CTA/CARDI/CFNI
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CARDI's Experiences in addressing information needs for food and nutrition security in the Caribbean Agricultural and Rural Development Sector

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Presentation will include:

✦ CARDI's Mandate, Food Security and Information and Communication

✦ Mechanisms, clients and programmes used in information & communications

✦ Challenges

✦ Lessons Learnt

✦ Some Recommendations

CARDI's Mandate

✦ Provide for the Research and Development (R&D) needs of agriculture of the region

✦ Provide for coordination and integration of R&D efforts of Member states

✦ Provide and extend the application of new technologies in production, processing, storage, distribution of agricultural products

CARDI's Mandate

✦ It addresses the improvement of production systems in support of FNS

✦ It is essentially an information institution

  ▪ raw data and information are collected and analysed to identify and adapt technologies

  ▪ new technologies validated, transformed into knowledge for improving agricultural products and transferred to producers

Information and Communications

✦ Research and development department

✦ CTA Regional Branch Office for the Caribbean

✦ PROCICARIBE - System for coordinating science and technology

✦ Caribbean Agricultural Development Service (CAIS)

I&C Mechanism
Research and Development

✦ **Technical**

  ▪ Scientific Report and Technical publications (print, electronic)

  ▪ Demonstration/training (on farm, demonstration station)

  ▪ Conference presentation

✦ Corporate

  ▪ Annual report

  ▪ Press releases

  ▪ CARDI Update

I&C Mechanism
CTA RBOC

✦ CARDI is CTA's Regional Branch Office of the Caribbean (RBOC)

- CARDI/CTA partnership - 1987

- Common goal of agricultural and rural development:
  - CARDI - Technology generation and transfer
  - CTA - improved access to information; building capacity in ICM

I&C Mechanisms
Role of RBOC

✦ Liaison with Caribbean clients

✦ Intelligence service to CTA

✦ Promotion of CTA services

✦ Support programme implementation and evaluation

I&C Mechanism
CAIS

✦ a mechanism to support development of the capacity of stakeholders in the agricultural sector to manage information and communications for sustainable development/competitiveness

I&C Mechanism PROCICARIBE

✦ An integrated science and technology networking system in support the attainment of international competitiveness by agriculturally based industries

 ▪ Thematic and commodity networks (market intelligence; fruits, small ruminants; root crops; integrated pest management; vegetables; information)

Client Groups

- ✦ Public sector
  - ▪ Policy makers
  - ▪ Researchers/Extension
- ✦ Private sector
  - ▪ Exporters; processors; distributors
- ✦ NGOs and Producer associations
  - ▪ Women
  - ▪ Youth
- ✦ Staff

Caribbean ACP Member States

- ✦ Antigua and Barbuda
- ✦ Barbados
- ✦ Belize
- ✦ The Bahamas
- ✦ Cuba*
- ✦ Dominica
- ✦ Dominican Republic
- ✦ Guyana

Caribbean ACP Member States

- Grenada
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Suriname

Approach & Objectives

✦ ....**A two-pronged approach**

- ▪ To build capacity to support improved information and communication management
- ▪ To provide access to selected information products and services

I&C Strategies

✦ Ongoing information needs assessment

✦ Facilitating increased collaboration and linkages between and among institutions and stakeholders at local, regional and international level

I&C Strategies cont'd

✦ Ongoing evaluation and revision of programmes

✦ Integration of information and communication programmes and projects with wider CARDI programme

✦ Improving in-house capacity in information and communications management

Programme areas

✦ **Capacity Building** - to improve capability to manage information and communication

✦ **Information Products & Services** - design and development of selected tools to provide access to information

✦ **Network development** – concerned with facilitating communication, exchange and management of knowledge and information to meet the goals of groups/institutions

✦ **Advocacy and Sensitisation** - promote information and communications for development to key stakeholders

Capacity Building

✦ Building capacity to manage information and communication and technology for development

- Technical assistance & situation analysis
- Identifying training gaps, needs and courses to fill gaps
- Project identification and resource mobilisation
- Developing strategies and systems for Information and communications management (ICM)

Selected Projects

✦ Training and sensitisation

- Management of Question and Answer Services
- Information and communications management and information and communications technologies (ICTs) sensitisation & strategies
- Web design & development
- Public awareness
- Network management
- Scientific data management
- Technical writing and editing
- Presentation skills

Information Products and Services

✦ Identifying mechanisms, products and services to collect and provide direct information to different users to :

- fill information gaps identified
- provide better access to available information

Selected Projects

✦ Question and Answer Service (QAS) Devolution - Information Services

✦ Preparation/identification of publications for packaging (print and electronic)

- ▪ PROCICARIE News; CAIS News, Websites; CDROMs; photographs
- ▪ Technical Publications - CDROM, print, video

Networking

✦ Support for establishment of working linkages between public sector, NGOs and private sector

✦ Develop and use networks to facilitate exchange of ideas and information

✦ Formation and moderation of electronic forums (E-groups/E Forums)

Selected Projects

✦ Caribbean Marketing and Intelligence Development (CAMID) Network

✦ CariPestNet- to facilitate pest identification

✦ Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Associations

✦ Regional Agricultural Policy Network (RAPN)

✦ Caribbean Farmers and NGO Network (CaFANN)

Advocacy & Sensitisation

✦ Encouraging the integration of information and communication into existing programmes and projects

✦ Sensitising of policy makers, users, specialists, that

- Information is a key resource
- Need to create an enabling environment for ICM: policies, staff, systems, finance, communication

Major challenges

- ✦ Absence of strategic focus on information and communication in organisations

- ✦ Limited policy framework for ICM

- ✦ Lack of integrated approach to ICM

- ✦ Limited human & financial resources

- ✦ Hardware and software not always within direct access of technical staff

- ✦ Relatively high costs for using ICTs (Internet, skills, equipment purchase and maintenance)

Major Challenges

✦ Absence of counterpart staff in various organisations

✦ Culture of 'information insensitivity' and limited view of networking

✦ Very limited success with sustainable network development including E-forum

✦ A fascination with technology and hence a focus on technology as an end and not on its application as a tool/means to solve problems

Lessons learnt

✦ An information and communication strategy should be an essential part of any programme or project

✦ There should be ongoing needs analysis - explicit and implicit needs have to be taken into account

✦ Projects should include funds to source information and disseminate information

CARDI

CTA

Lessons learnt

✦ Sustainable information systems require an enabling environment - institutional and national

✦ Multi stakeholder and multi-disciplinary approach is necessary

✦ Integrate 'old' and 'new' technology to reach all users (e.g.radio, TV, telephone, Internet, cellular)

✦ Biggest challenges in implementing information and communication projects is managing change,people and culture - not technology

Lessons Learnt

✦ Human resource development is necessary for practitioners and stakeholders

   ▪ Education and literacy (basic literacy, information literacy, computer literacy)

   ▪ Increase information & communication skills in the sector - train subject specialists

✦ Invest in hardware and software

Lessons Learnt

✦ Advocacy and sensitisation

- Develop a culture of research, providing and using information for decision making

- Develop a culture of networking and collaboration between and among stakeholder groups; increase 'information sensitivity'

- Recognition of the need to protect intellectual property rights for Caribbean materials

Ultimate outcome

✦ Empower the actors involved in implementing food and nutrition security plans to manage and use information to:

- solve problems
- achieve goals and objectives

THANK YOU