



Significant Events, Achievements & Milestones for the period 2010 - 2020

2010-2013

- At the Twenty-First Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held from 11-12 March 2010 in Roseau, Dominica, the decision to establish CAHFSA was brought in fruition. The process through which it was to be established was set out in the Original Agreement Establishing CAHFSA signed by 10 Member States.
- On March 18, 2010, CAHFSA was officially launched and the Headquarters Agreement for CAHFSA was signed between His Excellency Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Drs. Runaldo Venetiaan, President of Suriname.
- At the Twenty-Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held from February 25-26, 2011 in Grand Anse, Grenada, the Original Agreement establishing CAHFSA was replaced by a Revised CAHFSA Agreement and entered into force with the signing of seven countries.
- A Board of Directors was appointed, and the First Meeting of the Board was held on October 10, 2012 via videoconference.
- Ms. Lilory McComie of Trinidad & Tobago was elected as Chairperson of the Board at a Meeting on March 5, 2013 via videoconference.
- A Five-year Strategic Action Plan was developed for CAHFSA in July 2011 by UWI Consulting

2014

- Ms. Audine Mootoo of Trinidad & Tobago replaced Ms. Lilory McComie as Chairperson of CAHFSA's Board.
- Equipment and supplies provided by the EU under the 9th EDF CISP, valued at 112,987 Euros,

were transferred to the Board of CAHFSA in June 2014.

- CAHFSA became operational with the appointment of Mr. L. Simeon Collins, a Grenadian national as CEO on October 1, 2014.



First CEO of CAHFSA: Lindley Simeon Collins

- The Headquarters of CAHFSA was temporarily located in an office the building housing the Animal Husbandry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Suriname.
- First Face-to-Face Meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the CARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana from 17-19 November, 2014.
- Mission and Vision Statements and Core Values for the Organization were approved.

2015

- Dr. Simone Titus of Trinidad & Tobago acted as Chairperson of CAHFSA on retirement of Ms. Audine Mootoo;
- A three-year operational plan for the period 2015-2017 was approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting in April 2015.
- Dr. Beverley Wood of Barbados was elected as Chairperson of CAHFSA in April 2015.
- Rules of Procedure to guide meetings of the Board, appointment of Committees, etc. were finalized.
- Working relationships with the following regional groups/institutions were developed:
 - Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD);

- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.
 - Caribbean Committee of Chief Veterinary Officers.
 - Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA);
 - Food and Agricultural Organization.
 - IICA SPS Project.
 - CARDI
 - OECS Secretariat
- A proposal to evaluate cassava flour in the region to determine the baseline quality and identify opportunities for improvement was developed and approved for funding under the 10th EDF,
- CAHFSA began recruitment of administrative and technical staff. Mr. Hemantkoemar Kalika was assigned to CAHFSA by the Government of Suriname in May 2015 as Driver; Ms. Trisnatie Djoed and Ms. Amushca Satjapradja were seconded to CAHFSA by the Government of Suriname in September as Secretary and Cleaner respectively. Ms. Herma Griffith-Ifill from Barbados was appointed to the post of Finance/Administrative Officer in September; Dr. Gavin Peters of Guyana was appointed to the post of Animal Health Specialist in October; Ms. Juliet Goldsmith was appointed to the post of Plant Health Specialist in October.



Administrative and Technical Staff: 2015

- The offices of CAHFSA was temporarily relocated in September to a building located at Letitia Vriesdelaan # 9 where the headquarters agreement was signed;
- The new CAHFSA logo was unveiled. The logo was designed by Sean Ifill of Barbados.
- The CAHFSA launched its new website:

www.cahfsa.org

2016

- A work programme was developed in January 2016 based on the CARICOM Strategic Plan for the Period 2015-2019 and its Operational Plan for 2016. CAHFSA's work programme was included under Strategy ECN 4 of the CARICOM Strategic Plan which was "to enable sustainable growth of the economies of Member States.
- CAHFSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CROSQ and CRFM.



Signing of MoU between CAHFSA, CRFM and CROSQ

- CAHFSA received Observer Status to the meetings of the OIE, CPHD, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the WTO/SPS Committee.
- Cassava flour to be trade regionally was evaluated as a first step towards some level of standardization of the product and a standard for cassava flour was developed.
- Guidelines for conducting pest risk analysis developed to provide a standardized model for interpreting and applying IPPC ISPM standards for Pest Risk Analysis.

- Training programme developed for use in training a cadre of pest risk analysts in the region and has been used to conduct training workshops in five (5) Member States.
- Several data bases related to agricultural health and food safety developed to improve the delivery and sharing of information across the region.
- The permanent headquarters of the CAHFSA Secretariat was inaugurated in December 2016 at Letitia, Vriesdelaan #10, Paramaribo, Suriname. CAHFSA's staff took effective occupation of the building immediately.
- Accession of Barbados to CAHFSA by signing the Revised Agreement Establishing CAHFSA

2017

- Guideline for preparing market access proposals has been prepared by CAHFSA and approved by the COTED.
- A Regional Biosafety Policy was approved by the COTED in October 2017.
- Risk Assessment for Poultry and Pork Products to be traded were conducted resulting in the approval of six (6) Member States to be able to export pork and poultry (Duck meat) to the region.
- CAHFSA began the coordination of the Work of Agricultural Health and Food Safety in the region and the work of the CARICOM CVOs.
- The following data bases were developed to provide information exchange and dissemination of SPS information throughout CARICOM:
 - List of pesticides registered by CARICOM Member States
 - Risk analyses completed.
 - Regionally regulated pests
 - Regional trade issues,
 - Import and export requirements of the Member States.
 - Food safety, animal, and plant health practitioners in the region
- An SPS Information Portal on the CAHFSA website to provide information on WTO/SPS Notification was developed.
- Services towards strengthening agricultural quarantine capacities in Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis commenced.

2018

- Practical Arrangement signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



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

- Recognition of CAHFSA by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) as the Caribbean Plant Protection Organization (RPPO).



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

- Regional Procedure for Trade in Animals and Animal Products developed
- Caribbean Action Plan to reduce the use of antimicrobials in livestock for non-therapeutic purposes was developed.
- The provision of services towards strengthening the plant and animal quarantine capacities of three Member States (St. Kitts & Nevis, Grenada and Dominica) completed through an LOA with the FAO.
- CAHFSA collaborated with regional partners in organizing and facilitating the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean
- Technical Working Group formed to assist CARICOM Member States and Associates in meeting their obligations under the IPPC through an LOA with the FAO
- Accession of St Vincent and the Grenadines to CAHFSA by signing the Revised Agreement Establishing CAHFSA.
- Prime Minister Hon. Mia Amor Motley of Barbados and Suriname's Vice President His Excellency Michael Ashwin S. Adhin and their delegation paid a courtesy call to CAHFSA.



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

2019

- A draft regional model bill for biosafety completed.
- Ten (10) facts sheets on CARICOM regulated pests developed.
- Procedure for Encouraging and Facilitating the Resolution of Specific SPS Issues among the Member States developed
- Workshop on Regional Food Safety Standards Coordination held in Paramaribo, Suriname from July 23-25, 2019 targeted at Food Safety Regulators of all 15 Member States.
- COTED endorsed the creation of a Caribbean Taskforce on Food Safety (CTFS) to act as an advisory body to CAHFSA on Food Safety matters.



Minister of Agriculture, Rabin Parmesar (3rd from left) with delegates attending Workshop on Regional Food Safety Standards Coordination held in Paramaribo, Suriname.

- An *Operations Manual* to define the organizational structure and operational arrangements of the Caribbean RPPO completed
- Technical support for Capacity building for monitoring and surveillance for two insect pests of quarantine importance in Grenada provided through a LOA with the FAO.
- Data sheets were developed for 15 pests that impact nurse production in Dominica as part of a LOA with the FAO.

- CAHFSA partnered with the WTO, the CARICOM Secretariat and the OECS Commission to facilitate a WTO Regional Workshop on *The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Supporting strategic and effective implementation in CARICOM*.
- Results Based Management (RBM) Policy and Logical Framework Approved

2020

- Technical support for conducting Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) provided in four Caribbean countries (Trinidad & Tobago, Bahamas, Dominica and St. Lucia) through a LOA with the FAO.
- Technical support to pilot the Technical Working Group for pesticides registration evaluation for GPC countries provided through a LOA with the FAO.
- Draft CARICOM Policy on Importation of Animals and Animal Products developed.
- MoU signed with CABI International.
- Accession of Belize to CAHFSA by signing the Revised Agreement Establishing CAHFSA
- Results Based Management (RBM) Work Plan developed, and CARICOM RBM System Operationalized.
- CAHFSA became the Regional Clearing Housing for Biosafety for CARICOM Member States.
- Hosting of the Secretariat of the Co-ordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards (CGPC) of the Caribbean at CAHFSA Headquarters
- Development of Regional Guidelines for Agricultural Health and Food Safety Inspectors in Member States on Personal Protection during the Coronavirus Pandemic
- Letter of Agreement (LOA) between The Organismo Internacional Regional De Sanidad Agropecuaria (ORISA) and CAHFSA finalized
- Signing of Agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank to develop regional commodity-specific sanitary and phytosanitary guidelines for five (5) animal and fourteen (14) plant products to facilitate intra-regional trade.
- Technical Support from the 11th EDF Project to develop a Regional Policy and Action Plan for Agricultural Health and Food Safety.
- Commencement of the Implementation of a Regional Project by the IAEA to facilitate the development of human resource and capacity building in Member States in the use of nuclear technology for application in agriculture.
- Commencement of Implementation of a Grant Proposal submitted by CAHFSA to the STDF on Piloting the use of Prioritizing Investments for Market Access (P-IMA) in the CARICOM region

