



INVEST CARIBBEAN 2014

Harvesting Opportunities in the Agribusiness Value Chain: *Food, Fish, Fuel, Farma*

The 16th Annual Caribbean American Business Dialogue

NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014
Washington, DC

PRELIMINARY AGENDA *(as of November 6, 2014)*

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 Agriculture Trade & Food Security
Research Development Education and Workforce Development
Overview of the Caribbean Agribusiness Sector
Emerging Opportunities in the Agribusiness Value Chain
Unleashing the Opportunities: Rising Challenges and Influences
Stories From The Field
Engaging the Financial Sector

"The conversation at the dialogue at the Invest Caribbean – the Annual Caribbean American Leadership Dialogue is always insightful. I always learn something new."
Dr. Nsombi Jaja, Conference Chair

WHY ATTEND?

1. **Identify key initiatives** focused on investing in Caribbean agribusiness
2. **Explore opportunities** for investment along key agribusiness value chains
3. **Hear about ways** in which to participate in public-private partnerships and financing sources
4. **Discover innovative models** for agribusiness trade and investment
5. **Evaluate the risks and rewards** of private sector investment in Caribbean agribusiness sector
6. **Meet stakeholders** involved in the region's agribusiness sector and hear about best practices and trends

In partnership with U.S. and Caribbean companies, governments and other stakeholders, this Forum will provide the platform for participants to identify opportunities, and network with key stakeholders interested in the agribusiness value chain.

“Agriculture was the lifeblood of the Caribbean as its birth and can become so again in the decade ahead.”

**Trevor Smith, Marketing Director,
Tower Isles Patties**

INVITED SPEAKERS/PARTICIPANTS

- Caribbean Agriculture Research Development Institute
- Caribbean Development Bank
- Caribbean Export Development Agency
- Caribbean Farmers Network
- Compete Caribbean
- Embassy of St. Kitts and Nevis
- Embassy of Dominica
- Embassy of Guyana
- Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago
- Inter-American Development Bank
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture
- Medical Marijuana Industry Association
- Ministry of Agriculture, Suriname
- Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica
- Ministry of Agriculture, Haiti
- National Black Farmers Association
- Organization of Black Farmers in Central America
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation
- University of the West Indies
- URACCAN University
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Department of Commerce
- US Ex-Im Bank
- World Bank

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Individuals looking for networking opportunities with government officials, Embassy officials and private sector participants. Join us and meet the people who can assist your business expand into new markets.

- U.S. and Caribbean businesses of all sizes
- Investors looking for bankable projects in the agribusiness sector
- Product and service providers in the agribusiness sector
- U.S. and Caribbean government officials in the agriculture Sector
- U.S. and Caribbean Policy makers
- US and Caribbean Educators
- Business Associations & other agribusiness-focused stakeholders such as Logistics and trade support, exporters associations, farmers cooperatives and food cooperatives, wholesalers and distributors

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2014

8:30 – 10:30 AM ROUNDTABLE ON AGRICULTURE TRADE & FOOD SECURITY ON CAPITOL HILL

**** (By Invitation Only under the auspices of Senator Franken and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke)**

Invited Speakers:

CARICOM*

Moderator: **H.E. Bayney Karran**, *Ambassador of Guyana*

12:00 – 2:00 PM LUNCH DISCUSSION FORUM:

“The Future of Medical Marijuana in the Caribbean: Determinants of Research Policies and Priorities for Development of a Marijuana Agribusiness Value Chain”

Speakers: Yolande Cadore, Drug Policy Alliance; Dennis Ramdahin, VIHARA Foundation*

2:30- 4:30PM ROUNDTABLE ON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Hosted by the University of the District of Columbia)

Academic Exchange Invitees:

Alabama A & M

College of Agricultural Science & Education (CASE)

Kentucky State University *

Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York *

Morgan State University *

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

UNIPOP Alliance of Black & Indigenous Farmers of Central America *

URACCAN*

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff *

University of the District of Columbia*

University of Guyana

University of the West Indies*

National Black Farmers Association *

National Science Foundation

Tuskegee University

US Department of Agriculture, APHIS & NIFA

Moderator: **H.E. Steven Vasciannie**, *Ambassador of Jamaica*

4:30 – 5:30PM ADVANCING PARTNERSHIPS --- 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 research partnerships and education agenda in the Caribbean.

CONFERENCE CHAIR: Dr. Nsombi Jaja, *Director & Co-Chair, Private Sector Council, ICS*

*-- CONFIRMED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014

8:30-9:00AM **REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

9:00AM – 10:00AM **OPENING PLENARY: OVERVIEW OF SECTOR**

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: Inter-American Development Bank*
CARICOM*
IDB*
US DEPT. OF STATE*
USDA-NIFA*

Moderator: **H.E. La Celia Prince**, *Ambassador of St. Vincent & the Grenadines*

10:00-11:20 AM **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: Mercaris*
IICA*
USDA-FAS*
Private Sector Rep. (CABA)

Moderator: **H.E. Dr. Neil Parsan**, *Ambassador of Trinidad & Tobago*

11:20 – 11:30 BREAK

11:30AM – 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: Barbados Farmers Network*
Alliance of Black and Indigenous Farmers of Central America*
Confederation of Farmers of Trinidad & Tobago*
National Black Farmers Association*
World Bank*

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

1:00PM – 2:30PM **LUNCH SESSION: STORIES FROM THE FIELD**

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

Speakers: ACDI/VOCA*
Fair Trade America*
CARANA
USAID
Cocoa Jam'N*

Moderator: **H.E. Sonia Johnny**, *Ambassador of St. Lucia*

2:30PM – 4:00PM **PANEL DISCUSSION: FINANCING THE FIELD**

This session aims to identify the sources and availability of capital for the agribusiness sector and specific processes for accessing grants, loans and venture capital funds.

Speakers: EX-IM BANK*
 GEF*
 Global Trade and Technology Center*
 MIF/IDB
 OPIC*

Moderator: **H.E. Jacinth Henry-Martin**, *Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis*

4:00pm – 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.

CONFERENCE CHAIR: Dr. Nsombi Jaja, *Managing Director, Quality Management Consultancy Co. Ltd. Director & Co-Chair, Private Sector Council, Institute of Caribbean Studies*

*Confirmed

ABOUT ICS

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) founded in 1993, is the leading Caribbean American advocacy organization. The Invest Caribbean Conference now in its 16th showing, is a key event in the 'Minding the Agribusiness Economy Initiative' of ICS. Launched in 2011, the overarching goals of the Agribusiness Economy Initiative are as follows:

- *Provide information on the Caribbean Agribusiness Sector and the implications for the Caribbean Regional Economy.*
- *Promote the opportunities within the different segments of the Agribusiness Value Chain.*
- *Ensure understanding of the relative roles of the US government in building a sustainable agribusiness sector in the Caribbean that is in alignment with contemporary agribusiness standards.*
- *Enable the critical partnerships that will lead to increased research and development, and trade and investment in the Caribbean agribusiness sector.*
- *Advocate for the development of key policy levers for 'incentivizing' trade and investment in the agribusiness sector.*