

## **PART II - THE WORKSHOP**

### **SECTION B: WORKSHOP DECLARATION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON HURRICANE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND IMPACT MITIGATION IN THE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY SECTORS**

Participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Montserrat, Republic of Dominica, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia nominated by their Governments, representing the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, having met at Castries, Saint Lucia, October 20 – 22, 1999 and reviewed the reports on the status of preparedness and mitigation in these sectors have:

**APPRECIATED** the assistance extended by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in cooperation with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) to institutionalize hurricane preparedness and mitigation measures in agricultural sectors

**NOTED** the frequent losses and economic costs resulting from the impact of tropical weather systems

**ALSO NOTED** the absence of structured policies, programmes in the agricultural sector and actions to institutionalize preparedness and mitigation

**RECOGNIZED** the under reporting and lack of historical information to guide the process of disaster assistance planning in the sector

**AGREED** to endorse and assertively promote the adoption of the technical guidelines, country action framework and recommendations of this Workshop

**FURTHER AGREED** to follow-up on the finalization and implementation of the technical guidelines, country action framework and recommendations of this Workshop

**ENCOURAGED** the establishment of National Task Forces to mobilize support for the implementation of a preparedness and mitigation action plan

**REQUESTED** regional governments to continue and enhance their support for disaster management

**APPEALED** to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to consider the incorporation and mainstreaming of hurricane preparedness and mitigation measures in all FAO supported projects, as appropriate

**URGED** the key stakeholders to promote the concept and practice of hazard resistant agricultural development

**RESOLVED** to promote common practices and protocols, utilizing the principles of Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries and Horizontal Cooperation within the Caribbean region

**DECLARE THAT:**

- 5.1 based on the recurrent damage and losses to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, governments of project countries and others in the Caribbean, should review existing policies and incorporate appropriate strategies into existing national plans and programmes and implement actions so as to strengthen hurricane preparedness and mitigation capacity in these sectors in accordance with their resources
- 5.2 through regional and sub-regional cooperation, Caribbean States with the support of the international community should encourage and promote strong functional cooperation in hurricane preparedness and mitigation by sharing information, technology and experiences, strengthening institutions and building capacity.
- 5.3 to achieve sustainable development, and a better quality of life for our peoples, Caribbean States should incorporate hurricane preparedness and mitigation in their efforts to promote diversification in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector and to ensure food security at household and national levels

**6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON HURRICANE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND IMPACT MITIGATION IN THE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY SECTORS**

The recommendations of the workshop are drawn from the contributions of participants, national consultants, lead consultants, international consultants and the specialized agencies involved. The observations of repeated damage to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors in the Caribbean and the absence of structured mechanisms to institutionalize existing efforts to prepare for and mitigate the hurricane impacts inform these recommendations.

Whilst noting the detailed actions required, at all levels, if we are to increase our level of preparedness for and mitigation of the hurricane impact, then these recommendations to address the foundational framework actions necessary to inform policy, initiate process and facilitate institutionalization must be implemented.

*6.1 Objectives*

- 6.1.1 To define a limited number of interventions in hurricane preparedness and mitigation which are achievable in the short and medium term
- 6.1.2 To initiate actions that demonstrate commitment to improving hurricane preparedness and mitigation in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors
- 6.1.3 To benchmark follow-up actions

## *6.2 Recommendations for Governments of the Region*

- 6.2.1 Appoint a Task Force and mandate to have responsibility for development of national preparedness and mitigation programmes for the agricultural sector
- 6.2.2 Identify, evaluate, recommend and promote cost-effective, loss reduction and mitigation measures and practice
- 6.2.3 Enhance national capacity for Vulnerability and Risk Analysis, Impact/damage Assessment with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, individuals, productive assets and areas
- 6.2.4 Encourage the harmonization of existing initiatives in hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment.
- 6.2.5 Establish and/or enhance networking among and across sectors
- 6.2.6 Adopt national disaster relief assistance policies to better allow for costing, resourcing and promoting response and recovery incentives
- 6.2.7 Establish an inter-agency support group to ensure a shared goal in the sectors, enhance chances of sustainability and provide ongoing technical support

## *6.3 Recommendations for all Sectors*

- 6.3.1 Review existing propagation, multiplication and storage facilities to determine cost-effective opportunities for sustaining effective conservation and restoration of local varieties (land races and adapted) and nurseries essential to meeting windbreak, reforestation and germplasm, seed and planting material for crop recovery
- 6.3.2 Incorporate hurricane vulnerability reduction measures in the design, siting and construction of critical facilities and infrastructure in the sectors

- 6.3.3 Increase national and regional capacity to carry out rapid and reliable Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis through the adaptation of common guidelines and regular exercise
- 6.3.4 Designate a division of the Ministry of Agriculture, such as the Planning Division, for collecting and maintaining accurate and current baseline data for the sectors
- 6.3.5 Review the capacity of the Veterinary Services, Plant Pathology and Entomology Departments to manage anticipated pest and disease outbreaks
- 6.3.6 Incorporate enterprise level hurricane preparedness and mitigation measures in technical manuals on animal, fish and crop production
- 6.3.7 Accelerate the development of Land Capability Assessment, GIS applications and Land Use studies and their interfacing with development planning
- 6.3.8 Explore opportunities for utilizing existing community based and Non-governmental organizations in promoting hurricane preparedness and mitigation at the household and community level
- 6.3.9 Mandate Extension Communications and Training Division/Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture to design and implement staff and client training programmes and to ensure that all hurricane damage assessment, mitigation, preparedness measures are fully integrated into field programmes of extension services

#### *6.4 Future FAO Interventions*

Participants, national consultants and lead consultants

- 6.4.1 Expressed concern about the timely implementation of activities of the project, including recruitment and clearing of consultants and their reports and recommended that for future FAO regional projects authority to be delegated to SLAC to ensure better facilitation of dynamic factors in project implementation.
- 6.4.2 Noted that to achieve maximum impact of this project, FAO should consider providing a small amount of funding to support country level planning and training as a follow-up to the outputs of the project
- 6.4.3 Requested that residual funds from project TCP/RLA/6616 be used for the production of communications and training materials to support project initiatives.


## 6.5 *Implementation Strategies*

Participants recognized that disaster management programmes are inadequately resourced and that personnel are inadequately trained. In addition the relatively short memory of victims, the competing demands for scarce resources and the dependency and paternalistic relations from previous experiences pre-dispose towards a disaster management programme that is response and relief focussed.

To overcome this it is proposed that the following be engaged:

- 6.5.1 Build awareness to encourage the use of damage impact information to draw to the attention of Ministry officials and policy makers the dollar implications of unpreparedness.
- 6.5.2 Elicit and share farmers, fisheries and forestry, successes in hurricane loss mitigation, provide information/extension officers with "how to" brochures to enhance the knowledge base and develop strategies to promote dissemination of documents for relevant target audiences.
- 6.5.3 Use ongoing policy and programme revisions (e.g. public sector reform, sustainable development and crop diversification) to introduce and incorporate disaster preparedness and mitigation issues, measures and policies and goal
- 6.5.4 Establish strategic alliances with partners to get appropriate legislation and programmes
- 6.5.5 Use the Country Action Plan as a vehicle for mobilizing consultations, partners and resources
- 6.5.6 Design and execute orientation and in-service training programmes for all technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and design their specific responsibilities in the timely and effective implementation of Country Action Plans
- 6.5.7 Develop a monitoring mechanism, which will ensure effective installation and execution of National Action Plans within the Ministry of Agriculture aimed at revising and improving the plan on a continuing basis.

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