

#### **Organizational arrangements for plant protection in T&T - *Article IV 4***

In the Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), the functions of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) are shared among the units of the Crop Protection Sub-Division, Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. A Crop Protection Committee drawn from members of the Sub- Division is responsible for the management decisions on plant health.

The organizational arrangements for plant protection are broken down as follows:

The Plant Pathology and Entomology Units are responsible for the diagnosis and management of plant diseases and plant pests respectively.

The Plant Quarantine Unit provides the first line of defense in pest surveillance that is, preventing the entry of pest into T&T. It protects T&T's borders from the invasion of pests and diseases by the issuing of import permits, inspection of import/export cargo and baggage at ports of entry, seizures of import/export cargo and baggage and the execution of post-entry inspection.

In fulfilment of T&T's obligation as a Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and adherence to the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS), under the article on Transparency, a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Unit was established. The unit conducts PRAs to balance measures of protection to protect/conservate T&T biodiversity against invasive alien species as mandated by international agreements to which T&T is signatory (IPPC, CBD and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

The WTO SPS Enquiry Point is an internet site where enquiries about T&T's agricultural health and food safety requirements/legislation and changes that can affect trade are made. It was established in fulfilment of Trinidad and Tobago's obligation as a member of the WTO.

The Crop Protection Sub-Division is also responsible for regular surveillance of plants in the country for the presence of undesirable levels of pests and diseases. It is also responsible for the prevention of the introduction of plant pests, protection of plant resources from plant pests, facilitation of trade in plant and plant products, and the regulation of other matters connected to Plant Protection.