

Excellence Celebrated at the Distinguished Veterinary Services Award Gala

Honouring Outstanding Contributions to Veterinary Services in the Caribbean Region

St. Eustatius, 24 March 2026

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency joined regional partners in celebrating excellence at the Distinguished Veterinary Services Award Gala, held on the evening of Tuesday 24 March 2026, following the conclusion of the 7th CaribVET General Assembly.

Hosted at the Lion's Den, the gala brought together attendees from the Government of St. Eustatius, local and regional stakeholders and CARICOM officials in a shared celebration of leadership and achievement in veterinary services.

The evening was dedicated to recognizing five distinguished veterinarians for their exceptional contributions to animal health and the advancement of veterinary services across the Caribbean region, continuing a valued tradition now in its second year. Their work continues to play a vital role in strengthening regional resilience, food security and public health.

The following individuals were honoured:

1. Dr. Osbil Watson - CVO Stalwart Award

Recognizing a current or former Chief Veterinary Officer who has demonstrated sustained national leadership and significant regional impact.

2. Dr. Gavin Peters - Regional Animal Health Luminary Award

Recognizing a veterinarian whose work has substantially advanced animal health systems, surveillance, laboratory strengthening, disease control, antimicrobial stewardship, SPS capacity, policy development or emergency preparedness at the regional level.

3. Dr. Patricia Bedford - CaribVET Legacy Award

Recognizing sustained and distinguished contribution to the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), including leadership in technical coordination and regional animal health advancement.

4. Professor Karla Georges - Veterinary Research & Education Excellence Award

Recognizing a faculty member of a regional School of Veterinary Medicine whose research, mentorship, engagement and innovation have had demonstrable regional relevance and impact.

5. Dr. Sharon Veira - Local Veterinary Stalwart Award

Recognizing a veterinarian whose leadership and professional excellence have significantly strengthened animal health systems at the local level, while contributing to regional engagement.

Each awardee was recognized for their dedication, leadership and lasting impact on veterinary services within their respective fields and across the wider Caribbean region.

The Gala not only celebrated individual achievements but also highlighted the collective commitment of veterinary professionals to advancing animal health systems through partnership, preparedness and coordination, the central theme guiding this year's 7th CaribVET and 26th CARICOM Committee of Chief Veterinary Officers Meetings.

CAHFSA congratulates all awardees for their outstanding contributions and continued service to the region.