



# CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

ISSUE 3 · JUNE 2022

## NEWSLETTER

BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION

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## Save the Date



SEPTEMBER 14 - 16, 2022



10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
(EST CARIBBEAN)

**The 15th Caribbean Plant Health  
Directors (CPHD) Forum Annual Meeting  
(Virtual)**

***"Supporting an Effective Plant Health  
Safeguarding System through  
Technological and Operational  
Transformation"***

***"Regional and International Partner Reports -  
Updates on New and Ongoing Regional  
Safeguarding Work Plans, Initiatives, and  
Projects"***

***"Leveraging Partnerships to Maximize  
Resources and Build Technical Competencies  
on areas of Interest for the Region"***

LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE COMING WEEKS  
<https://www.cphdforum.org/e-invite-2022/>

# CPHD JOINS THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH (IDPH) 2022

This year, as the CPHD Forum commemorates its fifteenth year of operations, the Forum joined the international community in celebrating the International Day of Plant Health. The United Nations designated 12 May 2022 the International Day of Plant Health to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development.



The Forum, in collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), hosted a technical webinar entitled, “The Russia/Ukraine Conflict – Potential Impact and Implications for the Caribbean Region”, on Friday, May 13th, 2022. The webinar centered on the impact for regional agriculture and plant health, and the implications for intra and extra regional trade.

## IDPH CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE REGION

### 1. Jamaica's Commemoration of the International Day of Plant Health 2022

Jamaica joined the world in commemorating the International Day of Plant Health on May 12 under the theme “Protecting plant, protecting life”. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries’ Plant Quarantine/ Produce Inspection Division spearheaded the planning and execution of activities. The celebration of the IDPH was nestled in a week of activities, all geared toward advancing the objectives at the IDPH. Augmenting the week’s activities were numerous media engagements.



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

### Week of Events

**Sunday, May 8**, the week of activities was launched with a church service held at the Mona Baptist Church. The day, also being celebrated as mothers’ day, saw all women being gifted fruit trees and ornamentals from the ministry’s Public Gardens Division.

**Monday, May 9**, saw the public awareness activity entitled “Safeguarding Ports”. This was held at the island’s two Regional Offices (Norman Manley International and Sangster International Airport) and Plant Quarantine Head Office as well as the Jamaica Import Export Center (Kingston Wharf). The day saw customers and other stakeholders being engaged by way of information dissemination and quizzes with prizes attached.

A key program of the IDPH week of activities held on **Tuesday, May 10**, was: “Educating Youths on Plant Health” Outreach. Three tertiary-level educational institutions were impacted – The College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), The Ebony Park HEART Academy, and the Knockalva Polytechnic Institute. Presentations were done at each institution to highlight the importance of plant health, the roles, and objectives of the Plant Quarantine Produce Inspection Division, and also to encourage young people to be a part of the initiative. Other institutions and community members were invited to participate in the day’s activities and booths were set up to facilitate students being able to interact with the Plant Quarantine Inspectors and ask their questions as well as collect useful printed information on careers in Agriculture and the importance of plant health. Each school was gifted fruit trees that were planted in commemoration of International Plant Health Day 2022. These were handed over to the Administrative staff and a planting ceremony held.



**Thursday, May 12**, being the designated International Day of Plant Health, saw a major forum being staged at the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A number of key stakeholders mounted displays. The keynote address was delivered by Honourable Parnell Charles Jr., Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and was ably chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Dermon Spence. The program saw a number of presentations from key agencies and individuals such as the Minister of State – Hon. Franklin Witter, Chief PQ Inspector, FAO, CARDI, and IICA.

A significant delegation from the Cayman Islands was in attendance and Hon Johany Ebanks – Minister of Planning, Agriculture, and Housing addressed the gathering. As youth engagement was a major thrust of Jamaica's celebrations, a number of schools from across the island were represented. Some of whom collected prizes for their performance in the inaugural IDPH poster competition.

**Friday, May 13**, The week came to a close with a Collaborative event. The PQPI joined the Jamaica 4H Clubs' National Expo-another grand opportunity to spread the IDPH message among the youth.

### Photos of the Week's Activities

**Minister Charles, Minister of Agriculture being interviewed by Radio Jamaica host Dr.Orville Taylor on May 12 at Outside Broadcast IDPH**



The NPPO Management Team and Staff, Heads of Agricultural Extension, Nature Preservation & AgroInvestment Corporation kicked off the week with Church Service at the Mona Baptist Church. As it was Mothers' Day, all mothers were gifted a healthy food plant to nurture. The picture shows the Head of NPPO gifting the wife of the pastor a plant with the help of Export Complex Manage

### **Research and Development Division displaying the importance of Plant Health on May 12 at Jamaica's IDPH Ceremony**



### **Tertiary Agriculture Institution displaying the importance of Plant Health on May 12 at Jamaica's IDPH Ceremony**



**CARDI Representatives bringing greetings on May 12 at Jamaica's IDPH**



**IICA Representative giving greetings on May 12, at Jamaica's IDPH Celebration**



## 2. Dominica

The Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture, and National Food Security hosted a series of activities in recognition of the International Day of Plant Health.

i. Mini-expo and presentation for visitors to the Botanic Gardens and students of various schools to raise the awareness of the importance of bio-diversity and protecting plants.



**Webinar – Tuesday 10th May, 2022 – Title, “A Resilient Plant Health System”**

**International Day of Plant Health**  
"Protecting Plants, Protecting Life"  
Building a Resilient Plant Health System in a Changing Climate

**Webinar**  
Date: May 10, 2022  
Time: 10:00am - 12:30pm EST  
Meeting ID: 870 9040 6450  
Passcode: 912085 ZOOM

 <b>Kirk Douglas</b> - Director Centre for Biosecurity Studies UWI Cavehill Campus	 <b>Yelitza Colmenarez</b> - Centre Director CABI-Brazil	 <b>Jonathan Casey</b> - Climate Change Director, CABI-United Kingdom UK	 <b>Francisco Gutierrez</b> - Managing Director (Ag) BAHA Belize
<b>TOPIC 1:</b> Plant Health & Biosecurity in a Changing Environment	<b>TOPIC 2:</b> Biodiversity & its Importance for Plant Health Management	<b>TOPIC 3:</b> Plant Health & Climate Change: Challenges & Opportunities	<b>TOPIC 4:</b> Components of a Resilient Phytosanitary System

Logos: CARDI, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, IICA, Caribbean Plant Health Directors, CABI, The University of the West Indies, Centre for Biosecurity Studies.

ii. A National Plant Pest Emergency Response Plan Simulation and Awareness Exercise using Citrus Canker Disease. Participating organizations included PPQ Officers, Extension Officers, Livestock Development staff, Customs & Excise, CARDI representatives, and Customs Brokers.

iii. The Ministry's Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit engaged students of the Dominica State College's Applied Arts - Agriculture Programme in a field exercise as part of the International Plant Health Day 2022, a week of activities. The session 'Identifying Pests and Diseases in Coconuts' was held in Warner at Victoria's Bloom Nursery and was facilitated by CARDI's Country Representative Dorian Etienne and former PPQ officer and Consultant Lynessa Gordon-Ferreira.

The students were able to observe the growth stages of several nut varieties, and better identify and understand pests and the recommended treatments.



**International Day of Plant Health**  
"Protecting Plants, Protecting Life"  
BUILDING A RESILIENT PLANT HEALTH SYSTEM IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

**Schedule of Activities**

<b>Monday 9th 05.22</b>	Radio program on - Pest & Disease International Day of Management in Plant Health Coconuts in Vieux & QRS Radio collaboration with CARDI 10:00am - 3:00pm	Plant Health Clinic - Longhouse Port 10:00am to 3:00pm
<b>Tuesday 10th 05.22</b>	Webinar - "A Resilient Plant Health System" Meeting ID: 812 7199 0051 Passcode: 04164 via zoom 10:00am	
<b>Wednesday 11th 05.22</b>	Simulation Exercise: Mobilization due to a Phytosanitary Emergency of Citrus Canker PSU Conference Room 10:00am to 12:00pm	
<b>Thursday 12th 05.22</b>	International Day of Plant Health Expo - Botanical Gardens 9:00am to 1:00pm	
<b>Friday 13th 05.22</b>	Plant Health Clinic - Roseau Market 9:00am to 2:00pm	

Logos: CARDI, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, IICA, Caribbean Plant Health Directors, CABI, The University of the West Indies, Centre for Biosecurity Studies.



### 3. Trinidad and Tobago

To commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's inaugural launch of the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) the World Food Day National Committee of Trinidad and Tobago (WFDNCTT) in collaboration with the Extension Training and Information Services Division (MALF) hosted an event at the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, and Fisheries (MALF).

The event was attended by the Permanent Secretary (MALF) Ms. Susan Shurland; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Representative to Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname, Mr. Reuben Robertson; Acting Chief Technical Officer (MALF), Ms. Gloria Brathwaite-Didier and; Chair of the WFDNCTT, Ms. Deanne Ramroop. For more information visit <https://agriculture.gov.tt/media-releases/minister-singh-plant-health-crucial-in-addressing-food-security>





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

On June 22nd, 2020, the CPHD signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Florida (UF), providing 32-member states free access to rapid (within 24 hours) digital diagnostics via the Caribbean Pest Diagnostics Network (CPDN).

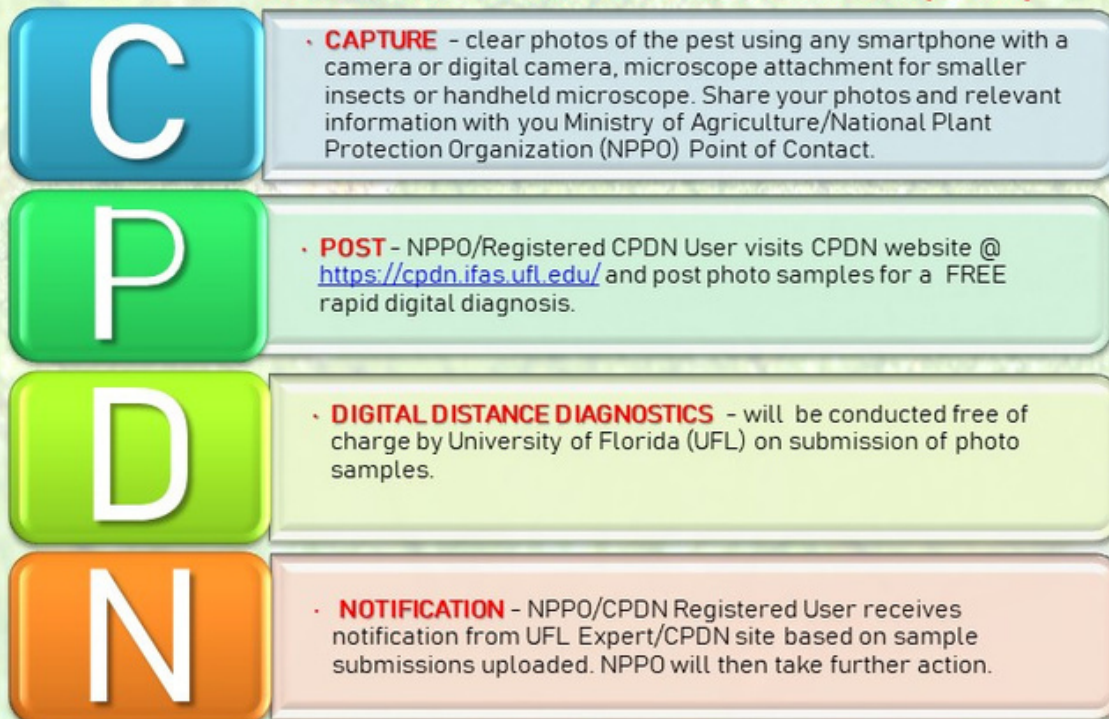
Diagnoses are made online through interactions between agriculture inspectors or extension officers from the Caribbean, and plant protection experts from UF.

In 2022, on the cusp of the MOU expiration, the CPDN is currently being reviewed by the UF for accuracy, effectiveness, reliability, usage, and impact on the Caribbean Region. IS Trinidad, being the CPDN MOU Administrator will be meeting with UF Representatives and the CPDN Chairman to negotiate a renewal of the MOU so that this invaluable and important service is continued for the Caribbean Region.



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



*The CPDN is a network and 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. The CPDN has come a long way from being a paid and closed digital diagnostic service to now a free and widely available service as negotiated by the CPHD.*

For more information about the CPDN visit <http://www.cphdforum.org/> or email the CPHD Secretariat @ [secretariat@cphdforum.org](mailto:secretariat@cphdforum.org)

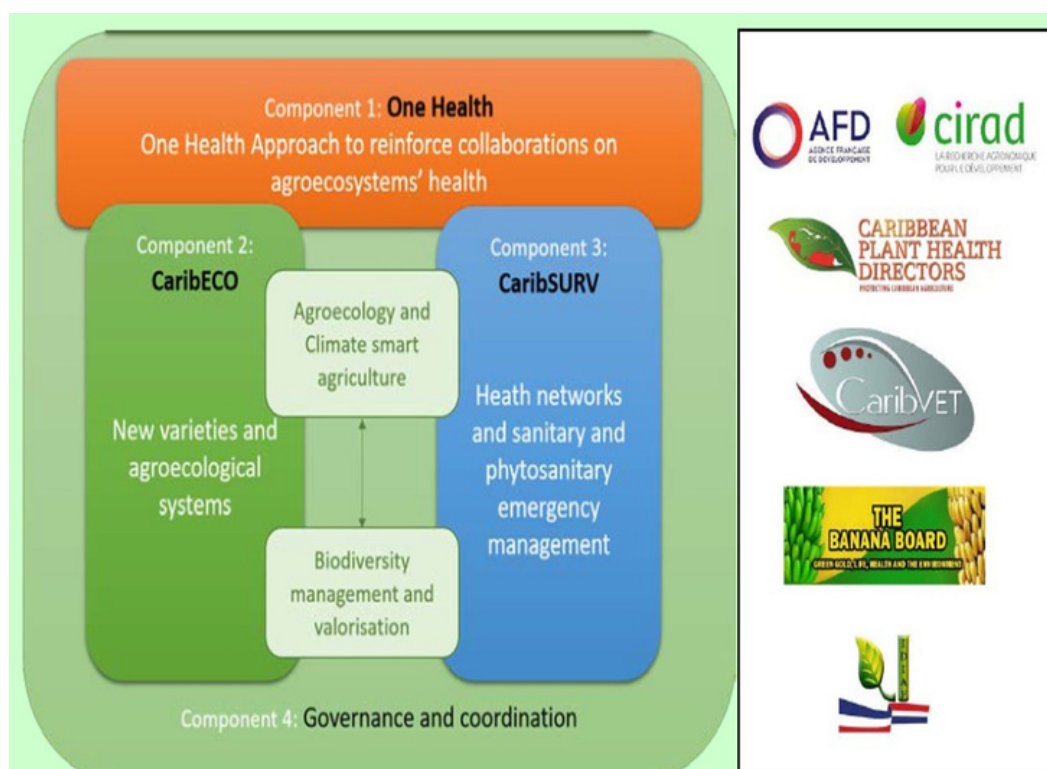


# CPHD FOSTERING COLLABORATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

## 1. CaribGreen

CaribGREEN is funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and being executed by CIRAD and promoted by CaribVET. It is the first collaborative project promoting collaboration between animal, plant, and veterinary public health and agro-ecology in the Caribbean. The goal of CaribGREEN is to promote diversified, healthy, and sustainable agriculture in the Caribbean, increase food self-sufficiency and overcome the challenges resulting from global change. The CaribGREEN will bring together multiple disciplines and sectors using the “One Health” approach to create a regional platform for cooperation in agro-environment and health, involving a variety of stakeholders.

The project’s virtual kick-off meetings were held on June 20th and 22nd 2022. The objective of the meetings was for partners to get a better understanding of the CaribGREEN project and the role each will play. The CPHD, a partner agency of this 2-year-long project, signed a letter of commitment to provide in-kind support in the form of staff time, expertise on plant diseases, regional surveillance, and regional networking and partnership with a view to carrying out the actions within the CaribGREEN project.



Briefly, through the implementation of the CaribGREEN project the region will benefit from:

- (i) strengthened dialogue between animal, plant, and human health partners through the piloting of a collaborative tool known as “TOOCOOL” under the WP 1 One Health,
- (ii) the evaluation of Banana and Citrus genetic resources that would be more resilient to the environment and global change under WP 2 CaribECO, and
- (iii) improved preparedness for ASF, vector-borne diseases, COVID19 and TR4 under WP 3 - CaribSURV. CaribGREEN will run for 2 years – from May 2022 – April 2024 and the CPHD is expected to be actively involved in WP 4 – Governance.



## 2. GCSI – Strengthening Offshore Safeguarding Efforts In The Greater Caribbean Region In 2022/2023

On October 1st, 2021, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, through the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI), sent out a call to stakeholders and partner agencies in the Caribbean Region for projects proposals for funding consideration in FY22.

The request for project proposals is sent out annually and should address linkages to the GCSI Operational Plan. For FY22 these operational goals are:

- Early Warning System
- Harmonized Pest Exclusion and Safeguarding Strategy
- Emergency Response and Preparedness
- Communication Network
- Resources Strategies

The CPHD responded to the call for projects for the upcoming funding cycle, and in November 2021 submitted eight (8) proposals for consideration by the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) Cross-Functional Working Group (CFWG).

After deliberations, the CPHD was awarded either full or partial funding to support seven (7) of the eight (8) projects submitted. It is important to note that each project will benefit all members' countries of CPHD (32 Member States) and Regional Partners that collaborate with the forum. The funded projects for 2022/2023 and intended outcomes/ activities are as follows

### 1. Support for the Facilitation, Maintenance, and Expansion of the CABI CPHD Caribbean Biosecurity Interception System (CBIS)

- Training of 18 CPHD Member States in the use of CBIS
- Adequate sensitization and outreach to encourage the use of CBIS
- Digitalization of Non-Compliance recording for the Caribbean Region

### 2. Continued Support Towards a Coordinated Regional Safeguarding Initiative for Priority Pests of Mutual Concern to the United States and the Greater Caribbean Region

- Increased trapping and surveillance activities for 2 pests of mutual priority through the supply of trapping materials and increased access to technical and scientific training and information
- Re/Establishment of 3 additional Fruit Fly trapping and surveillance programs in the Caribbean region.
- Increased information and knowledge management for Tuta absoluta
- Greater LAC coordination for a pest of mutual concern with the inclusion of GICSV and OIRSA professionals – Tuta absoluta
- Access to a sustainable online Fruit Fly Taxonomic Training Course complete with assessments and certification from the UFL for the CPHD Member States.

### 3. The Regional Pest Prioritization List Development

- Top 10 Regional pests of priority identified
- Top 5 Pest of Mutual Concern the US and the Caribbean identified
- Updated and tested Pest Prioritization Model for the Region
- Scientific / Journal Publication on the CPHD Pest Prioritization methodology and output
- Updated information packages for the prioritized pest

### 4. Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum Websites and Social Media Management

- Website security, monitoring, content administration which will enable the CPHD Forum public and members website to be updated, relevant and secure. The management of the CPHD Forum's Facebook page facilitates information sharing across the Greater Caribbean region, keeping partners and stakeholders updated on information related to plant health.
- Making available important Border Management Tools and Resources e.g. the Surveillance Data Maintenance and Reporting Tool, the Caribbean Biosecurity Interceptions System (CBIS), CPDN and the FFMS.
- Promotion of CPHD 15 years of existence with a calendar year of key plant health events/webinars (virtual and face to face).
- The maintenance of the online data sharing platform as well as inclusion of trap distribution map on this platform.



### 5. Supporting Pest Exclusion: Foc TR 4 Exclusion Activities in the Caribbean Region

- Improved Regional readiness for Foc TR4 by the completion of 6 additional national action plans
- Improved collaborations and relations with non-traditional CPHD members (e.g. PR) and research groups/ institutions
- Development and testing of tool for the quantification of potential impacts during a phytosanitary incident
- Make available to the Caribbean region - Musa germplasm that is resistant to TR4
- Provide all member states with practical tools and guidance documents to facilitate the safe importation of disease-free planting material, access to necessary field sanitation products, and facilities/ reference laboratories for the testing of Foc TR4

### 6. CPHD Fruit Fly Monitoring System (FFMS) Database

- Reports customized to meet user needs.

- Complete any software updates, maintenance, fixes, and patches
- Development of a management reporting tool that displays high-level statistics on FFMS usage.

### 7. The 15th Caribbean Plant Health Directors' Forum Celebrations (virtual)

- Wider outreach, impact, and recognition for the effective and consistent delivery of safeguarding plant health initiatives that seek to strengthen the capacities of participating countries in the Caribbean Region.
- Regional Partners' Work plans, as they relate to plant health matters coordinated and areas of collaboration in safeguarding determined for implementation.
- Regional strategies for transparency and harmonization in pest detection and exclusion, as it affects the Caribbean and US Agriculture
- Work plans and deliverables for the TWGs were reviewed and approved.
- Policy decisions on plant health issues and guidance documents for the development of regional plant health standards approved for submission to CAHFSA (RPPO)





## SPOTLIGHT ON GRENADA

### The Don't Pack A Pest Program extends to Grenada

The 10th launch of the Don't Pack A Pest Program in the Caribbean region took place in Grenada on Thursday 28th July 2022 at the Maurice Bishop International Airport. It was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries, and Cooperatives and USDA-GCSI. The other main stakeholders were the Grenada Airports Authority and the Grenada Ports Authority.

The DPAP signage was geared towards creating awareness among travellers to declare to border control agencies and thereby reduce the biosecurity risk that they may pose to the economy and environment.



”



# IICA, CPHD AND USDA SAFEGUARDING COUNTRIES FROM PESTS THAT THREATEN FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND TRADE

Having a strong regional early warning safeguarding system is critical for reducing the potential impact of pests that impact agriculture and related sectors. Under the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) Cooperative Agreement for 2021, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was awarded a Project to evaluate the preparedness of Caribbean Countries to respond to incursions by priority pests of importance to the Caribbean and the United States. This project marks the culmination of work conducted by IICA in collaboration with the Technical Working Groups of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) Forum (Pest Prioritization Group, Emergency Response and Safeguarding) in 2019 and 2020, which sought to build the capacity of countries to safeguard borders against pests that have the potential to threaten food security and trade. This included the development of Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) for four priority pests for the Caribbean and the United States as well as Guidelines for the Conduct of Tabletop Simulation Exercises.

The ERPs developed include information on the biology, ecology, surveillance and management of the pest as well as the administrative steps that should be undertaken should the pest be introduced. The priority pests of focus include the *Tuta absoluta* (Tomato Leafminer), *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 (Brown Rot of Potato), *Xanthomonas citri* (Citrus Canker), and Citrus Leprosis virus.

Over the past two months, with the use of these knowledge products, four countries have successfully conducted tabletop simulation exercises to assess the preparedness of their emergency response system against these priority pests. Countries include Antigua and Barbuda (Tomato leafminer and Potato Brown Rot), Dominica (Citrus Canker), Jamaica (Potato Brown Rot) and Saint Lucia (Citrus Canker). Based on the exercises conducted, countries identified gaps in their response system and actions that are to be undertaken to strengthen its effectiveness and efficiency. Two additional countries will be conducting exercises before the end of August 2022, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.

The information generated from these exercises will be analysed to determine common areas to further strengthen the capacity of national emergency response systems in the Region; namely technical training, knowledge management, strategies for improved stakeholder (public and private sectors) collaboration, cooperation and communication as well as advocacy. The conduct of these exercises in the six countries will also assist in identifying best practices which can be used to optimize the outcomes of the simulations when scaled up to other countries in the Greater Caribbean.

It is expected that these activities will contribute to NPPOs having stronger response systems towards priority pests which potentially threaten the socio-economic development of the Region.

Funding for the conduct of the Simulation Exercises is through the GCSI CA 2021 (No.21-8100-1632A-CA) which is funded by the USDA APHIS PPQ.





**Stakeholders attending tabletop simulation exercise hosted by the MOA Antigua and Barbuda - June 14**



# IMPROVING BIOSECURITY IN BARBADOS AND THE OECS THROUGH THE USE OF CABI PEST RISK ANALYSIS (PRA) SUPPORT TOOLS

The very real risks posed by invasive non-native species continue to be one of the biggest environmental threats to biodiversity on Caribbean islands, as well as impacting upon tourism, agriculture, and forestry. One objective of the GEF project 'Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries' is to improve biosecurity in the seven participating countries and in collaboration with other regional entities such as the regional NPPO, the CPHD among others scale up support across the wider Caribbean through the sharing of technical expertise and the provision of training.

One of the many functions of biosecurity staff in the NPPOs is that of carrying out risk assessments of new species, pathways, and commodities. Generally, staff do not have access to specialist risk assessment teams, and lack the knowledge, resources, and confidence to effectively assess risks. Therefore, the aim of this workshop was to train biosecurity officers from the Caribbean region to confidently and independently conduct their own Pest Risk Assessments (PRA) to minimize the risk of the accidental or planned introduction of species not yet present on their islands. The training was provided through a four-day Biosecurity Risk Assessment Workshop held in Grenada from the 14th to the 17th of June 2022 at the Coyaba hotel.

The workshop was conducted by CABI and took advantage of two online tools to conduct Horizon Scanning (HS) and PRAs recently developed as an integral part of the CABI Crop Protection and Invasive species compendia (CPC and ISC). The main focus of the workshop was to provide extensive training in the use of these CABI tools to allow participants to conduct risk assessments of potential new introductions whether intentional or not. And to develop action plans for those with the highest risk of entry.

Participants came from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts, and Nevis; Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The majority of participants concluded that the PRA tool is very useful and the workshop had been helpful in understanding how to use the tool in the future. Feedback comments on the usefulness of the tools ranged from the tool saving time, asking relevant questions, producing good reports, and being easy to navigate to is absolutely necessary. Despite the largely positive feedback regarding both the usefulness of the tools and the training itself the majority still felt that further training in the use of the CABI tools was required.





Participants came from the respective plant quarantine and veterinarian service units respectively. During exercises aiming to increase familiarity in using the CABI online tools, it emerged that for biosecurity staff covering the veterinary sector relevant commodities/pathways are still missing or are only partially covered for pathway-initiated PRAs, namely for beef/cattle, or animal feed such as fodder grasses or grain. In contrast to single plants or crops, the conduct of PRA focusing on animal products is not as straightforward. There seems to be scope to expand the PRA tool to encompass veterinary-centered PRAs better, potentially based on CABI's Animal Health Compendium as an information source.

Similar problems show up regarding certain horticultural groupings. Biosecurity staff often need to conduct a PRA by selecting a group of associated pest species for which no specific individual species are known. Examples of this would be ornamental palms or aquatic plants for the aquarium/pet trade.

Participants also noted that the usefulness of PRAs is still restricted by a limited capacity for their on-the-ground implementation, in particular the practical implementation of recommendations outlined in individual PRAs. For example, the majority of Caribbean countries struggle with the implementation of even basic inspection measures such as spot-checks at entry points. This is mainly due to a large number of small-scale entry points available for boats in most countries. Often surveillance capacities are also used up for surveys of species already well established; sometimes without a clear plan of what the data could be used for. In this context, it was discussed that getting more people trained in the use of the PRA tool should help to reduce the overall workload for NPPO staff.

Sometimes rare and not well-documented impacts caused by invasive species complicate the conduct of PRAs. One example given during the workshop was fire ants causing power cuts by causing electrical shortcuts by building nests on powerline poles.

It is noteworthy, that apart from providing training on the use of PRA tools the workshop allowed a broader exchange of observations and experiences between the NPPO officers. For example, alerts and observations on the tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*) and invasive weeds such as *Tradescantia* sp. and *Callisia fragrans* were brought up and discussed as potentially highly important target species for PRAs. One particular issue many participating countries are currently struggling with is the mostly unregulated pathway of online purchases. This is becoming increasingly problematic with regards to illegal imports of seeds, succulents, etc. couriers often turn a blind eye. "Online purchases" could be a new pathway to be covered by the online tool. "Companion" pets have also become an issue (even "companion plants"! ) in some countries.

It was also discussed that the capability of the online tool to be used as a repository for PRAs could provide huge benefits. This was in particular important to the participating countries because, in the past, a lot of information has been lost, e.g., due to the devastations caused by hurricanes. The capacity of the PRA tool to allow sharing of information collated in PRAs, even in draft versions, would also be beneficial. However, some concerns regarding privacy issues and exposure to scrutiny were also voiced. On the other hand, the PRA tool, because it is standardized, could make people less reluctant to share PRAs. Joint drafting of PRAs could also encourage more collaborative and time-saving approaches.

Presentations from the workshop can be accessed via: <https://caribbeaninvasives.org/index.php/online-training/>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- » July 22nd - 104th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Agriculture
- » July 30th - 1st August - Denbigh Agricultural Show Jamaica.  
For more information visit: <https://denbighshowja.com/>
- » August 16th - 18th Calendar - IPPC Regional Workshop for Caribbean Region.  
For more information visit: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2022-ippc-regional-workshop/>
- » September 14th - 16th 2022 - 15th CPHD Annual Meeting (Virtual)
- » September 21st - 23rd - International Plant Health Conference.  
For more information visit: <https://www.agiitoevents.com/event/a6e37cb4-c5a0-4a97-bafe-82a7d6ee4bd5/summary>

Don't forget you can highlight your events via the CPHD Forum's website or the newsletter.  
Email details to the CPHD Secretariat: [secretariat@cphdforum.org](mailto:secretariat@cphdforum.org)

## ARTICLES/ TOPICS OF INTEREST

- » IICA Blog - The Russia-Ukraine conflict and its Impact on Agri-Food Systems -  
<https://blog.iica.int/en/blog/russia-ukraine-conflict-and-its-impact-agrifood-systems>
- » UWI New Biological Pesticide Could Increase Yields -  
<https://www.facebook.com/foodagriculture/photos/a.1512937418952030/3278996865679401>
- » Outlook on Pest Management (Free Content - The Birth, Growth and Future of Systems Approach and other articles)  
<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/resinf/opm/2020/00000031/00000003;jsessionid=1rwsoi4c4ckse.x-ic-live-01>
- » New Species and Host Plants of *Anastrepha* (Diptera: Tephritidae) primarily from Suriname and Par, Brazil  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354869668\\_New\\_species\\_and\\_host\\_plants\\_of\\_Anastrepha\\_Diptera\\_Tephritidae\\_primarily\\_from\\_Suriname\\_and\\_Par\\_Brazil](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354869668_New_species_and_host_plants_of_Anastrepha_Diptera_Tephritidae_primarily_from_Suriname_and_Par_Brazil)

## JAMAICA IDPH PHOTOS AND VIDEOS:

- » <http://www.cphdforum.org/index.php/2022/07/28/jamaica-idph-2022-photos-and-videos/>



## About the CPHD

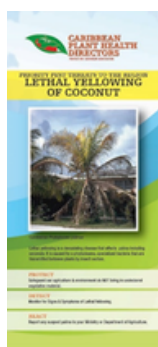
The Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum is a collaboration of National Plant Health Services Regional and International Organizations, Government entities, Universities and Reference Laboratories with the common purpose of

- 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 Ongoing CPHD Initiatives

- » Training and Ongoing Surveillance of *Tuta absoluta*, Fruit Fly and Citrus canker.
- » Enhancement and Creation of online border management tools – CBIS, Surveillance Database
- » Updated CPHD Website with interactive online tools
- » Development of a 5-year Strategic Plan
- » Regional Pest Prioritization Exercise – Updated Regional Priority Pest List



**CARIBBEAN  
PLANT HEALTH  
DIRECTORS**  
PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

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