



## **INVEST CARIBBEAN 2015**

### **Leveraging Natural Resources Capital: Optimizing Value Chain in Agriculture and Extractive Industries**

*The 17th Annual Caribbean American Business Dialogue*  
**NOVEMBER 19-20, 2015**

#### **CONFERENCE AGENDA**

The objective of the Invest Caribbean Business Dialogue on Harvesting Opportunities in the Agribusiness Value Chain is to explore emerging trade and investment opportunities in the agribusiness sector in the Caribbean; as well as to discuss challenges to creating sustainable and profitable partnerships along all segments of the value chain.

The Conference brings together program managers, policy makers, academicians, and members of the private sector to engage in open and frank exchange aimed at optimizing sustainable profits in the sector. The program will include an overview of the current environment for the agribusiness sector, and explore issues such as the implications of climate change and workforce needs. The Conference held in roundtable dialogue format will include a discussion on emerging opportunities in the region in the agribusiness sector, with a focus on niche market foods, fisheries (aquaculture & mariculture), biofuel (renewable energy) and pharmaceuticals (biotechnology based on herbs and wellness products including medical marijuana). The Dialogue will also provide a platform for the discussion of issues in investing in the region, with a focus on small businesses.

#### **THEMES**

- *US Caribbean Trade & Investment Prognosis*
- *Emerging Opportunities in the Agriculture & Extractive Industries*
- *Unleashing the Opportunities: Rising Challenges and Influences*
- *Stories From The Field*
- *Disaster Recovery and Resilience*
- *Engaging the Financial Sector*
- *Research Development Education and Workforce Development*

*"The networking opportunities at the dialogue at the Invest Caribbean – the Annual Caribbean American Leadership Dialogue were tremendous. Meeting with Congresswoman Clarke provided insight on how CARICOM may better advance its interest."*

**Nilsa Surujbally, CARICOM  
Agriculture Director**

## THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 19

**8:30-12:00 pm MORNING SESSION**

**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE CLARKE**

**Location: CAPITOL HILL *\*\*(By Invitation Only)\*\****

**THEME: Trade And Investment Challenges & Opportunities in the Caribbean with focus on the extractive and agricultural industries.**

*The goal of this day's event is to bring together stakeholders to address the legislative and other government issues for sustainable investment in the extractive industries and agriculture in the Caribbean.*

### **Government Roundtable**

**Roundtable on Emerging Perspectives on Trade and Investment Policies for Promoting Economic Growth in the Caribbean (Extractive and Agricultural Sectors)**

*The goal of this session is to discuss legislative and other tariff and non-tariff barriers impacting on growth for the extractive industries and agriculture in the Caribbean.*

#### ***SPEAKERS:***

- ➔ Christopher Ashe, Deputy Director, US State Department
- ➔ Asst. Secretary Jose Raul Perales, Dept. of Homeland Security
- ➔ Ambassador Richard Bernal, Counsellor for Jamaica on the Board of Directors, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

### **Private Sector Roundtable**

**Roundtable on Emerging Perspectives on Governance for Sustainable Investment in the Caribbean**

*The goal of this session is to bring together policymakers, business and civil society to address the special issues facing sustainable investments in extractive industry sector in the Caribbean.*

#### ***SPEAKERS:***

- ➔ Liane Lohde, Senior Economist, IFC
- ➔ Ainsley Gill, CEO, Niquan Energy Group, Trinidad & Tobago

***MODERATOR:* H.E. John Beale, Ambassador of Barbados**

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**12:00 – 2:00 pm LUNCH BREAK**

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**2:30-4:30 pm          AFTERNOON SESSION**

**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE OFFICE OF THE CARIBBEAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Location: INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK *\*\*(By Invitation Only)\*\****

**ROUNDTABLE ON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

*The goal of this session is to bring together stakeholders in education, R&D and Donor Community to discuss technical assistance, and workforce development needs.*

***SPEAKERS:***

- ➔ Dr. Sabine O'Hara, Dean, University of the District of Columbia
- ➔ Dr. Dyremple B. Marsh, Dean, College of Agriculture and Related Sciences, Delaware State University
- ➔ Dr. Waldaba Stewart, Caribbean Research Center, Medgar Evers College
- ➔ Mr. Barton Clarke, Executive Director, CARDI
- ➔ Dr. Priscila Henriquez, Specialist, Mgt. of Technological Innovation, IICA
- ➔ Stephen McDaniel, VP for Institutional Advancement at University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- ➔ Ana Maria Torres, Program Manager, Young Americas Business Trust
- ➔ Lee Tablewski, Director, 100,000 Strong for the Americas

***MODERATOR:***          **Oscar Spencer, Board Member, ICS**

**5:30-7:30 pm          FORUM ON YOUTH IN CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE**

**Location: INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

**IGNITE CARIBBEAN: FARM THE FUTURE**

*This forum is open to the public and invites youth and youth promoters to present innovative programs and projects or ideas aimed at securing prosperous agriculture futures in the Caribbean.*

An Ignite session for youth leaders and the youth promoters to promote their projects, proposals and visions of a robust agribusiness sector in the Caribbean in the present and through 2030.

The IGNITE SESSION will issue call for presenters up to (10) who will speak for no more than 5 minutes using 20 slides as per IGNITE rules and protocols. This will be followed by a discussion of ideas presented for 30-45 minutes.

***MODERATOR:***          **Ambassador Jacinth Henry Martin, Chief of Staff of the Organization of American States (OAS)**

**Academic Exchange Invitees:**

- Delaware State University
  - Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York
  - University of Maryland Eastern Shore
  - University of the District of Columbia (UDC)
  - University of the West Indies (UWI)
  - Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
  - Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
  - Young Americas Business Trust (YABT)
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**FARM THE FUTURE**

## FRIDAY – NOVEMBER 20 (HYATT REGENCY HOTEL)

**8:30-9:00 am**      **REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:00-10:00am**      **OPENING PLENARY - OVERVIEW OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE**

*This session seeks to provide an overview of policies, programs and framework for trade and investment in the agribusiness sector by key government and inter-government agencies.*

**SPEAKERS:**

- ➔ Jerry Butler, Inter-American Development Bank
- ➔ Jene Thomas, Director, Office of Caribbean Affairs, USAID
- ➔ Mr. Barton Clarke, Executive Director, CARDI

**MODERATOR:**      **H.E. Bayney R. Karan, Dean of CARICUM CAUCUS of Ambassadors**

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**10:00-11:20am**      **EMERGING TRADE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

*This session seeks to explore the current and future opportunities existing in the agribusiness sector re food, fisheries, fuel and farma (nutraceuticals).*

**SPEAKERS:**

- ➔ Eugene Stewman, Director, State Trade and Export Promotion Program US Small Business Administration
- ➔ Berletta Forrester, Market Development Manager, JAMPRO

**MODERATOR:**      **H.E Hubert J. Charles, Ambassador of Dominica**

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**11:20-11:30am**      **BREAK**

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**11:30-1:00pm**      **UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL: CHALLENGES & RISING INFLUENCES**

*This session's main objective is to explore the specific international regulations, standards, risk management and knowledge requirements to optimize the opportunities in the agribusiness sector. This includes discussion of potential non-tariff barriers – e.g. Food Safety Modernization Act 2011, Farm to Fork regulations that must be implemented and adhered to, climate change, water, trade policies.*

**SPEAKERS:**

- ➔ Ms. Eve Blackman, Media Executive and Farmer, Guyana
- ➔ Gloria Richards-Johnson, Esq. International Legal Advisor
- ➔ Dr. Waldaba Stewart, Caribbean Research Center, Medgar Evers College
- ➔ Stephen McDaniel, VP for Institutional Advancement at University of Maryland Eastern Shore

**MODERATOR:**      **TBA**

**1:00-2:30pm**      **LUNCH SESSION - STORIES FROM THE FIELD: CASE STUDIES**

*The objective of this session is to provide case studies and lessons learned from companies working on projects and deals in the sector.*

**SPEAKERS:**

- Francis Richards, Managing Director, SPAGnVOLA
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**2:30-4:00PM**      **PANEL DISCUSSION - FINANCING THE DEAL**

*This session aims to identify the sources and availability of capital for extractive and the agribusiness sectors. In addition to discussing opportunities, risks and challenges for private sector this panel will focus on and specific processes for accessing grants, loans and venture capital funds.*

**SPEAKERS:**

- Douglas Midland, Overseas Private Investment Corporation OPIC
- Nathan Yonge, Regional Director, US Trade Development Authority
- Charles Mal Woolfolk, Global Trade & Technology Center
- Neil Pereira, Principal Investment Officer, IFC
- Yvonne Strachan, IDB MIF

**MODERATOR:**      **H.E. Ralph Thomas, Ambassador of Jamaica**

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**4:00-4:30PM**      **CLOSING ROUNDTABLE: THE WAY FORWARD**

*This session is a facilitated discussion on the action items arising from the day's activities and the role of ICS in advancing the agribusiness agenda in the Caribbean.*

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**6:30 PM**      **GALA MARKET PLACE (HYATT REGENCY HOTEL)**