

CAHFSA Annual Report 2018



CAHFSA Officials meeting with Prime Minister Hon. Mia Amor Motley of Barbados and Suriname's Vice President His Excellency Michael Ashwin S. Adhin at CAHFSA's Headquarters

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ABBREVIATIONS

AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CCPHD	CARCOM Community Plant Health Directors
CCVO	CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CPHD	Caribbean Plant Health Directors
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organization for Safety and Quality
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IICA	Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
LAC	Legal Affairs Committee
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RPPO	Regional Plant Protection Organization
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PRA	Pest Risk Analysis
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USDA-APHIS	United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

CORPORATE INFORMATION

MANDATE: The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) was established by the Heads of Government of CARICOM to perform a coordinating and organizing role in the establishment of an effective and efficient regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime and to execute on behalf of Member States such SPS actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The following Agreements give force to CAHFSA:

- Revised Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA): February 25, 2011;
- Original Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency: March 12: 2010
- Revised Treaty of Chagaramas (Articles 57 and 74).

Our Vision: “to be a leading regional institution of international repute in the application of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems.”

Our Mission: “to enhance regional development in agricultural health and food safety through the application of SPS Measures that meet the expectation of all stakeholders and contribute to the welfare of our citizens.”

Core Values: The organization is committed to:

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Confidentiality
- Good Governance
- Inclusiveness

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AREAS OF WORK

- Plant Health
- Animal Health
- Food Safety

Chief Executive Officer: Mr. L. Simeon Collins

Number of Staff: 07

Principal Bankers: DSB Bank Suriname N. V.

Board of Directors 2018

- Dr Beverley Wood: Barbados- Chairperson
- Dr Mark Pierre: Guyana - Vice Chairperson
- Dr Tubal Edwards: Antigua & Barbuda
- Mr Gregory Rahming/Mr. Christopher Worrell: Bahamas
- Mr Emiz Cruz/Dr. Natalie Gibson: Belize
- Mr Anselm Ryan: Dominica
- Dr. Bowen Louison/Dr. Kimond Cummings: Grenada
- Dr Max Millien/Mr. Charles Pierre/Dr Haim Joseph: Haiti
- Ms Sanniel S. Wilson - Jamaica
- Dr Selvyn Maloney: Montserrat
- Dr Tracey Challenger: St. Kitts & Nevis
- Dr Auria King: St. Lucia
- Dr Kathian Hackshaw: St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Mr Radjendre Debie/Ms. Soenita Parbhoe: Suriname
- Dr Simone Titus: Trinidad & Tobago
- Dr Ronnie Brathwaite: CARICOM Secretariat (Observer)
- L. Simeon Collins: CEO (Ex officio Member)

Human Resource Sub Committee

- Dr Mark Pierre
- Mr. Emir Cruz
- Dr Tracey Challenger

Finance Sub Committee

- Dr Beverley Wood
- Dr Selvyn Maloney
- Dr Bowen Louison

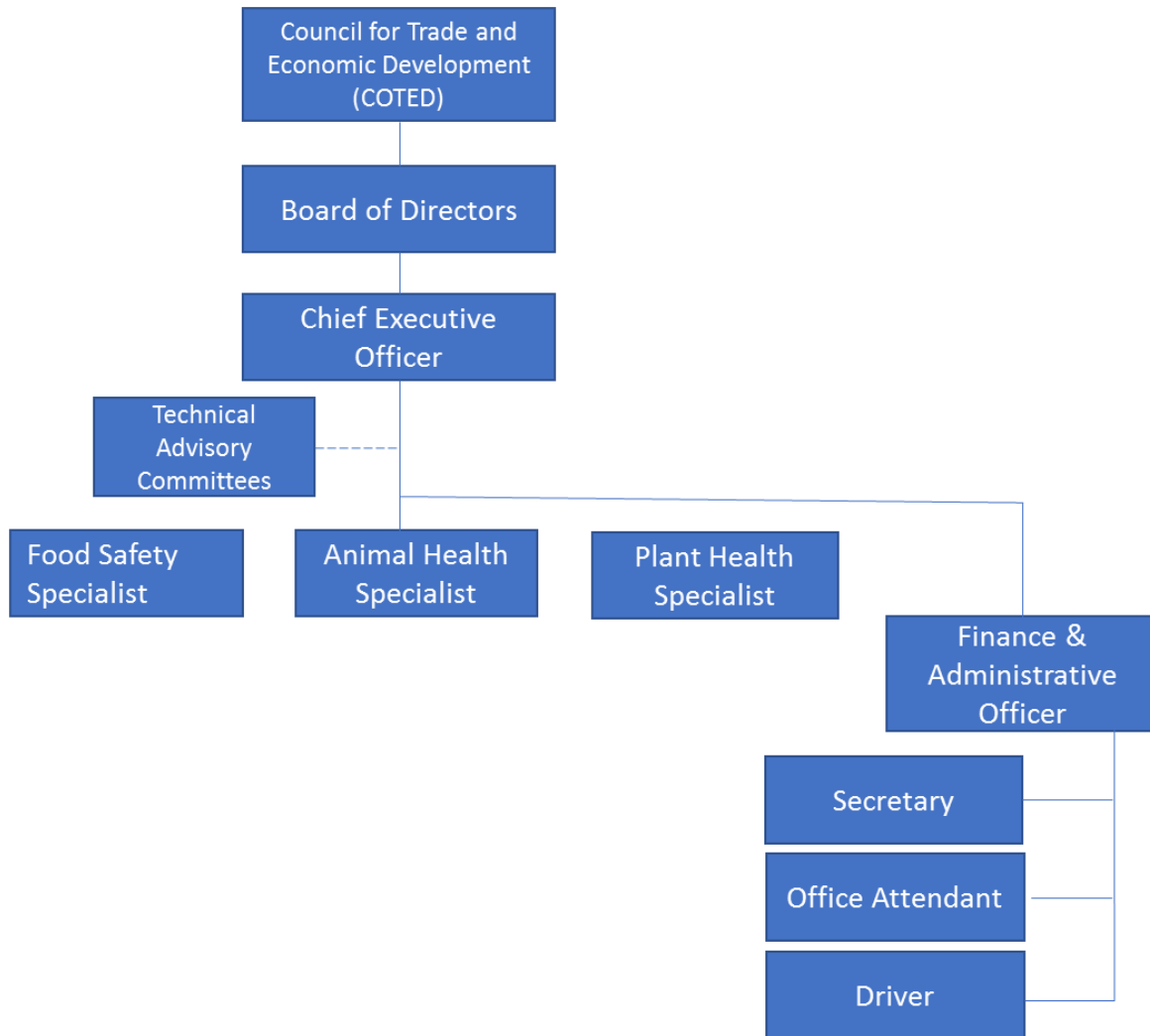
Professional Staff

- Mr L. Simeon Collins, B. Sc., M.Sc. – Chief Executive Officer
- Mrs Herma Griffith Ifill, FCCA, MBA – Finance/Administrative Officer
- Mrs Juliet Goldsmith, B. Sc., M.Sc. - Plant Health Specialist
- Dr Gavin Peters, DVM., M. Sc. – Animal Health Specialist

Support Staff

- Trisnatie (Truus) Djioed, Secretary;
- Hemantkoemar (Shaam) Kalika, Driver;
- Amushca Satjapradja: Office Attendant

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE 2018



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) has completed another successful year of operations, the year 2018. Faced with all the challenges of this period, CAHFSA has steadfastly dealt with the objectives and goals as set out in the regional strategic plan for 2015 – 2019 and its Work Programme for 2019.

An expressed policy of CAHFSA is to support the safe trade of agricultural products among the Member States. This implies having the mechanisms or systems in place for the free but safe movement of agricultural products regionally. Thus, CAHFSA has worked with the Caribbean Plant Health Directors' Forum (CPHD) to develop a Regional Priority Plant Pest List to identify plant pests which may pose the greatest threat to extra-regional trade of agricultural products and has continued with the development of policies, guidelines, standards and protocols in the areas of plant health, animal health, food safety and biosafety during this period. Additionally, a Procedure for SPS related trade dispute settlement in CARICOM has been developed. Over the past decade, disputes related to trade in agricultural goods between the CARICOM Member States has become a reoccurring feature on the agendas of meetings of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). The intent of this procedure is to achieve a rapid, science-based resolution of potential and actual SPS disputes among the CARICOM Member States by applying regional and international SPS standards.

To achieve its goals and objectives, CAHFSA has collaborated with a number of SPS organizations operating regionally. Chief among them are the CPHD, the Committee of CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVOs), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

It must be noted that the mandate of CAHFSA is not restricted to the safe trade of agricultural products regionally but also extra-regionally. Significantly so, CAHFSA continued its engagement with international SPS Organizations such as Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), WTO-SPS Committee and other international organisations through meeting participation and regional coordination.

Of great importance to us in 2018 and beyond, is the Practical Arrangement signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the recognition of CAHFSA by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) as the Caribbean Plant Protection Organization (RPPO). These two arrangements appear very promising and should bear fruits in all participating Member States over the next few years.

I take the opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation to the Board of Directors, the management team and all staff members for their significant contribution to the success in the period under review.

Additionally, gratitude is expressed to Prime Minister Hon. Mia Amor Motley of Barbados and Suriname's Vice President His Excellency Michael Ashwin S. Adhin and their delegation for the courtesy call paid to us at CAHFSA's Headquarters. Finally, I thank all supporting organisations, collaborators and sponsors, all clients and volunteers of committees for their hard work and contribution throughout 2018.

L. Simeon Collins
CEO

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the key activities implemented by CAHFSA during the period January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018, to effectively discharge its responsibilities outlined in the CARICOM Strategic Plan and Implementation Framework as well as in its operational plan for the period in question. It focuses on seven (7) major areas of work, namely, Cooperation with Regional Organisations with the intention of harmonising SPS Standards; Cooperation with International SPS Organisations with the intention of harmonizing SPS Standards; Establishment of a Caribbean Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO); Capacity Building and Training Activities; Provision of Services under an FAO Regional Project: TCP/SLC/3605- Strengthening Quarantine Services in three OECS Countries; Harmonization and Regional Trade Facilitation and Building CAHFSA's Visual Identity.

1 COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

During the period under review, CAHFSA continued its collaborative relationship with several regional organisations. Chief among them were the USDA-APHIS, CPHD, CCVOs, PAHO/WHO, FAO, CARDI and CGPC.

1.1 USDA-APHIS

On April 23, 2018, a delegation from the USDA /APHIS met with officials of CAHFSA to discuss how the USDA/APHIS can strategically continue to strengthen its collaborative relationship with CAHFSA on addressing agricultural health issues in the Region. Among the areas discussed were the following:

- Strengthening areas of collaboration in the activities related to transboundary diseases in general, and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), in particular. This may include:
 - training in diagnostics relating to FMD
 - increased awareness and communication to travellers re FMD situation in South America, with a focus on Venezuela and Colombia.
 - assistance to strengthen monitoring and surveillance of the situation specifically referring to the FMD situation on Venezuela.
- Assistance/Collaboration in areas of Surveillance, Inspection, Prevention, Quarantine and Inspection System.
- Training opportunities in areas of Risk Analysis and laboratory diagnostics techniques.
- Operational Structure for the Caribbean Regional Plant Protection Organization.



Figure 1: Meeting between CAHFSA Officials and officials of USDA APHIS

1.2 Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and CARICOM Plant Health Directors Forum

The Plant Health Specialist of CAHFSA participated in the annual meetings of the CPHD and the CARICOM Community Plant Health Directors (CCPHD), held during July 16-20, 2018 in Jamaica. In addition, the Plant Health Specialist participated in two Regional Partners' meetings and the 3rd CPHD Expert Committee on Pest Prioritization and the 8th Annual Plant Quarantine Training.



Figure 2: Plant Health Specialist, Ms Juliet Goldsmith at Annual Meetings of the CPHD and CCPHD

1.3 CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVOs)

CAHFSA coordinates the activities of the CCVOs. A Face to Face Meeting of the CCVOs was held in St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda following a meeting of the CaribVet/Chief Veterinary Officers from June 11-15, 2018.



Figure 3: Meeting of the CCVOs held in St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda

1.4 PAHO/WHO

In May 2018, Dr Sandra Vokaty, PAHO/WHO Advisor on Veterinary Public Health at the PAHO/WHO Office in Trinidad and Tobago paid a courtesy call to CAHFSA during which some important SPS matters were discussed. Chief among these were the provision of technical assistance in the development of a Regional Food Safety Policy and Action Plan and the need to work together to address repeated and improper use of antibiotics in food animals in order to reduce the risk of bacteria antimicrobial resistance (AMR) becoming an emerging global threat to public health. She was accompanied by the Head of Food Inspection and the Acting Head of the Environmental Inspectorate of the Bureau of Public Health, Suriname.



Figure 4: CEO of CAHFSA, Simeon Collins, meeting with Dr Sandra Vokaty, PAHO/WHO and a delegation from the Bureau of Public Health, Suriname

On October 23-24, 2018, Dr Gavin Peters, Animal Health Specialist, attended a two-day Caribbean Sub Regional Workshop on Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock. The workshop which was organised by PAHO/WHO and the FAO was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce the Caribbean veterinary services and veterinarians employed in the food animal industry to the following topics:

- OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance;
- WHO List of Critically Important antimicrobials for human medicine;
- OIE guidelines on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine and relevant standards on Antimicrobial Resistance;
- Alternative disease prevention and control strategies --- e.g. biosecurity, vaccination, other products, etc.;
- A regulatory framework for veterinary drugs;
- The United States Food Safety Modernization Act: implications for antimicrobials in livestock feed and schedule for withdrawal;
- Country experience in reducing antimicrobial use in livestock: Canada and Netherlands.

During the workshop, a Caribbean action plan to reduce the use of antimicrobials in livestock for non-therapeutic purposes was developed.

1.5 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

During the period under review, CAHFSA implemented two Letters of Agreement (LOAs) with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional office for the Caribbean, which involved:

- The provision of services towards strengthening the plant and animal quarantine capacities of three Member States (St. Kitts & Nevis, Grenada and Dominica) based on specific priorities identified by these countries in their respective Country Programming Frameworks;
- The strengthening of the capacity of Governments in the CARICOM region to meet their reporting obligations under the IPPC and the WTO-SPS Agreement and to improve awareness among CARICOM National Plant Protection Organizations.

Additionally, CAHFSA held discussions with an FAO Technical Mission in relation to Component 1 of a Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project (SAMAP) which aimed at Strengthening food safety capabilities and standards and their applications to private and public sector institutions in Suriname. Both parties recognised the need to stage a regional workshop for representatives of competent authorities of CARICOM Member States to prioritise a list of food safety standards that could be harmonized throughout the region. This activity will be funded by the FAO and the Agro-food Branch of UNIDO.



Figure 5: Meeting between CAHFSA Officials and FAO Technical Mission

1.6 Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

CAHFSA is presently collaborating with CARDI to finalise Protocols on the safe movement of plant germplasm within the CARICOM region (planting materials for cassava, sweet potatoes, hot pepper, pigeon peas, corn, beans, coconuts). Discussions have also been held with CARDI on the Regional Trade in Coconut Water.

On 5 December 2018, the CAHFSA Plant Health Specialist attended the working session of a *Coconut Planting Material Meeting* organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and CARDI under the EU European Union-ACP funded project “Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean.” The session was designed to:

- 1) share experiences and lessons learnt on the support for improvements in the availability of high-quality disease-free seedlings and planting materials across the region during the first phase of the project as well as in comparable schemes.
- 2) discuss adequate strategies for the profitable, inclusive and sustainable promotion, multiplication and dissemination of coconut planting material in the Caribbean and discuss potential roles for the partners in the second phase of the project.
- 3) agree on a way forward and elaborate key elements of a joint action plan for the Coconut Project Phase II.

1.7 Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean

The CAHFSA Plant Health Specialist participated in the 22nd Meeting of the Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC), held in Barbados, 11-13 June 2018. She delivered a presentation on the work of CAHFSA related to the CGPC and the opportunities for strengthening ties and future collaboration. The CGPC meeting was followed on 14-15 June 2018 by the 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting of the GCP/SLC/204/GEF.

2 COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL SPS ORGANISATIONS

During the period under review, CAHFSA continued its engagement with Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the IPPC, WTO-SPS Committee, the IAEA and other international organisations through meeting participation and extra-regional coordination.

2.1 Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The organisation was represented at the 41st Meeting of the CAC held in Rome, Italy from July 2-6, 2018 by Dr Gavin Peters, Animal Health Specialist.



Figure 6: Dr Gavin Peters attending the 41st Session of the CAC in Rome, Italy

2.2 World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

The Animal Health Specialist participated in the 86th General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health which was held from May 20th to 25th, 2018 in Maison de la Chime, Paris, France.

Among the CARICOM Member States in attendance were Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Suriname. During this session, St. Lucia was welcomed as the 182nd Member of the OIE while Dr Mark Trotman, the OIE Delegate from Barbados was elected as the President of the Regional Commission of the Americas.

Additionally, the Animal Health Specialist participated in a Sub- Regional Workshop on the Recognition of Foot and Mouth Disease Official Free Status which was held in Nassau, Bahamas on September 25 and 26, 2018 organised by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.



Figure 7: Animal Health Specialist, Dr Gavin Peters attending Sub-regional workshop on Foot and Mouth Disease

2.3 The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

(i) Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols

From February 5-9, 2018, the Plant Health Specialist of CAHFSa participated in a meeting of the IPPC Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), held at the Headquarters of the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) in Paris, France. Diagnostic protocols are produced as annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic Protocols for Regulated Pests). The purpose of harmonised Diagnostic Protocols is to support efficient phytosanitary measures in a wide range of circumstances and to enhance the mutual recognition of diagnostic results by NPPOs, which may also facilitate trade. Furthermore, these protocols aid the development of expertise and technical cooperation on a global scale. The Plant Health Specialist serves the TPDP as Discipline Lead for Entomology.



Figure 8: Plant Health Specialist, Juliet Goldsmith, at the TPDP Meeting in Paris, France

(ii) 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

During April 16-20, 2018, the Plant Health Specialist participated in the 13 Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measure (CPM) held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. During this session, CAHFSA was recognised as the Regional Plant Protection Organization for the Caribbean Region. The CPM is the governing body for the International Plant Protection Convention which is recognized under the WTO/SPS Agreement as the standard-setting body for plant health.

(iii) 2018 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean

CAHFSA collaborated with regional partners in organizing and facilitating the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean from September 17-19, 2018 in Trinidad and Tobago. Twenty-five participants from fourteen countries attended the workshop where they discussed draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and shared their experiences in developing phytosanitary capacity and highlighted existing gaps. Topics of special interest in the region were discussed such as:

- The implementation of the standard for the international movement of seeds (ISPM 38) – in particular the challenges posed by consumers who order seeds online.
- The interest in and availability of guides and training materials to support the implementation of the IPPC and its standards.
- The implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) – with Trinidad and Tobago reporting that the delivery time for import permits had decreased from around 6 weeks to 3 to 5 days.
- Ideas on activities to raise awareness about the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) such as launching a poetry competition and an exhibit about plants and pests; and a special session on the IYPH at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in 2020.



Figure 9: Delegates attending the IPPC Workshop for the Caribbean 2018

(iv) IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation of Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “One Road” Countries

The Plant Health Specialist attended the IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation of Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “One Road” Countries which was held in Nanning, Guangxi, China, from 25-28 September 2018. The objectives of the symposium were to:

- a. to promote awareness-raising of the Chinese Initiative “One Belt and One Road”;
- b. to share information on phytosanitary measures among the participating countries/regions;
- c. to search for the possibility for bilateral and or inter-regional cooperation on phytosanitary measures among the participating countries/regions.

She delivered a presentation on the regulatory, technical and operational aspects of plant quarantine systems in the Caribbean region: opportunities and challenges related to phytosanitary measures, emerging regulated pests and recommendations to promote cooperation on phytosanitary measures among “One Belt and One Road” countries.



Figure 10: Plant Health Specialist, Juliet Goldsmith, at the IPPC High-Level Symposium in Nanning China

(v) 30th Technical Consultation of Regional Plant Protection Organization (TC-RPPO)

The 30th TC-RPPO was held 29 October to 01 November 2018 in Lima, Peru. The Plant Health Specialist represented CAHFSA. Technical Consultations (TC) among RPPOs are regularly convened to, among other

things, encourage inter-regional cooperation in promoting harmonised phytosanitary measures, and the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures. In addition to being a forum for RPPOs to consult as a group, the TC supports regional programmes under the IPPC and contribute to the work programme of the CPM.



Figure 11: Plant Health Specialist attending the 30th TC-RPPO in Lima, Peru

2.4 WTO/SPS Committee

The Plant Health Specialist also participated in the 72nd General Session of the WTO/SPS Committee held at the WTO Headquarters in Geneva from July 9-13, 2018 where she provided updates on CARICOM SPS standard-setting work programme for the period January to June 2018.

2.5 UN/ SIDS Conference

The CEO of CAHFSA participated in a Regional Partnership Dialogue on the SAMOA Pathway aimed at reviewing progress made in addressing the priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway – the outcome of the 2014 SIDS Conference. This was held in San Pedro, Belize, on 7 August 2018. He was one of the panellists in a round table discussion on “Identifying Partnerships to fill the Gaps in Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.”



Figure 12: CEO of CAHFSA among participants at the SAMOA Pathway Meeting in San Pedro, Belize

2.6 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

CAHFSA continued its engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency through:

- (a) Involvement with the Interregional Project for Small Island Developing States.
- (b) Submission, for consideration by the Agency, of a **regional project** aimed at building the human and institutional capacities of Member States in the use of nuclear technologies;
- (c) Participation by the Plant Health Specialist and the Animal Health Specialist in a **Scientific Visit** to IAEA Headquarters in Austria from August 27-31, 2018 as part of a technical mission;
- (d) Signing of a **Practical Arrangement** between IAEA and CAHFSA

(a) Interregional Project for Small Island Developing States

The Plant Health Specialist participated in a kick-off meeting for the project and a related Technical workshop on the Use of Nuclear Techniques in Nutrient and Water Management for Small Island Developing States. These activities were held during May 14-25, 2018 IAEA Headquarters Vienna, Austria and Seibersdorf Laboratory, Vienna.

Figure 13: Plant Health Specialist speaking following Workshop on Nuclear Techniques at the IAEA



(b) Regional Project, Concept Number RLA2018037

CAHFSA, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Barbados has submitted a project proposal to the IAEA for the 2020-2024 project cycle. The project, *developing human resources and building capacity of Member States in the application of nuclear technology to Agriculture*, aims to raise awareness among member states of the various applications of nuclear science and technology in agriculture as well as develop their human resource and institutional capacity in the use of these technologies. It is envisioned that through these mechanisms, Member States will realize improved agricultural productivity thus contributing to the CARICOM Strategic Priority of Building Economic Resilience.

(c) IAEA Scientific Visit/Technical Mission

A CAHFSA Team, including the Plant Health Specialist, the Animal Health Specialist and the Deputy Programme Director from the CARICOM (Trade and Agriculture) participated in a Scientific Visit to IAEA Headquarters in Austria from August 27-31, 2018. The purposes of the visit were to:

- present an overview of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency and its ongoing regional initiatives in relation to agriculture, food safety, health and climate change.
- identify potential areas of synergies, collaboration/alliances and TC assistance for the contribution of Nuclear Science and Technology in Food and Agriculture; identify national capabilities and priorities by country to assist in the creation/strengthening of regional reference centres in the application of nuclear sciences.
- present an overview of projects and initiatives of international, regional and other cooperation organizations.
- propose an action plan for IAEA cooperation.



Figure 14: CAHFSA Team during a Scientific Visit to the IAEA, Vienna, Austria

(d) Regional Workshop on Project Design Based on the Logical Framework Approach and Best Practices

During 11-15 November 2018, the CAHFSA Plant Health Specialist participated in an IAEA Regional Workshop on Project Design Based on the Logical Framework Approach and Best Practices. The workshop was held in Kingston, Jamaica and the Plant Health Specialist was invited to:

- provide specific input through a presentation on plant health issues;
- provide expert knowledge on regional priorities on plant health;
- support project counterparts in the design of their projects in the area of plant health;
- participate in working group discussions to provide expert guidance.

The workshop also provided the opportunity to work with Barbados to complete the design of the proposed Regional project -developing human resources and building capacity of Member States in the application of nuclear technology to Agriculture



Figure 15: CAHFSA Plant Health Specialist at the IAEA Regional Workshop on Project Design Based on the Logical Framework Approach and Best Practices

(e) Practical Arrangement

CAHFSA and the IAEA signed a Practical Arrangement to pursue areas of technical cooperation in the use of nuclear science and technology for sustainable agricultural health and food safety in the Caribbean. The agreement was signed at the headquarters of the IAEA in Vienna, Austria on November 26, 2018 by the CEO of CAHFSA Mr L. Simeon Collins, and Mr Cornel Feruta, Chief Coordinator, Director General Office for Coordination, representing Dazhu Yang, Deputy Director General of the IAEA. The Practical Arrangement provides the framework for collaboration to address challenges faced by the Member States of both organisations as well as Small Island Developing States in improving their agricultural sector.



Figure 16: CEO of CAHFSA, Simeon Collins, signing Practical Arrangement with the IAEA in Vienna, Austria

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION (RPPO)

The Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC), which was established as the RPPO for the Caribbean Region by the FAO Council in 1967, was abolished by that body in October 2014. The purpose of the Commission was to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation in plant quarantine in the Caribbean area to prevent the introduction of destructive plant pests and to preserve the existing plant resources of the Region. The CPPC had no regular activity since 1987 and, most importantly, no activity since 2001. Thus, there was no functional RPPO for the Caribbean sub-region, and the lack of representation was consistently recorded in the global community. The sub-region was urged to rectify the situation.

The COTED (Agriculture) at its Seventy-First Special Meeting, October 2017, agreed that CAHFSA would write to the FAO seeking official recognition as the RPPO for the Caribbean. The letter was prepared and submitted to the Chair of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in November 2017. Following approval from the FAO Legal Office and agreement from the nine RPPOs, the Technical Consultation on RPPOs recommended to The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) that CAHFSA be recognised as an RPPO. On 20 April 2018, on the opening day of the Thirteenth Session of the CPM, CAHFSA was recognised as the Regional Plant Protection Organization representing the Caribbean Region.



Figure 17: Ms Juliet Goldsmith, CAHFSA's Plant Health Specialist speaking at 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measure (CPM) during the recognition of CAHFSA as the Regional Plant Protection Organization for the Caribbean Region

CAHFSA is now in the process of drafting a guide (manual) to outline the structure and operational arrangements of the RPPO, including its engagement with the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD), and other regional plant health groups and institutions. Also, a strategic planning meeting is to be organised to develop an operational plan and a work programme for the RPPO.

4. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Regional Training Course on Plant Quarantine Principles and Procedure

CAHFSA continued its collaboration with the UWI and Regional Partners in facilitating a regional training course on Plant Quarantine Principles and Procedures. During the 8th Edition held August 6-17, 2018, the Plant Health Specialist delivered presentations on the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) (Overview, ISPM 1, ISPM 23) as well as on Pest Risk Analysis. Mrs Goldsmith presentations continued to be exceptionally well received.

Technical and Capacity-building Workshop at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum

Under a Letter of Agreement with FAO, CAHFSA facilitated a technical and capacity building workshop aimed at assisting the Member States in meeting their obligations under the International Plant Protection Convention. This workshop was held on 18-19 July 2018 during the 11th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors' (CPHD) Forum convened in Montego Bay Jamaica. Seven topics were covered, including discussions on:

1. Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)
2. The Euphresco Research Network
3. Risk-based sampling (RBS)
4. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Cooperation Programme
5. Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates (e-Phytos)

6. Irradiation-Technical information and market acceptance
7. IPPC National Reporting Obligations (NROs).

Workshop on the Management of Microbiological Food Safety Risk Assessment

The Animal Health Specialist, Dr Gavin Peters and the Deputy Chairperson of CAHFSA, Dr Mark Pierre, participated in a Workshop on the Management of Microbiological Food Safety Risk Assessment from July 11-13, 2018 in Kingston, Jamaica. This Workshop was the final of a three-part series that was organised by FAO for the CARICOM Member States. The first and second were held in Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados respectively. It dealt with Microbiological Risk Assessment and Management and the development of Risk Profiles for the various countries.



Figure 18: Dr Gavin Peters, Animal Health Specialist and Dr Mark Pierre, Deputy Chairperson of CAHFSA among participants at a Food Safety Risk Assessment Workshop in Jamaica

Regional Capacity Development Workshop on national E-Agriculture strategies in the Caribbean

The CEO participated in a Regional Capacity Development Workshop on national e-Agriculture strategies in the Caribbean which was held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 9th to 13th July 2018. The Workshop was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAOSLC), the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) with, inter alia, partners from the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Community. He made a presentation on E-Agriculture Services for Food Safety and Traceability.



Figure 19: CEO of CAHFSA speaking at E-Agriculture forum in Georgetown, Guyana

5. PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER A FAO REGIONAL PROJECT: TCP/SLC/3605: STRENGTHENING QUARANTINE SERVICES IN THREE OECS COUNTRIES

In March 2017, CAHFSA signed a letter of Agreement (LOA) with the FAO to provide services under the FAO Regional Project: TCP/SLC/3605. The objective of the Agreement was to strengthen plant and animal quarantine capacities of the three countries of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean Member States (OECS), namely Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis. This is based on specific priorities identified by the three countries in their respective Country Programming Frameworks. The final outputs are, for each of the three countries:

1. A plant and animal pest and disease surveillance system established;
2. A Reference Manual with Quick-Reference Guides (based on International Standards) to support national animal and plant surveillance systems for Customs, Port and Security Services;
3. At least 35-40 persons trained in pest and disease surveillance and monitoring systems for plants and animals, inclusive of key pests and diseases that are present in the Caribbean as well as those of quarantine importance;
4. At least 15 factsheets prepared and submitted –5 Disease Factsheets (Animal Health) and 10 Pest and Disease Factsheets (Plant Health);
5. Three Mission Reports submitted
 - a. a joint Mission1 Report by the Animal Health and Plant Health Specialists
 - b. Mission2 Report by the Animal Health Specialist and
 - c. Mission2 Report by the Plant Health Specialist.

Progress to date:

A review of existing agricultural pest and disease monitoring systems in the three countries, as well as a review of pests and diseases of economic and quarantine importance was conducted. The findings were presented at an Inception meeting/Stakeholder Workshop held in each country.



Figure 20: Dr Gavin Peters engaging participants during Inception Workshop in Dominica

Training programmes were developed based on the gaps identified during the review process. The Plant Health and Animal Health Specialists conducted separate national training for relevant technical personnel as well as Customs, Port and Security Services. The trainings focused on establishing effective plant and animal quarantine services with emphasis on monitoring and surveillance activities. Also included were modules on key pests and diseases of economic importance identified by each country.



Figure 21: Plant Quarantine Training workshop for Border Control Agents in St. Kitts

Quick Reference Guides for the identification of plant quarantine pests as well as fact sheets on priority regulated plant pests were produced have been developed for all three project countries. A manual of Livestock Disease Surveillance and fact sheets on animal diseases have been drafted.

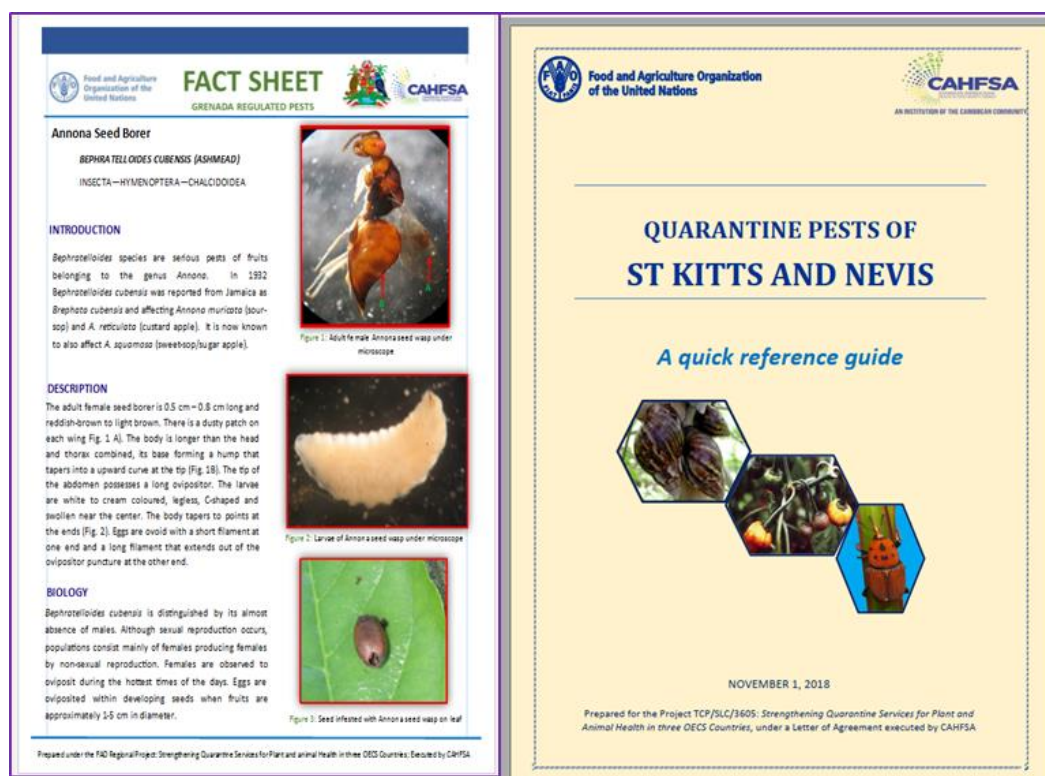


Figure 22: Photo of Factsheet prepared for Grenada and Quick Reference Guide prepared for St Kitts and Nevis

6. HARMONIZATION AND REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION

6.1 Market Access of Regional Products

The significant matters of market access, dealt with by CAHFSa during the year in review included the exportation of pork and poultry products to the region, following risk assessments that were coordinated by CAHFSa as well as the transshipment of honey into and through Trinidad and Tobago and the regional trade of bottled coconut water.

Trade in Pork and Poultry Products

Although six Member States had received approval from COTED to export pork and poultry products to the region in October 2017, following risk assessments that were coordinated by CAHFSa, no trade had commenced by the end of 2018. Trinidad and Tobago had, however, given the assurance that it had taken the necessary action regarding the placement of Suriname on its List of Approved Countries for Importation of Poultry and Poultry Products and will expect trade to commence early in 2019.

Transshipment of Honey into and through Trinidad and Tobago

Discussion on the transshipment of honey into and through Trinidad and Tobago is continuing.

Regional Trade of Bottled Coconut Water

At a meeting with representatives of three regional agencies, CARDI, CAHFSA and CROSQ, it was agreed that a consultant will be employed by CARDI to develop a code of practice for coconut water and to revise the existing CROSQ Specification for coconut water so as to facilitate the movement of the product throughout the Region.

6.2 Courtesy Visit by The Hon. Mia Amor Motley, Prime Minister of Barbados and His Excellency Michael Ashwin S. Adhin, Vice President of The Republic of Suriname.

On November 15, 2018, discussions were held with a delegation from Barbados headed by the Prime Minister Hon. Mia Amor Motley and a delegation from the Republic of Suriname led by the Vice President His Excellency Michael Ashwin S. Adhin regarding SPS Measures that needed to be addressed in the short and medium term in order to accelerate market access of food products intra-regionally. Prime Minister Motley who was paying an official visit to Suriname visited CAHFSA in her capacity as the Lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi-Cabinet with responsibility for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.



Figure 23: CEO of CAHFSA, Simeon Collins, welcoming Prime Minister Hon. Mia Amor Motley of Barbados and Suriname's Vice President His Excellency Michael Ashwin S. Adhin on their official visit to CAHFSA's Headquarters

6.3 Development of Regional SPS Standards, Guidelines and Protocols

Discussion on a Draft CARICOM Protocol on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures for Trade in Animals and Animal Products commenced in 2016. This protocol has undergone several revisions by the CCCVOs. It seeks to establish control, inspection and approval procedures for the conduct of risk assessments for trade in animals and animal products between Member States, and between Member States and Third States. The usefulness of this Protocol is even more apparent given the difficulties experienced with trade in animal products between the Member States of CARICOM and the current

differentiated approaches Member States wish to take in relation to trade with Third Countries. Discussions are continuing

During the period under review, comments were sought and received from the Member States and Regional Institutions on the draft specification for cassava flour which was developed in 2017. These comments were compiled by CAHFSA and submitted to the consultants (SRC) for consideration and adoption where appropriate. All comments received were considered, and a final document was submitted to CAHFSA. This draft will be submitted to the COTED in 2019 for adoption as a regional standard.

CAHFSA has identified the need to put a Technical Committee in place to review the six (6) Protocols on the safe movement of plant germplasm within the CARICOM region which were sent by CARDI to the CPHD. Efforts will be made in 2019 to address this issue.

6.3 Development of Procedure for SPS Related Trade Dispute Settlement in CARICOM

Over the past decade, disputes related to trade in agriculture goods between the CARICOM Member States has become a reoccurring feature on the agendas of meetings of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). Many of these matters stem from the differing interpretation and application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures by member states trading both fresh and processed foods. Many of these matters that have been and continue to occupy the COTED agenda could be resolved at the technical level and avoid unnecessary hindrances to intra-regional trade of agricultural goods. As a result, the COTED (Agriculture) at its Sixty-Second Special Meeting held in the Cayman Islands in November 2016 agreed on the relevance of a Regional Mechanism for Dispute Resolution on SPS Issues and that CAHFSA oversees the process. A first draft was circulated for comments in 2017. Comments were received from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the CRFM and the CCS. Based on Member States' comments, a new document has been drafted.

This procedure intent is to achieve a rapid, science-based resolution of potential and actual SPS disputes among the CARICOM Member States by applying regional and international SPS standards. Timelines have been added for each stage of the process with the hope of cutting down on the length of time that these disputes remain on the agenda of the COTED.

6.4 Development of a Regional Priority Pest List

In 2014, the CPHD presented the COTED (Agriculture) with the first Regional Priority Pest List (RPPL), which identified the top 10 priority pest threats to the Caribbean Region as determined by a Committee of Experts. The goal of the list is to facilitate the efficient allocation of limited resources and human capacity within the Caribbean, to focus on those pests which pose the greatest threat to the Region. One limitation of the initial list was that it lacked input from the member countries themselves. Since then, the CPHD in conjunction with CAHFSA has trained several Member States in the creation of their own National Priority Pest Lists (NPPL). In June 2018, the Committee of Experts was reconvened to update the RPPL, this time incorporating the available National Priority Pest Lists (NPPL) and, in accordance with the COTED (Agriculture) decision in 2016, inviting input from the stakeholders in the sugarcane and rice industries.

More than 30 pests were considered and ranked using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to produce the following updated top 10 RPPL.

- (i) *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly);

- (ii) *Fusarium oxysporum* f.cubens Race 4 (Banana Wilt);
- (iii) *Tuta absoluta* (Tomato Leaf Miner);
- (iv) *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Races 2 [Moko Disease] & 3);
- (v) *Monillioophthora roreri* (Frosty Pod Rot);
- (vi) Lethal yellowing of Palms;
- (vii) *Xanthomonas axonopodis* (Citrus canker);
- (viii) Citrus leprosis virus;
- (ix) Fiji Disease (Sugarcane);
- (x) Bacterial Panicle Blight (Rice)

6.5 Development and Implementation of a Joint CAHFSA/UWI Biosafety Policy

A Regional Biosafety Policy was approved by the Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED) at its Seventh First (71st) Special which was held in Georgetown, Guyana from October 4-6, 2017.

During the period under review, a road map for its implementation was developed. This included the review of Member States biosafety legislation and the development of a draft model legislation. As a result, a legal consultant (Ms Sylva Ambris-Dick) from St. Vincent & the Grenadines) was employed to review existing draft or passed legislation in all Member States to see how they fit with the regional biosafety policy and to develop a model law for the Region based on the review. The draft regional legislation submitted by the consultant was reviewed by CAHFSA, UWI and representatives of the Biosafety Management Committee and a modified draft submitted. Following this, it was submitted for peer review, and further modifications were made. The final draft will be submitted to the COTED for adoption in 2019.

6.7 Development of a Regional Policy and Action Plan for Food Safety

CARPHA prepared a draft annotated outline for the development of a Regional Food Safety Policy and discussed by a small committee comprising CAHFSA, CARPHA, FAO, IICA and PAHO/WHO. Comments on this were received from the AHFSS-TG were used to modify the document. Work will continue on this document during 2019.

7. BUILDING CAHFSA'S VISUAL IDENTITY

In an effort to build visual identity regionally, the institution participated in the Fifteenth Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) in Barbados, from 8-12 October 2018. This provided a great opportunity for officials of CAHFSA to interact with stakeholders in the agricultural sector across the Region and, to provide information on the services offered by CAHFSA to the many visitors at the Trade Show and Exhibition that took place.

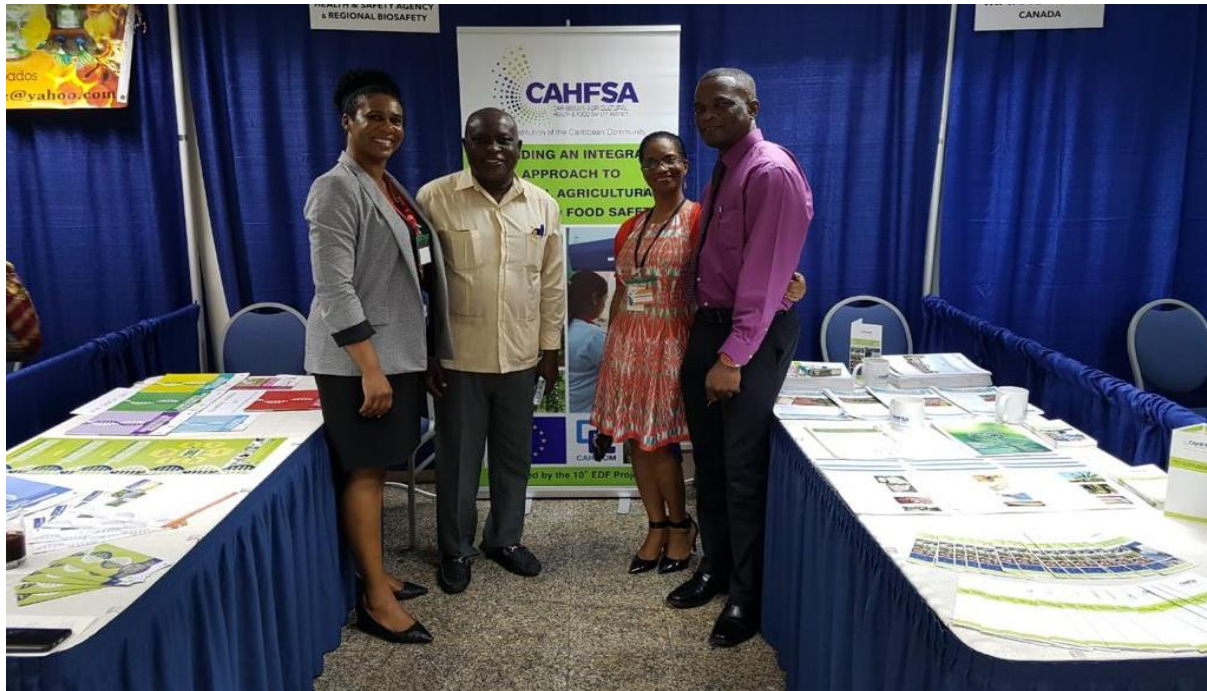


Figure 24: CAHFA's Booth at CWA 201

A series of meetings were also convened during that week at which CAHFA participated. This included a Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Agriculture, which was preceded by the Officials Meeting of COTED as well as a Meeting of the Board of Directors of CAHFA.



Figure 25: Board Members and other Officials attending the 11th Meeting of the Board of Directors during the CWA

8. CONCLUSIONS

Although there were many successes in 2018 and all the objectives outlined in the 2017 Work Programme of CAHFSA were achieved and in most cases surpassed, funding remains a significant impediment to growth. Limited revenue has hampered efforts to employ the full complement of staff and is restricting CAHFSA's participation in national and international SPS activities.

9. LOOKING AHEAD

In the words of Prime Minister, Hon. Mia Motley of Barbados, "CAHFSA is a story waiting to be told, and it is a success story in what it has been able to do. The work that it has done with the cassava flour for us; the work that it is doing in terms of expanding capacity with those countries that can export poultry and pork need to be expanded in almost every area of our agriculture production."

The Practical Arrangement signed with the IAEA appears very promising and should bear fruits in all participating Member States over the next three (3) years.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I hereby acknowledge with gratitude the work and support of the CCS; all members of the Board of Directors; staff of the CAHFSA Secretariat; the Governments of CARICOM Member States as well as all supporting agencies and collaborating institutions.

Remember, the effectiveness of CAHFSA will depend on the Region's ability to accept change. We are operating in a Community, and as a Community, we got to bind together and be part of the integration process.



L. Simeon Collins
Chief Executive Officer