share your photos and relevant information with you Ministry of Agriculture/National Plant Protection Organization (NPPPO) Point of Contact.

**P**

- **POST** - NPPPO/Registered CPDN User visits CPDN website @ <https://cpdn.ifas.ufl.edu/> and post photo samples for a FREE rapid digital diagnosis.

**D**

- **DIGITAL DISTANCE DIAGNOSTICS** - will be conducted free of charge by University of Florida (UFL) on submission of photo samples.

**N**

- **NOTIFICATION** - NPPPO/CPDN Registered User receives notification from UFL Expert/CPDN site based on sample submissions uploaded. NPPPO will then take further action.

# SAFEGUARDING THE CARIBBEAN BORDERS FROM PEST INCURSIONS

In May 2020, member states and international organizations of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors' Forum (CDHD) drafted and finalized Regional Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) for two of the five top pests of mutual concern for the USDA and the Caribbean, *Tuta absoluta* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2. These plans were based on the results of the Regional Pest Prioritization Model and its comparison to that of the USDA Offshore Pest list. This work was started in July 2019 under a project funded by the USDA PPQ Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI).

This Emergency Response Plans provides basic information on the biology, ecology, surveillance and management of the pest. It also provides an outline of the administrative responses to prevent the entry, spread and establishment of the pest. Specific sections include:

- Summary of relevant pest biology
- Guide for the identification the pest in the field
- Preliminary methods for surveillance and monitoring of the pest
- An outline of possible eradication and control measures
- Management actions that should be undertaken in the event of an Incursion.

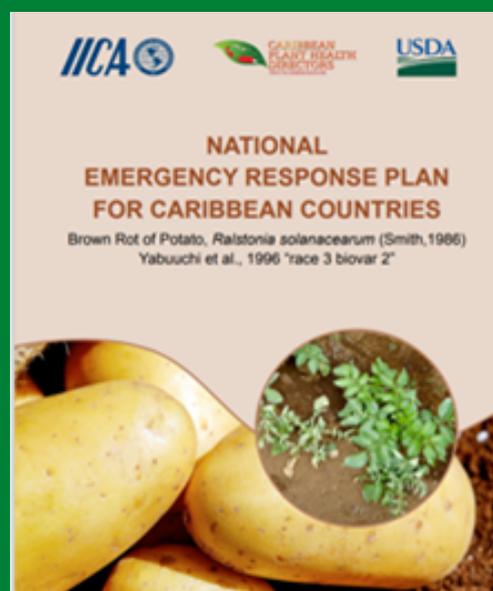
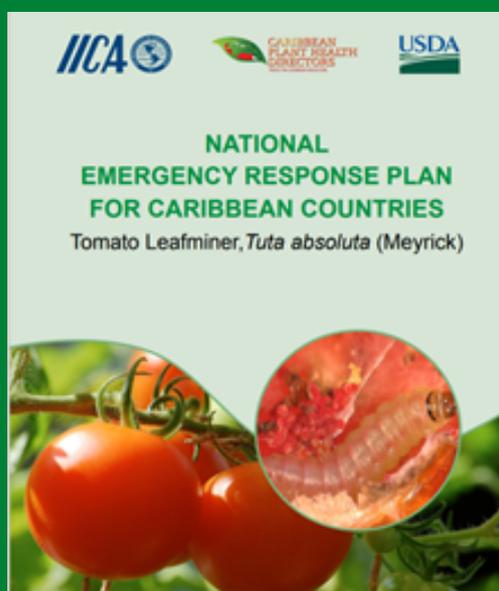
It is expected that the publications will contribute to:

- Preventing or delaying the entry of the pests into the Caribbean.
- Protecting the production of Solanaceae crops cultivated.
- Training technicians, producers and other key stakeholders in the (a) prevention of the entry, spread and establishment of the pest, and (b) management of the pest once it has become established.
- Reducing the potential impact of the pest.

A final face to face meeting was held to review working drafts and conduct a basic table top exercise for *Tuta absoluta* in Trinidad and Tobago in December 2019.

The tabletop exercise sought to:

- create an awareness amongst key stakeholders of *T. absoluta*;
- evaluate the suitability of the current Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to prevent, protect and mitigate against *T. absoluta* i.e. identification of gaps and possible actions to fill gaps, and
- develop methodology that can be used by countries to assess their readiness to respond to an incursion by *T. absoluta*.



*IICA in collaboration with the CPHD and USDA APHIS is set to complete emergency response plans for Citrus Canker, Citrus Leprosis and a regional tabletop guidance document in 2021.*

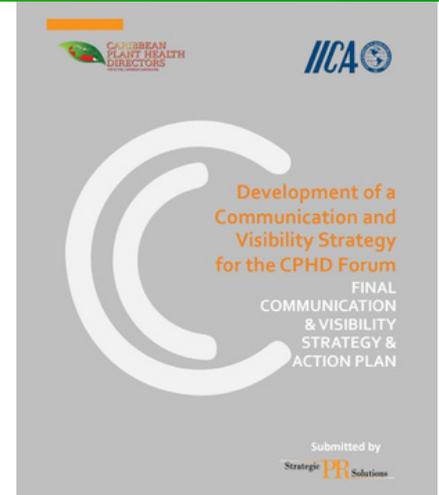
# CPHD CHARTS A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INCREASED VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Over the last thirteen (13) years, CPHD has employed mechanisms to achieve the goal of increased visibility and communications - including exchanging information via the annual CPHD Forum, Technical Working Groups meetings and reporting, phytosanitary communication products and tools, and ongoing electronic communication with its members.

With the CPHD forum being formally recognized as the Technical Committee to the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO), the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), there was the need to have a comprehensive strategy to improve its structure, flow and harmonization of content.

In 2020, the CPHD through a Consultant, funded by USDA APHIS under the 2020 GCSI Cooperative Agreement, developed a 3-year Communication and Visibility Plan to further promote the forum's work and create an awareness of national and regional plant health priorities by effectively engaging key stakeholders in the Greater Caribbean Region and beyond.

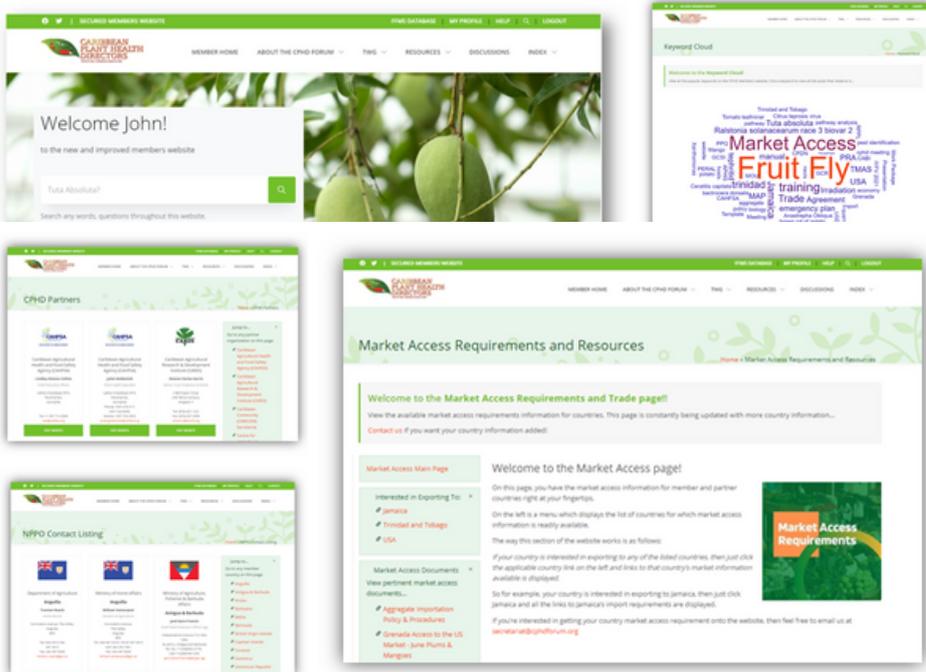
The objectives of the Consultancy was to develop a Communication and Visibility Strategy that raised the profile and visibility of the CPHD brand among key stakeholders, raised awareness among key audiences of the purpose, function, and achievements of the CPHD Forum,



improved CPHD stakeholders' access to information on plant health and plant protection developments in the format, and through the channels they prefer to receive it and built capacity of CPHD Network Members to engage effectively with the media.

A key deliverable coming out of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD)'s Communication and Visibility Strategy, was the re-launch of the CPHD Members Website on April 15th, 2021. Design and technical improvements were made for the website to become the regional hub/clearinghouse for plant health knowledge. The site, which aligns with the new goals of the CPHD Forum, promises to be more efficient, better organized, meet the needs of the PPQ specialist that rely on the site, provide relevant pest information, an online repository for phytosanitary issues and much more!

Since the development of the website in July 2015 at the 8th Meeting of the CPHD Forum, the USDA APHIS IS office in Trinidad, who retains the role of the CPHD Secretariat, has continued to play an integral role in the management of the website, providing both technical support and information.





## THE REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON PLANT QUARANTINE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES IS NOW ONLINE

The Regional Training Course on Plant Quarantine Principles and Procedures was born out of a collaboration with the University of The West Indies (UWI), Trinidad and Tobago and the USDA APHIS.

The first cohort of participants were trained in August 2011 over a five-day period at the UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad. Since then until 2018, the training, hosted by the UWI in collaboration with regional partners, was expanded and modified based on feedback received from the first pilot in 2011. To date, a total of 164 participants from over 15 countries in the Caribbean Region have benefited from the face-to-face training.

In 2021, through the efforts of USDA APHIS and IICA, the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA), UWI has developed a structured, UWI-certified and accredited online course that participants can pursue over one academic year, consisting of 2 semesters.

This course seeks to develop the technical skills of plant quarantine workers across the region to enable them to safeguard their country's borders from the entry of unwanted Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

“  
*Plant  
 Quarantine  
 Basics Online  
 Programme -  
 Cost Effective,  
 Greater  
 Outreach, Self-  
 paced, Part  
 time, Done in  
 the comfort of  
 your home or  
 office space*  
 ”



*"First course scheduled to start in September 2021"*

While the face-to-face training was very successful, factoring in the cost and outreach effectiveness, migrating to an online format was needed. Also considering the presence and effects of the COVID-19 virus globally, transferring this programme to online delivery could not have come at a better time.

The major advantage is that participants can do it part-time, at their own pace, and from their home or office space. The first online course is due to start in September 2021 with a cohort of 20 regional participants funded by the USDA APHIS.



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**TOPICS FOR THE TRAINING COURSE ARE LISTED BELOW:**

**Semester 1:**

**Port Guidelines and Operations: Pre-Port Practices, At Port Practices**

- Legislative-Framworks: Standards and Agreements
- Pest Surveillance and Pest List Development
- Exotic Plant Pest Movement
- Pest Risk Analysis
- Phytosanitary Inspection Procedures
- Documents Used in Trade

**Semester 2:**

**Port Guidelines and Operations: Post-Port Practices:**

- Legislative-Framworks: Standards and Agreements
- Pest Surveillance and Pest List Development
- Exotic Plant Pest Movement
- Pest Risk Analysis
- Phytosanitary Inspection Procedures
- Documents Used in Trade

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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# CPHD SECRETARIAT UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- » Supply of Trapping and Surveillance Material for Fruit Flies, *Tuta Absoluta*, and *Citrus Canker*
- » Regional Pest Risk Analysis for *Citrus Canker*
- » Regional Priority Pest List Activity revisited
- » The 14th CPHD Virtual Annual Meeting – August 30th - September 3rd, 2021

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### » July 20th 2021

Webinar - Addressing the Global Knowledge gap on Diagnostic tools, Protocols, and their applications for *Fusarium Wilt* of Musa Tropical Race 4

### » July 28th - 30th 2021

CPHD Regional *Citrus Canker* Surveillance and Identification Training

### » August 24th – 26th, 2021

2021 IPPC Regional Workshop

### » September 20th - October 8th, 2021

WTO SPS In-depth Virtual Course (3 wks.). Deadline for applications is July 26, 2021.



## About the CPHD

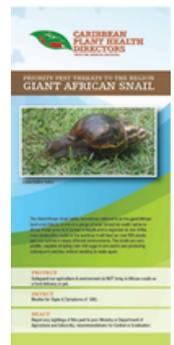
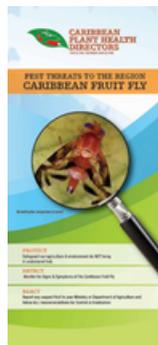
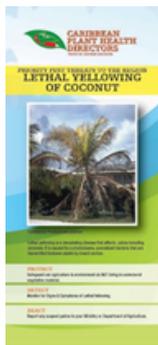
The Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum is a collaboration of National Plant Health Services Regional and International Organizations, Government entities, Universities and Reference Laboratories with the common purpose of

- safeguarding the plant resources of the greater Caribbean Region (GCR) from the threat of quarantine pest
- improving plant health through the control and management of existing pests, and
- expanding production and trade of agricultural commodities;

in order to increase food security, protect the unique environment and enhance the quality of life and economic wellbeing of the people of the countries and territories of the Greater Caribbean Region.

## Notable CPHD Achievements

- » Recognized as the Technical Committee of the RPPO, CAHFSA on plant health matters
- » Creation of a regional standardized Fruit Fly Monitoring System
- » Delivery of numerous capacity building programs in several insect and disease orders, quarantine principles and pest detections, surveillance and mitigation for the past 12 years for the region’s technicians
- » Coordination of regional safeguarding efforts through its nine (9) functional technical working groups
- » Creation of the Regions first – Regional Priority Pest List



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