



# Caribbean-Pacific Agricultural Researchers and Extensionists Exchange

## INFORMATION NOTE

### 1. Background

**PROJECT:** South-South Exchange - Caribbean-Pacific Agricultural Researchers and Extensionists Exchange

**DURATION:** Up to 2 weeks

**LOCATION:** Caribbeans (other events to follow)

**BACKGROUND:** Sustainable food and livelihood security is a necessity for every nation. The recent spate of highly damaging natural disasters in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions highlight the extreme vulnerability of small island states to these now frequent occurrences of disasters that are occurring at forces of unprecedented scale.

In 2014 and 2015, tropical cyclones Pam and Winston incurred significant, widespread damage in Vanuatu and Fiji to thousands of households, infrastructure and farming systems. The damages of Cyclone Winston in Fiji which devastated over 300,000 households are estimated at a cost of over US\$500million.

Climate change and measures to address this is now firmly a global agenda. Efforts to build a climate smart agriculture sector (CSA) and systemise disaster risk mitigation (DRM) measures for the sector in both regions need to be stepped up and leverage on the global agenda that is unfolding for many countries.

These efforts include research and development, better field husbandry and learning exchanges to promote conservation of plant genetic resources, crop diversity, genetic diversity for food and market security, improved adaptive capacity to disasters, sustainable farming practices and diagnostic services.

The EU funded Intra-ACP Agricultural Policy Programme – APP (2013-2017) is helping to promote learning exchanges for researchers and practitioners from the Pacific and Caribbeans covering technologies, proven farming and extension practices and information exchange for CSA and DRM practices for the agriculture sectors in both regions.

Following two attachments by Caribbean researchers and extensionists at SPC, Suva Fiji (2015 and 2016), a third South-South exchange for Pacific officers to travel to the Caribbeans is scheduled for **Quarter 4, 2016**. This visit will be supported by the Global component intra-ACP APP partners through the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA), Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and SPC.

A group of 6-8 officers (researchers and extensionists) from the Pacific will be selected through an EOI process managed through SPC and existing networks. At least 3 placements are reserved for CePACT, PIRAS and PIFON. Selected officers should preferably be



involved with **roots and tubers** and be willing to adopt at least 1 learning from the exchange, prepare reports and be part of a post-impact assessment team in Q1 2017 to assess the impact of these learnings. Participants will also feed into existing Pacific research and extension and agriculture KM networks (eg PIRAS, PAPGREN, PAFpnet).

All those applicants who express an interest (regardless of whether they are selected for the Caribbean Exchange) **will be** part of a pool of researchers and extensionists that can be drawn on for future exchanges and learning events in the Pacific and other regions. Two impending events are planned that are relevant to researchers and extensionists; the **Caribbean Week of Agriculture** (Cayman Islands, November, 2016) and the inaugural **Pacific Week of Agriculture (Vanuatu, 2017)**

## 2. Objectives:

1. Strengthened knowledge and capacity on CDA and DRM practices especially for roots and tubers as well as genebanks that is being practiced by other regions.
2. Production of learning material for dissemination with the assistance of SPC and intra APP partners,
3. Part of impact assessment team post-learning exchange
4. Stronger intra-regional partnership forged through the intra-ACP program

## 3. Scope of Exchange

The exchange in the Caribbean region is organised through CARDI, CARDI has proposed that participants spend time in Jamaica and in Trinidad undertaking the following;

1. crop improvement and biodiversity for yam (including yellow yam), dasheen (taro), cocoyam (*Xanthosoma*) and sweet potato at two centres - The Biotechnology Centre (UWI) and the Scientific Research Council
2. Interaction with farmers and the exciting activities of getting the farmers' stories in the production of roots & tuber crops, especially yams
3. Other interesting initiatives in the root crops sub-sector in the Caribbean, such as the UWI-Columbia cassava flour project, Red Stripe cassava beer initiatives, bammy making

## 4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

1. Attend at least 1 inception workshop in the Caribbeans organised through CARDI to discuss the scope of the visit, objectives and reporting;
2. **A report** of at least 1-2 pages that need to be **submitted during the EOI** that states:
  - a) Your profile and work background
  - b) Describe at least 1 existing roots and tubers program/activity you are involved in. What is your exact role in that activity?
  - c) How are other stakeholders (Government private sector, farmers etc), involved in the example provided;



- d) Do you also carry out training in your project? If yes, for who (ad how many beneficiaries) and provide 1 recent example.
3. **A report** of at least 3-5 pages **post-visit** that attaches to the previous report in (2) that states;
- e) What were your key Learnings from the overall exchange? (at least 3)
  - f) What are some of the similarities and differences in practices between the Pacific and Caribbeans in the learnings stated in (e)
  - g) State at least 1 learning that you can easily adopt straight away. State Why? (also refer No8)
  - h) State at least 1 learning that you consider your institution should promote. State Why?
4. Present your report and learnings through a PowerPoint presentation to at least 1 learning event/workshop selected by SPC and Pacific countries;
5. Provide input for a post assessment in Q1, 2017.
6. Successful applicants will be required to sign a letter of engagement prior to departure.

## 5. Venue/Dates

Jamaica, Trinidad –**October 2016**

### Next Planned Events

Caribbean Week of Agriculture – November 2016

## 6. TRAVEL LOGISTICS AND INCIDENTALS

All travel and incidentals will be met by organisers. Your travel per diems will be provided under standard CTA travel guidelines. Note that each participant will need to arrange their own costs relating to passports, visas and insurance.

## 7. REPORTING

All reporting requirements for Pacific participants related to this Exchange will be managed by SPC, CTA and CARDI led through SPC (Mr Vili Caniogo, Adviser, APP-Pacific).

## 8. POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT:

Pacific communities to be food secured in light of disasters and climate change to support diverse resilient crop varieties for ongoing food and livelihood security programs

Improved economies through research and extension empowerment of staff through use of technology

Regionalism strengthened through regional networks (eg PAPGREN) necessary in achieving regional goals



Improved resilience through broader genetic base of crops and trees provided to countries

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## About SPC

SPC's CePaCT has been successful in establishing collections of major staple food crops (aroids, cassava, banana, yams, sweet potato and breadfruit) and been actively sourcing improved crop diversity from outside of the Pacific to enhance local germplasm. CePaCT also established a Pacific regional breadfruit collection to support production of juvenile materials for *in vitro* culture including jackfruit and other new tree crops important to the region. Many of the crops have been virus indexed and distributed to over 43 countries mainly the Pacific island member countries and taro varieties (100 accessions) outside of the Pacific under the SPC EU International Network for Edible Aroids and the Global Crop Diversity Trust. CePaCT is supported through the intra ACP-APP and other partners.