

Agric Info

The Quarterly Agriculture Newsletter of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**LEGAL
APPROVED**

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*Agriculture
is
life.....*



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Pesticide Awareness Week

The week of September 23-28, 2018 was recognized as Pesticides Awareness Week. The Pesticides Control Board, the body responsible for regulating the use of pesticides throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is cognizant of the role pesticides play in the everyday life of Vincentians mainly in farming and the control of pests around the home. By far, most of these pesticides are used in agricultural production in the form of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and to a lesser extent bactericides.

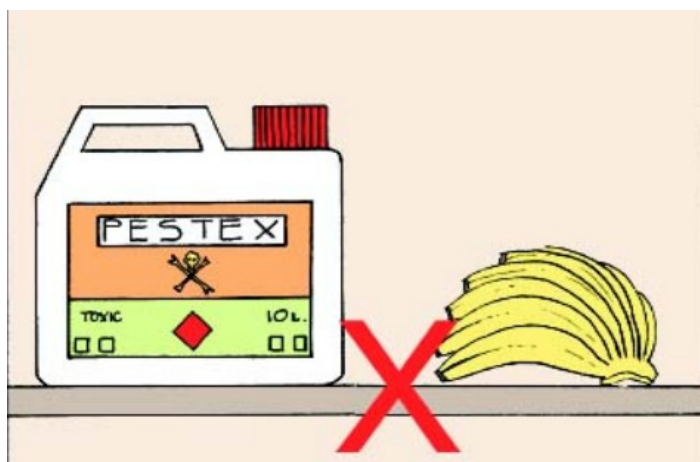
The Board would like the general public to recognize that all pesticides carry some level of danger therefore urges the following:

- Pesticides should only be used when absolutely necessary or as last resort.
- Pesticides should be used only for the intended purposes.
- Pesticides should only be used at the recommended rates.
- The pre-harvest interval must be adhered to. (This is the period between spraying and harvesting)
- Pesticides should not be used near waterways.
- All pesticides should be kept out of the reach of children.
- All pesticide containers should be properly labeled.
- All pesticide containers should be properly disposed of.

Appropriate protective gear should be used at all times.

The Board recommends an integrated approach to pest control and an effort be made to minimize the use of chemicals in food production.

Graphics: Adopted from FAO Pesticide Disposal Series



Fishing Vessel inspection

The Fisheries Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, is conducting an island wide drive to inspect all fishing vessels in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The main objective is to ensure that fishing vessels in St Vincent and the Grenadines complied with the various regulations and standards that govern:

- Construction
- Registration
- Safety

The Fisheries Division Extension Unit visited the Kingstown, Campden Park, Lowmans Bay, Questelles and Clare Valley beaches during the month of September to sensitize fishers on their role and responsibilities relative to the inspection of their boats.

The cooperation of the fisher folk in the various fishing communities is greatly appreciated.



SUSPENSION OF IMPORTATION ON ROUND-UP, TOUCHDOWN AND GLYPHO

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines acting on the advice of the Pesticides Board has placed an immediate suspension on the importation into St. Vincent and the Grenadines of Round-Up, Touchdown and Glyphos and any other chemical containing the active ingredient glyphosate pending a technical review by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour.

A preliminary review was conducted by the Pesticides Board which revealed that further research is needed regarding these listed chemicals. In the interim, a special technical committee was established to advise on sustainable alternatives to the listed chemicals. This committee was expected to present its findings by October 1st, 2018.

The Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have been requested to provide support to the Ministry of Agriculture in St. Vincent and the Grena-



dines to conduct a full chemical analysis of these products.

The Ministry of Agriculture will launch a national sensitization programme with all stakeholders within the sector. The Department of Labour takes this opportunity to remind farmers and farm workers of the duty of care needed while using all chemicals. All employers must provide protective gears and a safe working environment for employees in accordance with the Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Saboto Caesar, has called on all stakeholders to be appreciative of the suspension on the importation of these chemicals in light of the nation's quest to promote a safe working environment and good agricultural health and food safety practices.

World Food Day

Our actions are our future, a zero hunger World is possible by 2030

“Our actions are our future; a zero hunger world is possible by 2030,” was the theme for World Food Day 2018 celebrated on Tuesday October 16th. National World Food Day Committee was established under the chairmanship of Mr. Leroy Jackson. The primary activity to mark the occasion was an Exhibition which highlighted our country's efforts to zero hunger. The exhibition was held at Heritage Square in Kingstown.

The feature address was delivered by the Hon. Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour. In his address he highlighted the fact that St. Vincent and the Grenadines was the first country in the Caribbean to establish a Parliamentary Front against hunger which is geared towards bringing countries together in the fight to zeroing hunger across the world. He noted FAO's collaboration with the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines in implementing eleven projects which touch and concern the matter of zeroing hunger. Minister Caesar noted that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the second largest exporter of food and raw/non-processed goods within CARICOM.

Mr. Raymond Ryan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labor, listed several national strategies outlined in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 which guides the agricultural sector development and contribute to zeroing hunger. These strategies are as follows;

- Achieving enhanced levels of economic growth through reviving the agriculture and fisheries sector
- Stimulate private sector investments in the agriculture sector
- Increase market access for diversified agricultural produce
- Commercialize the agricultural and fisheries sector
- Promote sustainable use of land, forestry and marine resources
- Facilitate agricultural credit
- Expand agro processing
- Increase youth involvement

Dr. Coleen Phillips, FAO National Correspondent noted that the campaign to zero hunger focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with specific reference to Goal No. 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. This goal seeks sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security. The aim is to ensure that everyone everywhere has enough good-quality food to lead a healthy life. She also reiterated that the seventeen SDG goals are linked to create social, economic and environmental sustainability.

World Food Day is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UN) each year to commemorate the founding of the organization in 1945. Events are organized in over one hundred and fifty countries across the world, making it the most celebrated day on the UN's calendar.



Hon. Saboto Caesar: Minister of Agriculture, gives remarks at World Food Day Exhibition 2018.



Raymond Ryan: Permanent Secretary delivers address at World Food Day Exhibition 2018.



Dr. Coleen Phillips: FAO National Correspondent delivers who address for World Food Day 2018.

Exhibition 2018



Cultural Presentations



EXHIBITS

A wide variety of items were on display at this year's event including Agro-manufactured products as well as Agricultural produce



FISHERMAN'S DAY RESULTS 2018

The Fisherman's Day Committee salutes all fisher folk in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the hard work and contribution to nation building. The Fisherman's Day Committee extends sincerest gratitude to all the companies and individuals who helped to make Fisherman's Month 2018 a great success especially:

BEACH SEINE COMPETITION

14th May – 18th May 2018

| POSITION | NAME OF CAPTAIN | NAME OF BOAT | CATCH | PRIZE | DONOR |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|---|---|
| 3 RD HEAVIEST CATCH | AUGUSTUS PIERRE | LITTLE NEZZA | 1667 LBS | \$800.00 1 Head light 1 Case Beer 2 Bottles Vodka 25 lbs Flour 4 Fins 2 Nylon Twine | Edwin D Layne & Sons Ltd Prescott C & Sons Ltd |
| 2 ND HEAVIEST CATCH | ALBERT NEVERSON | JEHOVAH NESSI | 3621 LBS | \$1,200.00 2 Bottles Vodka 1 Case Beer 25 lbs Flour 5 Fins 2 Nylon Twine | National Lotteries Authority Pasta Enterprises Gonsalves Liquors St. Vincent Brewery Ltd |
| 1 ST HEAVIEST CATCH | ELI SLATER | ELLIANNA | 5247 LBS | \$2,000.00 2 bottles Vodka 1 Case Beer Diving Tank 25 lbs Flour Seine Net 5 Fins | Lulley's Tackle Shop FLOW |

No of Entries: 8



ROW BOAT COMPETITION

| POSITION | NAME OF CAPTAIN | CATCH | PRIZE | DONOR |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--|---|
| 3 RD HEAVIEST CATCH | WINSTON BUTCHER | 29.50 LBS | \$50.00 1 Rain Coat 3 Rolls Nylon 3 Flow Rags 5 Packs Hooks 1 Knife 1 Pack Fishing Lure | Prescott C & Sons Ltd Agriculture Input Warehouse KP Marine FLOW Howards Marine |
| 2 ND HEAVIEST CATCH | CORNAN ROBERTS | 31.25 LBS | \$100.00 1 Rain Coat 3 Rolls Nylon 3 Packs Hooks 1 Knife 1 Pack Fishing Lure 3 Flow Rags | |
| 1 ST HEAVIEST CATCH | BENJAMIN MILLER | 36.75 LBS | \$200.00 1 Rain Coat 3 Rolls Nylon 3 Flow Rags 3 Packs Hooks 1 Knife 1 Pack Fishing Lure | |

No of Entries: 18

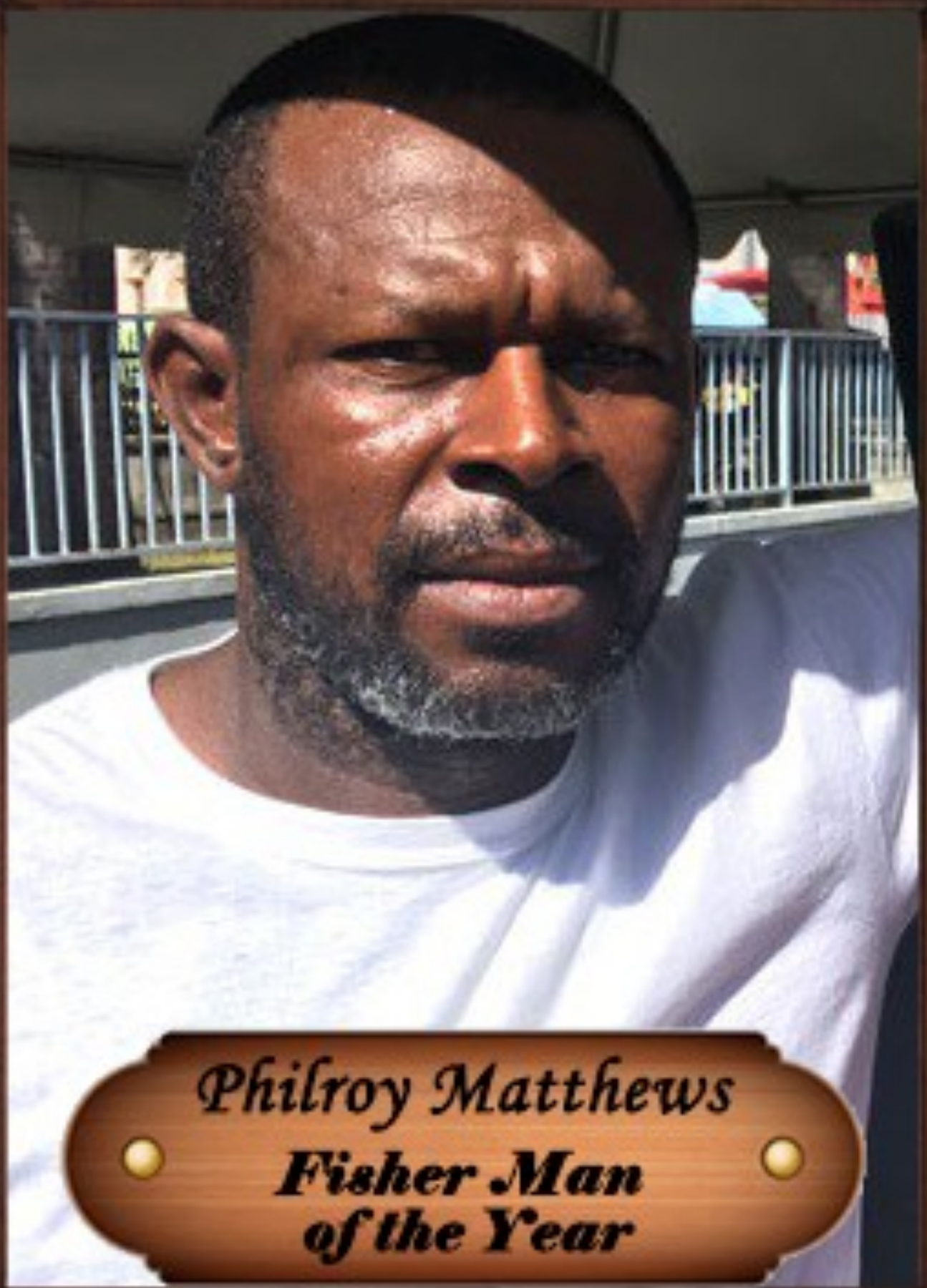
FEMALE COMPETITION

| POSITION | NAME OF CAPTAIN | CATCH | PRIZE | DONOR |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---|--|
| 3 RD HEAVIEST CATCH | ORLA MATTHEWS | 21 LBS | \$100.00 12 FLOW rags 3 Rolls Nylon 25 lbs Flour 3 Knives 2 Gift Pack 4 Packs Hooks | Prescott C & Sons Ltd |
| 2 ND HEAVIEST CATCH | TAVIA RICHARDS | 27.75 LBS | \$200.00 12 FLOW Rags 3 Rolls Nylon 3 Knives 25 lbs Flour 2 Gift Pack 4 Packs Hooks | Facey Trading Howard's Marine Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines FLOW ECGC |
| 1 ST HEAVIEST CATCH | VICTORIA BROWNE | 28.25 LBS | \$500.00 1 trophy 3 Rolls Nylon 3 Knives 25 lbs Flour 12 FLOW rags 2 Gift Pack 4 Packs Hooks | Massy KP Marine |

No of Entries: 5







Philroy Matthews

***Fisher Man
of the Year***



**Your positive action
combined with positive
thinking results in success.**

Shiv Khera

Recipe

**Cassava Cookies (Guyana) by
Denise's Institute of Catering**

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups Cassava flour
1 tsp vanilla essence
1/2 cup Margarine
1/3 cup icing sugar
1 pinch cinnamon
2 oz white sugar

METHOD:

Sieve Cassava flour, add icing sugar and the cinnamon, Rub in margarine and vanilla essence. Knead until the mixture binds together then form it into a ball. Roll on a floured board and cut into various shapes, Place on a creased baking sheet, Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees fahrenheit for 30 - 40 minutes until pale golden in colour. Remove from oven and Sprinkle with white sugar. Cool before serving.



DUTY FREE CONCESSION ON MOTOR VEHICLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF ST VINCENT AND GRENADINES

FARMERS INCENTIVE PROGRAMME



Farmers receiving concession under this program, will be exempted from payment of **50%** import duty and consumption tax on pick-ups and small trucks **1.5 tonnes** or **LESS**.

REQUIREMENT: The farmer must have conducted commercial farming on at **LEAST Three (3) acres** of land for **three (3) consecutive years** prior to granting of concession.



Vehicles imported under this programme **MUST** carry a special registration number

If the vehicle is sold within **five (5) years**. The farmer must pay a duty in accordance with the following schedule, except in the case where the vehicle is sold to another farmer who is granted concession under this program

| TIME FROM DATE OF PURCHASE/IMPORTATION | PERCENTAGE (%) OF DUTY PAYABLE |
|--|--------------------------------|
| LESS THAN 12 MONTHS | 100% |
| 13-24 MONTHS | 80% |
| 25-36 MONTHS | 60% |
| 37-48 MONTHS | 40% |
| 49-60 MONTHS | 20% |
| OVER 60 MONTHS | NIL |

All required information submitted on the application form must be **verified** by your **District Extension Officer** and **certified** by the **Chief Agricultural Officer**

All applications are then submitted with supporting documents to the **Director General, Ministry of Finance**

* Any farmer who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Director General may appeal his decision within **Twenty-One (21) days** to the Cabinet

APPLICATION FORMS
AVAILABLE AT:
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Forestry Focus Month 2018

The Forestry Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour celebrated its annual Forestry Focus during the month of September 2018 under the theme “Enhancing Our Forests Through Urban Communities” and with the use of the slogan “Every Tree Counts.”

Several activities were planned to mark Forestry Focus 2018. An invitation was extended to the general public to participate in as much activities as possible.

Church Service:

The month commenced with a Church Service at the Kingstown Seventh Day Adventist Church on 3rd September. There was also a distribution of Certificates of Appreciation to several retired workers at the service.



Tree Cutting Exercise

The Forestry Services engaged in a Tree Cutting exercise on Sunday 16th and 23rd September. This was done in collaboration with BRAGSA, Public Health, Vinlec and several other stakeholders. The cutting was done between Gibson Corner and Montrose



Leeward Range
Field Visits: 13th

The Central Range made visits to several areas in the Central and Windward Ranges on Thursday 13th September. These areas included the Montreal forest area, the newly constructed greenhouse located in Montreal, Lauders mountain, the Rabacca Recreational Site and the Black Point Recreational Site.



Central Range
School Presentation
and Tree Planting
Exercise: 17th

The Central Range engaged in a School Presentation followed by a Tree Planting exercise, as part of activities to mark Forestry Focus 2018. This was done at the Fair Hall Government School on Monday 17th September.



Women Day Activity: 19th
Sep. 2018

The Women Day activity was held on Wednesday at the Rawacou Recreational Site.



Fitzroy Springer Forest Walk: 20th Sep. 2018

The Fitzroy Springer's Forest walk took place on Thursday 20th September and took the route of Fenton over to Green Hill. An added attraction this year was a treasure hunt along the path



Windward Range Presentation/Tree Planting: 24th

The Windward Range held a School Presentation followed by a Tree Planting exercise on Monday 24th September at the Georgetown Secondary School. This activity was part of the celebration to mark Forestry Focus 2018



Exhibition 26th

The Forestry Services held an exhibition in Kingstown on Wednesday 26th September, as part of activities to celebrate Forestry Focus 2018. There were displays by BRAGSA, Nature Care SVG, Sustainable Development Unit, Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) SVG, One St. Vincent Group Inc, The National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority, The National Craft Center and hosts Forestry Services



Social Activity 5th October, 2018

Forestry Services held a social, to bring down the curtains on the celebrations of Forestry Focus 2018. This was held at the Forestry Compound in Campden Park on Friday 5th October.



Everything Vincy Plus Expo 2018: Showcasing Products of the Agricultural Sector

The “Everything Vincy Plus” Expo 2018 was held from the 23rd -28th October 2018. The Expo hosted by InvestSVG marked the occasion of our Country’s 39th anniversary on Independence on October 27th. This year’s Expo saw over 120 exhibitors including a number of regional and international participants.

The Everything Vincy Expo in its second year has as its main objectives, to increase the visibility of local businesses as well as a call to action for Vincentian innovators. The Expo provided an excellent opportunity for farmers, fishers, agro-processors, marketers and other business people to showcase various commodities and products produced within the local agricultural sector.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour showcased new technologies utilized in the production of agricultural commodities as well as value-added and product development initiatives utilizing these commodities as well as various seafood species.

The Ministries Booth also highlighted the OECS Regional Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AGRICOM). This project is expected to provide matching grant funds to productive alliances (Aggregators (Marketers, Cooperatives, SME) or Agroprocessors with respective Farmers or Fishers) to allow these alliances to access markets and meet market demand requirements whether at the local, regional or international level.

We trust that our hardworking farmers, fishers, agroprocessors, marketers would have benefited from the exposure they received at Everything Vincy Plus Expo 2018.



COCONUT EXHIBITION MARKS CARDI DAY 2018

"Celebrating the potential of the region's coconut industry" – this was the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute's (CARDI)'s 2018 theme to recognize their day.

CARDI's aim is to highlight the Institute's work under the EU-ACP funded Regional Coconut Industry Development Project. To this end, the Institute collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour to host an exhibition to showcase locally made coconut products. The exhibition was held on Wednesday, 5th December 2018, at the old treasury building site.

CARDI's Country Representative, Gregory Linton, stated that the coconut industry has many opportunities to improve income and employment in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Linton therefore called for an increase in the acreage of coconut across the country and urged farmers to replenish old stock. He said the exhibition will help Vincentians to see some of the practical ways that the EU-ACP funded project is utilizing coconut and adding value to one of the region's oldest industries.

Chair of the National Stakeholder Platform, Alpheus Nanton, said the group was established on July 14th, 2015. *"We are a group of entrepreneurs who are willing to develop"* the coconut industry in Saint Vincent. Nanton stressed that coconut is more than just soap and oil and there are lots of different things that can be made from it. The industry is very old, he stated, and it is *"time for us to do a replanting from the North to the South."*

Chief Agricultural Officer, Ashley Caine, was among the speakers at the opening of the exhibition. He reminded the audience of the important role that coconut tree had in this country from since the days of plantation. He noted the traditional uses of the coconut tree which included lumber, broom, and roofing material.

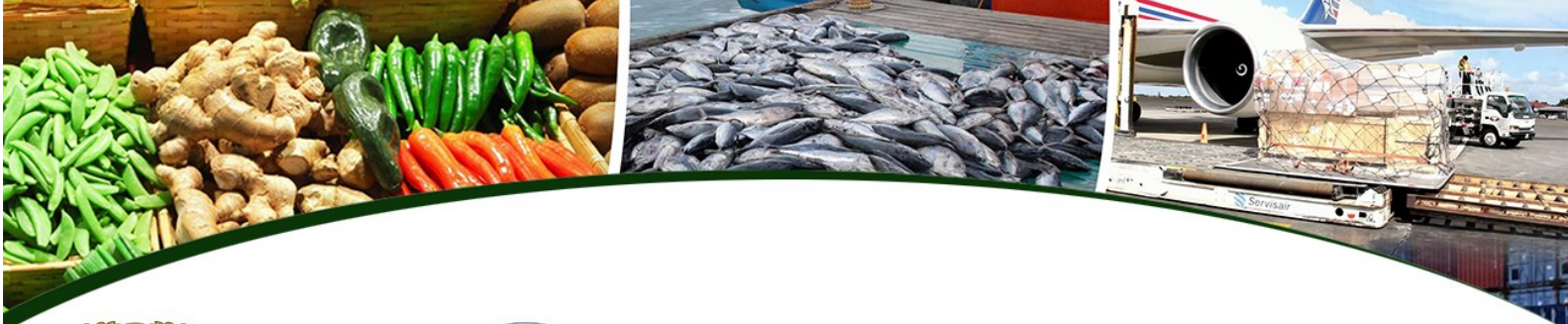
Diversification Officer within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Transformation, Colville King, delivered remarks on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Saboto Caesar. King said the Minister asked him to extend sincerest thanks to CARDI for implementing the coconut industry initiative and offered congratulations to them for hosting the exhibition. The Diversification Officer told the audience that the agricultural sector remains vitally important for employment, for poverty reduction, for food security and foreign exchange in this country.

Chairperson of the function, Leroy Jackson, gave his full endorsement for the locally made coconut products on display. Jackson said local entrepreneurs highlight the potential there is in the coconut industry going forward. He used the opportunity to thank all those who came on board to exhibit their products.

The Bureau of Standards was among the exhibitors. They had representatives on hand to showcase services for persons involved in the coconut industry and for prospective entrepreneurs. Jennifer Douglas-Bullock, the Bureau's Representative, explained that they offer a range of services for persons who need information on standards within the coconut industry, food safety information applicable to the processing of coconut, its uses, and a range of products which can be had from it.

Source: API





THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

OECS Agriculture Competitiveness (AGRICOM) Project

Project Objective:

Enhancing Access to Markets and Sales for Competitively Selected Farmers and Fisherfolk

What's on offer:

Matching Grants for Competitively Selected Business Projects for

- **Farmers**
- **Fisherfolk**
- **Aggregators**
- **Agroprocessors**

Benefits from up to:

- **US \$8,000 (80%)** for Farmers and Fishers
- **US \$120,000 (50%)** for Agroprocessors, Aggregators (Marketers, Cooperatives and Lead Farmers or Fishers)

For More Information, Contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Richmond Hill
Kingstown - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Tel: 456 - 1111 Ext 311 or 321

Email: agricomsvg@mail.gov.vc or agricomsvg@gmail.com



IICA Works to Improve Resilience Among Small Farmers

IICA is implementing a pilot project titled, *Promoting the Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices Among Small-Scale Producers*. This is one of several pilots under the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership implemented by the United Nations Development Programme across St. Vincent and the Grenadines with funding from the Government of Japan.

The objective of the project, as its name indicates, is to build resilience to environmental risks among farmers by promoting simple technology adoption to better prepare them for the impacts of adverse environmental events – storms or droughts.

Through the pilot project, five demonstration plots have been established on beneficiary holdings at San Souci, Calder, Kingstown, Pembroke and Rose Hall. At each site, the project sought to demonstrate *Good Agricultural Practices* for soil management, crop husbandry and water management. Particular attention was paid to proper soil preparation with the use of bench terraces advocated on some plots for erosion control. On other plots, the traditional ridge and furrow system or beds were allowed, to demonstrate how effective these more common practices could be under the right circumstances. Throughout, attention was also paid to composting and the use of compost material as an ameliorant for the soil.

Crop management practices utilized, advocated for minimization of the use of inorganic agro-inputs and the use of integrated crop/pest management to reduce the dependence on pesticides.

The management of run-off water from rainfall and its use for irrigation was also emphasized. A key feature of the plots was the establishment of rainwater harvesting and irrigation systems on the farms. These small systems were established to capture rainwater from farm buildings, store and use at the appropriate time in vegetable crops. These systems were designed to address short-term agricultural water deficit in fields that affect productivity.

Over one-hundred and fifty farmers also benefitted from the training activities undertaken by the project. These included workshops on seedling production, integrated pest management, and field exercises on land preparation and drip irrigation operation.



The final component of this aspect of the work was a symposium on climate change which brought forty-five stakeholders from the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors together and addressed the broader climate change phenomena and its impact at the global, national level, sectoral and sub-sectoral levels (forestry, agriculture), and the roles that the technical agencies play to prepare the country to continue to adjust to the emerging impacts.

The project, which has been implemented over the period of approximately one year, conclude at the end of December 2018. The farmers are however expected to continue with their operation on good practices on the plots that are envisioned as training sites for other farmers and extension agents to use.



No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.

Recipe

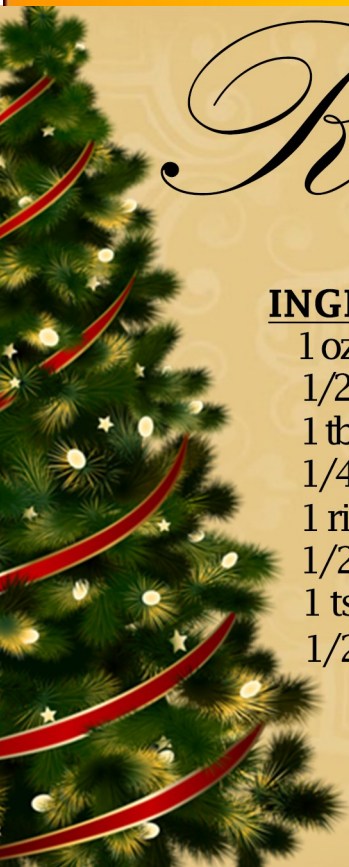
Cassava Banana Shake (Barbados) by Marion Hart

INGREDIENTS:

1 oz. finely grated cassava flour
1/2 cup whole milk
1 tbsp. sugar
1/4 tsp grated nutmeg
1 ripe banana (medium)
1/2 cup crushed ice
1 tsp. vanilla essence
1/2 cup water

METHOD:

Place all ingredients in food processor and blend for approximately 1 min until smooth Then Serve in a tall glass. Finish with a sprinkle of nutmeg and splash of Angostura Bitters.



International Day of Soils

The United Nations through the Food and Agriculture Organization designated December 5th as the International Day of Soils. This year World Soil Day was celebrated under the theme, “Be the solution to soil pollution.” This was done in order to focus attention on the importance of soil to the existence of mankind. Soil is the upper part of the earth’s surface; this is where plants are grown to sustain lives. Below this lies the rocks from which soils are made. However, it takes thousands or even millions of years for rocks to be converted into soil but it can be lost within only a few hundred years. This means that every effort must be made to preserve what is available. Soil is made up of two main layers, top soil and sub soil. The top soil is usually the most fertile part of the soil and normally contains the highest content of organic matter. We often take soil for granted because it is found almost everywhere even under the sea. Though it is always touted that SVG has some of the best soils in the world, this can quickly be erased by soil erosion and pollution.



Although soil erosion is a naturally occurring process that affects all landforms, it can be accelerated by bad farming practices and deforestation. In St Vincent and the Grenadines, soil erosion is very evident by the brown color of the rivers and the sea during and after heavy rainfall. However, much of this can be prevented if serious attention is paid to the management of soils. Many of our soils are on hillsides and are highly susceptible to erosion, but if properly managed, erosion can be kept to a minimum. To prevent soil erosion we can practice contour farming, prevent farming on very steep slopes, plant vegetation (vetiver grass or trees) to stabilize slopes and prevent deforestation.

Soil pollution refers to the existence of toxic chemicals (pollutants or contaminants) in soil in high enough concentrations to present a risk to human health and/or the ecosystem. In cases where contaminants occur naturally in the soil, even when their levels are not high enough to pose a risk, it is still acknowledged that soil pollution occurs if the levels of the contaminants in soil exceed the levels that should naturally be present. We can help to prevent soil pollution by doing the following: Promoting the use of bio fertilizers and bio pesticides, reducing toxic waste and paying attention to how we use and dispose pesticides. Products such as engine oil and household products are also considered as soil pollutants. We can positively contribute to recycling waste by practicing composting, using reusable containers such as glass and promoting the use of cotton bags to help prevent deforestation. Soil is very important to the existence of mankind. However, erosion and pollution can quickly degrade our soils. We must continuously practice our soil conservation as well as protecting our soils from pollutants so that we can adequately sustain our ecosystems for generations to come.



Medicinal Cannabis Industry Given Legal Footing

St. Vincent and the Grenadines now has the legislative foundation to pursue medical and economic benefits from the cannabis plant otherwise known as “marijuana”, “weed” or the “herb”. This foundation was realized when the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines received unanimous approval of two bills from the parliament on Tuesday December 11th, 2018.

These two bills are *The Medicinal Cannabis Industry Bill 2018* and *The Cannabis Cultivation (Amnesty) Bill 2018*.

The passage of these bills was the result of eleven months of work led by Hon Saboto Caesar, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Labour and Industry.

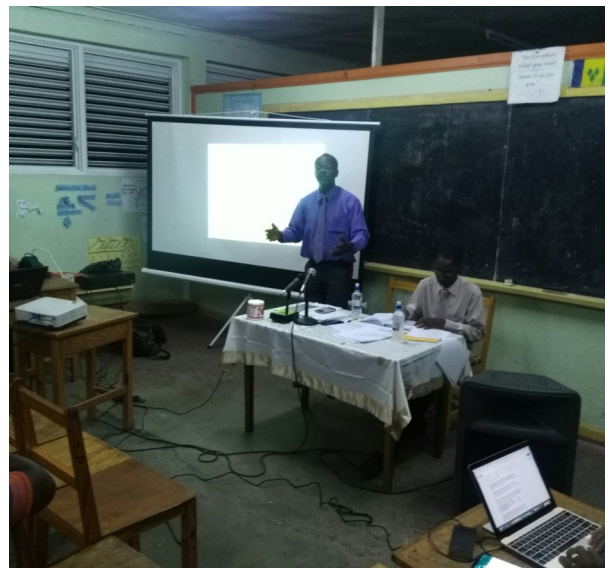
The period was marked by important activities and milestones including the establishment of a committee of stakeholders to oversee the process, the drafting of the respective legislation, publication of the draft legislation, community consultations and sensitization, including numerous multimedia panel discussion programmes, the first tabling and reading of the bill in the House of Assembly, the establishment of a parliamentary select committee and approximately twenty (20) select committee meetings on the bills.

The main provisions of the Bills now Acts of Parliament include:

Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act:

1. The establishment of the **Medicinal Cannabis Authority**. The headquarters of the Authority is expected to be established at Rivulet. The functions of the Authority are as follows:

- a. develop policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure that medicinal cannabis is available to patients in a safe and efficient manner;
- b. regulate the supply, possession and use of medicinal cannabis;
- c. review and approve medical certifications submitted by medical doctors on behalf of patients in accordance with this Act;



- d. subject to subsection (2), issue licenses and other authorizations in relation to the supply, use and possession of medicinal cannabis in accordance with the provisions of this Act and Regulations made pursuant to this Act;
- e. develop enforcement procedures in relation to the inspection of premises that are operated by licensees in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act or any Regulations made pursuant to this Act;
- f. register patients and caregivers and issue identification cards accordingly;
- g. appoint sub-committees to assist it in the carrying out of its functions under this Act;
- h. establish and maintain an electronic database to include information relating to patients, medical doctors, licensees, medical certifications and identification cards and to provide for the electronic tracking of the supply, possession and use of medicinal cannabis in accordance with this Act or Regulations made pursuant to this Act;
- i. establish and maintain a confidential register of patients and caregivers, in accordance with Part V and such other registers as may be prescribed;
- j. provide for the distribution of educational materials and conduct training programmes in relation to the development of medicinal cannabis;
- k. perform such other functions assigned to it under this Act or any other enactment; and
- l. do anything or enter into any arrangement, which, in the opinion of the Authority, is necessary to ensure the proper performance of its functions.

2. The establishment of a **Medical Advisory Council** which shall advise the Authority on:

- a. the medical symptoms or conditions that may be included in the list of qualifying medical conditions;
- b. the use and methods of administration of medicinal cannabis;
- c. medicinal cannabis research and related resources;
- d. the maximum period for which medicinal cannabis may be prescribed to treat a qualifying medical condition;
- e. proposed amendments to this Act or Regulations made pursuant to this Act;
- f. guidelines for the training of licensees, medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health practitioners, on the supply and use of medicinal cannabis.

3. **Amnesty for Traditional Cultivators.** This Act serves to transition illegal cannabis farmers who have been cultivating and trading cannabis before the passage of the Bills to a legal status as licensed cultivators of Medicinal Cannabis. This aims to ensure that these stakeholders' benefit from the establishment of the industry.

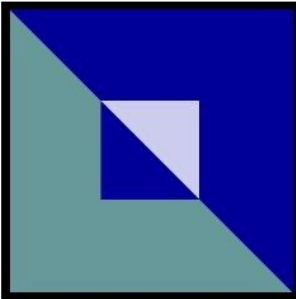
Medical properties: The chemical compounds in cannabis are known as cannabinoids. Cannabidiol (CBD) is effective in decreasing inflammation and pain and can reduce epileptic seizures; it can be used to treat addictions and mental illness. As a result, there is a growing global trend towards the use of medicines derived from cannabis for the treatment of chronic pain with treatment of cancer and related symptoms expected to be the highest growth area for its application of medicines.

The **United States Food and Drug Administration** (USFDA) is actively approving of synthetic drugs such as (Dronabinol and Nabilone). Sativex is the first plant-derived cannabinoid approved in the UK, Canada and several European countries.

- 46 US States have decriminalized the plant either for medicinal or recreational use
- 62% of Americans support legalizing the use of marijuana.

Influential American politicians are actively lobbying for the decriminalization of marijuana at the Federal level.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines therefore has now been positioned to capitalize on this opportunity to produce and supply medicinal cannabis.



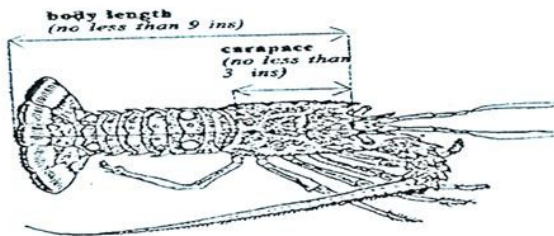
ATTENTION!

THE CLOSE-SEASON FOR LOBSTERS IS 1ST MAY-31ST AUGUST

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

CATCH, BUY, SELL OR POSSESS

- ▼ Female lobsters carrying eggs.
- ▼ Lobsters from which the eggs have been removed.
- ▼ Lobsters with soft shells (moulting).
- ▼ Lobsters with a carapace length of less than 3 1/8 inches.



- ▼ Lobsters with a body of less than 8 5/8 inches.
- ▼ Lobsters weighing less than one pound.
- ▼ Having a tail weighing less than 142 grams.
- ▼ Lobsters, which are not caught by hand, loop, pot or trap.

NOTE: It is illegal to catch or sell lobsters during the close season. Only hotels and restaurants are allowed to sell lobsters during the first 30 days of the close season.

(Anyone found violating these regulations is liable to a fine of up to \$5000.00)

OBEY THESE REGULATIONS AND HELP SAVE THE LOBSTER

North Leeward Successfully Hosts Breadfruit Festival 2018

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is known for its breadfruit. The breadfruit was brought here by Captain Bligh in 1793. Today, we have several different varieties of breadfruit and the fruit forms part of our national dish of roasted breadfruit and fried jack fish. Breadfruit was used as a cheap source of food during slavery. Hence, the Breadfruit Festival is held annually to promote the various uses of the breadfruit for food, lumber and income. The Festival is also complimentary to the Emancipation Month Activities. The Festival is jointly promoted by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture and various communities throughout the state.

Through the efforts of the North Leeward Breadfruit Festival Committee, the community of North Leeward has hosted the festival annually for the last 14 years. This year's event was successfully hosted on Saturday 18th August at Mission Corner, Chateaubelair under the theme, **“Embracing the Versatility of Breadfruit, the Super Fruit.”** The festival featured a display of a variety of breadfruit dishes - breadfruit and saltfish, breadfruit and blackfish, breadfruit oil-down, breadfruit pizza, breadfruit lasagna, breadfruit salad and cookies. The playing of traditional games including pitching marbles, coconut bat cricket, cart racing, and a cultural and entertainment package - with performances by Upstage Calypso Tent, Rose Bank and Rose Hall drummers. The corresponding pictures are a testament to the successful hosting of the event.

Efforts have been made to expand the festival to different communities throughout St. Vincent and the Grena-





Season Greetings!



***The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation,
Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour would like to thank
our readers for their support through out the year of
2018***

***HAVE A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!***