



INSTITUTE OF CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Invest Caribbean Conference:

Mining the Agriculture Value Chain – Food, Fuel & Farma/neutraceuticals
November 16, 2012

Conference Agenda

The overall objective of the Caribbean American Business Leadership Dialogue is exploring the agribusiness investment opportunities and optimizing the agribusiness value chain in the Caribbean.

9:00 -10:10

OPENING PLENARY

Panelists:

Hon. Lillian Ayalde, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
John Leonard, US Customs and Border Protection
Kurt Kisto, Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank

MODERATOR:

H.E. Bayney Karran, Ambassador of Guyana*

10:15-11:30AM

EMERGING TRADE/ INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR

This session seeks to explore the current and future opportunities existing in the agribusiness sector re food, fisheries, fuel and farma (nutraceuticals).

Panelists:

David Gomez, Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA)
Robert Best, Caribbean Agribusiness Association
Jethro Green, Caribbean Farmers Network
Jerry Butler, Caribbean Energy Forum*

Moderator:

H.E. Dr. Neil Parsan, Ambassador of Trinidad & Tobago

11:30 – 11:45 BREAK

11:45AM – 1:00PM PANEL DISCUSSION: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL: CHALLENGES & RISING INFLUENCES

This session’s main objective is to explore the specific international regulations, standards, risk management and knowledge requirements to optimize the opportunities in the agribusiness sector. This includes discussion of potential non-tariff barriers – e.g. Food Safety Modernization Act 2011, ISO 22000, Farm to Fork regulations, that must be implemented and adhered to.

Panelist: John Read, US FDA
Mrs. J. Emmanuelle, St. Lucia
Anton Edmunds, The Edmunds Group
Christian Strachan, BIOJAM
Santiago Sedaca, CARANA

Moderator: **H.E. Stephen Vascannie**, Ambassador of Jamaica

1:00PM – 2:30PM LUNCH SESSION: ORGANIC STORIES FROM THE FIELD
This session will include accounts from companies currently buying products from Latin America and the Caribbean or who have an interest in doing so.

Panelist: Moms/ SpagNVola/ PA Organic/

Moderator: H.E. Jacinth Henry-Martin, Ambassador of Saint Kitts & Nevis

2:30PM – 4:00PM PANEL DISCUSSION: FINANCING THE DEAL

This session aims to identify the sources and availability of capital for the agribusiness sector and specific processes for accessing grants, loans and venture capital funds.

Panelist: Tammy Maxwell, US Export-Import Bank*
Alejandro Escobar, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
David Mullings, Keystone Augusta LLC
Alison Gatchev, OPIC

Moderator: H.E. Paul Altidor, Ambassador of Haiti *

4:00pm – 4:30pm Closing: The Way Forward

This session is a facilitated discussion on the action items arising from the day’s activities and the role of ICS in advancing the agribusiness agenda in the Caribbean.

Moderator: Nsombi Jaja, Managing Director,
Quality Management Consultancy Co. Ltd., Member of Board of
Directors, & Co-Chair, Private Sector Council, Institute of Caribbean
Studies

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

MARKETPLACE SHOW OF SPECIALITY FOODS AND EXPORTS

WHY ATTEND?

1. **Identify key initiatives** focused on investing in Caribbean agriculture
2. **Explore opportunities** for investment along key agricultural value chains
3. **Hear about ways** in which to participate in Public-Private Partnerships
4. **Discover innovative models** for agricultural growth and investment
5. **Evaluate the risks and rewards** of private sector investment in Caribbean agri-industry
6. **Meet stakeholders** involved in the region's agribusiness sector
7. **Participate in discussions** focused on the Caribbean's regional market development

The 2012 INVEST CARIBBEAN Agribusiness Investment Forum will include sessions that address cross-cutting issues, such as finance, risk mitigation, value chain development, and industry best practices and trends. In partnership with U.S. and Caribbean companies, governments and other stakeholders, ICS will provide the platform for participants to identify opportunities, and network with key stakeholders.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Individuals looking for networking opportunities and one-on-one meetings with government officials and private sector participants.

Join us and meet the people who can assist your business expand into the Caribbean market.

- U.S. and Caribbean businesses of all sizes
- Investors and financiers looking for bankable projects
- Capital markets experts
- Product and service providers
- U.S. and Caribbean government officials
- Policy makers
- Business Associations
- Other agribusiness-focused stakeholders