

From Farm to Fork: Improving Nutrition in the Caribbean

THE CHALLENGE

Obesity rates are on the rise in the Caribbean. This is due in large part to the limited attention Caribbean countries have paid to local food production. They have relied instead on economic development through exports of plantation crops. As a result, there is a high dependence on imports of high calorie, low nutrition foods. This has created a paradox of obesity and poor nutrition, which threatens population health throughout the region.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improved nutrition, particularly among women and children, leading to reduced rates of chronic, non-communicable diseases
- Agricultural diversification, leading to year-round supply of locally produced food products, based on improved soil and water conservation and efficient land use
- Adoption of policies to secure food supply through improved marketing structures
- Change in consumer behavior to increase consumption of a diversified diet of fruits and vegetables
- Expanded regional capacity (human and institutional) to solve problems of food insecurity

THE RESEARCH

This project, supported by IDRC and CIDA through the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), uses a “farm to fork” focus to improve food production and nutrition and health outcomes in Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago. Researchers will assist farmers in increasing food production through agricultural diversification, conservation of water, and efficient use of land. Nutrition education and the introduction of nutritious foods will decrease caloric intake and improve nutrition and health outcomes. New policies will be developed to secure food supply in the region through improved marketing structures.

PROJECT DETAILS

GRANTEES:

ORGANIZATION	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Isabella Francis-Granderson
McGill University, Canada	Dr. Leroy Phillip

COUNTRIES: Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago

TIMING: March 2011 to August 2014

FUNDING: CA\$5.0 million

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This project is part of the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), a five-year, CA\$62 million program that funds research projects that aim to solve immediate and concrete food security challenges in the developing world. For more information on this project, contact Renaud De Plaen, Ottawa, Canada (rdeplaen@idrc.ca) or Susan Robertson, Ottawa, Canada (srobertson@idrc.ca). For more information on the Fund, visit www.idrc.ca/cifsr.



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