

## Opening Remarks

Trevor Thompson welcomed all collaborators. He noted that the working relationship among the Ministry of Agriculture in Grenada, the FAO and Mc Gill University dated back to 2000. At that time, Dr Chandra Madramootoo conducted a hydrological study of selected sites for irrigation development and expansion as part of an FAO project. It became evident from the study that there was a scarcity of good quality data on water and other climatic parameters. Consequently, the idea for a project on data collection for Grenada and the entire region was born.

Thompson expressed particular delight that the FAO is a partner in this process, just as they have partnered with the Grenada Ministry of Agriculture in other water related activities that bring tremendous benefits to the people of Grenada.

Presently, with FAO funding, Grenada has completed a National Water Policy that seeks to address many of the issues relating to IWRM and Water management in general; a Water Sector Review that identifies the major issues relating to water in Grenada - data scarcity was a major issue; a National Implementation Plan that guides us on what must be done, how it should be done and when it should be done; and most recently, a water Legislative Review and draft legislation relating to the National Water Policy.

Thompson quoted page 5 of the National Water Policy, BASIS FOR ACTION:

“Government position is that water resources management cannot be viewed in isolation from the wider national context such as land use, land use change, watershed management and economic and social development.

Further, Government has noted the paucity of reliable information on water use and availability, the lack of capacity within water resource management institutions and poor regulatory control and enforcement as well as the need to improve water and wastewater services.

In this regard, Government envisions that:

- By 2008 the necessary legislation establishing responsibility for integrated water resources management and, separately, for water and wastewater services will have been enacted;
- By 2008, institutional arrangements will have been established to regulate, respectively, the management of water resources and the management and operation of water supply and sanitation services in an effective and integrated manner including appropriate mechanisms for stakeholder participation;
- By 2009, comprehensive policies, strategies and plans for Integrated Water Resources

Management will have been adopted and implemented;  
•By 2009, a National Water Information System will have been established and implemented.”

The CARWIN Grenada NWIS Workshop is directly related to the policy’s goals and it has direct bearing on whether the policy will accomplish its intended purpose.

He indicated that during the previous week CARIWIN held a training and equipment installation workshop that will help to address the problems identified in Grenada. Over 15 persons had the benefit of being trained and helping to install the equipment that will collect stream flow and rainfall data. In the future, water quality parameters will be added. The data will feed into the National Water Information System (NWIS).

CARIWIN has great potential for all of the pilot countries and other regional countries. It is up to Grenada to capture the vision of the project, to involve a broad cross-section of stakeholders, and particularly to involve the youth to ensure that the vision is fulfilled. The recent training session and workshop were opportunities taken to empower a cadre of young people from CYEN, the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network, in the belief that the youths must be empowered to carry on with the positive work that has begun.

On behalf of the MOA, Thompson welcomed all and hoped that the workshop’s presentations and discussions would be fruitful and beneficial.