

Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in the Rural Sector of the CARICOM States

Overview

Leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met in Brazil on April 26, 2010 for the first ever CARICOM-Brazil Summit. The aim of the Brazil Summit was to foster a closer collaboration and cooperation between Brazil and CARICOM; to strengthen their historical and cultural bonds; and to develop opportunities for the deepening of their relationship.

The Summit agreed on cooperation between Brazil and CARICOM in a number of areas, including Disaster Management and Civil Defence. The Declaration of Brasilia recognizes a commitment of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil to establish a Brazilian fund for the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to enhance regional coordination of humanitarian actions. Such actions are intended to mitigate and respond to social, man-made and natural disasters as well as to assist with reconstruction efforts in CARICOM Member States.

In upholding this commitment, the Government of Brazil has made available to CDEMA contributions totalling nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, five hundred US dollars (US\$999,500.00), to be disbursed through the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) under the initiative "Latin America and the Caribbean Against Hunger 2025."

Project Objectives

The objectives of the Cooperation Programme are:

- a) To strengthen of humanitarian assistance initiatives;
- b) To foster best practices for the reduction of risks related to disasters;
- c) To mitigate and respond to social, man-made and natural disasters; and
- d) To assist with reconstruction efforts in CARICOM Member States."

Result Areas

Expected results of the activities targeted for implementation through the funding provided by the Government of Brazil, include:

- a) Development and piloting of drought monitoring and management programme
- b) Developing and piloting of a micro-insurance initiative in Haiti and one other CARICOM state confronted with disaster risks;
- c) Support for rapid deployment to CARICOM states for emergency events affecting the rural sector;
- d) Technical exchanges of tools and expertise related to disaster risk reduction in the rural sector;
- e) Initiating a Schools safety programme including retrofitting of schools to reduce vulnerability disasters; and
- f) Supporting Tertiary student engagement in disaster risk reduction through internships, exchanges and research.

The duration of the Cooperation Programme is two (2) years, ending October 31, 2012.

Project Management: Office of the Executive Director, CDEMA Coordinating Unit

For further information please contact Sharon Layne-Augustine at Sharon.l-augustine@cdema.org

