MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Consolidating Food and Nutrition Security in the Region
Increasing Economic Opportunities and Entrepreneurship for Rice & Other Agriculture

October 20-22, 2014

In collaboration with IIICA & FAO
RATIONALE

Agriculture is paramount to economic growth and development in Guyana, making an annual contribution of 25% to GDP. It accounts for 33% of employment and half (50%) of export earnings. The sector comprises four principal sub-sectors, namely rice, sugar, non-traditional agricultural commodities (fruits, vegetables, coconuts and livestock) and fisheries.

Increasing emphasis is being placed by the Government of Guyana (GOG) to further diversify the non-traditional agricultural sector and fisheries as this is central to the country’s food & nutrition security supplying a diversity of plant and animal products for local consumption and as part of its role in the Jagdeo Initiative (JI) within the context of food security in CARICOM.

Rice in all forms is the most important food in the world today with more than half of the world’s population depending on it for sustenance. Its cultivation and use is so old, that the origins and early history of the crop are unknown. The demand for rice is still increasing due to increased population in the countries for which rice is a traditional food item and the growing habit of rice consumption in other parts of the world.

Rice production in Guyana has experienced dramatic growth over the last decade underlining the need to analyse the progress made while simultaneously prepare a course for sustaining the rice industry of the region. Some of the rice producing countries of the Region can learn some lessons from the unique public private partnership model developed here.

There are some aspects of rice and other agriculture products which are well known and documented, however, there are other strategically important areas in which information is lacking and needs to be addressed for the future. The more important of these are:

- Identify the best practices/technology that will increase productivity and maintain a competitive and sustainable sector in a changing climate.
• Market dynamics in relation to Trade Opportunities and Tariffs under the CSME, WTO, FTAA, EPA, LAC, and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade agreements

• Demonstrate the need for improved/increased Storage, Shipping, and Logistics in rice and other commodities.

• Availability of land and water resources and potential for increased production

• Crop management in mechanised production systems, including varietal suitability

It is necessary to give full consideration to these important issues in an endeavour to better understand how these factors in present day circumstances and in the immediate future impact on production and marketing of rice and other agriculture. It is for this reason that the Government of Guyana is convening a Conference under the theme “Consolidating Food and Nutrition Security in the Region - Increasing Economic Opportunities and Entrepreneurship for Rice & Other Agriculture”, in Georgetown, Guyana, October 20th to 22nd, 2014.
**Presentation Categories**

Papers and posters can be submitted under any of the following categories:

**Global issues**
Demands & supply, pricing, policies and implications, Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues, Trade arrangements, Environmental and related Socio-economics

**Regional related issues**
Issues related to Trade opportunities and Tariff under CSME, FTAA, EU, LAC agreements for rice and barriers to trade for other agriculture.

**Marketing**
Market research, trends, classes, grades and standards, ISO 9000 certification, other certification, quality, pesticide residue testing and verification, strategies for competitiveness etc for rice. Marketing of non-traditional agricultural produce.

**Post-harvest management**
Rice quality & milling efficiency, drying, storage, storage conditions, storage pests, milling, packaging, and shipping of rice. Post Harvest management of other crops.

**Sustainable production systems**
Rotation systems in rice cultivation, integrated pest management, weed management, Rice genetic resources, varietal development, Agronomy, technology transfer, tillage requirements and degree of mechanisation. Increasing production and productivity of other crops and livestock.

**Product development and value added**
This includes technology to create, enhance, or add value to existing rice and its by-products. Co-generation, Agroenergy, value-added products for other agriculture.
**Influence of Climate Change**

Drought, flood and salt tolerant varieties, effect of changing weather on cropping seasons, water conservation and management of rice.

Adaptation to climate change.

**Poster Sessions**

Poster displays depicting current research on Rice production and marketing, as well as other agriculture will be accepted.

**Exhibitions and demonstrations**

Input suppliers for the rice industry and other agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean will exhibit, demonstrate and sell production and processing equipment. **Persons interested in booths should contact the Coordinator before the 31st August 2014.**

**Conference Language**

English

**Registration Fee**

There is a registration fee of $US 100.00 to cover publications and conference materials. University Students $US 25.00

**Submissions**

Submission of Papers to be presented must be made by 31st August 2014, in order to give the secretariat adequate time to process same.
**Date/ Location/Venue**
The Conference will be held during October 20\textsuperscript{th} - 22, 2014 at the Guyana International Conference Centre.

**Conference materials and equipment**
There will be a well-equipped secretariat with access to telephone, fax and email, slide projectors, overhead projectors, video-viewing projectors and a digital projector for computer generated presentations.

**Tours**
Tours will be organised to the extensive rice production, marketing facilities and field stations in Guyana.

**Accommodation**
Several options are available for participants; please indicate price range preference when pre-registering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Price $US</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cara Lodge</td>
<td>125-150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Tower</td>
<td>100-180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princess International</td>
<td>125-250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleepin Guesthouse</td>
<td>45-120</td>
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**Local transport**
Transport will be available for airport pickups and between various hotels and the conference centre. In order to benefit from this, you must send your travel itinerary to the coordinator by the end of August 2013.
Organising Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>11. Mr. Dhirendranath Singh</td>
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Editorial Committee

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2. Dr. Dindyal Permaul, CEO, GLDA
3. Mr W. Garnett, Representative, IICA

Secretariat

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2. Ms M. Pooran, Admin Asst, NAREI
3. Ms S. Singh, Admin Asst, NAREI
4. Ms S. Lepps, Admin Asst, NAREI
5. Mr D. Singh, Post Harvest Researcher, GRDB
Participation

In anticipation of your attendance, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our country of rich natural resources and diversification for the Conference at this stage, as an indication of your interest in participating, you are kindly asked to complete the Return Label Form on the back page of this leaflet.