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# BARNACLE

**NEWS**

**VOL. 33 NO. 06 - AUGUST 2023**

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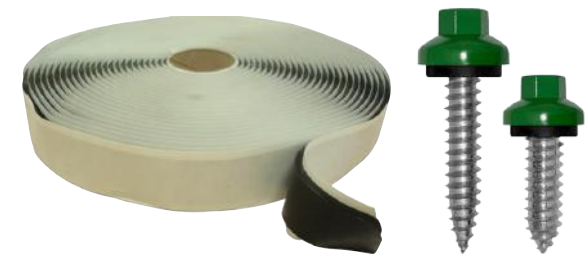
## "PEAK HURRICANE SEASON APPROACHES"





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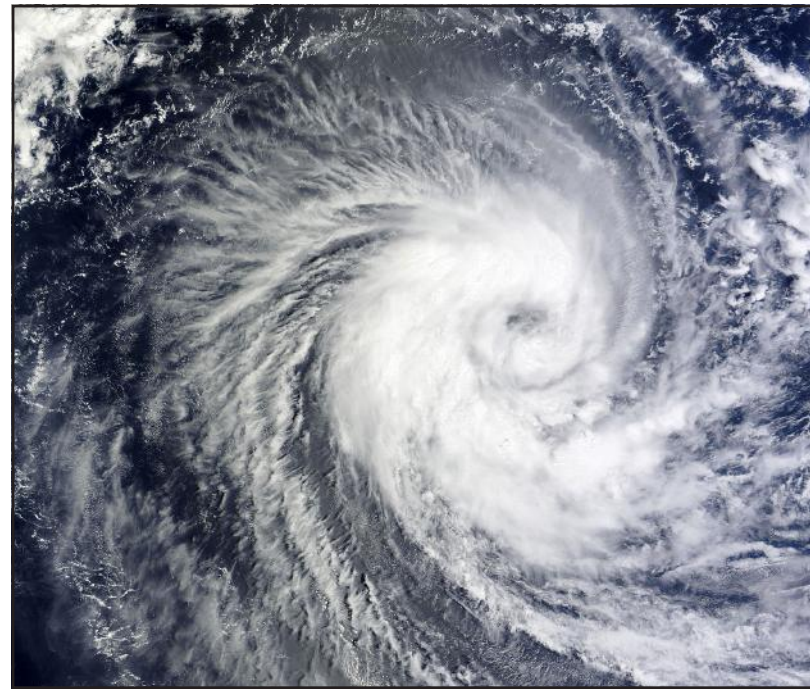
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# MESSAGE BY MR. TERENCE R. WALTERS, NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR, NADMA TO MARK THE START OF THE 2023, HURRICANE SEASON JUNE 1ST – NOVEMBER 30TH



June 1st marks the official start of the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane season which ends officially on November 30th. As we reflect on the 2022 Hurricane season, we are reminded that Grenada was not impacted by a major storm or hurricane, but there were periods of severe weather which caused floods, landslides and fallen trees. Of significance, was Sunday, July 31st, 2022, when Grenada experienced what Meteorologists referred to as a 'Freak Storm' which resulted in damage to dwelling houses, floods, landslides, and uprooted trees. A reminder that hydrometeorological events can result in significant damage.

As we begin the 2023 Hurricane Season, we are guided by the scientific predictions from the experts that the season will be near normal. The predictions indicate that the Caribbean can expect 12 to 17 named storms, of which five to nine will become hurricanes

and one to four major hurricanes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The prediction for a normal season is 14 storms with seven becoming hurricanes.

While the predictions for the 2023 Hurricane Season indicate near normal, we must bear in mind that the impact of one storm or hurricane is all it takes to change the circumstances for the country. One tropical storm or hurricane can disrupt lives and livelihoods, and impact the economy significantly, thus creating unbearable hardships.

Disaster preparedness is a continuous process and therefore citizens need to be prepared year-round and not only during the hurricane season. However, added focus is normally placed on the hurricane season, and therefore, it is important to engage in practices that will reduce risk. Householders can clear guttering, maintain

drains, trim overhanging trees and branches, and remove or secure loose objects in the surroundings.

It is important for each household to have a disaster supplies kit. Your kit should include drinking water and non-perishable food to last three days or more. You should also have a flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-operated radio, and a first-aid kit.

Your important documents should be secured in a waterproof container of package. In addition, you should secure other items that you consider necessary for survival. Always have a one-month supply of prescription medications.

A family disaster plan is a written set of instructions and other information that will guide your family's decisions during an emergency or if there is a disaster. All family members should be familiar with the plan and be able to make decisions to save lives and reduce damage to property.

Each year, NaDMA conducts inspections and designates buildings as Emergency Shelters. This list is made available to the public, and shelters are marked with the sign, 'Emergency Shelter'. Citizens are reminded that your first place of shelter during a storm or Hurricane is your home. If you are uncertain about the ability of your home to withstand the event, then you seek

shelter with family or friends. If all efforts fail, then the Emergency Shelter is your last alternative. When proceeding to the Emergency Shelter, you should have supplies to last you at least three days.

Emergency shelters are schools, community centers, churches, and private buildings. People who will seek shelter at these facilities are reminded that the buildings will return to their regular functions after the emergency, and therefore are encouraged to use them with care.

The management of hazards requires collective efforts from everyone. A whole-of-community approach. The seventeen District Disaster Management Committees across Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique require scores of volunteers if they are to function at the optimal level. This is your opportunity to volunteer with NaDMA and contribute to disaster management in Grenada. If you have been trained in any discipline by NaDMA, you are kindly asked to give back to the Agency by becoming a volunteer at the district level.

Climate Change continues to impact several countries in many ways. One major impact is that hydro-meteorological hazards have become more frequent and more intense. It is therefore imperative that we take the steps necessary to reduce risk and vulnerability at all levels. We are not able to prevent natural hazards, but through mitigation and

preparedness we can reduce impact.

The Government of Grenada continues to take steps to strengthen the National Disaster Management Agency. In 2023, the Government passed the Disaster Management Act.

This Act will provide the necessary environment for NaDMA to function with legislative arrangements that will lead to enhanced disaster management services.

As we start the 2023 Hurricane Season, I urge all citizens to take steps that are necessary to protect themselves and loved ones throughout the season and beyond.

Ensure that you have a family disaster plan, disaster supplies kit, know where the nearest Emergency Shelters are located, and obtain official disaster management information only from NaDMA.

The Agency looks forward to working with all disaster management stakeholders, the volunteers in all seventeen districts, and the general population to reduce risk and vulnerability, enhance resilience and develop a culture of safety. The ultimate goal is to build disaster management capacities at all levels.

Let us pray that Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and the region, will be spared the wrath of any tropical cyclone in 2023.

## HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

### CREATE A GRAB AND GO BAG!

- First aid kit
- Blanket
- Copies of important documents in a waterproof bag
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- Complete change of appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes
- Flashlight and Extra batteries
- Battery-powered or hand-crank Radio
- Non-perishable Food and Drinkable water
- Necessary Medications

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# TERMS TO KNOW

**TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK:**

Discusses weather conditions throughout the tropical North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico with emphasis on disturbed or suspicious areas which have the potential to develop into a storm in the next day or two.

**TROPICAL WAVE:**

An elongated area of low pressure which develops in the tropics and moves in an east to west direction, often characterized by disturbed weather.

**TROPICAL DISTURBANCE:**

An area of showers and thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

**TROPICAL STORM:**

A non-frontal low pressure system usually originating in the tropics and rotating which maximum sustained counter-clockwise winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots.)

**TROPICAL STORM WATCH:**

An announcement for specific areas that a tropical storm or an incipient tropical storm condition poses a possible threat to those areas generally within 36 hours.

**TROPICAL STORM WARNING:**

A warning that tropical-storm conditions including possible sustained winds within the range of 39 to 73 mph are expected in a specific area in 24 hours or less.

**HURRICANE WARNING:**

Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a designated area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include sustained winds of at least 74 mph (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves. Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion after the warning is issued.

**HURRICANE EYE:**

The relatively calm area near the center of the storm that can last, from several minutes to over an hour, depending on the hurricane's size and speed, which ends suddenly as the winds return from the opposite direction, possibly with even greater force.

**STORM SURGE:**

A dome-like rise in ocean level associated with a hurricane. The difference between this abnormal rise in sea level and the level that would occur otherwise is called the storm surge. It is highest along and to the immediate right of where the eye of a hurricane strikes land.

**ADVISORY:**

A formal message usually from Meteorological Office issued every six hours and giving warning information along with details on tropical cyclone location, intensity and movement. The advisory contains a resume of all watches and warning in effect with precautions that should be taken.

**INTERMEDIATE ADVISORIES:**

Advisories issued at two or three hours intervals between regularly scheduled advisories,, whenever a storm nears an area.

**SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY:**

An alert issued to small boats in coastal waters for winds of 23 to 38 mph (20-33 knots.) However, when a tropical storm or hurricane threatens a coastal area, small craft are advised to remain in port or not to venture into open seas.

**PROBABILITY OF TROPICAL STORM/HURRICANE CONDITIONS:**

Is the probability, in percent of the storm center passing within approximately 65 miles of a designated location within specified forecast period.

# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

<b>Police</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Headquarters, Fort George</b>	<b>440 3999</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>911 or 440 2112</b>
<b>Rapid Response</b>	<b>439 1231</b>
<b>Coast Guard</b>	<b>399 or 444 1931</b>
<b>Child Abuse Protection</b>	<b>677</b>
<b>Birchgrove</b>	<b>442 7542</b>
<b>Carriacou &amp; Petite Martinique</b>	<b>443 7482</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>440 2244</b>
<b>Gouyave</b>	<b>444 8224</b>
<b>Grand Roy</b>	<b>444 8225</b>
<b>Grenville</b>	<b>442 7224</b>
<b>Hermitage</b>	<b>442 9445</b>
<b>Sauteurs</b>	<b>442 9224</b>
<b>St. David</b>	<b>444 6224</b>
<b>St. Paul's</b>	<b>440 3224</b>
<b>Union</b>	<b>442 9225</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>442 8424</b>
<b>SSU Point Salines</b>	<b>444 4999</b>

<b>Hospitals</b>	
<b>General Hospital</b>	<b>440 2051</b>
<b>Princess Alice Hospital</b>	<b>442 7251</b>
<b>Princess Royal</b>	<b>443 7400</b>
<b>Animal Rescue</b>	<b>440 4874</b>

<b>Ambulance</b>	
<b>General Hospital</b>	<b>434</b>
<b>Princess Alice</b>	<b>724</b>
<b>Princess Royal</b>	<b>774</b>

<b>Electricity</b>	
<b>Grenada Electricity (Grenlec)</b>	<b>353</b>

<b>Water</b>	
<b>National Water &amp; Sewage Authority</b>	<b>292</b>

<b>NaDMA</b>	<b>440 0838</b>
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<b>Amalgamated Security Services (Grenada) Limited</b>	<b>435 2775</b>
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# INTERVIEW WITH DR. TERENCE WALTERS

**NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR  
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**Barnacle:** With the 2023 hurricane season now with us, what is your greatest concern?

**Dr. Walters:** My biggest concern is the possibility of being impacted by a hurricane or storm system. The season is predicted to be just below average and we know that one storm is all it takes to have a difficult period. The concern is that we can be impacted by a hurricane or storm which causes significant damage. With climate change these storms have become more frequent, more intense, doing more unusual things. If we are impacted we can see some threats that can pose some challenges for us.

**Barnacle:** What are some of the approaches NADMA is taking to ensure people can trust your information and take it seriously?

**Dr. Walters:** What we have done is build public information education, reach out to several groups and organizations including churches and schools and different entities. We can only hope that they take the information seriously and do what is necessary. We understand that we have not been impacted for almost 20 years so some people have become very complacent. We continue our public

education so that people can use information to make an informed decision when they are called upon to do so.

**Barnacle:** People have accused NaDMA from time to time of calling wolf and causing panic. How do you cope with that as you seek compliance at the national level?

**Dr. Walters:** The evidence is clear. We have seen the impact of storms here in Grenada and in other parts of the world and people may think we are just calling wolf, but we do try to provide up-to-date information from reliable places such as the Met Office. We understand we are dealing with weather and meteorology is not an exact science. It's a forecast we do and this may change along the way but we make every effort to give people with pats the best advice to ensure you do what is necessary to minimize the loss of life and damage to property. We think it's better to issue a word of caution and nothing happens than to not say anything and weather conditions turn ugly. O we continue to do what we have to do based ion the interaction and the information from the professionals and then we continue the education process so that people can

make a wise decision.

**Barnacle:** We have a generation who uses mostly new platforms and gadgets for their information. How is the organization reaching those people?

**Dr. Walters:** We do use the traditional media, radio and television and print to communicate to the nation, but we also wish to hear from the younger ones so we employ Facebook, WhatsApp, twitter. So we use all the channel of communication open to us so that we can get the information to people where ever they are. You have some people who use social media and you have others who don't, so we make the information available.

**Barnacle:** How do you guard against the use of this new media to sow wrong information?

**Dr. Walters:** One of the ways we deal with that situation is to continue to publish relevant factual information and maintain the position that NaDMA is the final voice on hurricanes and hazards. This is key to the process. We cannot stop people from using the system in a less than helpful way, but we can urge the people to check that

the information they are receiving. Make sure the information is coming from NaDMA. We think that with continuous communications people will recognize when a report is up to speed.

**Barnacle:** How are you able to get people involved in NADMA when politics plays such a big role in local life?

**Dr. Walters:** Firstly we ensure that as an organization we remain impartial. We cannot tell people who to support but we do position volunteerism, on which NADMA survives, as a pillar of who we are and what we do. We therefore exercise care to serve all sides regardless of color, race or political affiliation. People have a right to serve or not to serve but we are clear that this is not an NNP or NDC NaDMA. It's the National Disaster Management Agency because we emphasize that our mandate is to serve everyone. A hurricane or hazard has no political affiliation, when they affect us the entire country is impacted.

**Barnacle:** We hear a lot of discussion and debate on the impact of climate change. What's your view of this situation?

**Dr. Walters:** Climate change is real. The evidence is there to support that. People tend to not understand or accept what it really going on because of the protracted nature of time but right here in Grenada there are areas which are badly affected by the effects of climate change. In the north of the island there is the receding of portions of coastline. If we trace and track the developments we will find the information that indicates the impact of Climate on our daily lives. There are other areas in Carriacou and Petite Martinique that show the evidence. Other parts of the Caribbean and South America have also ceded ground as the earth warms. The issue of climate change is real and we should look at the evidence and take it seriously with a view to taking steps to mitigate the problem.

**Barnacle:** What is your policy on selecting shelters and who is responsible for maintenance?

**Dr. Walters:** The national shelter management committee headed by the Ministry of Education is responsible for inspections



# GRENADA LOOKS TO DIGITAL AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATION FOR AN IMPROVED AGRICULTURE SECTOR

## Grenada's agriculture sector stands to benefit from digital agriculture and innovation initiatives to strengthen the country's agri-food systems.

**Bridgetown, Barbados** – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives jointly launched two projects to promote digital agriculture and resilient agri-food systems in Grenada, on March 22, 2023.

The Global Network of Digital Agriculture Innovation Hubs (DAIH) and the Regional E-Agriculture (REA) for the Caribbean, a post COVID-19 mechanism to promote resilient agri-food, were both launched during an Inception and Workshop Validation Workshop held for both projects, from March 22 to March 24, 2023.

The workshop was attended by thirty-five key stakeholders including farmers, government officials, extension officers, and the private sector, with the aim of obtaining an integrated view of project objectives, linkages and expected benefits.

The projects aim to support current initiatives being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries

and Cooperatives with FAO's technical support and to strengthen the enabling environment for the adoption of digital agriculture strategies at the national level.

They will also establish a national digital agriculture innovation hub and programme to accelerate the development and uptake of digital innovations that support farmers and other value chain actors, especially youth and women, to become more competitive.

Both projects will use innovation as a tool in driving public-private partnerships, resulting in resources being leveraged to maximize impact and strengthen the engagement and commitment of all stakeholders.

The DAIH project will support the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives in establishing a digital transformation strategy, starting with an intervention to respond to gaps in digital agriculture. The Innovation Hub will create a space where different agricultural connections can be made between various stakeholders in agriculture, such as



**NIKOLA TRENDOV, FAO'S DIGITAL AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATION SPECIALIST**

linking farmers with extension officers. This may include a marketing app or a farmer's registration portal which would strengthen the services offered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives.

The REA is a regional project benefitting six countries, including The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis. The focus of the REA in Grenada is the establishment of a drone mapping and Geographic Information System (GIS) team in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives. This will allow them to better utilize agriculture data

collection and planning techniques and to acquire updated spatial information for the farming population. The updated information will also enable the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives to respond more effectively to affected farming communities when managing systemic post multi-hazards risks such as flooding.

Aaron Francois, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives spoke about the digital tools, and stated, "As you know there are serious challenges that are facing the agricultural sector and we know some of them very

well. They include low product quality, high input prices, lack of information on best practices, lack of market information for informed decision-making, high incidence of praedial larceny.

We have included a component to address praedial larceny using digital technology. We believe it can help in a significant way to help curb the incidence of high praedial larceny in Grenada. We are confident that the incorporation of digital technology in the agricultural sector will help in its transformation," Francois said.

Nikola Trendov, FAO's Digital Agriculture and Innovation Specialist, explained that digitalization in agrifood systems brings several opportunities. He highlighted, "The new generations are already a digital native and equipping them with these tools can improve food security and help persons to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. He concluded that those are things that we cannot avoid but we must put in place now".

Meanwhile, Kenton Fletcher, Focal Point for the Project and

Computer Systems Administrator in the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives indicated that, "We need to bring in Information and communication technologies to improve production, to improve marketing and also have innovative ideas on how we can help farmers do better record keeping, better management of their farms. These are the issues we are trying to target". He noted that the FAO projects would support these areas.

Vermaran Extavour, FAO Project Coordinator indicated that the initiatives will provide Grenada with a strategy for transforming the sector digitally, while piloting the use of emerging solutions in the agriculture sector. She noted that, "Addressing digital literacy among farmers and helping them to identify and use digital solutions in their farm businesses are important objectives for this project. We want to see those persons actively using a digital tool to connect, to access market information, to access weather data that is relevant for planting and making more informed decisions".

# FOOD SECURITY: A TOP PRIORITY

**"If you give some of your own food to those who are hungry and to satisfy those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark, and your darkness will become as bright as the noonday sun." - Isaiah 58:10**

By: **DR. BASIL SPRINGER**

As a Caribbean business columnist, I cannot stress enough the importance of food security in the Caribbean. Our region has historically struggled with food security, with many of our nations importing most of their food. The recent Ukraine war has aggravated the problem, causing a reduction in wheat supply and highlighting the vulnerability of our region to external factors.

If secure access to food is given top priority this can produce wide-ranging positive impacts that are vital to the growth and development of our Caribbean nations. For instance, it can lead to economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, trade opportunities, good nutrition and health care.

It is inspiring to see individuals like Dr. Mahendra Persaud taking on the challenge of increasing Guyana's

## FOOD SECURITY: A TOP PRIORITY



- Food security – growth, trade, health, stability
- Ukraine war – aggravates problem
- Guyanese Dr. Mahendra Persaud – accepts the challenge
- Sabga Caribbean Awards – awareness and encouragement
- Mia Mottley missions – critical, survival, transformational

rice supply by 50 percent, which has led the way to the promise of "Guyana, the breadbasket of the Caribbean", showing us that it is possible to overcome our food security challenges through innovation and dedication.

Dr. Persaud is a Guyanese scientist and 2023 laureate of the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards of Excellence, a unique private sector initiative in the region. His work, using sustainable and innovative agricultural practices, has also shown that it is possible to substitute one cereal for another, as rice and wheat have a similar nutritional combination of protein, fat and carbohydrate.

In addition to Dr. Persaud's work, there are many other initiatives taking place throughout the Caribbean to increase food security. For example, in Barbados, the government is liaising closely with Guyana in food production and distribution and investing in aquaculture to produce more locally sourced seafood.

There are also other initiatives including the use of vertical hydroponic farming, multi-storied cropping and mixed cropping to optimize the use of available space for a variety of plant species.

Furthermore, in her 2023-2024 budget address last week, Barbados Prime

Minister Mia Mottley has prioritized food security as one of the Caribbean's critical challenges. She has set out on a mission to transform Barbados and, by example, the region through 2030.

It is worth noting that achieving food security is not just about producing more food. It also involves ensuring that everyone has access to the food they need to live healthy lives. This means addressing issues such as food waste, food distribution, and food affordability. We must work to ensure that a balanced supply of food is available and accessible to everyone in our region, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Food security must be

given top priority in the Caribbean, and it is crucial that we continue to invest in innovative and sustainable agriculture practices to ensure that our region can overcome its challenges and achieve its full potential.

By promoting domestic production and reducing reliance on imports, our countries can foster self-sufficiency, stimulate economic growth, and create employment opportunities.

Import substitution also strengthens local industries and encourages innovation, ultimately contributing to a more diversified and resilient economy.

For example, while our christophene and apple

have different tastes and textures, it is possible to create a christophene "apple" pie by cleverly using spices and a little creativity. This is a creative way to utilize local Caribbean produce in a familiar dessert. The end product tastes almost identical I am told and I look forward to trying it. A golden apple substitute for "English apples" is an another option.

As the Caribbean region faces challenges such as climate change, vulnerability to external shocks, and high levels of public debt, import substitution policies serve as an essential tool to enhance economic stability and improve the overall standard of living for citizens. Furthermore, by reducing dependence on foreign goods and services, Caribbean nations can reduce trade deficits, preserve foreign exchange reserves, and ultimately exercise greater control over our economic future.

As Caribbean people, we must take ownership of this issue and work together to create a brighter future for ourselves and our children. With dedication, innovation, cooperation and "all hands on deck", we can achieve food security and create a more prosperous and sustainable future for our region.



# INTERVIEW WITH DR. TERENCE WALTERS

**NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR  
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

and making sure they are available if they are needed. There is also a shelter inspection team made up of an engineer, the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross, Ministry of Housing and they inspect buildings across Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique, schools, churches and other private buildings against a set of criteria to determine their suitability for use as emergency shelters. Some are used as primary shelters while others that made be in need of repairs can be used as secondary shelters. The primary shelters are those that can be used as a secure shelter prior to a hurricane while the secondary ones are those that can be used after a hurricane or a hazard in the event that there is an overflow in the primary shelters or they are compromised. The 2023 list has gone to cabinet and will be communicated in the coming days, once it is authorized.

**Barnacle:** While preparations for the hurricane season are most relevant at this time of year, what is the Agency's approach to preparation for other hazards, like floods or Earthquakes?

**Dr. Walters:** While we focus on hurricane in the months leading up the traditional hurricane season, we really

encourage a comprehensive approach to disaster management. We need to be concerned and prepared year round for any hazard that may affect us as a multi island state. We do heighten our public involvement during the hurricane season because of the time of year which has by and large remained consistent. Infact during that period there is a process which informs us about a potential hazard, like watches and warnings. Generally we need to understand that even hurricanes have occurred outside of the season and there are a number of other hazards that can occur both in and outside of the hurricane season. We no longer just focus on hurricanes as we move to embrace the comprehensive Disaster management approach which gives cover to all hazards, all phases and all people.

**Barnacle:** Given the governments focus on agriculture, is NaDMA in a position where it can offer advice to farmers for the care of their livestock during the hurricane season?

**Dr. Walters:** This is an area that requires a level of discussion. After all we do have shelters for our citizens but when it comes

to our animals we do not pay much attention to them when it comes to storms and hazards. There needs to be a greater level of consultation on how we treat with our animals, especially our farm animals. I would encourage our farmers who have animals to build in a particular way to protect your animals from a hazard, especially a hurricane.

**Barnacle:** As we prepare for hurricane season 2023, what changes can you point to that resulted from lessons learner from Hurricane Ivan in 2004?

**Dr. Walters:** It is clear that in a general sense citizens now take storms and the weather more seriously. People put things in place just in case. You would also recognize that even unusual shower of rain serves as a basis for queries and calls for the involvement of the agency. Before 2004 people would sometimes have an attitude of letting things take their own course, a laissez-faire approach to storm and hurricane information. This has shifted significantly since Ivan. I also think we have indeed build back better as our buildings are now better able to deal with the changing weather patterns. We have also seen homes and buildings including a downstairs, a room with

a concrete roof or an area where the residents can take shelter. I think those indications are clearly as a result of what we faced in 2004.

**Barnacle:** In 2004 we still to some extent had the existence of small pocket radios similar to the transistor radios we have become accustomed to. Today most of our communications are done from our mobile phones. Given the events of 2004, are you satisfied that our telecommunications systems are robust enough to handle category 3, 4 or 5 hurricanes?

**Dr. Walters:** Indeed we have seen a change in our communications habits over the years. Even the land lines are not as widely used as it was in 2004. We have our telecom providers as part of the emergency council structure, so we do encourage them to ensure their systems are robust enough to can withstand the storm events that have been visiting our shores and that of the region. We must also consider however that with climate change we are seeing an increase in systems as well as more powerful storms. It is therefore really important that we build redundancy into our systems to ensure we can

communicate and remain in contact across the country should our landlines and our mobile systems go down. We also must ensure that at the senior levels we have access to satellite phones and other communications tools that keep the channels open. We do not want to be in a position where we are totally cut off from the region and the outside world.

**Barnacle:** Given our Ivan experience, we have seen first-hand the chaos that can affect recovery efforts if those efforts are not properly coordinated. How will NaDMA in 2023 ensure equity in the recovery operation, ensuring that help will be based on need and not on affiliation or personal relationships?

**Dr. Walters:** That is indeed a weakness. We do not have recovery plans. We are working with the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA) to bridge this gap. In the same way we plan for the possibility of a hazard, we must also plan for recovery efforts should we be affected. This is important as we must identify sources of assistance and plan for its distribution to those most in need. It is my hope that, while we are prepared and vigilant this 2023 hurricane season, we will be spared the wrath of a hazard.

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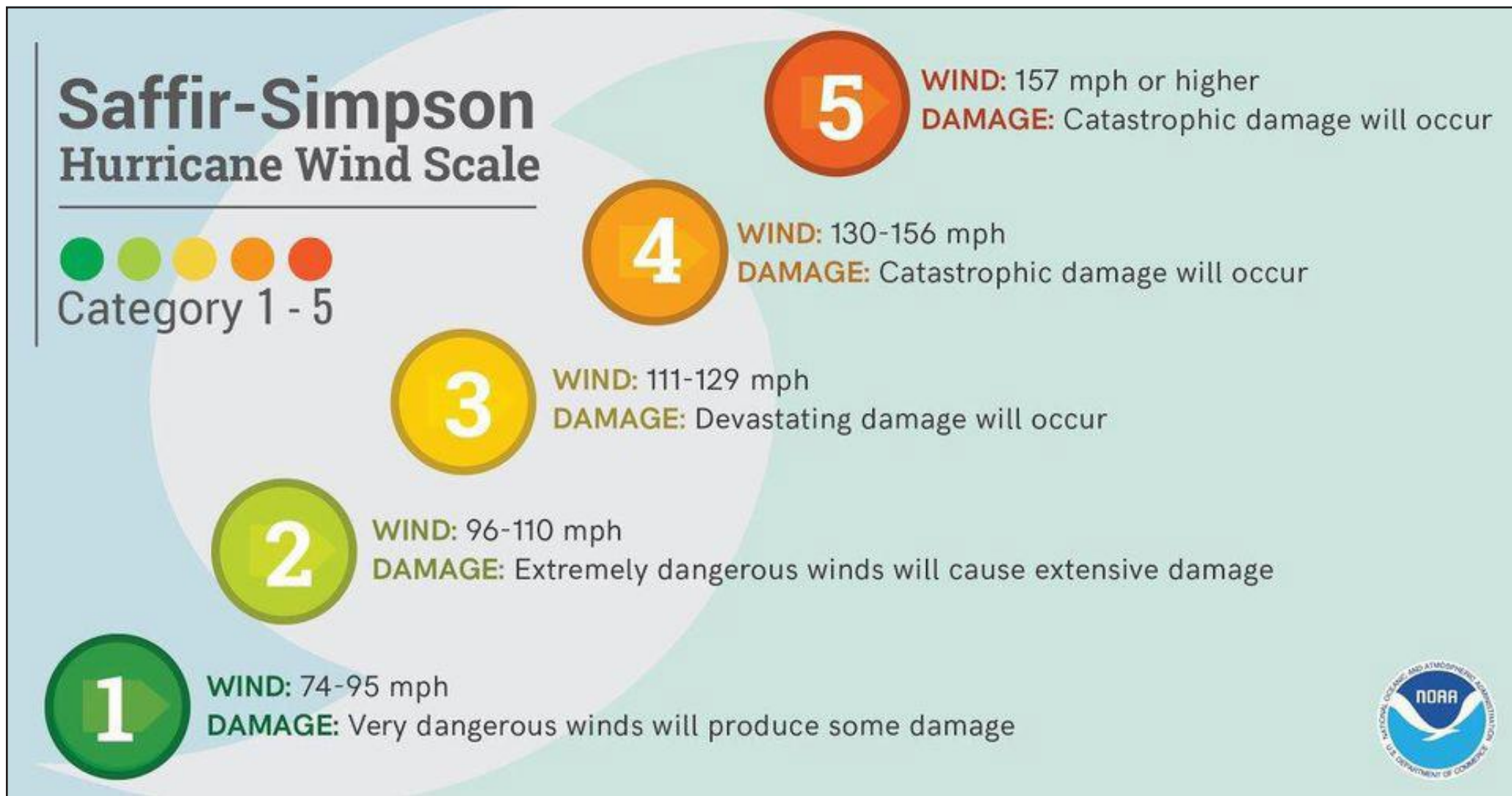
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# KNOW YOUR HURRICANE RISK



A better understanding of tropical cyclones and hurricane hazards will help to make a more informed decision on your risk and what actions to take.

The major hazards associated with hurricanes are:

- Storm Surge and Storm Tide
- Heavy Rainfall and Inland Flooding
- High Winds
- Rip Currents
- Tornadoes

**Storm Surge & Storm Tide**

Storm surge and large waves produced

by hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property along the coast.

Storm Surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coast-line.

Storm Tide is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide.

The destructive power of storm surge and large battering waves can result in loss of life, buildings destroyed, beach and coastal erosion and road and bridge damage along the coast.

Storm surge can travel several miles inland. In low lying areas, salt water intrusion endangers public health and the environment.

**Heavy Rainfall & Inland Flooding**

Storms and hurricanes often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive floods. Flash Flooding, defined as a rapid rise in water levels, can occur quickly due to intense rainfall. When approaching water on a flooded roadway, always remember .....  
**TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN.**

Rainfall amounts are not directly related to the strength of tropical

cyclones but rather to the speed and size of the storm. Slower moving and larger storms produce more rainfall. In addition, mountainous terrain enhances rainfall from a storm.

**High Winds**

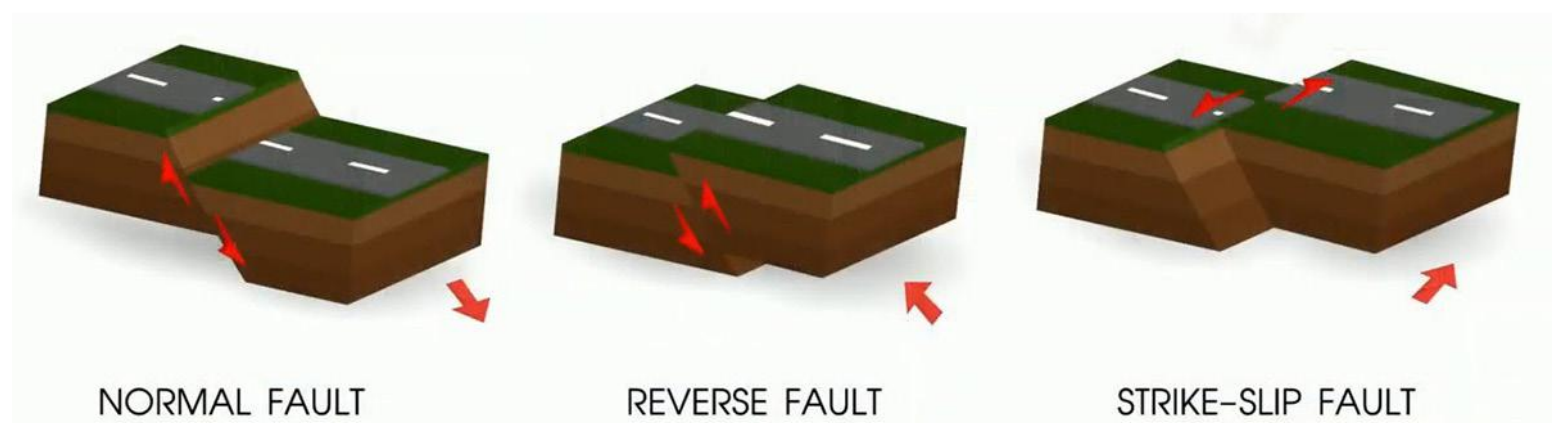
Tropical storm-force winds are strong enough to be dangerous to those caught in them. For this reason, you should plan to have your preparations complete and be in your safe shelter before the onset of tropical storm-force winds, not hurricane-force winds.

Hurricane-force winds, 74 mph or

# “UNEARTH THE TREMORS: ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS INTO EARTHQUAKES”

**What to Do Before an Earthquake?**

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake. Repairing deep plaster cracks in ceilings and foundations, anchoring overhead lighting fixtures to the ceiling, and following local seismic building standards, will help reduce the impact of earthquakes.



**Six Ways to Plan Ahead**

**1. Check for Hazards in the Home**

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit
- Brace overhead light fixtures
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves.

**2. Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors**

- Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Against an inside wall.
- Away from where glass could

- shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways.

**3. Educate Yourself and Family Members**

- Contact your local emergency management office or Red Cross chapter for more information on earthquakes.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.

**4. Have Disaster Supplies on Hand**

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Emergency food and water.
- Nonelectric can opener.
- Essential medicines.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Sturdy shoes.

**5. Develop an Emergency Communication Plan**

- In case family members are

- separated from one another during an earthquake (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.
- Ask an over-seas relative or friend to serve as the “family contact.” After a disaster, it’s often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

**What to Do During an Earthquake**

Stay as safe as possible during an earthquake. Be aware that some earthquakes are actually foreshocks and a larger earthquake might occur. Minimize your movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place and if you are indoors, stay there until the shaking has stopped and you are sure exiting is safe.

**If indoors:**

- DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn’t a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and

- anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
- Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, load bearing doorway.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or re alarms may turn on.
- DO NOT use the elevators.

**If outdoors:**

- Stay there.
- Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Ground



# “UNEARTH THE TREMORS: ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS INTO EARTHQUAKES”

movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.



### If in a moving vehicle

- Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.
- Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.

### If trapped under debris

- Do not light a match.
- Do not move about or kick up dust.
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

### What to Do After an Earthquake

- Expect aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures and can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television. Listen for the latest emergency information.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
- Stay away from damaged areas. Stay away unless your

assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or relief organizations. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

- Be aware of possible tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. These are also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called “tidal waves”). When local authorities issue a tsunami warning, assume that a series of dangerous waves is on the way. Stay away from the beach.
- Help injured or trapped persons. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance such as infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.
  - Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage. Unnoticed damage could lead to a fire.
  - Inspect utilities.
  - Look for electrical system

damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.

- Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

**>>> RENEWAL OF TOURISM OPERATORS' LICENCES 2023/2024 <<<**

The Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) invites all tourism operators to apply for the renewal of licenses to operate in the industry under the GTA Act No. 42 of 2013 and the Tourism and Beach Vending Act #18 of 2001. Renewal of licenses will commence on **August 21st, 2023** and continues through to **September 22nd, 2023**.

These tourism operators include:

- Taxi Drivers
- Tour Operators
- Tourism Attraction Operators
- Watersports Operators
- Car Rental Operators
- Tourist Guides
- Accommodations (Hotels, Villas, Guest Houses, Apartments & Cottages)
- Tourist Vendors at Grand Anse Craft & Spice Market, Morne Rouge Beach, Melville Street, Fort Frederick, Annandale Waterfall, Grand Etang National Park, Concord Waterfall & Bathway

Stakeholders can apply for renewal of their licenses, **Mondays to Fridays** between the hours of **8:00am and 3:30pm** at the Grenada Tourism Authority's Quality Assurance Department, Burns Point, St. George.

The GTA, working with stakeholders to develop the tourism industry in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

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For more information, contact the Quality Assurance Department:  
Tel: 440-2001/440-2872  
[www.puregrenada.com/quality-assurance](http://www.puregrenada.com/quality-assurance)

# “UNSTOPPABLE FORCES: THE LOOMING THREAT OF TSUNAMIS AND HOW TO STAY SAFE”

**Tsunamis**, also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called “tidal waves”), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or

meteorite. Earthquake-induced movement of the ocean floor most often generates tsunamis. If a major earthquake or landslide occurs close to shore, the first wave in a series could reach the beach in a few minutes,

even before a warning is issued. Areas are at greater risk if they are less than 25 feet above sea level and within a mile of the shoreline. Drowning is the most common cause of death associated with a tsunami. Tsunami

waves and the receding water are very destructive to structures in the run-up zone. Other hazards include flooding, contamination of drinking water and fires from gas lines or ruptured tanks.

### Before A Tsunami

The following are things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your property from the effects of a tsunami:

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Talk to everyone in your household about what to do if a tsunami occurs. Create and practice an evacuation plan for your family. Familiarity may save your life. Be able to follow your escape route at night and during inclement weather. Practicing your plan makes the appropriate response more of a reaction, requiring less thinking during an actual emergency.
- If the school evacuation plan requires you to pick your children up from school or from another location. Be aware telephone lines during a tsunami alert may be overloaded and routes to and from schools may be jammed.
- Knowing your community's warning systems and disaster plans, including evacuation routes.
- If you are a tourist, familiarize yourself with local tsunami evacuation protocols. If you



are concerned that you will not be able to reach a safe place in time, ask your local emergency management office about vertical evacuation. Some strong (e.g., reinforced concrete) and tall buildings may be able to provide protection if no other options are available.

- If an earthquake occurs and you are in a coastal area, turn on your radio to learn if there is a tsunami warning.

### During A Tsunami

Follow the evacuation order issued by

- authorities and evacuate immediately. Take your animals with you.
- Move to high ground or inland and away from water immediately.
  - Stay away from the beach. Never go down to the beach to watch a tsunami come in. If you can see the wave you are too close to escape it. CAUTION
  - If there is noticeable recession in water away from the shore- line this is nature's tsunami warning and it should be heeded. You should move away immediately.
  - Save yourself - not your possessions.
  - Remember to help your

neighbors who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people, and individuals with access or functional needs.

### After A Tsunami

- Return home only after local officials tell you it is safe. A tsunami is a series of waves that may continue for hours. Do not assume that after one wave the danger is over. The next wave may be larger than the first one.
- Go to a designated public shelter if you have been told to evacuate

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16



# “UNSTOPPABLE FORCES: THE LOOMING THREAT OF TSUNAMIS AND HOW TO STAY SAFE”



- or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home.
- Avoid disaster areas. Your presence might interfere with emergency response operations and put you at further risk from the residual effects of floods.
- Stay away from debris in the water; it may pose a safety hazard to people or pets.
- Check yourself for injuries and get first aid as needed before helping injured or trapped persons.
- If someone needs to be rescued, call professionals with the right equipment to help. Many people have been killed or injured trying to rescue others.
- Help people who require special assistance—infants, elderly people, those without

- transportation, people with access and functional needs and large families who may need additional help in an emergency situation.
- Continue using a local radio or television station for the latest updates.
- Stay out of any building that has water around it. Tsunami water can cause floors to crack or walls to collapse.
- Use caution when re-entering buildings or homes. Tsunami-driven floodwater may have damaged buildings where you least expect it. Carefully watch every step you take.
- To avoid injury, wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up.

### Tsunami Warning

A tsunami warning is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate widespread inundation is imminent or expected. Warnings alert the public that dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours after initial arrival. Warnings alert emergency management officials to take action for the entire tsunami hazard zone. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Warnings may be updated, adjusted geographically, downgraded, or canceled. To provide the earliest possible alert, initial warnings are normally based only on seismic information.

### Tsunami Advisory

A tsunami advisory is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water is imminent or expected. The threat may continue for several hours after initial arrival, but significant inundation is not expected for areas under an advisory. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include closing beaches, evacuating harbors and marinas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Advisories are normally updated to continue the advisory, expand/contract affected areas, upgrade to a warning, or cancel the advisory.

### Tsunami Watch

A tsunami watch is issued to alert emergency management officials and the public of an event which may later impact the watch area. The watch area may be upgraded to a warning or advisory - or canceled - based on updated information and analysis. Therefore, emergency management officials and the public should prepare to take action. Watches are normally issued based on seismic information without confirmation that a destructive tsunami is underway.

### Tsunami Information Statement

A tsunami information statement is issued to inform emergency management officials and the public that an earthquake has occurred, or that a tsunami warning, advisory or watch has been issued for another section of the ocean. In most cases, information statements are issued to indicate there is no threat of a destructive tsunami and to prevent unnecessary evacuations as the earthquake may have been felt in coastal areas. An information statement may, in appropriate situations, caution about the possibility of destructive local tsunamis. Information statements may be re-issued with additional information, though normally these messages are not updated. However, a watch, advisory or warning may be issued for the area, if necessary, after analysis and/or updated information becomes available.

# KNOW YOUR HURRICANE RISK

more, can destroy buildings and mobile homes. Debris, such as signs, roofing material, siding and small items left outside become flying missiles during hurricanes. Atlantic and Eastern Pacific hurricanes are classified into five categories according to the Saffir - Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, which estimates potential property damage according to the hurricane's sustained wind speed.

### Rip Currents

The strong winds of a tropical cyclone can cause dangerous waves that pose a significant hazard to mariners and coastal residents and visitors. When the waves break along the coast, they can produce deadly rip currents even at

large distances from the storm.

Rip currents are channeled currents of water owing away from shore, usually extending past the line of breaking waves, which can pull even the strongest swimmers away from shore.

### Tornadoes

Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eye-wall. Tornadoes produced by tropical cyclones are sometimes relatively weak and short-lived, but they still pose a significant threat.

### TROPICAL WAVE:

An elongated area of low pressure which develops in the tropics and moves in an east to west direction, often characterized by disturbed weather.

### TROPICAL DISTURBANCE:

An area of showers and thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

### TROPICAL STORM:

A non-frontal low pressure system usually originating in the tropics and rotating which maximum sustained counter-clockwise winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots.)

### TROPICAL STORM WATCH:

An announcement for specific areas that a tropical storm or an incipient tropical storm condition poses a possible threat to those areas generally within 36 hours.

### TROPICAL STORM WARNING:

A warning that tropical-storm conditions including possible sustained winds within the range of 39 to 73 mph are expected in a specific area in 24 hours or less.

### HURRICANE WARNING:

Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a designated area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include sustained winds of at least 74 mph (64 knots) and/or dangerously high tides and waves. Actions to protect life and property should be rushed to completion after the warning is issued.

### HURRICANE EYE:

The relatively calm area near the center of the storm that can last, from several minutes to over an hour, depending on the hurricane's size and speed, which ends suddenly as the winds return from the opposite direction, possibly with even greater force.

### STORM SURGE:

A dome-like rise in ocean level associated with a hurricane. The difference between this abnormal rise in sea level and the level that would occur otherwise is called the storm surge. It is highest along and to the immediate right of where the eye of a hurricane strikes land.

Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph 64-82 kt 119-153 km/h	<b>Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:</b> Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.
2	96-110 mph 83-95 kt 154-177 km/h	<b>Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:</b> Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.
3 (major)	111-129 mph 96-112 kt 178-208 km/h	<b>Devastating damage will occur:</b> Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 (major)	130-156 mph 113-136 kt 209-251 km/h	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur:</b> Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.
5 (major)	157 mph or higher 137 kt or higher 252 km/h or higher	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur:</b> A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.



# CARIBBEAN FISHERIES FORUM CONVENES 21ST MEETING

Seeks to accelerate blue economic growth and resilience from the marine living resources in the waters of CARICOM countries



FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE EMPLOY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN. THE SECTOR IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE REGION'S ECONOMIES, AS WELL AS TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY. (PHOTO: CRFM)



A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN FISHERIES UNDERPINS A VIBRANT SECTOR THAT FEEDS FAMILIES ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN. (PHOTO: CRFM)

**Belize City, (CRFM)**—The Caribbean Fisheries Forum, the technical and advisory arm of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), convened its 21st Meeting earlier this week, on 3 – 4 April 2023. The Forum—which is made up of the heads of national fisheries departments and divisions of the CRFM countries, stakeholders, and regional and international development partners—focused on advancing sustainable management, conservation and development of the region's fisheries and

aquaculture sector.

The Executive Director of the CRFM, Milton Haughton, said: *"The Forum discussed and agreed on a number of very important actions to strengthen governance and management of the fisheries sector as we move forward to realize our collective vision of a future of profitable, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture industries, thriving and resilient fishing communities, underpinned by healthy ecosystems and marine biodiversity and driven by the application of science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship of our people."*

He added that, *"It is imperative at this time that we accelerate development and implementation of the policy, legal and institutional reforms and make the investments needed to realize the full potential of our marine and other aquatic resources for sustainable development of our countries, and to provide adequate food, decent jobs, and a better quality of life for our people in the region."*

The gathering addressed a range of regional challenges and opportunities, including building the sector's resilience

to environmental and economic shocks, improving food security, strengthening regional and international trade, and the state of the fisheries resources. They also discussed implementing the recently concluded World Trade Organization (WTO) Fisheries Subsidies agreement and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as collaboration with international development partners and donors, training, and capacity building in the public and private sector. Furthermore, they discussed blue

economic development, including the initiation of the GEF-funded BE-CLME+ Project (Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus), which is valued at approximately USD 47 million.

Also high on the Forum's agenda was the need to reduce disaster risk and improve the climate resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, as well as the persistent Sargassum influxes—which are forecasted to be the largest ever recorded for this region this year—through the development of innovative climate

resilient products to bolster economic growth, under the New Zealand-funded project being implemented by the CRFM and Plant and Food Research Limited of New Zealand, in collaboration with other regional partners.

The Forum, which supports the CRFM Ministerial Council with the development of regional policies and decisions, also finalized the text of a new regional protocol to the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy, focused on the Role of Fish and Seafood as a strategic resource for food and nutrition security in the region.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 23

# CARIBBEAN FOOD SECURITY AT RISK FROM THE IMPACT OF DISASTER-RELATED EVENTS

By Chalsey Gill Anthony, Communications Assistant, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC)



MARKET SCENE IN BELIZE CITY. PHOTO CREDIT: CCCCC



EXTREME FLOODING AFTER HEAVY RAINFALL, GUYANA 2021. PHOTO CREDIT: CARPHA



DAMAGED GREENHOUSE. PHOTO CREDIT: CCCCC

On an ordinary day, you get in, start your vehicle, turn on your favourite radio station, and drive to work. While bopping your head and humming to a catchy tune, you hear "We interrupt this segment for an important broadcast..." As you try to settle in at your desk, the notifications on your phone are going off from the calls and messages coming in. You open your social app, and the newsfeed is plastered with posts about the same thing – A tropical storm or hurricane or flood warning has been issued and is in effect. An ordinary day just accelerated into preparation for a weather event. Of course, this is not unlikely but expected to happen any day because climate change contributes to changing weather patterns with

more intense and frequent weather events.

On November 2, 2022, Hurricane Lisa made landfall in Belize and affected the lives of many. "My first priorities were food, water, documentation, and shelter. When I calculated the estimated cost to prepare, especially with the current price increases on goods and services, I was worried for my kids," says a single mother of two young children as she anxiously recounts her feelings. "Even though I got paid just a few days ago, it was not in my budget, and I could not prepare the way I wanted."

Yes, the issues of food and water security are among the most critical in disaster preparedness and management.

Additionally, the connections between climate change, food security, water, and health come to the fore when examining the threat of any extreme weather event. And as people living in the Caribbean, especially in low-lying coastal communities, we are all too familiar with their impacts.

Last year, Suriname experienced persistent heavy rainfall causing an overflow of rivers and severe flooding. His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname made an appeal for international support after he declared seven of ten districts as disaster areas. In his address to the United Nations 77th Session, President Santokhi shared that "fertile agricultural

lands were adversely affected causing economic loss and impacting food security and rural livelihoods." The floods affected several businesses, schools, healthcare facilities and more than 3000 households, causing many farmers to lose their crops and families to be cut off without any source of income.

The direct and indirect impacts of the devastation were felt across the country. "Companies in the coastal areas that were receiving agricultural products from those communities had shortages of produce and juices in the store because they couldn't provide the fruits to make the juices," says Ms. Stephanie Cheuk-Alam, Suriname's Head of the Environmental

Inspectorate at the Bureau of Public Health and first cohort graduate of the University of the West Indies, Climate Change and Health Leaders Fellowship Training programme.

The Caribbean's food security is severely vulnerable to the impacts of disaster-related events exacerbated by climate change which can lead to humanitarian crises and national security concerns. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)'s Executive Director, Dr. Joy St. John emphasizes that food insecurity is of major concern to the region.

*"The climate crisis causes disruptions or damage to food value chains which in turn negatively impacts all four*

*(4) pillars of food security: availability; accessibility; utilization; and stability."*

A disaster event can lead to sudden power outages, a cut-off from water supplies, and perishable goods can quickly become contaminated. Damage to crops impacts access to nutritious food and increases dependence on canned and non-perishable foods with high sodium and sugar content. Disaster-related events can also influence the drivers of food-, water-, and vector-borne illnesses such as dengue, cholera, and malaria.

Climate change is a risk multiplier; it worsens existing vulnerabilities and disproportionately affects the most

CONTINUES ON PAGE 24



## Your Hurricane Preparedness Store!



Tarpaulin, Ropes  
Flash Lights & Batteries, Inverters  
Power / Cordless Tools & Hand Tools  
Generators, Chain Saws  
Weed Eaters, Lawn Mowers  
Generator & Chain Saw Oils  
Engine Oils, 2 Cycle Oils  
Wheel Barrows, Pressure Washers  
Cutlasses, Rakes & Spades  
Gas Containers  
Water Containers & Coolers  
Paint & Paint Brushes  
Electrical Fixtures & Lights  
Plumbing Fixtures, Fitting & Pipes  
Bolts, Nuts, Screws & Fasteners



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Maurice Bishop Highway, Grand Anse

**Tel: 440 5090**

Cross Street, St. George's Tel: 440 2482

# SEEDS IN SPACE: 'COSMIC CROPS' FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

## FAO Director-General QU Dongyu addresses event in Vienna ahead of the seeds' return to Earth

**Rome/Vienna** - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held an event in Vienna today to mark the imminent return to Earth of seeds that were sent into space four months ago.

The ground-breaking experiment aims to develop new crops that can adapt to climate change and help boost global food security. With the world's population estimated to reach almost 10 billion by 2050, there's a clear need for innovative solutions through science and technology aimed at producing more food, as well as crops that are more resilient and farming methods that are more sustainable.

Seeds from the IAEA and FAO laboratories belonging to the Arabidopsis and Sorghum varieties travelled in an uncrewed cargo shuttle from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility to space on November 7,

2022. While in space, they were exposed to the prevailing conditions — a complex mixture of cosmic radiation, microgravity and extreme temperatures — inside and outside the International Space Station (ISS).

Upon their return, which is expected to happen in early April, scientists at the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture plan to grow the seeds and screen them for useful traits to better understand space-induced mutations and identify new varieties.

The meeting in Vienna, which was designed to inform students, partners and the public about space science and nuclear techniques in plant breeding, saw opening statements from FAO Director-General QU Dongyu and IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi, as well as interventions from NASA Astronaut Kayla Barron, who discussed her experience working and carrying out experiments at the ISS.

"I am very proud of our partnership with IAEA, bearing fruits both on Earth for years, and now with seeds that travelled through space," the FAO Director-General told the gathering in Vienna. "I am in awe of the resilience of nature, and excited by the endless benefits that space exploration can bring to transform our agrifood systems to be more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable across the globe," said Qu, who is a trained plant breeder.

"This is science that could have a real impact on people's lives in the not-too-distant future, by helping us grow stronger crops and feed more people," the IAEA Director General said. "IAEA and FAO scientists may have already been mutating seeds for 60 years and creating thousands of stronger crops for the world to use, but this is the first time we have experimented with such an exciting field as astrobiology," said Grossi.

### Cosmic Experiment

While similar experiments have been carried out since 1946, this is the first time that the IAEA and FAO are conducting genomic and biological analyses on seeds sent to space in around 60 years of experience in inducing plant mutations.

The seeds that traveled to space belong to two plant species: Arabidopsis, a type of cress that has been studied extensively by plant botanists and geneticists; and Sorghum, which belongs to the family of millets and is a drought- and heat-tolerant grain grown in many developing countries for food.

Once grown, a series of analyses will help understand whether cosmic radiation and harsh space conditions can lead to crops becoming more resilient in the face of increasingly difficult growing conditions on Earth.

## CDB TO FUND MARITIME CARGO SERVICE STUDY TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN THE SOUTH-EAST CARIBBEAN



**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:** The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) will finance consultancy services for a study to explore options for establishing a Maritime Cargo Service between Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago primarily for the movement of agricultural products.

The initiative is part of the CDB's

pledge to improve food security within the Caribbean, and to promote Regional Cooperation. It also demonstrates the Bank's support for the imperative, announced last year by CARICOM Heads of Government, to achieve a 25% reduction in the Region's food import bill by 2025. The Heads identified lack of adequate regional transportation as a major obstacle to the movement of agricultural products within the Region and major contributor to food insecurity.

"Policymakers in CARICOM have established that intra-regional agricultural trade can balance food deficits and surpluses, contribute to price stability, and increase

the diversity of food supply, all of which can achieve greater food and nutrition security for the Caribbean," CDB's Director of Projects, Mr. Daniel Best explained.

He added, "CDB is aware that improving intra-regional trade in agriculture will require interventions across the ecosystem, however the provision of efficient and sustainable transportation to move agricultural goods will go a far way in achieving 25 by 25."

The Project will explore options for addressing a range of factors affecting the conveyance of agricultural products by sea including management and operational

systems, onshore facilities, food safety provisions, and customs and plant quarantine operations. The main objective of the initiative is to identify opportunities for urgent improvement in maritime transportation capacity, recommend transportation modalities and provide solutions which utilise existing shipping assets.

A Technical Working Group will be established to provide oversight of the study. The body will include representatives from governments of the participating countries, the CARICOM Secretariat, the CARICOM Private Sector Organization, and the CDB.



# ST LUCIA MOVES TO IMPROVE ITS COCONUT PRODUCTION

The Government of St Lucia and FAO are working together to improve coconut production starting with a training of the country's coconut farmers and other stakeholders

**Castries, St Lucia** – In St Lucia, like most other Caribbean countries, the coconut culture runs deep. From coconut water to coconut milk and coconut cream and other by-products, even the husks are put to good use in making crafts or for household uses. Its importance is the reason for a collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of St Lucia in developing the Coconut Value Chain.

Through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development, along with partners such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), FAO is supporting the development of the coconut sector to improve local production.

During the week of March 13 to 17, 2023, FAO Tree Crop Expert,



COCONUT FIELD TRAINING

Dr Abel Reboças, accompanied by FAO Agricultural Value Chain Development Consultant Ms Sharlene Prosser, provided training in good agricultural practices for coconut production. These trainings included classroom sessions and field-based trainings using a training of trainers approach to further support coconut farmers throughout the island. Coconut farmers, representatives from coconut cooperatives, extension officers and other government representatives as well as representatives from CARDI participated in the week-long training.

Some of the topics covered include, pre- and post-harvest handling, storage, propagation, and hand pollination, harvesting, pruning, demonstrations, fertilizer application, integrated pest management, and intercropping options to support quality and sustainable coconut production. The training and recommendations offered will not only support production but will be a part of the necessary activities to strengthen the entire value chain over the coming months.

Mr Juan Cheaz Pelaez,



COCONUT CLASSROOM TRAINING

FAO Trade and Markets Officer for the Caribbean and Lead Technical Officer for the project remarked that promoting training in good agricultural practices for coconut production was a crucial part of creating a resilient and sustainable value chain with a consistent and quality supply of coconuts. He added that the training was just one step towards strengthening local capacity to increase the opportunities for better production and a stronger income earning potential for those across the value chain in a way that promotes social, environmental, and

economic sustainability. As St Lucia works towards having a greater stake in the coconut sector and enabling its farmers to utilize proper production techniques, the training was seen as timely and relevant.

Mr Barrymore Felicien, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry highlighted that as coconut and coconut-based products become more popular in households across Saint Lucia, the Agriculture Ministry will partner closely with development partners to initiate activities to bolster productivity within the sub-sector.

The FAO Caribbean value chain development approach, which has seen success in other Caribbean countries, was applied to support this training and will be used in helping to build the coconut industry over the next years. It seeks to help strengthen the sector's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), its recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute to the reduction of the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) food-importation bill by 25 per cent by 2025.

The activities being undertaken are a part of the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean Value Chain Development Programme and are specifically geared towards the Sustainable Development of Competitive and Resilient Value Chains and the implementation of the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Recovery Plan.

# CARIBBEAN FISHERIES FORUM CONVENES 21ST MEETING

Seeks to accelerate blue economic growth and resilience from the marine living resources in the waters of CARICOM countries



MRS. NERISSA LUCKY, CHIEF FISHERIES OFFICER, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – CHAIR OF THE CARIBBEAN FISHERIES FORUM, 2023-2024 (PHOTO: CRFM)

The formulation of this policy is timely, as the CRFM and other CARICOM bodies make a concerted effort to reduce the region's food import bill by 25% by 2025.

The Forum also finalized the text of a regional policy document aimed at preventing Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), and the CRFM's collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative to address the problem, which adversely affects the marine environment and ecosystems. Efforts to address illegal,

unreported, and unregulated fishing and transnational organized crime, which use fishing as a cover for illegal maritime activities, were also discussed. The Forum noted the contributions of the CRFM and Member States to an international effort to develop voluntary guidelines for transshipment, under the auspices of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

For the past year, Suriname has served as Chair of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum. At the start of the Forum meeting, a new chair was elected, and Mr.

Zojindra Arjune, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Suriname, handed over the leadership of the Forum to Mrs. Nerissa Lucky, Director of Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago. The Turks and Caicos Islands was elected as vice chair.

During its 21st Meeting, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum formulated a set of policy recommendations for action by the CRFM Ministerial Council, comprised of Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture from the 17 CRFM Member States, when they meet near the end of April.

## CDB FINANCING BIOGAS FEASIBILITY STUDY IN BELIZE

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:** The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has committed USD150,000 to assist with financing a feasibility study for the Government of Belize to assess the potential of generating electricity from biogas collected from sewage treatment facilities.

Biogas is a form of renewable energy produced by breaking down organic matter

such as agricultural waste, food waste, manure, and sewage. The project supports the Bank's thrust to increase energy security in its Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) by promoting the use of renewable sources for more affordable and stable energy costs.

"Many of CDB's BMCs exhibit an over-dependence on imported petroleum and petroleum products for

power which consumes a large portion of their foreign exchange earnings and increases their vulnerability to external shocks," Director of the Bank's Projects Department, Mr Daniel Best explained.

"The development of utility scale renewable energy (RE) infrastructure is critical for correcting this imbalance and in-depth studies such as this will provide data to guide the

integration of sources such as biogas and biofuels into the region's energy mix and the findings can inform the development of future energy projects."

The feasibility study will involve waste lagoons at three municipal sewage plants in Belize where an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) process will be used to generate energy from biogas. The research will assess the quantum of biogas

available at the facilities, the most efficient technology options for energy generation, and the financial viability of capturing and converting the green fuel to electricity. Considerations will include any potential for climate risks, and possible social and environmental impacts.

The project is also a knowledge sharing initiative as it includes the development of an

AD Assessment Tool Kit which will guide the region's utility companies in evaluating the biogas potential of waste-water facilities.

Under its Climate Resilience Strategy, CDB is supporting energy sector transformation initiatives and the increased use of renewable energy by its BMCs as a means of facilitating the region's sustainable energy transition.



# CARIBBEAN FOOD SECURITY AT RISK FROM THE IMPACT OF DISASTER-RELATED EVENTS

By Chalsey Gill Anthony, Communications Assistant, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)



FARMER IN BELIZE WATERING HIS PRODUCE. PHOTO CREDIT: CCCCC



MOM HELPING HER DAUGHTER PICK A MANGO IN THEIR YARD. PHOTO CREDIT: CCCCC



CHILDREN IN THEIR SCHOOL GARDEN, BELIZE. PHOTO CREDIT: CCCCC

vulnerable, including women, children, the elderly and the differently abled.

“The region must ensure that it builds resilience to these threats to safeguard food security as well as strengthen supply chains within the Region to allow rapid recovery and availability of food after a disaster,” expressed Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). Even with concerted efforts among Caribbean countries, we are still constrained. “Ultimately, it is necessary for large emitters to cut their

emissions to prevent an overshoot of 1.5°C,” says Dr. Young. “otherwise, there is a limit to our preparedness over which the losses and damages will invariably occur leading to a food security crisis in the region.”

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 reports that “the triple crises of climate, conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to challenge efforts to improve food security, nutrition, health and livelihoods which affected the affordability of a healthy diet for 3.1 billion people including those in many low-income countries such as found in Latin America and the

Caribbean.” Like the communities in Suriname, there are still communities across the Caribbean who live off the land and depend on agriculture to feed their families and the river for their livelihood, even to shower and wash their dishes and their clothes. They build their houses as close as possible to the river, so they don’t have to walk too far to get water. And reflecting on the challenges imposed by climate change and the resulting health implications to those communities, Ms. Cheuk-Alam empathetically acknowledges, “it may be easy for people in some areas to say just move, but if the area where you’re living has cultural and historical value to you and your

family, it’s not as easy to just pack up and leave and just build somewhere else.”

Over the last few years, the region has made significant efforts to strengthen the adaptive capacity of climate and health systems. Under the European Union-funded ‘Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean’ project, CARPHA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) are working to increase regional collaboration between the climate and health sectors and to develop tools that will support science-based planning for public health climate

adaptation and mitigation.

“We need an integrated approach to adaptation comprising the implementation of early warning systems and strengthening surveillance systems for climate-sensitive diseases and conditions as well as developing climate resilient food and water/sanitation safety plans for CARIFORUM countries,” says Dr. St. John. “We are also supporting the implementation of policies to promote healthier food environments and food security along with improving the local availability and acceptability of healthy foods in

emergency and non-emergency settings.”

While we do our best to ‘soften the blows’ of these extreme weather and disaster-related events on the Caribbean’s food, water and health systems, the demand for transformative climate action from major polluters and contributors to climate change has been echoed across the globe. Most people see the Caribbean as destinations with inviting beaches, and breath-taking getaways. But for the Caribbean people, climate change poses the biggest threat to our food and water security, health and even our right to live. And on an ‘ordinary day,’ we are fighting to survive.



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# GLOBAL INDICATORS ON THE COSTS OF HEALTHY DIETS AND HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD THEM

## FAO's FAOSTAT data portal shows that Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest cost of a healthy diet compared to other regions

**Rome** - Today, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has made publicly available country-by-country indicators on healthy diets that show their cost - including by food group - and the amount of people unable to afford them. The data serves as a reminder that even if the world has made progress towards providing enough calories to feed the global population, there remains a long road ahead to sustainably nourishing all people, everywhere.

Recently, FAO did an extensive analysis of how many people can in fact afford a healthy diet, one that offers a diversity of nutrient-rich food, aligned with dietary guidance.

The result was sobering: Billions of people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet.

Now the indicators developed by FAO with critical inputs from researchers at Tufts University and the World Bank show, for example, that Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest cost of a healthy diet compared to other regions, at \$3.89 per person per day in 2020, followed by Asia (\$3.72), Africa (\$3.46), Northern America and Europe (\$3.19) and Oceania (\$3.07).

Between 2019 and 2020, Asia witnessed the highest surge in the cost of a healthy diet (4.0 percent), followed by Oceania (3.6 percent), Latin America and the Caribbean (3.4 percent), Northern America and Europe (3.2 percent) and Africa (2.5 percent).

Almost 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020 – an increase of 112 million more people than in 2019, reflecting the higher costs of a healthy diet in 2020. This was mainly driven by Asia, where 78

million more people were unable to afford this diet, followed by Africa (25 million more people), and to a lesser extent by Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America and Europe (8 and 1 million more people, respectively).

In 12 countries, all of them in Africa, more than 90 percent of the population cannot regularly afford a healthy diet

The same is true of more than half the population in 53 countries for which data is available. In 26 countries that figure is less than 1 percent.

### Available for all

The set of indicators has now been made available for all to view and download on FAO's easy-to-use data hub. FAOSTAT is the world's largest data platform for food and agriculture with around 20 000 indicators covering more than 245 countries and territories.

The computing, monitoring and reporting of the global, regional and country level indicators on the cost and affordability of a healthy diet (CoAHD) is now institutionalized and will be regularly updated by FAO. This provides a powerful new benchmark for tracking global progress towards making healthy diets affordable to all.

These indicators rely on an integrated suite of data, computed based on variables including the retail prices of locally available foods and food-based dietary guidelines to, country household income distribution patterns and the formulas required to establish purchasing power parities.

“Putting an end to hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms (including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies,

overweight and obesity) is about more than securing enough food to survive: What people eat must also be nutritious,” said David Laborde, Director of FAO's Agrifood Economics Division. “Yet a key obstacle is the high cost of nutritious foods and the low affordability of healthy diets for vast numbers of people around the world.”

“Tracking the cost and affordability of healthy diets is a step-change towards recognizing the need to nourish and not just feed the world,” said FAO's Director of Food and Nutrition, Lynnette Neufeld. “This new methodology also provides us with the starting point to generate locally relevant evidence to guide policy and programmes to make healthy diets affordable for all people, at all times.”

This CoAHD initiative by FAO is part of a larger set of activities that will contribute to achieve one of four of FAO's objectives within its 2022-31 Strategic Framework – Better Nutrition.

“Measuring and systematically monitoring the cost and affordability of healthy diets and making progress towards ensuring the affordability of healthy diets is of utmost importance and urgently needed. FAO has stepped up and taken on this task,” said José Rosero Moncayo, Director FAO Statistics Division.

### How it works

FAO computes eight indicators on cost and on affordability.

A healthy diet provides not only adequate calories but also the right types of nutrient-rich foods from a variety of food groups as recommended by food-based dietary guidelines. The reference diet is estimated based on a “representative” adult consuming 2 330 kilocalories

per day – an approach commonly used for food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs). The lowest cost locally available foods, at recommended portion sizes from six food groups (staple foods, vegetables, fruits, animal source foods, legumes nuts and seeds, and oils and fats) make up the reference healthy diet.

The consumer prices of these foods are obtained from the World Bank International Comparison Programme (ICP) and are updated using national consumer food price indices. For international comparisons, prices are converted into international dollars using purchasing parity (PPP) exchange rates, and national income distributions. The affordability threshold is defined as 52 percent of the average household expenditures.

### Future prospects

The availability of these indicators at the global, regional and country level now sets the stage for increased accountability, using timely data on retail prices of nutritious food items in all countries of the world. Future work will accelerate price data updates.

This initiative is part of the broader commitment that FAO has to generate evidence to advise countries on their food and nutrition policies. FAO encourages its Members and all stakeholders to expand the computing and reporting of these indicators to the subnational level, thereby contributing to the pursuit of more tailored policies and programmes to have greater impact on the ground. FAO and the Government of Pakistan are already working on such an approach.

The next report on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World will be launched in July 2023.

# WINDWARD ISLANDS FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE CORRIDOR SET TO GO!

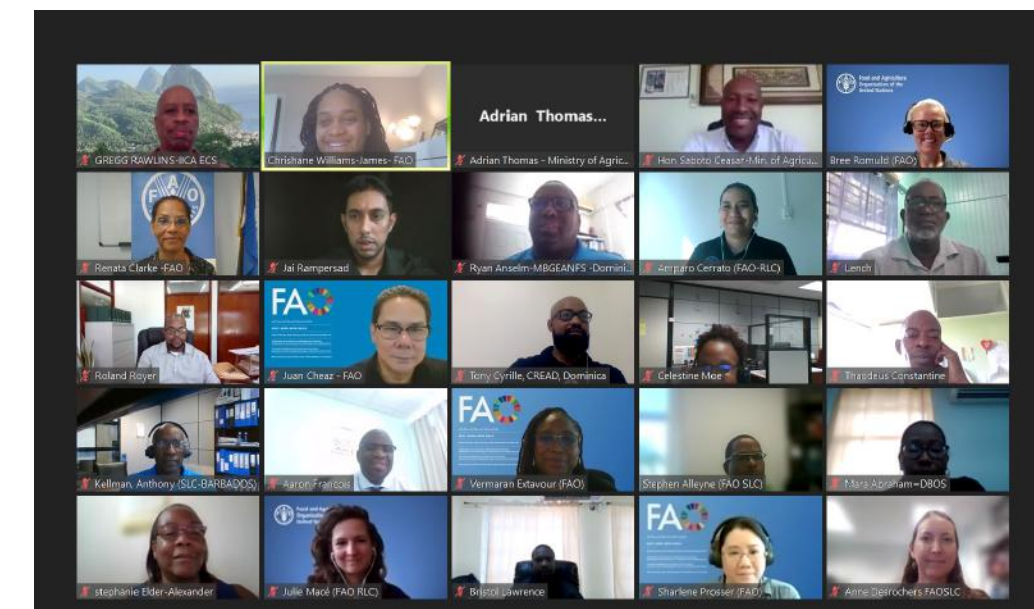
## The Governments of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines give a resounding commitment to supporting and amplifying efforts to increase local production and export of agricultural produce.

**Bridgetown, Barbados** – Over 50 stakeholders, government representatives and regional partners participated in the launch of a two-year regional cluster of projects on Promoting Windward Islands Food Production and Trade Corridor through National and Regional Value Chain Development, held virtually on February 3, 2023.

The cluster of projects, being carried out in the islands of the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, are being implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the respective Governments.

During the launch, discussions centred on the need for creating a collaborative environment that encouraged the growth and profitability potential for several commodities by building resilient, competitive, and sustainable value chains in each country. Unwavering support from each country to achieve these outcomes, that would replace food imports and improve production to ensure greater export potential to domestic and foreign markets, was highly emphasized. This was met by strong agreement and commitment from the Ministers of Agriculture and regional partners on their crucial role in ensuring the success of the initiative that is already under implementation.

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Honourable Saboto Caesar, remarked that there was a need for a broad consolidated marketing platform, like the previous Windward Islands banana industry, to create



PARTICIPANTS- REGIONAL LAUNCH OF THE WINWARD ISLANDS FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE CORRIDOR I

the economies of scale and scope to move commodities collaboratively through the Islands to exporters and harness the opportunities in extra-regional markets. He added that the initiative being launched was the first step in rebuilding such a consolidated platform and network within the Windward Islands, with plans over time to expand this initiative to other OECS countries. Minister Caesar highlighted some of plans underway in St Vincent and the Grenadines to support these efforts. He concluded that while FAO will create an enabling environment for the development of these agricultural industries that will promote food security and nutrition security, it will be imperative for each government to take onus of the initiative and find additional resources to support the development of their industries and exports.

Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries and Cooperatives of Grenada, Honourable Adrian Thomas, shared some of the plans and partnerships

already underway to support the initiative. He added that Grenada welcomed the initiative that would also greatly benefit their farmers, especially with the country's renewed energy to rebuild the agriculture sector following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Ivan and the impacts of COVID-19. He emphasised the country's attention to root crop production and building agri-businesses to be better positioned to compete with processed imports and on the global markets. He concluded that Grenada was prepared to work with other Winward Island countries to transform the whole agricultural sector and increase exports.

Honourable Roland Royer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy of the Commonwealth of Dominica endorsed the country's participation in the initiative and noted that Dominica was ready to continue efforts in developing its value chains.

The countries commended FAO on this visionary initiative that would

be catalytic in its results, with the full cooperation of governments and partners.

Mr Stephen Fevrier, from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission confirmed the organization's full support for this timely and innovative initiative and congratulated the region on coming together on this important endeavour.

Similar remarks were shared by Mr Gregg Rawlins from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), who confirmed the agency's full commitment and support to the initiative and welcomed the commitment of the member countries. He highlighted that IICA was ready to engage in discussions that would lead to the alignment of its work with efforts under the cluster of projects.

The remarks from the governments and partners echoed the sentiments of FAO Sub-regional Coordinator, Dr Renata Clarke in ensuring that other regional projects and initiatives worked together to support the countries in boosting local production, creating jobs, supporting livelihoods, and increasing exports. She acknowledged the transformative impact that collaboration between the countries and regional partners such as IICA, the OECS Commission and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) could have on these efforts.

Over the coming weeks, individual rapid value chain assessments and upgrading strategies will be carried out among stakeholders in each country, with on the ground implementation to follow immediately.



# CDB CALLS FOR NEW FINANCING SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

**Bridgetown, Barbados** – The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) continues to work with countries in the region to build resilience recognising the impact of climate change on all aspects of economies says Mr Ian Durant, the Bank’s Director of Economics. “Climate change represents one of the greatest challenges in human history...It is no longer a hypothesis, but a fact that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most vulnerable to climate change, with Caribbean SIDS especially being exposed to more frequent and intense climate events. Paradise as we know it is under severe threat,” he stated.

Speaking at the Conference on the Economy hosted by the University of the West Indies, Saint Augustine on November 3, Mr Durant highlighted the Bank’s interventions in the area and advocated for diverse strategies to safeguard the region’s future. “Sustainable sources of funding for disaster risk management, including increasing access to concessional resources and targeted instruments, is a critical imperative to help the region build adaptive and climate-resilient



infrastructure,” he said. Building resilience also involves advanced budgeting and planning, The Director indicated, adding that disaster risk management strategies in the economic domain must be developed and can include natural disaster and pandemic escape clauses in financing instruments, as well as budget reallocation, external credit, temporary tax increases and donor assistance.

According to Mr Durant “In small, open economies... where foreign exchange earnings are critical to the orderly functioning of the economy, the

interruption and extended loss of earnings erode foreign exchange buffers, interrupt livelihoods, create unemployment and usher in additional complications for macroeconomic management, frequently requiring countries to seek foreign exchange support, reorder development priorities and postpone the implementation of medium-term strategies.”

The CDB Executive also said that the Bank recognises that climate change is affecting not only the growth performance and fiscal and foreign exchange buffers, but it is also

posing challenges for labour markets and eroding an already fragile physical capital stock. The finance focused initiatives would therefore seek to further curb the negative impact of climate events in the Caribbean.

Employment, income generation, the natural environment, quality of life, food security and production, were among the areas Mr Durant cited as being negatively affected by climate change. Consequently, while providing financing for climate resilience, CDB has also intervened by strengthening resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster

Risk Management. The Bank has mainstreamed climate change and Disaster Risk Management into its operations; mobilised increased levels of concessional resources; improved climate resilience in vulnerable sectors; strengthened the environment to support climate resilient measures; and improved the capacity in its Borrowing Member Countries to deliver in this area.

Additionally, CDB has provided technical assistance to support improvements and build resilience capacity in critical areas such as physical infrastructure through building

code development, and implementation alongside partner agencies. Furthermore, CDB has actively pursued research in priority areas to aid in building resilience through expanding access to concessional finance. It has advanced the Internal Resilience Capacity (IRC) and Recovery Duration Adjuster (RDA) Vulnerability and Resilience Framework to the international community. These tools incorporate both vulnerability and resilience in addressing development challenges and provide a more equitable yardstick for providing access to concessional finance.

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



## SECURING VESSELS before a storm or hurricane:



Boat moorings, anchors, chains, cables, and ropes should be kept in good condition and rechecked well in advance of a storm or hurricane.



Remove fish pots and gear out of the water at the first warning. Remove boats from water if you can or take them to one of the approved marine shelters.



Make sure that your boat or its moorings, anchors, etc. do not block or otherwise obstruct the navigable channel or other access into mooring or anchorage. Leave room for arriving boats.



If possible, boats should be moored in a group (rafted). Bow lines must be secured, individually tied to trees (never to mangroves), piling, or other strong points on land, allowing sufficient slack for rising tides. The stem too should be similarly secured above ground with an anchor or other strong point on the seabed.



Boats assembled in groups must also be secured to adjacent boats with breast-lines and spring lines forward and aft. Fenders or cushions of car tires should be placed between boats to absorb movement, impact, and friction.



Moorings lines and cables should be of sufficient strength and long enough to absorb any surge or excessively high tides. They must be protected against chafing. Do not tie-up parallel to the bank or shoreline.



Moor and secure your boat well in advance of a tropical storm or hurricane; then, leave it and do not return to it until the storm has passed and the winds and seas have subsided.



If possible, move boats close to the house. Fill the boat with water or sand to weigh it down. Use tie-downs to secure the entire unit to the ground. Strip off and remove all loose or movable accessories.



Relatively large vessels may not fit into the listed marine shelters. Their operators should seek other places to safely secure their vessels which are comparable with respective size and type of vessel or put vessels to sea in due time to travel away from the storm or hurricane to avoid it altogether.

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## SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS AGRO-PROCESSORS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW AND IMPROVED QUALITY STANDARDS

**Bridgetown, Barbados** – The agri-food industry in Saint Kitts and Nevis will benefit from an enhanced national quality infrastructure, thanks to a new project financed by the European Union and the Caribbean Development Bank.

The initiative provides the Saint Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) with new metrology equipment and training, that will accelerate services to agro-processors, enabling them to fulfil quality requirements for international export and enhance food production.

Details of the “Strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure: Training and Equipment for Conformity Assessment” Project were announced during a launch ceremony on Monday, September 26, 2022. Valued at EURO 100,960, it is supported through the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building.

By developing the capacity of the agro-processing industry, the project is expected to make agricultural



MR. CYRIL GILL, PROJECT MANAGER, CARIFORUM-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA) AND CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY (CSME) STANDBY FACILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING; THE HONOURABLE SAMAL DUGGINS, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, COOPERATIVES AND CREATIVE ECONOMY FOR SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS; AND MR. DALE PHOENIX, RESULTS OFFICER, CARIFORUM-EU EPA AND CSME STANDBY FACILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ATTEND THE LAUNCH OF THE “STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE: TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT” PROJECT.

products more competitive and improve market access. The initiative will also promote economic diversification and increase employment opportunities. These outcomes are particularly important to build resilience against socio-economic fallouts given the region's reliance on the tourism sector, which has proven to be highly vulnerable to shocks such as COVID-19 and extreme climate-related events.

Through the Project, the SKNBS will also

accelerate improved quality standards for local food production and the availability of more nutritious food that will reduce food insecurity. More domestic food production can also counteract rising global food costs caused by the pandemic and the war in the Ukraine and contribute to CARICOM's commitment to reduce Member States' food import bill by 25% by 2025.

Mr. Daniel Best, Director of CDB's Projects Department,

delivered remarks during the launch and explained, “Today we commemorate a landmark achievement for the agro-processing sector of Saint Kitts and Nevis that will enhance competitiveness, productivity and market share. CDB is proud to support this Project as it directly aligns with the pillars of the Bank's Agriculture Sector Policy and Strategy Paper 2020-2025 which seeks to promote an enabling environment and infrastructure for efficient agricultural value chains.”

Featured speaker, the Honourable Samal Duggins, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Marine Resources, Entrepreneurship, Cooperatives and Creative Economy, expressed the appreciation of the Government of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the provision of equipment and other support through the Project, and added, “It brings this country closer to the point of being able to establish our export markets where we can really penetrate at a higher level than

we have before. It also advances the commitment of the Ministry of Agriculture to improve our food and nutritional security.”

Mr. Sheldon Jackman, Project Manager for the Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/ CARIFORUM stated, “Increasing capacity of local producers to generate high value high quality products will allow for an increase in exports to key markets within the region and globally. In addition to improving trade facilitation, this Project will strengthen consumer protection; advance private sector development and competitiveness; and increase the provision of quality, reliable, safe, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure.”

Mrs. Yvanette Baron-George, Deputy Programme Manager, CARIFORUM, added, “An effective quality infrastructure forms part of the fundamentals through which productivity can be enhanced and economic growth achieved. This Project will develop capabilities so that the Saint Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards can provide accurate and traceable calibrations to support industrial development.”



# NEW NATIONAL AGRO-PROCESSING FACILITY FOR DOMINICA

## Bridgetown, Barbados

– With the support of the European Union and the Caribbean Development Bank, Dominica is now working to establish a new national agro-processing facility that will strengthen the food value chain, improve quality standards, and widen access to export markets.

Details of this initiative were presented on Wednesday, 14 September 2022 during the launch of the “Development of a Comprehensive Proposal for the Establishment of a National Multi-purpose Agro-processing Facility Project”, a one-year initiative financed by the European Union (EU) and managed by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The Project, valued at EURO 158,710, is supported through the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building.

The agro-processing Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Entrepreneurship,



HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATES AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW STANDBY FACILITY AGRO-PROCESSING PROJECT IN DOMINICA INCLUDED (L-R): MS. HANNAH CLARENDON, CHAIRPERSON, DOMINICA EXPORT AND IMPORT AGENCY (DEXIA); MR. DAVID MOGOLLON, HEAD OF COOPERATION, DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO BARBADOS, THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES, THE OECS AND CARICOM/ CARIFORUM; MS. PAULA PLATSKO, GENERAL MANAGER, DEXIA; MRS. MARGARET ROUDETTE- BAPTISTE, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TRADE, COMMERCE, INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT; MR. MIGUEL ALMEYDA, HEAD OF PRIVATE SECTOR UNIT, CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; THE HONOURABLE FIDEL GRANT, MINISTER OF BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMY, AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY; AND DR. KIRA PAUL, PERMANENT SECRETARY (ACTING), MINISTRY OF BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMY, AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY.

Innovation, Business and Export Development and the Dominica Export Import Agency (DEXIA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security.

The new initiative marks the first phase of the establishment of the new national agro-processing facility in Dominica. It begins an ‘end-to-end’ business design and management framework process that will culminate in the development of a comprehensive sustainability plan. Its

completion will lead to Phase 2, which involves the construction of the building.

The facility will improve value chain cooperation, strengthen distribution, and contribute to the socio-economic resilience of Dominica. It will support the re-positioning of the agro-processing sector through greater export compliance with regional and international markets, including the EU. As national implementation partners, both Ministries and DEXIA liaise with agro-producers so they can directly participate

in and benefit from the Project.

During the Project launch, Mr. Miguel Almeyda, Head of CDB’s Private Sector Unit, emphasised that, “The new facility will not only allow the agriculture sector to better meet quality standards for export, it will also help to achieve greater food security through the availability of more nutritious food for the people of the region. The improved sectoral capacity can also contribute to CARICOM’s commitment to reduce Member States’ food

import bill by 25% by 2025.”

Mrs. Margaret Roudette-Baptiste, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Business Development, spoke at the launch, and added, “The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica expresses sincere gratitude to our development partners as we welcome this Project. We are committed to working with our national partners as well as CDB and the EU towards the successful establishment

of this new agro-processing facility for our country to meet quality standards that strengthen food production value chains and attract more export opportunities.”

Mr. David Mogollon, Head of Cooperation for the Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/ CARIFORUM added, “This Project will foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development to improve Dominica’s agri-food system infrastructure and quality standards. These improvements will come through capacity building and equipping of stakeholders and actors in the national agriculture value chain.”

Mrs. Yvanette Baron-George, Deputy Programme Manager, CARIFORUM, added, “This project will strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Export Development to better coordinate the processing of fresh produce and exploit economies of scale, thereby reducing cost of production and increasing production capacities in Dominica.”

# NEW CLIMATE SMART AQUAPONICS PROJECT FOR FIVE CDB MEMBER COUNTRIES

## BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is expanding its collaboration with INMED Partnerships for Children/ INMED Caribbean to enhance the capacity of small-scale farmers to implement climate-adaptive aquaponics farming and strengthen Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The Increasing Access to Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Caribbean Through INMED Aquaponics® Project will build the capacity of aquaponics enterprises and increase climate resilience in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and The Bahamas by scaling INMED Aquaponics®.

“As economic opportunities for small-scale farmers decline amid significant climate change impacts,

it is imperative to introduce viable, income-generating livelihood alternatives, particularly among our MSMEs” says Lisa Harding, Coordinator Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprise Development at CDB. Innovative solutions are especially needed, as regional economies face a variety of climate-driven events. Global disruptions in the supply chain are delaying the delivery of foodstuff and supplies small-scale farmers depend on to sustain their livelihoods. Through this initiative, the Bank is proactively building climate resilience with an adaptive agriculture model.

The current economic environment has created a renewed focus on support for agricultural enterprise to facilitate an inclusive and resilient recovery. An intensive, climate-smart

food production technique, aquaponics combines aquaculture (fish farming) and hydroponics (soilless crop production) in a closed symbiotic system, dramatically conserving water and space compared to conventional agriculture and yielding up to 10 times more abundant fresh produce plus fish year-round.

“INMED Caribbean first introduced aquaponics to Jamaica in 2011 and has implemented two dozen systems throughout the island for schools, charitable groups, civic organisations, small farm cooperatives and communities to build food security, climate adaptation and income generation,” says Dr. Linda Pfeiffer, Founder and CEO of INMED Partnerships for Children. With key investments from CDB, IDB Lab and the Government

of Jamaica, INMED Caribbean developed a comprehensive model with linkages to markets and financing and other value-chain support for smallholder farmers and emerging agri-entrepreneurs.

“The four nations we are assessing for expansion are well-positioned to benefit from INMED’s training programme because they each have a need and appetite for aquaponics farming,” says INMED Chief Operating Officer Kristin Callahan. INMED Caribbean is conducting research to identify stakeholders for the social enterprise training programme to jumpstart regional aquaponics expansion. The project will involve virtual and in-person training workshops for participants in the pilot country, focusing on underrepresented and low-resource populations.

## AFDB PRESIDENT: FOOD, ENERGY AND HEALTH SECURITY ARE PRIORITIES FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND AFRICA TO OVERCOME MUTUAL GLOBAL CHALLENGES



PROVIDENCIALES, Turks and Caicos Islands – Food security, energy security and health security are among the key building blocks needed to overcome the current global challenges which threaten to stymie development on both the African continent and in the Caribbean region.

President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, shared this view as well as lessons for the Caribbean from the AfDB’s experiences, on Tuesday night in delivering the 2022 William G Demas Memorial Lecture.

The lecture, ‘Development in a Context of Global Challenges:

Experiences and Lessons from the African Development Bank’, was part of the Caribbean Development Bank’s (CDB) 52nd Annual Meeting, being held in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

With the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict negatively impacting energy prices, global supply chains and food security, Dr Adesina outlined how the AfDB had responded and continues to respond to these challenges.

Stating that the COVID-19 experience had shone a light on vaccine

CONTINUES ON PAGE 41



# SAINT LUCIA'S FARMERS AND AGRO-PROCESSORS RECEIVING EU, CDB ASSISTANCE TO SUPPLY NEW MARKETS



**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados -** Export growth and stronger food security will be the focus of a new project in Saint Lucia supported by the European Union (EU) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The project entitled "Enhancing the Capacity of Stakeholders in the Agricultural Sector to Supply Quality Products in new Markets" will ensure inclusive and sustainable development along the agriculture value chain. CDB's Vice President of Operations Mr Isaac Solomon stated that, "This exciting new initiative, facilitated through the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building, is designed to improve the lives and livelihoods of the people of Saint Lucia and the Caribbean through strengthened trade and increased economic opportunities," adding that the project reflects an investment in the transformation of local agriculture and agro-processing.

Setting the context for the intervention, Mr Anthony Herman, President of Belle Vue Farmers' Cooperative indicated that there is

long term value to be gained from the activities which include training for farmers and agro-processors in good agricultural and other practices through an arrangement with the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, the construction and upgrade of pack houses and provision of a refrigerated truck to minimize food loss.

According to another beneficiary, Ms Naila Mangal of Mangal Trading Inc., "Today, I want all of you to take stock of how this project will benefit me, a young, female, agricultural entrepreneur. I am excited about the possibilities that are ahead, all thanks to the commencement of this project. This project will open new doors not only for me but for other female farmers and exporters.... These are the types of projects that we need to push the sector forward, and I am confident that it will do just that.... The work is only just beginning, but the benefits will last a lifetime."

Saint Lucia's Minister for Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs, the Honourable Emma Hippolyte, who spoke at the launch event in Saint Lucia expressed

pleasure that the project commenced, "The farmers of Saint Lucia, have for a very long time carried the weight of this country, and it has been through their toils that our people have progressed to where they are today," she said. "Strengthened by the resilience of the farmers, the government was keen to match that resilience with advancements in processing, technology and standards with continuous diversification beyond bananas in mind. The project which targets fresh produce for export markets, is welcomed and timely."

The European Union's Project Officer, Mr Sheldon Jackman, stated that "The results are expected to go a long way in advancing the competitiveness of the private sector; improving the infrastructure and quality standards of the agri-food system, while building the capacity among the agriculture value chain actors in St. Lucia." Further, it will deepen access to international markets for products emanating from rural farming communities in St Lucia which in turn will lead to economic empowerment through job creation, particularly for women and youth.

The project valued at EC925,862, is being implemented by Export Saint Lucia as part of its mandate to boost agricultural exports. It concludes in 18 months. Export Saint Lucia's Chief Executive Officer Ms Sunita Daniel indicated that "At the heart of all exports, whether goods or services, are the people who make them happen. The team at Export Saint Lucia strongly believes in regular and relevant capacity building. It is in the country's best interest that we seek out these types of opportunities for our clients. We are especially pleased with the capacity building component of this project which will be delivered virtually, reaching farmers and other stakeholders wherever they are."

The Standby Facility which is financing the project is a EUR 8.75 million resource managed by CDB which offers opportunities to 15 Caribbean economies to grow trade, deepen integration and economic involvement, impact competitiveness, market access and exports by implementing targeted projects in thematic areas. There are over 20 Standby Facility projects being implemented across the region.

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# FOOD SECURITY: FROM TALK TO ACTION

“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” – Matthew 15:8:

By: DR. BASIL SPRINGER

St. Lucian Nobel Prize winner Sir Arthur Lewis posited (circa 1950) that “... in the West Indies islands, it is not the case that agriculture cannot continue to develop if industry is developed, indeed they reinforce each other.”

By extension, 72 years later we can further posit that in CARICOM, it is not the case that agriculture and industry cannot continue to develop if digitization is developed, indeed they reinforce each other.

In CARICOM countries we are faced with feeding local populations, our visitors, and we can exploit the export market for exotic Caribbean foods.

Food security, timely food supply and delivery to all markets, is facilitated by agricultural development.

The basic resources of arable land, sea and technology are available in CARICOM even though climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently the Russia-Ukraine war are external threats which have and will inhibit progress on the path towards food security.

In response to major labor protests and rebellions which swept across the Caribbean between 1934 and 1938, The Moyne Report was published by the United Kingdom at the end of the Second World War and addressed many issues, including agricultural development.

Why then do we not have a comprehensive coordinated program for agricultural development in the Caribbean rather than a piecemeal

## FOOD SECURITY: FROM TALK TO ACTION



- Food demand - Local, tourists, exports
- Food supply and delivery - Land, sea, technology
- Vision - Global Business Innovation Corporation
- Action - Caribbean Food Business Innovation Revolution
- Facilitation - Caribbean Export Development Agency

approach by territory? The answer is that lip service only is paid to the issue of food security.

There have been no sustainable solutions for agricultural development in the past 77 years and many billions of dollars of national and donor funds have been wasted.

I reflect on a company called the Global Business Innovation Corporation (GBIC), registered in the U.S. in 2015.

The principals who organized around this endeavor included Guyanese-American Dr. Owen Carryl (an Open Innovation Expert); Caribbean-American communicator Bevan Springer (Public Relations and Marketing); Brazilian Diego Bolson Ruzzarin (a Food Design Expert); and me (Shepherding for MSMEs). The establishment of GBIC resulted in the birth of the Caribbean Food Business Innovation Revolution (CFBIR), a market-pull initiative. It was launched in Trinidad and Tobago

in 2015 to a packed house. The presentations captured the interest of the audience as to how food and beverage manufacturers could quickly gain access to the U.S. market, in particular, with products which were appropriately developed to satisfy the needs of U.S. consumers.

I was privileged to have been the official observer for Marketplace Excellence (MPE), on behalf of Caribbean Media Partners (CMP), at the launch of Caribbean Export Development Agency's 2021 Annual Results Report at the Barbados Hilton Hotel earlier this month.

MPE and CMP were responsible for sharing the news from this event to regional and global audiences. CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, congratulated Caribbean Export – the agency tasked with supporting private sector development in the Caribbean – for focusing on delivering practical results.

She saluted pioneers working across the green economy, creative industries, and agriculture, which she described as a critical area where investment is needed to build food security.

It was my first appearance at an official in-person event for the two years of restrictions due to COVID-19 and I was very happy to be reacting once again with the Caribbean Export hierarchy.

There resides great partnership potential between the above-mentioned entities to help revive food security throughout CARICOM, CARIFORUM, the OECS, and elsewhere across the region.

I shall remain inspired by the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., who once stated that “change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.”

Let's focus on action.

## Hurricane Preparation

saves lives and property,  
be wise to survive the storm.  
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# ALWAYS BE PREPARE BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

## NOAA's National Weather Service

The best time to prepare is before hurricane season begins. Avoid having to rush through potentially life-saving preparations by waiting until it's too late. Get your disaster supplies while the shelves are still stocked, and get that insurance checkup early, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.

Develop an evacuation plan  
If you are at risk from hurricane impacts, you need an evacuation plan. Now is the time to begin planning where you would go and how you would get there. You do not need to travel hundreds of miles. Your destination could be a friend or relative who lives in a well built home outside flood prone areas. Plan several routes. Be sure to account for your pets.

## Assemble disaster supplies

Whether you're evacuating or sheltering-in-place, you're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm but for the potentially lengthy and unpleasant aftermath. Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your family a minimum of 3 days (store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). Electricity and water could be out for weeks. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio and flashlights. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones. And lastly, don't forget your pets!



IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

### Get an insurance checkup & document your possessions

Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough insurance to repair or even replace your home and/or belongings. Remember, home and renters insurance doesn't cover flooding, so you'll need a separate policy for it. Flood insurance is available through your company, agent, or the National Flood Insurance Program at floodsmart.gov. Act now, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.

Take the time before hurricane season begins to document your possessions: photos, serial numbers, or anything else that you may need

to provide your insurance company when filing a claim.

### Create a communication plan

Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan, and share it with your family. Determine family meeting places, and make sure to include an out-of-town location in case of evacuation. Write down on paper a list of emergency contacts, and make sure to include utilities and other critical services — remember, the internet may not be accessible during or after a storm.

### Strengthen Your Home

Now is the time to improve your home's ability to withstand hurricane impacts. Trim trees. Install storm shutters, accordion shutters, and/or impact glass. Seal outside wall openings. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand hurricane-force winds. Many retrofits are not as costly or time consuming as you may think. If you're a renter, work with your landlord now to prepare for a storm.

And remember - now is the time to purchase the proper plywood, steel or aluminum panels to have on hand if you need to board up the windows and doors ahead of an approaching storm.

## AFDB PRESIDENT: FOOD, ENERGY AND HEALTH SECURITY ARE PRIORITIES FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND AFRICA TO OVERCOME MUTUAL GLOBAL CHALLENGES

nationalism, overconcentration of capacity and inequities in global supply, the AfDB President underscored that in addition, "the global system of COVAX designed to provide vaccines for the developing countries failed developing countries."

He highlighted the negative impact of this, stating:

*"The vaccination rate in low-income developing countries is only 16% compared to over 80% for developed economies. While the developed economies were coasting to economic recovery on the back of booster shots, African countries, as well as countries in the Caribbean and other low-income developing countries, were struggling to get basic shots."*

He noted that this has been further exacerbated due to intellectual property rights battles at the World Trade Organisation over Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) related to vaccines, an impasse which he said, "endangers lives at the expense of profits for pharmaceutical companies."

In response, the AfDB is developing an **African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation** to provide IPR protection so that pharmaceutical companies can deliver vaccine manufacturing technology, knowledge and processes to pharmaceutical companies in Africa.

**Dr Adesina** emphasised: "Africa should no longer outsource the health security of its 1.3 billion (people) to the benevolence of others. And neither should the Caribbean."

On the topic of food security, the AfDB **President** highlighted that in both the Caribbean and Africa, the negative impacts of climate change are felt in the agricultural sector and this, combined with looming shortages prompted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, threatens food security.

He spoke of how the Bank's **Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT)** programme has helped deliver climate smart seeds to farmers in several African countries and in so doing,

has been able to get ahead of current wheat shortages. Under the **TAAT** programme, Sudan reduced wheat importation by 50% in two years, while Ethiopia was able to cut wheat imports altogether.

The AfDB also recently approved the \$1.5 billion **African Emergency Food Production Facility** to help advance food security in the face of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

*"We all agreed it is time to support Africa to produce its food. It is time to have food sovereignty. The same must apply to the Caribbean. A recent survey by CARICOM and the World Food Program shows that food insecurity has increased by 72% among the population of the English speaking Caribbean countries,"* said **Dr Adesina**.

*"Food aid cannot feed Africa. Food aid cannot feed the Caribbean. Africa and the Caribbean need seeds in the ground and mechanical harvesters to harvest bountiful food produced locally,"* he stressed.

Regarding energy security, the AfDB head insisted the first two priorities must be to "ensure access and affordability of electricity... Second, there must be security of supply."

To that end, he highlighted the AfDB's ongoing heavy investment in renewable energy, including the \$20 billion **Desert-to-Power** initiative in Africa's Sahelian zone, which is set to become the world's largest solar zone.

He also lauded the efforts of the Caribbean in pursuing renewable energy, noting:

*"The Caribbean region also has significant potential in renewable energy, and I applaud the efforts being made to unlock the potential. From the 50 MW El Soco Solar farm, worth \$90 million, to Barbados' plan to construct this year a \$25 million, 10 MW solar plant located in Mangrove, St. Philip, to using wave energy to develop a 40 MW ocean commercial power park, to Jamaica's plans to develop electric car charging stations, and the microgrid energy systems being developed by the British Virgin Islands."*

## SHARP RISE IN FOOD INSECURITY IN THE CARIBBEAN, SURVEY FINDS

**BRIDGETOWN** – An estimated 2.8 million people or nearly 40 percent of the population in the English-speaking Caribbean is food insecure, 1 million more than in April 2020, according to the results of a recent survey conducted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Severe food insecurity continues to increase in the region with the current figure 72 percent higher when compared to April 2020. Highlighting the lasting impact of the pandemic, two years in, the results demonstrate deteriorating food consumption and diets with 25 percent of respondents eating less preferred foods, 30 percent skipping meals or eating less than usual and 5 percent going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey.

"Having the opportunity to assess how the pandemic has impacted the livelihoods and food security of more than 20,000 respondents across the past two years has provided the CARICOM Secretariat with invaluable data that is being used to inform regional priorities in the short and medium term," said Shaun Baugh, Agriculture and Agro-Industrial Development Programme Manager at the CARICOM Secretariat.

High food prices continue to affect people's ability to afford a nutritious diet with 93 percent of respondents reporting higher prices for food compared to 59 percent in April 2020. The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is expected to create an even deeper impact on the cost of basic goods and services in the Caribbean.

"An import dependent region, the

Caribbean continues to feel the socio-economic strain of COVID-19 which is now being compounded by the conflict in Ukraine. With most COVID-19 assistance programmes having concluded, many families are expected to face an even greater challenge to meet their basic food and other essential needs in the months to come," said Regis Chapman, WFP Representative and Country Director for the Caribbean Multi-Country Office.

"In the short to medium term, it is increasing pressure on governments to identify solutions to ensure families can meet their essential needs. Innovation in agri-food systems and regional supply chains, coupled with continued support to the most vulnerable households, will be essential to improving the resilience of regional food systems so that prices can be kept as stable as

possible."

Along with the latest survey results, an interactive dashboard allows for comparison between different survey rounds and across several countries. It also provides data on the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods, access to markets and food security by country in the Caribbean.

CARICOM, WFP and other partners continue to work together to increase resilience to shocks through stronger disaster management, social protection and food systems that are more effective, sustainable and responsive in meeting the needs of those most affected by crises.

The survey was supported by the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance.



# UNDERSTAND FORECAST INFORMATION

NOAA's National Weather Service

## Have trusted sources for storm information

Rely on official forecasts and well-established media partners in the Weather Enterprise. Be cautious of sensational headlines and instead look for reliable sources to determine a storm's potential impacts. Use the official National Hurricane Center Forecast — their hurricane specialists access a variety of data (models, aircraft, satellite) to make the most accurate forecasts possible. Meteorologists at local NWS offices understand which locations in your area are most vulnerable to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Always check to make sure you have the latest forecast information. Make sure to have Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled on your phone to receive Warnings.

## Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch & Warning

In general, a Watch means impacts are possible; a Warning means impacts are expected or happening. Different hazards and alerts require different responses:

- A **Hurricane Watch** means hurricane conditions are possible somewhere within the watch area, with tropical-storm-force winds beginning within the next 48 hours. Prepare by boarding up windows and moving loose items indoors, and make sure your emergency kit is ready. A Hurricane Warning means hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area, with tropical-storm-force winds beginning within 36 hours. Seek shelter in a sturdy structure or evacuate if ordered.

*Hurricane Preparedness* weather.gov/hurricane

## Understand Forecast Information

- ✓ Rely on forecasts from the National Hurricane Center & your local NWS office
- ⚠ Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch and Warning
- 🏠 Focus on potential impacts, regardless of storm size or category
- 🌊 Know that deadly hazards occur well outside of the Forecast Cone

IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

- A **Tropical Storm Watch** means tropical storm conditions are possible within the next 48 hours, a Tropical Storm Warning means they are expected somewhere within the warning area. Remember, a tropical system does not have to reach hurricane strength to be deadly.
- A Storm Surge Watch means the possibility of life-threatening inundation generally within 48 hours, and a Storm Surge Warning means the danger of life-threatening inundation generally within 36 hours. In either case, please promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.
- A **Flash Flood Warning** means dangerous flash flooding is expected: move to higher ground, and never walk or drive through floodwater. A Flash Flood Emergency is issued

for exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage is happening or about to happen — do NOT attempt to travel unless you are under an evacuation order or your life is imminently at risk.

- A **Flood Watch** means flooding is possible: stay tuned to trusted news sources and be ready to seek higher ground. A Flood Warning means flooding is happening or about to happen: move to higher ground immediately.

## Focus on potential impacts regardless of storm size or category

Do not focus on a specific storm category; all hurricanes and tropical storms can bring life-threatening storm surge, inland flooding, and damaging winds. The storm's scale only tells you about the strongest winds near the center of the storm

and does not tell you about potentially life-threatening flooding from storm surge or rain. Remain vigilant even if the winds have weakened and the storm becomes a lower category or tropical storm — rainfall and storm surge impacts often continue.

## Deadly hazards occur well outside of the cone

Impacts can be felt far from the storm's center, even well inland and outside the Forecast Cone. Remember: the storm itself can stretch well beyond the Forecast Cone, and so can the impacts.

The National Hurricane Center Forecast Cone shows the probable forecast track of the center of the storm. This means that the storm's center will probably travel somewhere within the cone's boundaries. (Historically, the storm's center has remained within the forecasted cone roughly two-thirds of the time.) The cone does NOT represent the size of the storm in any way.

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



## BE PROACTIVE | STAY SAFE

### Fishers and fishing communities should take steps to prepare for any disaster!



### STAY INFORMED

Carefully follow official information from authoritative sources about severe weather systems and hurricanes.



### BE AWARE OF RISKS

Safeguard against hazards such as high winds and turbulent seas, storm surge and storm tide, rip currents, heavy rainfall and flooding, and tornadoes.



### MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Have an emergency kit with supplies, enough food, water, medicine and other essentials that will last for at least two weeks.

The CRFM cautions fishers against operating vessels under adverse weather conditions and urges all fishers to act early to secure boats and store fishing gear and basic supplies like ropes, lines, hooks, coolers, crimps and crimpers in the event of an approaching storm. This will help to ensure that fishers can protect their livelihoods and return to fishing more quickly after the storm passes and minimize lost and abandoned fishing gear that will continue to 'ghost fish.'

MONITOR AND LISTEN TO THE RADIO FOR REGULAR WEATHER REPORTS, WARNINGS, AND MARINE NOTICES.



### SERVING 17 MEMBER STATES

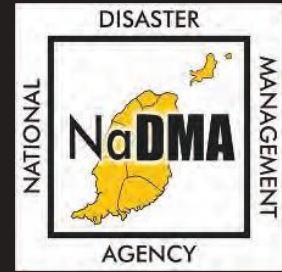
- Anguilla | Antigua and Barbuda | The Bahamas | Barbados | Belize | Dominica | Grenada | Guyana | Haiti | Jamaica | Montserrat | St. Kitts and Nevis | St. Lucia | St. Vincent and the Grenadines | Suriname | Trinidad and Tobago | and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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# NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCY LIST OF 2023 SHELTERS

**EMERGENCY SHELTERS:** Shelter people can go to before a pending system approaches, remain during and after the system has passed.

## ST. GEORGE'S

1. New Hampshire Community Center
2. New Hampshire Methodist Center
3. Constantine Methodist School
4. New Hampshire Faith Church
5. St. Mary Junior School
6. Boca Secondary School
7. Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic School (Beaulieu)
8. Nativity Catholic School (Vendome)
9. Beaulieu S.D.A Church
10. Ebenezer Church of God Learning Center
11. Anglican High School
12. Grenada Boy's Secondary School
13. St. Joseph's Convent (St. George's)
14. J.W. Fletcher Catholic Secondary School
15. Presentation Brothers College
16. St. George's Anglican Junior School (Ground Floor)
17. Calliste Government School
18. Grand Anse Maranathas S.D.A. Church (Mt. Toute)
19. Grand Anse Baptist Church
20. South St. George Government School (Springs)
21. Maranathas Independent Baptist Church
22. Woburn Methodist School
23. Bethel Methodist Church Hall
24. Marian Prototype Shelter
25. St. Paul's Government School
26. Springs Open Bible Church
27. St. Joseph's R.C. School (Morne Jaloux)

28. Happy Hill Secondary School
29. Uganda Martyrs Catholic School (Happy Hill)
30. Mt. Moritz Community Center
31. Mt. Moritz S.D.A Church
32. Mt. Moritz Anglican School
33. Fontenoy Community Center
34. Grand Mal S.D.A Church

## ST. JOHN

1. Mt. Granby S.D.A Church
2. Concord S.D.A Church
3. Black Bay Anglican Church
4. NEWLO
5. St. Rose Modern Secondary School
6. St. Peter's Catholic School
7. St. John's Christian Secondary School
8. Maran Development Center
9. Clozier Community Center
10. Florida S.D.A Church

## ST. MARK

1. Fellowship New Testament Church
2. St. Mark's Secondary School
3. Union Community Complex

## ST. PATRICK

1. McDonald College
2. St. Patrick's Anglican School
3. Hermitage Government School
4. Snell Hall S.D.A Church/ Pre-School

5. Rose Hill S.D.A Church
6. Rose Hill Development Center
7. Mt. Rose S.D.A Church
8. Mt. Rose S.D.A Primary School
9. River Sallee S.D.A Church
10. Samaritan Presbyterian School

## ST. ANDREW

1. Mama Cannes Resource Center
2. Telescope Primary School
3. Soubise S.D.A Church
4. Holy Cross R.C. School
5. Holy Innocent Anglican School
6. St. Andrew's R.C. School
7. St. Joseph's Convent (Grenville)
8. Birchgrove New Testament Church
9. Union Community Center
10. Fond Preschool
11. Grand Bra Community Center
12. Harford Village Community Center
13. Belair Government School
14. Pearls Community Center
15. Moyah S.D.A Church
16. Sacred Heart Catholic School (Tivoli)
17. St. Mary's R.C. School
18. Mirabeau Pentecostal Church
19. Mirabeau S.D.A Church
20. Paraclete Government School
21. Paradise S.D.A Church
22. Maranatha Church
23. La Poterie S.D.A Church
24. Morne Longue Pentecostal Campsite

## ST. DAVID

1. Westerhall S.D.A Church
2. Westerhall Secondary School
3. Corinth Government School
4. St. Dominic's R.C. School
5. St. Theresa's R.C. School (Vincennes)
6. St. David's Catholic School
7. St. Joseph's R.C. School (Pomme Rose)
8. Crochu Multi-Purpose Center
9. St. Martin de Porres Catholic School (Crochu)

## CARRIACOU

1. Bogles Community Center
2. Harvey Vale Government School
3. Hillsborough Government School
4. Glad Tidings Church
5. Dover Government School
6. Mt. Pleasant Government School
7. Harvey Vale Community Center
8. Hillsborough Secondary School

## PETITE MARTINIQUE

1. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School (PM R.C.)
2. Petite Martinique R.C. Church

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# TERMS USED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT



**DISASTER** – a situation resulting from an environmental phenomenon or human-induced conflict that produces stress, personal injury, physical damage, and economic disruption of great magnitude. It causes intense negative impacts on people, goods, services and/or the

environment and exceeds the effective community's capability to respond to it. It is important to note that even though disasters are referred to by the event that caused them; a disaster is not the event itself. For example, an earthquake is a natural phenomenon; if it does not strike a populated area

with weak buildings, it is not likely to be a disaster.

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT** – is a collective term, encompassing all aspects for and responding to emergencies and disasters including both pre and post activities; the management of risk and consequences of an event.

**DISASTER RECOVERY** – is the planned and coordinated process of supporting disaster affected communities in reconstruction of the environment, physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical welfare of the population.

**EMERGENCY** – a period of time in which there is a clear and marked deterioration in the coping abilities of

a group or community. Additionally, it is a situation in which coping abilities are only sustained by unusual initiatives by the group / community, or by external intervention.

**HAZARD** – is a potential occurrence of a natural or man-made event/disaster that has negative consequences.

**RISK** – is the probability that a disaster will occur given the hazard and vulnerability.

**VULNERABILITY** – is the susceptibility of persons, structures or systems to be affected by a hazard.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Any change in global temperatures and precipitation over time due to natural variability or to human activity.

# STAY PROTECTED DURING STORMS

## NOAA's National Weather Service

During a storm, whether you've evacuated or are sheltering in place, know what to expect from the hazards you may face. Remain vigilant, stay up-to-date with the latest forecasts and alerts, and continue to listen to local officials.

### Stay in your safe places from water & wind

Always keep a safe distance from flooded and damaged areas. When you're at risk from storm surge or flooding, it's important to get to high ground away from bodies of water and any flood-prone areas. Evacuate if told to do so. Never drive through floodwaters or compromised bridges. Always pay attention to barriers and signage.

If your house becomes flooded and you're still there, get higher in your house to escape the flood waters. If the highest floor of your home becomes dangerous, get on the roof and call 911.

Though rain and storm surge cause more direct deaths, wind can also be very destructive and deadly in hurricanes. Winds can be stronger higher above ground level. This can put high-rise buildings at a greater risk. To protect yourself from wind, the best thing you can do is put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. An interior room without windows is the safest place you can be in a building. You can cover yourself with a mattress and wear a helmet for added protection. If your area is under an Extreme Wind Warning, take shelter

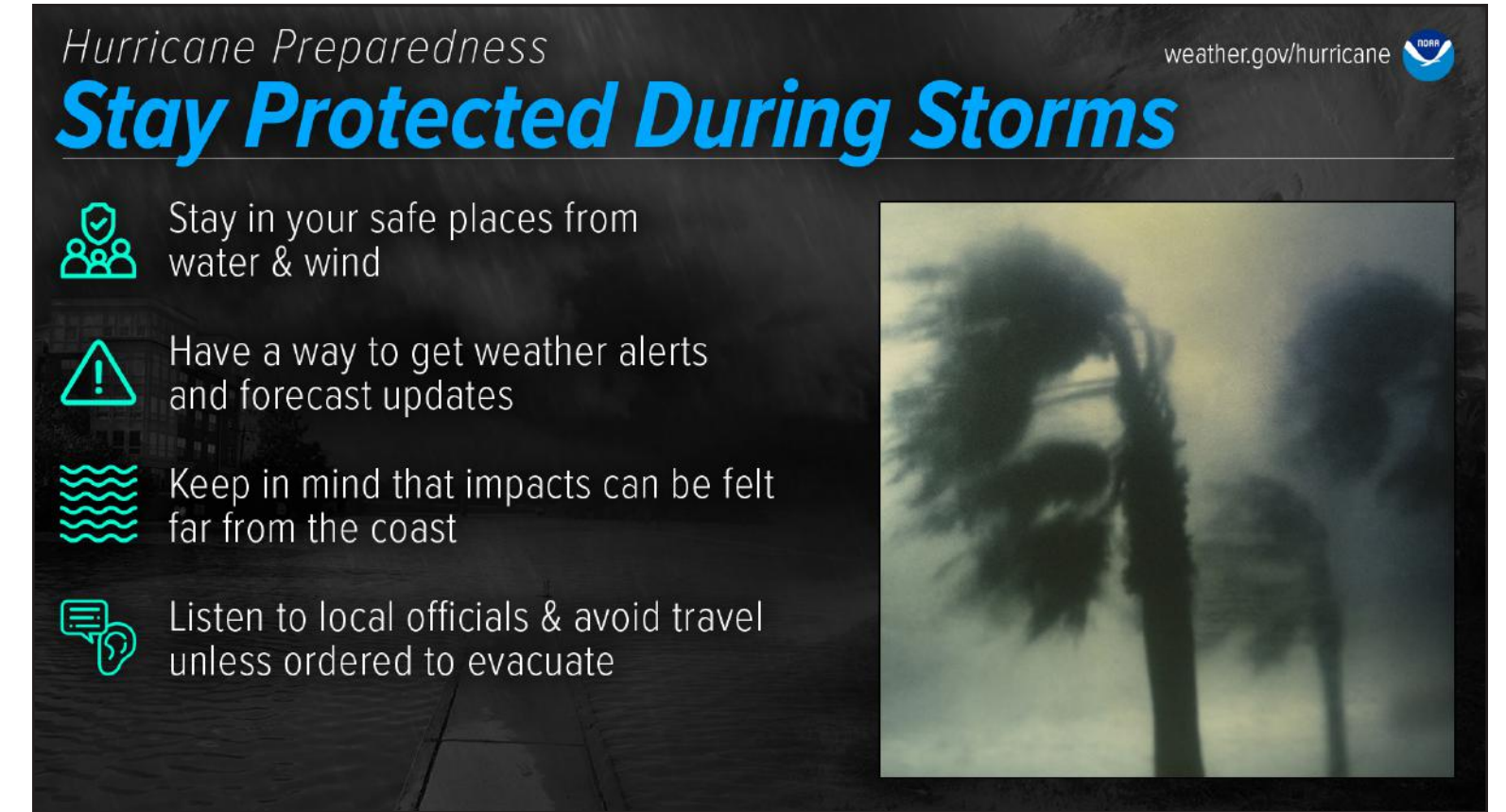


IMAGE CREDIT: NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

immediately. Make sure to stay sheltered until the threat is gone.

### Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates

Make sure to have Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled on your phone to receive Warnings and other alerts. Always pay attention to the latest forecast as conditions can change quickly and storms can rapidly intensify from a tropical storm to a major hurricane. Even small changes in the storm's track can make a big difference.

### Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast

Remain vigilant even if you're far from the most damaging winds. Inland flooding can be felt hundreds

of miles from the coast. Never drive through floodwaters! A car can be swept away with only a foot of water, and there's no way to know if the road itself has collapsed when hidden by water.

### Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate

Local officials can provide you with up-to-date information as the situation changes in your area. Evacuation orders may still be given at this late stage — leave immediately if ordered! Follow recommended evacuation routes — do not take shortcuts, as they may be blocked. Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Never drive through floodwaters.

## NAMED STORMS FOR 2023 HURRICANE SEASON

- Arlene
- Bret
- Cindy
- Don
- Emily

### Franklin

Gert

### Harold

- Idalia
- Jose
- Katia
- Lee
- Margot
- Nigel
- Ophelia
- Phillippe
- Rina
- Sean
- Tammy
- Vince
- Whitney

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



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