



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Background:**

The Postharvest Working group of The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) has embarked on a biannual conference entitled “Postharvest and Quality Management of Horticultural Products of Interest for Tropical Regions”. The first conference was successfully held in Costa Rica in 2009 and the second in Colombia in 2011. The third such conference will be held in Trinidad from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Hyatt Hotel in Port of Spain simultaneously with the Caribbean Food Crops Society and the Caribbean Agro economics Society.

The theme of the postharvest conference is “Postharvest technological initiatives to improve food security and market access”. Both oral and poster presentations within this theme will highlight information and technological procedures to enable better use of technologies for reducing postharvest losses and improve marketability of fresh and semi-processed horticultural of tropical origin. Postharvest technologies that will enable stakeholders to capitalise on market opportunities, improve competitiveness and adherence to quality and safety standards will be presented.

### **Rationale:**

In meeting the challenges and opportunities of the globalisation of agro-industries, farmers, processors and traders need reliable access to relevant, appropriate and innovative postharvest techniques that will:

- a. maintain quality and improve throughput, labour and time efficiencies;
- b. add value and enhance competitiveness for fresh and semi-process produce and their by-products;
- c. enable wider access to new and existing markets;
- d. reduce postharvest wastage and by-product contamination of air and water.

Successful introduction of postharvest technologies will depend upon:

- a. investigations that will demonstrate efficient application of appropriate technology for tropical horticultural crops, actual pre-harvest and postharvest practices;
- b. innovative postharvest packaging, storage and display techniques;
- c. introduction of postharvest biotechnological methods.



While many loss-reducing or value-adding innovations exist, access to and use of appropriate innovations by producers and traders in tropical countries is inadequate. This may be due to lack of:

- a. appropriate information or lack of information flows;
- b. adequate infrastructure to operate the technology or make use of its outputs.

**Conference topics:**

- The role of postharvest technology in quality, nutritional value and food safety of tropical horticultural crops
- Implementation of integrated farm-to-table systems for tropical produce
- Economics and marketing : fair trade, quarantine, food miles and carbon footprints, organic commodities, certifications
- Advances in postharvest physiology and molecular biology: regulation of physiological and metabolic processes in tropical crops
- Postharvest pathology and microbiological spoilage of tropical produce: novel approaches for their control
- Social issues associated with postharvest technology of horticultural products in the tropics
- Education and training needs for postharvest, quality and safety of subtropical and tropical products.

**Objectives:**

- To highlight recent advances in the global postharvest horticulture R&D
- To facilitate a forum for exchange of recent scientific knowledge on postharvest horticulture and capture the most up to date research achievements
- To strengthen linkages among those involved in horticultural industry.



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### Who Should Attend

**This conference is geared towards**

- Researchers
- Academicians
- Health-related professionals
- Extension agents
- Growers and producers
- Traders
- Food processors
- Policy makers
- Entrepreneurs
- Relevant NGOs
- Students

### Registration

#### Registration Fees

ISHS Member	300 USD
ISHS Non-member	375 USD
Student (ISHS member )	150 USD
Student (ISHS non-member )	225 USD
Accompanying persons	150 USD

Registration fee includes: morning and evening refreshments, lunch, book of abstracts, proceedings of Acta Horticulturae.

Additional fees: Banquet = 55 USD; Field Tour = 35 USD.

Registration of participants will also take place on Sunday 30th June 2013 from 2:00- 7:00pm at the Conference Secretariat, Hyatt Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.



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## **Scientific Committee**

**The scientific committee for this conference is as follows**

- Dr. Majeed Mohammed (The University of the West Indies)
- Professor Sirichai Kanlayanarat (King Mongkut University , Thailand)
- Dr. Lynda Wickham (The University of the West Indies)
- Professor Laurence Wilson (The University of the West Indies)
- Professor Clement Sankat (The University of the West Indies)
- Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan (The University of the West Indies)
- Professor Jeffrey Brecht (University of Florida)
- Professor Zora Singh (Curtin University, Australia)
- Ms. Judith Ann Francis (CTA)
- Professor Linus Opara (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)
- Professor Jorge Fonseca (FAO)
- Professor Elhadi Yahia (FAO)
- Professor Nouredine Benkeblia (The University of the West Indies)
- Professor Gopie Paliyath(University of Guelph)
- Dr. Rohini Maharaj-Sankat (University of Trinidad and Tobago)
- Professor Sean Carrington (The University of the West Indies)
- Dr. Maria Hernandez (University of Colombia)