

Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean:

Towards a Shared Vision and Road Map



Dr Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture – Opening Remarks

**The Caribbean must embrace coconut with
the enthusiasm it deserves.**

**You cannot use old infrastructure to
develop an important new industry.**

**We need policy, science, farm, and market
linkages.**

Current Status of the Industry

- **Important potential for economic development, livelihood, environment and landscape.**
- **Demand exceeds supply - driven by a shift in consumer demand (proven nutritional and health benefits).**
- **Major challenges – high cost of inputs and labour, ageing plantations, limited gene pool, major pests and diseases, lack of quality planting material, inadequate research and development.**



Workshop Overview

OBJECTIVE

- To review results of needs assessment study , build consensus and develop a 3 year+ roadmap for development of the Caribbean coconut industry.

PARTICIPANTS

- 80 participants from the Caribbean and the Pacific.
- Producers, processors, financiers, science, research, academia, extension , sector specialists.

APPROACH

- Technical presentations, working group sessions and roadmap development.



The Vision

**To develop a highly competitive , well integrated,
regional coconut industry which grows by 30%
and delivers benefits to all stakeholders
throughout the value chain within 5 years.**



4 Issues/Gaps

	Issue/Gap
1	Limited high quality planting material, narrow genetic pool, and high economic losses due to pests.
2	Limited market intelligence of local, regional and international markets - for both mainstream and niche products.
3	Limited scientific capacity for addressing issues across the value chain e.g. in characterizing indigenous genetic resources, production, pest and disease, processing, new product and development, and related areas.
4	Limitations in finance and business development especially for small-scale and artisanal industries.

Roadmap Priorities

Recommendation 1

Certified Quality Planting Material

For rehabilitation and new plantings – both endemic and exotic:

- Stock Assessment of Indigenous /Local Varieties
- Quality Assurance System
- Capacity Building



Roadmap Priorities

Recommendation 1 (cont)

Manage Pests

Caribbean Plant Health Directors to develop and implement strategies to safeguard and manage major pests of coconuts at national and regional level:

- **Surveillance**
- **Pest Risk Analysis**
- **Integrated Pest Management**



Roadmap Priorities

Recommendation 2

Enhance Scientific capacity

Strengthen and support ongoing research and development initiatives on major pests - Red Palm Mite (T&T, Dominica, DR, Jamaica, St. Lucia); Lethal Yellowing (Jamaica, Belize, DR); Red Ring and trunk boring insects (T&T, Guyana, DR & Belize).

Build capability for characterizing genetic resources (labs & human resources).

Support research and development for new niche products and improving production efficiencies.



Roadmap Priorities

Recommendation 3

Market Intelligence

Intensify efforts to gather evidence-based market intelligence for growth opportunities:

- For local consumption
- For regional consumption / markets
- For international markets
- For mainstream and value-added niche markets (CARICOM Oils & Fats)



Roadmap Priorities

Recommendation 4

Finance and Business Development

Prioritisation of the key issues for improving the competitiveness of coconuts:

- Mobilisation of private and public sector funding
- Supporting industry clustering , capacity building (scientific research, laboratory facilities, new product development)
- Explore opportunities for international funding including the 11th EDF

