



The Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI)

**GCSI : Efforts, Achievements and Ways
to Enhance its Implementation**

WTO-IDB/INTAL Regional Workshop

Barbados

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Presentation Structure

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- ☐ **Mission**
- ☐ **Efforts**
- ☐ **Achievements**
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Background

- A study conducted 2002 revealed the total value of US agricultural imports from the Caribbean comprised less 1% of US agricultural imports.
- APHIS/PPQ interception data bases 1985 to 2008 revealed an average of 57% of total interceptions came from Caribbean.
- A review also stated pest mitigation would be most effective at point of origin.
- In 2006 Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative(CSI) established as a pilot in Florida. Reducing the risk of Plant pest establishing in the US through the FL pathway

Background

- In 2008 CSI converted to a national program, the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative for GCR
- Scope broadened to include a perimeter approach to prevent the introduction and spread of high risk pest
- Strategy was through harmonizing quarantines, exclusion strategies and other safeguarding initiatives

Greater Caribbean Region

Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative

- **Caribbean Islands**
- **Central America**
- **Florida**
- **French Guiana**
- **Guyana**
- **Panama**
- **Puerto Rico**
- **Suriname**
- **US Virgin Islands**
- **Venezuela**





GCSI Vision

Collaboratively build and maintain a robust **perimeter** safeguarding system through a partnership network that actively works to **prevent the introduction** and **control the spread** of exotic plant pests of mutual interest into and within the GCR.



Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative Mission

To **strengthen** the **safeguarding** system in the Greater Caribbean Region (GCR) by establishing **partnerships** with countries in the GCR to **prevent, detect, and control** existing and emerging plant pest threats

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GCSI Strategic Goals/Efforts

Efforts:

- Build coordinated framework and **partnership network**
- Strengthen **pest exclusion** activities within GCR
- Enhance **pest detection** activities within GCR
- Strengthen **pest mitigation** activities within GCR

Partnership Networks

Build coordinated framework
and **partnership network**



International Organizations:

- **CARICOM:** Caribbean Community and Common Market
- **CARDI:** Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
(CARDI assisting CPHD to establish a executive committee for the CPDN)
- **FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **IICA:** Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Partnership Networks

- International Organizations Cont'
 - CABI: CAB International (RPM)
 - CISWG: Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group
 - ORISHA
- Universities:
 - UF: University of Florida(CISSIP)
 - FAMU: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
 - UWI: University of West Indies(PQ training)





Partnerships

USDA APHIS Initiatives are in Support of CISSIP

- **In 2004 CISWG developed the Caribbean Regional Invasive Species Intervention Strategy (CRISIS)**
- **The CRISIS regional strategy was formally adopted by CARICOM's Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED)**
- **The Caribbean Invasive Species Surveillance and Information Programme (CISSIP)**
- **Rapid diagnosis of pest problems (Formerly the Caribbean Regional Diagnostic Network and now the Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network or CPDN)**

Achievements Supporting Detection

Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network:

- Addition of 5 countries: Barbados, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago

Also in CPDN: Martinique, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Puerto Rico, Florida



Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network (CPDN)

Diagnostician Training

June 12-19, 2010

UF Campus, Gainesville, Florida, USA

Achievements Supporting Detection

Annual Identification workshops:

- Homopteran
- Coleopteran
Heteropteran
- Lepidopteran



Goal: To assist countries in the Caribbean with the development of national pest list:

1. To have to capacity to make preliminary identification of intercepted pests;
2. To have the knowledge to conduct surveys to assist with the detection of indigenous and exotic pests

Achievements Supporting Detection

Identification workshop for mealybugs and scales insects
for the OECS countries Barbados, St Lucia, Dominica
(August 2007)



Achievements Supporting Detection

Advanced workshop on Identification of mealybugs and scales insects (January 2008)



Achievements Supporting Detection

Evaluation of the Fruit Fly Trapping Program in the Caribbean

To date 11 Caribbean countries fruit fly trapping programs have been evaluated:

1. Bahamas
2. Barbados
3. Dominica
4. Grenada
5. Jamaica
6. Guyana
7. St Kitts
8. St. Lucia
9. St Vincent
10. Suriname
11. Trinidad





Achievements

Detection

Concerns:

- 1.No trapping program in some of the islands.
- 2.Trade taking place between some islands with poor trapping programs (non transparent)and other territories.
3. Ageing/retiring staff with no replacements in some of the islands
- 4.Lethargy with respect to the trapping program(trapping fatigue)
 - a. No effort to improve the efficiency of the program routine approach even though something is evidently wrong.
 - b. Drifting away from the tenets of the fruit fly trapping program and applying non scientific approaches to trapping

Achievements Supporting Detection

Formation of Five Technical Working Groups

1. Mollusks
2. Safeguarding
3. Emergency Response
4. Tephritid Fruit Flies
5. Palm Pests





Achievements Supporting Detection

Pest Surveys and Workshops:

- Red Palm Weevil
- Heteropteran (Cotton Seed Bug)
- Fruit Flies
- Coleopteran
- Lepidopteran (*Tuta absoluta*, tomato leafminer)
- Citrus Greening

Achievements Supporting Mitigation



UWI Regional Plant Quarantine Officer Training Principles and Procedures Course

August 15th—19th, 2011

UWI, St. Augustine Campus



Achievements Supporting Mitigation

- Notification of Non-Compliance among National Plant Protection Organizations (Awareness Training)
- Pest List:
 - Submitted by at least 7 Caribbean islands



Achievements Supporting Exclusion

- Committee of Experts for Prioritizing Quarantine Pests
- Safeguarding Project: Collaboration with CPHD Safeguarding Technical Working Group and University of West Indies*

*UWI Grad Student (TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TARGETING THE HUMAN MOVEMENT PATHWAY FOR INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN ST KITTS AND ANTIGUA)

Ways to Enhance its Implementation

Partnership Network

USDA APHIS	USDA APHIS	IICA	FAO	CARICOM	CARDI	CABI	CISWG	CPHD
GCSI Strategic Plan	Projects	Projects	Projects	Projects	Projects	Projects	Projects	
Strategic Goal 1: Build a Coordinated Greater Safeguarding Initiative Framework and Partnership Network				Established approved forum for CARICOM - Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG)	Regional dialogue Coordination of various forums for dialogue/effective discussion of regional invasive species issues	GEF Full scale project; Mitigating the threats of Invasive alien species in the insular . The Global Plant Health Centre (GPHC) which will be launched in early 2010		
Objective 1.1: Enhance the partnerships with and among NPPOs and non-NPPOs in the GCR		The Plant Health Directors' Forum supported by IICA is one way to achieve this objective.	Supports plant Health Directors forum and the sub-group meetings. As well as FAO facilitated workshops within ongoing projects could contribute to this objective.	The objective of the CISWG is to create strategic partnerships with government, non government agencies and organizations. It is not limited to NPPOs.	Facilitate regional collaboration/dialogue on invasive species issues	GEF FSP working with governments, and agencies to conduct pilot projects on 5 islands (Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad) to prevent or control IAS. The GPHC will seek to form collaborations with organizations in CABI worldwide to address PS and SPS issues and trade.		

USDA APHIS Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) Meeting with CARICOM, IICA, FAO, CABI, and CARDI held on 19th May 2009 in St. Augustine, Trinidad



Ways to Forward and Enhance Implementation

- Encourage Harmonization and Updating of Legislation
- Continued Regional Collaboration
 - Communication and information sharing (D-Groups and Website: www.caisnet.org)
 - Regional projects versus country-by-country
 - Minimize duplication

Ways to Enhance Implementation

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration
- Increase pest detection and control
- Improve perimeter approach
- Harmonization and regionalization:
 - Quarantines
 - Exclusion
 - Other plant health safeguarding initiatives

Summary

CPHD Technical Working Groups

Committee of Experts Priority Pests

Pest Identification Training

Pest Surveys(Fruit flies, etc.)

Pest Risk Assessment Training

Plant Quarantine Training

Enquiry Point Visits

Pest Detection/Diagnostic Training



SPS Compliance



For Additional Information

GCSI Internet

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/international_safeguarding/plants/gcsi/index.shtml

GCSI Fact Sheet

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/fs_caribbean_safeguard10.indd.pdf



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Questions, Comments?

