POLICY DIALOGUE

on

Poverty Alleviation and Food Security Strategies in the Caribbean

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REPORT

Policy Dialogue-Technical Meeting on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security Strategies in the Caribbean

Organized by

Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

in collaboration with

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

19–21 November 2003

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THE POVERTY CHALLENGE

Dr. Fitzroy J. Henry
Director, CFNI

Poverty Alleviation and Food Security strategies in the Caribbean target one of the key Millennium Development Goals (MDG) — poverty and hunger. Because the MDGs are interlinked, impacting on one — as fundamental as poverty - will undoubtedly have an impact on several others.

Concepts of Poverty

Poverty has always been complex, multi-dimensional and dynamic and it results from a combination of economic, political and environmental factors. But the forces driving poverty are also changing and they make it even more complicated. But there are two major concepts of poverty in the Caribbean context:

The well known and traditional paradigm still exists — where being poor means living in a poor neighborhood, going to a second-rate school, having an inadequate education which leads to having a low-paying job and entails eating poor food, having poor health and living in unsanitary housing in a poor neighborhood, and the cycle continues. That type of circle begins and ends with the poor, and often exists in a defined and limited sphere — largely in enclaves within a country.

But there is also the expanded paradigm in which 70% of the world’s population subsists on only 10% of the world’s foreign direct investment and this exemplifies the current imbalance in access to resources. Such competition stemming from global economic changes in trade and capital markets, coupled with the rapid erosion of preferential market access present difficult challenges, particularly for small states such as those in the Caribbean. This expanded paradigm does not begin and end with the poor. In fact it could result where individuals, communities and even countries that previously were non-poor could become poor through forces that erode their traditional pillars of existence.

Globalization certainly has the potential to bring huge benefits to societies but it also carries many risks. The risks arise through globalization’s largely negative impacts on poverty and inequality. A major challenge is to identify not only the absolute poor but also the relative poor and the recent poor because the strategies to combat these may well be quite different. This conference explored both the narrow and expanded scenarios and proposed several responses to this poverty challenge.

The Challenges

In the Caribbean context there are two overarching challenges — inequality and targeting:

Inequity — Under globalization where the “fittest will survive” there is bound to be a rise in world income inequality between nations, at least in the initial stages. The question is: does globalization also imply more inequality within nations as well? This is critical for this region because Latin America and the Caribbean exhibit the largest social inequalities in the world and if
poverty increases this inequality may also increase.

Targeting — It remains essential to ensure that the relief goods reach the intended targets. But in this expanded paradigm it also becomes necessary to explore other types of targeting. If as estimated, one-third of those who are capability poor are not monetary poor then intervention programs designed to reduce monetary poverty are likely to miss large numbers of capability poor. The types of programs for each group are equally important — whether they should be money transfers and income generation — or education and health programs. This type of intervention goes beyond handouts and presents a new and major challenge for the region.

This project does not end with the recommendations formulated from this dialogue, and herein lies the real and practical challenge. The success of the small grants program, which will be established out of this dialogue, will be based on the recommendations from this conference. These grants will aim to identify and support those opportunities that can convert poverty alleviation projects into sustainable development programs.

This report captures the main points of the dialogue among the senior officials and policy makers who have responsibility for poverty alleviation programs in the Caribbean. The discourse and recommendations were enriched with the active participation of the executives representing key developmental agencies working on poverty alleviation in the region.

The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) highly values the collaboration of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in this successful endeavor.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Policy Dialogue-Technical Meeting on “Food and Nutrition Security and Poverty Alleviation Strategies in the Caribbean” was held over three days, in Kingston, Jamaica. It was co-sponsored by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, with a view to gathering new inputs for the regional efforts on food security, anti-poverty and health-enhancing initiatives to be implemented in the Region. Eighteen policy and technical papers were presented in three thematic areas:

1. Lessons from Food and Nutrition and Poverty Alleviation Programs
2. Preventing Food Insecurity and Improving Health

Several regional and international institutions were represented, including FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO, IICA, CARDI, UWI, UG, EU-ACP, CDB, USAID, and numerous NGOs with programs on poverty and food security. Over 80 persons attended the Meeting including, on the final day, several Caribbean Government Ministers and senior Government Officials.

Several papers maintained that effective long-term solutions to food security and poverty alleviation in the region require economic growth, based on both trade openness and complementary domestic policies and enabling institutions. Presenters reinforced the need for a pro-poor growth strategy that includes adequate public spending for basic education, health and family planning services, improved access to credit, and a poverty reduction strategy, favoring policies and programs that benefit the poor more than the rich, and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises. Experiences from other countries suggest that poverty reduction can occur more rapidly if governments follow pro-poor policies, or avoided policies with adverse consequences on income distribution.

The impact of trade openness and globalization on poverty reduction and food security will depend on how effectively resources are allocated to tackle these goals directly through compensatory mechanisms such as social safety nets which are required to:

1. Compensate ‘losers’ from trade policy reforms
2. Provide opportunities to develop basic skills needed to exploit the new opportunities resulting from integrating with the global economy
3. Recognize and protect the most vulnerable in society.

In these regards, selective targeting is important to reach the neediest, allow for wide coverage of families, rationalize resources targeted to the poor, and minimize duplication. Additionally, inter-sectoral coordination must be emphasized and sustained to enhance synergy with civil society and as a guarantee of sustainability of pro-
grams. The central achievement of this Meeting was the success in bringing together policy-makers to share experiences on what works and what does not work in interventions to address food insecurity, poverty and disease in the region. The Meeting also served to sensitize participants, but more importantly, ministers of government and senior government policy makers, to the severity of the impact of socio-economic conditions on poverty and food security in the Caribbean, and to reinforce the urgency to implement deliberate, focused and targeted programs to alleviate illiteracy, disease, low income, food insecurity and other debilitating conditions of poverty, social marginalization and vulnerability.
BACKGROUND

The Policy Dialogue-Technical Meeting on “Food and Nutrition Security and Poverty Alleviation Strategies in the Caribbean” was held over three days, in Kingston, Jamaica, and consisted of two parts: A Technical Advisory Meeting and a Policy Dialogue Forum. Against the backdrop of unacceptably high levels of poverty, income inequality, pockets of malnutrition and increasing prevalence of nutrition-related chronic diseases in the Region, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, co-sponsored the Meeting with a view to gather new inputs to the regional efforts on food security, anti-poverty and health enhancing initiatives to be implemented in the Region.

Meeting Parts

- Technical Advisory Meeting
- Policy Dialogue Forum

Participants in session at the Meeting
OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Provide a forum in which key decision-makers could meet to discuss past and current approaches/programs in poverty alleviation and food and nutrition security in the Caribbean.

2. Share experiences and sensitize decision-makers on lessons learned from regional and extra regional programs to alleviate poverty and promote food and nutrition security.

3. Provide an opportunity to present and elaborate new approaches and recommendations to policy-makers for targeted interventions to reduce poverty and promote food and nutrition security in the Caribbean.

4. Identify key areas that require research in order to provide decision makers with information to enhance food and nutrition security and reduce poverty in the region.

5. Promote new partnerships and policy agreements to alleviate poverty and promote food and nutrition security in the region.

6. Provide a background for the launching of a Small Grants Program for Caribbean countries to pursue recommendations developed at the meeting.
STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

Eighteen policy and technical papers were presented in three thematic areas:

1. Lessons from Food and Nutrition and Poverty Alleviation Programs

2. Preventing Food Insecurity and Improving Health


Additionally, participants were organized into groups to discuss new approaches and strategies to regional food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation.

The recommendations from the groups were presented to decision-makers at the policy dialogue forum on the final day. At this forum also, the USDA announced its follow-up Small Grants Program to reduce poverty and promote food and nutrition security in the Caribbean. Several regional and international institutions were represented at the Meeting, including FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO, IICA, CARDI, UWI, UG, EU-ACP, CDB, USAID and numerous NGOs with programs on poverty and food security. Over 80 persons attended the Meeting, including, on the final day, several Caribbean Government Ministers and senior Government Officials.
TECHNICAL ADVISORY MEETING

19–20 November 2003
OPENING SESSION

The Conference sponsors and several distinguished individuals welcomed the participants and provided brief remarks at the opening session, which was chaired by Mrs. Ann Marie Bonner, Principal Director, Policy Analysis Review Unit, Cabinet Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica. Presenters included: Dr. Fitzroy Henry, Director, CFNI, Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc, Director of Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA, Dr. Edward Greene, Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM, and The Honourable John Junor and The Honourable Roger Clarke, Ministers of Health and Agriculture, respectively, Government of Jamaica.

Two papers were presented following these introductory remarks. The first was the keynote paper by Prof. Denis Benn, Michael Manley Professor of Public Affairs/Public Policy, UWI, Mona, followed by Dr. Ballayram, Food Economist, CFNI. Prof. Benn’s paper, titled “Economic Development and Poverty in the Caribbean”, traced the evolution in thinking on development, beginning from classical development economics, through the preoccupation with growth in the 1960s and 1970s, to the current emphasis on human needs. This latter challenged the earlier focus on growth rates and other national economic aggregates as indices of development. Beginning with the 1990 UN Human Development Report and its Human Development Index (HDI) and later the UNDP’s Human Poverty Index (HPI), the new approach reflects a philosophical redefinition of development in terms of the enlargement of people’s choices. In this regard, international development agencies (World Bank, UN, etc.) assign priority to poverty eradication underlined by the fact that poverty eradication is the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the international community to guide development policy.

Prof. Benn emphasized the need to address the longer-term structural underpinnings of poverty. In this regard, he identified several policy directions:

**Policy Directions**

1. Appropriate strategies to expand output based on increased productivity and competitiveness.

2. Exploit the regional economic entity in terms of:
   a. Establishing CARICOM regional projects, especially to establish a CARICOM Regional Development Fund.
   b. Support the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) as a wider framework for integrated regional programs based on factor movements and complementarity.

Collective solidarity, both regionally and with other developing countries (e.g., the Group of 20 at the Cancun Ministerial Meeting), in multilateral trade negotiations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), ACP-EU Cotonou Agreement, and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA).
Prof. Benn maintained that promoting economic development along these lines would lay the foundation for future economic prosperity, thus eliminating the scourge of poverty and food insecurity in the region.

Dr. Ballayram’s presentation, titled “Conceptual Framework for Food Security Within Poverty Alleviation Strategies”, elaborated on key structuring principles that should guide policies to enhance food security and reduce poverty. Recognizing that food security and poverty alleviation overlap and that health is a central component in economic growth and in poverty reduction programs, Dr. Ballayram submitted that poverty alleviation must be posed simultaneously with several other debilitating conditions of human existence which may appear disparate and unrelated, yet on closer examination, are all bounded within the same vector. The challenge is to design poverty alleviation programs that give emphasis to improved nutrition as one of the main outcomes. This derives from unacceptably high levels of poverty and inequality, and insufficient attention given to prevailing nutrition-related health problems in the region. Of particular importance, obesity and its co-morbidities, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, heart diseases, and cancer have replaced malnutrition and infectious diseases as the major public health problems, and are the major causes of death in the region. The cost of managing these nutrition-related chronic diseases places a disproportionate burden on poor families and perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty and ill-health.
SESSION 1: POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE CARIBBEAN: LESSONS LEARNED

Three papers were presented in this session. The first was by Mrs. Pauline Knight, Head, Social Manpower and Planning, Planning Institute of Jamaica, followed by Dr. Judy Wedderburn, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Foundation, Jamaica and Eastern Caribbean, and a joint paper by Dr. Arlington Chesney and Ms. Diane Francis, Director of Operations, Caribbean Region, and Advisor to the Director-General on Caribbean Affairs, and Consultant, Trade and Policy Program, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), respectively.

Mrs. Knight’s paper, “Poverty Alleviation Strategies in Jamaica: Lessons Learned”, identified key lessons learned from poverty alleviation programs and related projects implemented in Jamaica over the last two to three decades. The lessons include:

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<tr>
<td>1. Minimizing administrative costs and leakages of benefits of programs</td>
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<td>2. Effective targeting</td>
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<td>3. Encouraging acceptability of social programs. Well-developed school feeding programs are an important strategy for poverty alleviation and essential for the healthy development of school children.</td>
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Household-level social interventions with a nutritional orientation contribute immensely to poverty alleviation and food security. However, while safety net and other programs to improve the nutritional status can have long-term benefits more emphasis must be placed on making sustainable changes in the circumstances that cause poverty and poor nutrition in households.

Dr. Wedderburn’s paper, “Hunger Anywhere is a Threat to Peace Everywhere: A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Perspective: Food Sovereignty, Nutrition Security and Poverty Alleviation”, drew attention to one of the fundamental human rights now denied millions of people around the world, viz., the right to adequate food and nutrition. She discussed food sovereignty, nutrition security and poverty alleviation and their inter-relatedness within the context of the current multilateral trade regime, which has emerged since the 1900s. This regime has affected not only the rules that regulate the integration of developing countries into the world economy on which they are increasingly dependent, but has also affected their domestic economic policy options. Its essence is not about promoting agricultural trade between countries, but rather, it is primarily aimed at accumulation and profit taking for a handful of large agribusiness corporations, supported by massive subsidies. These lead to distortions in global markets, which threaten the survival of small farmers, and turn many rural people into landless agricultural workers who must sell their labor before they can buy food.
This regime also reduces government’s policy options to promote small-scale farming and sustainable rural development as part of the larger objectives of national food security and food sovereignty.

The paper by Dr. Chesney and Ms. Francis, titled “Poverty Reduction Strategies, WTO, Sugar and Bananas — the Caribbean Experience”, focused on the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The socio-economic situation in rural communities in the OECS has deteriorated drastically over the past few years as a result of the fallout from the banana industry, resulting from (a) adverse effects of trade liberalization, particularly on the traditional preferential EU market access arrangements; (b) the cumulative effects of structural adjustment programs; (c) the decline in official development assistance for developing countries’ agriculture since 1999; and (d) increased rural unemployment and hence the risk and incidence of poverty following events of September 11, 2001. The OECS have had many social poverty alleviation programs. These programs have, apparently, met with limited success, due in part to the lack of proper poverty assessments and the failure to take into consideration the fact that agriculture has traditionally been a major source of employment and hence a poverty alleviator. It is now well accepted that the depth of the agriculture-induced increase in poverty requires more direct and immediate measures within agriculture as a major factor in poverty reduction. Guided by the World Bank’s new Poverty Reduction Strategy approach and the recent (October 2003) approval of the OECS Agricultural Policy and Plan of Action, the sub-region is well positioned to develop appropriate “pro-poor” policies, programs and projects that will provide sustainable employment and hence systematically drive the process of poverty alleviation.
SESSION 2: POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO COMBAT POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

Three papers were presented in this session. The first was by Ms. Peggy Cantfil, Senior Analyst, School Program Development Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, followed by Ms. Babette Gainor, Director, Global Food and Education Programs, Food and Agricultural Service, USDA, and Ms. Ann Marie Chandler, Operations Officer, Caribbean Development Bank.

Ms. Cantfil’s presentation, titled “Food, Nutrition Security and Anti-Poverty Programs of the United States of America”, provided a comprehensive historical account, going back to the Great Depression when food was abundant but purchasing power was absent, through the various Farm Bills and Agriculture Acts of the US over the last fifty years. The specific interventions over the years include the Food Stamp Program, directed towards low-income families to secure access to foods, and is the oldest in the world. Other existing programs include Food Distribution, Infant Nutrition, Community Food Security, School Feeding and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs. All of these programs are rooted in the US farm program as a way of supporting US agriculture. The current focus of these programs is on curbing obesity and nutrition-related chronic diseases by emphasizing more fruits, vegetables and whole grains in diets. National nutrition education is also a key component of these programs.

Ms. Gainor’s presentation, titled “US Food and Nutrition and Anti-Poverty Initiatives in the Caribbean: Global Food and Education Programs”, explained the USDA’s McGovern-Dole Food For Educa-

tion Program (FFE), which is a School Feeding Program currently in 22 developing countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its vision is to enhance education and development through increased school enrollment and attendance, improve school performance, and improve child/student health through nutrition. The World Food Program (WFP) and several NGOs developed the program. USDA donates the food, which can be used for direct commodity distribution, food for work, barter/processing, or monetization to purchase local foods. The objectives of the program are met through targeting of rural areas that are often faced with poor school attendance.

The project emphasizes children’s education, especially of females (illiterate women have a five times higher death rate than their literate counterparts in Central America), and plans to incorporate boys into the school system in later years of their school age. Sustainability is met by strengthening the link between the community and the school through training programs and effective participation of parents, teachers, and local businesses. The main achievements of the project so far have been an increase in school enrollment and reduced drop-out rates, infrastructural development of schools, improved water and sanitation, creation of school gardens and other production-oriented activities, and other complementary benefits such as teacher training in health, sanitation, nutrition and the environment.

Ms. Chandler’s presentation, titled “Investment Initiatives to Alleviate Poverty and
Improve Food Security” reported on investment activities of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in the areas of poverty alleviation and food security over the period 1970-2003. The CDB has provided capital investments for infrastructure, macroeconomic growth, and to support public entities in the region. The specific activities include:

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<td>1. Country Poverty Assessments (CPA)</td>
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<td>2. Shelter Development Projects</td>
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<td>3. Education and Skills Training</td>
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<td>4. The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF)</td>
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<td>5. Rural Enterprise Development Projects (REPs).</td>
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The CPAs were required to identify policies, strategies, action programs and projects to reduce the extent and severity of poverty, and to improve the quality of life in borrowing member countries (BMC). The most vulnerable groups found were: indigenous groups, women and young persons, those in remote/rural areas, agricultural workers, those in the informal sector, and persons with low education and skill levels. The interventions were aimed at:

- Improving access to public services
- Enhancing employment opportunities
- Community and individual empowerment.

The benefits from these interventions include:

- Improved household incomes
- Enhanced food supply
- Reduction in food import bills
- Reduction in rural urban drift
- Community empowerment.

Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc, Director of Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA, making a presentation at the Policy Dialogue Forum on the final day of the Meeting.
SESSION 3: POVERTY, FOOD SECURITY, GENDER AND EDUCATION

Two papers were presented at this session. The first was by Mr. Carl Greenidge, Director, Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, ACP-EU, followed by Dr. Aldrie Henry-Lee, Research Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI, Mona Campus.

Mr. Greenidge’s paper was titled "Food Security and Poverty: Some Lessons on Gender and Information Strategies from Africa". In Africa, women are resource poor, have low entitlements, limited access to infrastructures, and are institutionally disadvantaged. These result from:

1. Gender division of labour
2. Migration of males in search of paid work
3. Impact of the AIDS pandemic
4. A complex set of rights and obligations arising from:
   a. Biological differences
   b. Traditional social and religious norms
   c. Consequences of division of labour, land and proceeds from different types of production.

Further, women in Africa:

1. Are the majority of smallholders and the main suppliers of agricultural labour
2. Manage many farms
3. Lead many households but whose children have more schooling
4. Are younger and less well-educated.
5. Are undercapitalised
6. Depend on remittances.

For all of these reasons most of the 8 Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved by 2015 in Africa.

Gender and gender politics in Africa are not fully understood. These relationships are dynamic and diverse across space and time. Further, since gender inequality has many distinct and dissimilar faces, solutions must therefore include:

1. Cultivating an environment that empowers women and women’s organizations through education and gainful employment.
2. Informed critical assessment of received values to deal with injustice due to natality.

Mr. Greenidge concluded by emphasizing the urgency to address gender dynamics which are complex and far from static and identified context-specific steps to enhance women’s bargaining power in Africa.

Dr. Henry-Lee’s paper, titled "Poverty Alleviation and Social Interventions", examined the commitments and challenges
to poverty eradication at the international, national and community levels. Although there has been a shift in the development agenda to a more people-centered approach, the successful implementation of poverty reduction strategies will be difficult. In particular, the poverty eradication agenda is doomed to fail because of the increasing global gaps and the threats posed by globalization. There has been no dramatic change in the global distribution of power and assets to facilitate a reduction in global inequalities. Using the Caribbean as a case in point, the paper examined the national and community challenges that face the poverty eradication strategies. Within the context of slow economic growth, high levels of indebtedness, an unstable tourist sector and the removal of the protectionist system, poverty alleviation, not eradication remains the more realistic goal small developing countries.
SESSION 4: MEASURING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES TO REDUCE POVERTY

Three papers were presented at this session. The first was by Dr. Lynn Brown, Chair, FIVIMS Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), World Bank, followed by Dr. Carlos Castillo-Salgado, Area Manager, Health Analysis and Information Systems, PAHO, and Dr. Cesar Vieira, Area Manager, a.i., Governance and Policy, PAHO.

Dr. Brown’s paper, titled “Food Security Information Systems and Effective Targeting Geared towards Food and Nutrition Security and Anti-Poverty Interventions”, looked at the need for quality information systems and targeting from the perspective of food security, especially as the development community favors results-based lending and focuses on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. One information initiative designed to do this task and to achieve the necessary cross-sectoral communication and action, is the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping Systems (FIVIMS).

This system consists of several activities carried out both at the national and international levels, in support of improved information to help achieve World Food Summit goals, Millennium Development Goals and other goals related to food security and nutrition, hunger and poverty. Experience shows that there are often many information systems operating in a country but very little integration between them thus reducing their effectiveness in tackling complex issues such as food insecurity. The key to the FIVIMS framework is the bringing together of these information systems. Systems that may already exist in many countries include Agricultural Information Systems, Health Information Systems, Land, Water, Climate Information Systems, Early Warnings Systems, Household Food Security and Nutritional Information Systems, Market Information Systems, and Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Systems.

Dr. Brown concluded that in countries such as Jamaica and Haiti, information is more prevalent but for many others in the region there is little, and most of it fairly outdated. There is therefore the need for a comprehensive network of food security and poverty information systems, with supporting analysis — a FIVIMS type system. Given the increasing prevalence of both food insecurity and obesity, this is a critical step for effective policy action. The advantage of an integrated network of information systems, such as FIVIMS, is that it will also foster the intra- and inter-sectoral linkages necessary to successfully implement food security and anti-poverty policies, an issue that has been identified to be currently under-exploited in the Caribbean region.

Dr. Castillo-Salgado’s paper, titled “Measuring Social Inequalities in Health — Experiences and Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean”, explained PAHO’s approach to measuring social inequalities and health status using the SIGEpi program. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) designed for applications in Epidemiology and Public Health, including specific analytical procedures for:
The Area of Health Analysis and Information Systems (DD/AIS) of PAHO/WHO has developed and supported this regional initiative, which:

1. Facilitates the collection, analysis and dissemination of health information for measuring health inequalities
2. Supports the Core Health Data Regional Platform and assist the development of health information/communication networks in the countries
3. Analyzes the applicability of known indicators for measuring health inequalities that are aggregated by geopolitical units and population groups
4. Evaluates those indicators with country data jointly with national authorities
5. Prepares technical materials and guidelines for the transfer of these methodologies to all countries in the Region.

In these regards, SIGEpi is used to:

1. Design specific analytical procedures to identify and locate inequalities integrated in a GIS; and
2. Distribute strategies focused on priority countries and sub-regions in the areas of:
   a. Training
   b. Software
   c. Technical cooperation
d. Materials.

Dr. Cesar Vieira’s paper, titled “Inequalities in Education, Health and Nutrition: Policy Implications” discussed four issues:

1. Inequalities in the Caribbean and Latin America
2. Regional experiences in social policies
3. Promising initiatives for inequalities reduction
4. A balanced approach to inequality reduction.

In these regards, he traced the origins of inequalities to:

1. Colonial times
2. Persisting after independence
3. Present in different dimensions of life
4. Socio-economic, political and racial roots
5. Mutual interactions among themselves.
In response, social policies in Latin America and the Caribbean:

1. Have been parallel, isolated initiatives from different sectors

2. Reflects supply side perspective and not focused on community needs

3. Show lack of coordination thereby limiting complementarity

4. Have a universal focus rather than on the specific needs of vulnerable groups

5. Result in regressive benefits and increasing exclusion.

Some promising initiatives include:

1. Multi-sectoral policies in the Caribbean (e.g., COHSOD [CARICOM]), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc.

2. Jamaica Social Policy Evaluation

3. Social Impact Amelioration Program and HIPC Initiative (Guyana)

4. Monitoring inequalities — Survey of Living Conditions (Jamaica); Harmonization of Social Statistics and Indicators (CARICOM)

5. Mix of services and subsidies — Progressa Opportunity (Mexico); Zero Hunger, Family Subsidy (Brazil), etc.

Dr. Vieira suggested elements of a balanced approach to reducing inequality through:

1. Universal plus targeted interventions

2. Sectoral as well as multi-sectoral policies

3. Supply and demand perspectives

4. Combination of state, market and civil society participation

5. Economic, social and political development.
SESSION 5: POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES AT THE SCHOOL AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

Two papers were presented in this session, after which participants were organized into four working groups to discuss new approaches and strategies to regional food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation and to formulate recommendations. The first paper was presented by Prof. Beatrice Rogers, Dean, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, and the second by Mr. Godfrey Xuereb and Ms. Laura Richards, Public Health Nutritionist and Clinical Dietitian, respectively, CFNI.

Prof. Rogers' paper was titled "Efficacy and Effectiveness of Social Interventions with Nutrition Orientation at the Household Level". She explained that household level social interventions with a nutritional orientation are aimed at addressing malnutrition, but within the context of a broader set of objectives related to poverty alleviation and food security. While these objectives are closely related, they are not the same thing, and interventions need to address them explicitly as separate outcomes. Interventions to alleviate malnutrition have at times been short-term in nature, providing supplementary food to the undernourished as a rehabilitative measure, but without changing the underlying circumstances of the household that initially led to malnutrition. Improving the nutritional status of young children does have long term health benefits, even into the next generation, but household-level social intervention should aim to make sustainable changes in the circumstances that cause poor nutrition in households. Safety net programs that provide food or purchasing power to low-income, food insecure households play an important role in maintaining adequate nutrition, but do not themselves alter a household's longer-term economic and nutritional circumstances.

There are several examples of programs that address both short-term nutritional needs (through income transfers and food supplements) and longer-term investments in human capital (through incentives to make use of preventive health and education services). Over the past several years, carefully designed evaluations have provided evidence of the effectiveness of these programs, at least at the pilot level, in improving food consumption, nutritional status of children, and use of health and educational services. As is often the case, the specifics of the program, including the size of the transfer, range and quality of services provided, enforcement of conditionalities, targeting mechanisms, and others, are significant determinants of program impact, as is the community context in which these programs operate. Not all programs appear to be equally effective, and different program elements affect different dimensions of the problem. Long-term impact and long-term program sustainability have not been adequately assessed in many of these programs. Such assessment should be incorporated into plans for the further development of household level, nutritionally-oriented social interventions.

The paper by Mr. Xuereb and Ms. Richards, titled "School-Feeding Programs in the Caribbean: Opportunities for Nutrition..."
Security within Poverty Alleviation Strategies”, argued that school-feeding programs are a potent weapon against hunger and also provide an excellent opportunity to achieve nutritional goals. In this regard, school-feeding programs should focus on “Healthy Eating” and not just on making sure children have a full stomach. Further, Recommended Daily Allowances (RDA) for the specific age groups should be used to develop the menus and ensure that school feeding contributes positively to the health of the child. Using the experience of a pilot program from Jamaica that incorporated these insights, the paper reported that:

1. Over 90% of students noticed a positive change in the lunch provided
2. 52% reported that they told their parents to serve food similar to those served at school
3. 40% teachers reported observing an improvement in the school attendance
4. Over 70% in all-age schools noticed a positive change in schoolwork enjoyment
5. 33% observed some amount of improved behavior among the students
6. Over 90% indicated that PATH students benefited from the program
7. 48.7% of the parents noticed changes in the eating habits of their children as follows:
   a. 26% said the child ate more
   b. 21% requested vegetables
   c. Almost 40% of the children had made request of their parents for a particular food preparation method linked with the new menu; and
   d. 91.5% saw the meals as good value for money.

From the Administrators:
1. 36% stated that there was an increase in the participation in the program as well as in attendance and performance at school
2. Overall 46% indicated that there was an improvement in attendance since the start of the pilot
3. 64% indicated that there was an improvement in the children’s health status.
OPENING CEREMONY

Several distinguished persons addressed the Forum at the opening ceremony, which was chaired by Dr. Fitzroy Henry, Director of CFNI. Presenters included Dr. Carissa Etienne, Assistant Director, PAHO; Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director-General, IICA; Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc, Director of Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA; Dr. Edward Greene, Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM; and Senator The Honourable Ms. Deika Morrison, Minister of State, Office of the Minister of Finance and Planning, Jamaica. Senator Morrison was the keynote speaker at this opening ceremony.
SESSION 6: LESSONS LEARNED FROM POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND FOOD SECURITY

Two papers were presented at this session. The first was by Ms. Kate Coler, Deputy Undersecretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Affairs, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, followed by Mr. Carl Greenidge, Director, Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, ACP-EU.

Ms. Coler’s paper, titled “Food, Nutrition and Anti-Poverty Programs: The USA Experience”, discussed the policy perspective of several food, nutrition and anti-poverty programs of the USA. These include:

1. The National Nutrition Safety Net Program
2. The Food Stamp Program
3. The National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, Child and Adult Care, and Summer Food Service Programs
4. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
5. The Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs
6. The Commodity Assistance Programs.

Ms. Coler identified several features of these programs and important lessons as follows:

1. Programs are defined in terms of nutrition assistance rather than general welfare thus providing a broader basis of political support.
2. Benefits are linked to food as meals, food products or markers that can only be used to purchase food in grocery stores or farmers’ markets.
3. Some variability and individual choice are built into the benefits of each program in recognition of the importance of cultural background and the diversity of food preferences.
4. Benefit amounts are based on individual or family need. Need is defined in terms of financial circumstances and dietary requirements.
5. Education is an integral part of nutrition assistance programs in order to ensure that citizens make healthful food choices.
6. Program participation is regarded and communicated as temporary assistance, a helping hand, for families on the way to self-sufficiency.
7. If appropriately designed, nutrition assistance programs can be responsive to the general economic conditions — that is, allowing for increased participation in poor economic climates and decreased participation as the economy improves.
Mr. Greenidge's paper, titled "Regional Approaches to Anti-Poverty Programs and Food Security: Past Experiences and the Way Forward", began with the observation that countries in the region have had various, albeit ad hoc, public sector driven programs addressing poverty alleviation and social equity over the last several decades. From a regional perspective, meeting the MDG on poverty is a serious challenge. Poverty in the region is linked to several factors that affect national and household food security, including:

1. Low productivity agriculture and monoculture
2. Sluggish reaction to long-term changes in traditional markets and globalisation
3. Inappropriate agricultural investment strategies with consequential deleterious impact on community organisation.

Mr. Greenidge identified several recent/past initiatives to address poverty, including a range of interventions addressing aspects of the problem (e.g., BNTF; REP; National Poverty Eradication Programme and Programme for Advancement through Health and Education (PATH); and the Social Impact Amelioration Program (SIMAP). He emphasized that the interventions need to be multi-sectoral and multi-layered but conceded that the division of labour between regional entities and national states has not yet been adequately defined. He also identified areas that require greater focus in policy, such as:

1. Combating hunger and extreme poverty through renewed and expanded commitment to agriculture and rural development especially because dependence on agriculture is greatest where hunger is most persistent.

2. Public investment fails to reflect this and is inadequate as far as infrastructure is concerned including for agricultural research and extension

3. Tenure reform, indigenous rights, women's rights, missed opportunities to link production with feeding programmes.

Finally, he maintained that regional integration is still not informed by the urgency that poverty elimination would seem to warrant.
SESSION 7: PUBLIC POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE POVERTY AND ENHANCE REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY

The final session of the Meeting was chaired firstly by Senator The Honorable Calixte George, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Saint Lucia, and secondly by Senator The Honorable Deika Morrison, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Jamaica. Two papers were presented. The first was by Dr. Deep Ford, Food Systems Economist, FAO Regional Office, Chile, and the second by Dr. Edward Greene and Ms. Sandra Plummer, CARICOM. Additionally, Dr. Omawale, Poverty and Food Security Specialist, presented the recommendations from the Work Groups, and Dr. Kramer-LeBlanc launched the Small Grants Program. Dr. Fitzroy Henry and Ms. Kate Coler gave the closing remarks.

Dr. Ford’s paper is titled “Towards a New Food Policy Strategy for the Caribbean: Linking Food Security, Health and Surveillance”. He maintained that the food policy spectrum now extends from undernutrition to addressing food security, the right to food, food sovereignty, food poverty, food safety and the prevention of chronic disease. While several of the poorest countries in the Caribbean region face serious food security problems in terms of food and poverty, (Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica and Guyana), other countries classified as more developed are now increasingly facing food safety and food health problems. The paper addressed these policy issues related to food insecurity in the Caribbean using as its point of departure the proposition that resolving food insecurity of the poor is a prerequisite to addressing broader issues related to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The paper presented a brief overview of trends in food policy from the 1970’s to the current period and outlined the nature of some emerging themes and challenges facing the region in the context of food security, nutrition and health. Components of a new food policy agenda were presented, highlighting the need to synchronise food security and health concerns in three main areas:

1. Food consumption, nutrition and health
2. Food trade, production and safety
3. Food and agriculture resource allocation and public health programming.

The paper concluded that improved food security information systems development is critical to establishing a new food policy framework that will enhance the achievement of the food security goals of the Caribbean region.

The paper by Dr. Greene and Ms. Plummer is titled “Globalization, Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in the Caribbean: The Imperative for a Regional Strategy”. The authors observed that the Caribbean was currently actively engaged in deepening and widening regional integration at a time when global forces are in pursuit of universal efficiency. Considerable tension emerges from this interface resulting in several pressing
issues that the Region must urgently deal with, including, *inter alia*:

1. Loss of preferential markets and the negative effects on agricultural development, employment, income and living standards

2. Globalization appears to be increasingly working to the disadvantage of small economies

3. Increase dependence on extra-regional food imports and the persistence of pockets of poverty are affecting the food security situation in the Caribbean.

Against this background the authors provided several suggestions on the way forward:

1. Develop a regional mechanism to protect the interest and the quality of life in the Caribbean, such as the Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) which has been lobbying for special and differential treatment for small economies and promoting a CARICOM position within international arenas such as the FTAA, MERCOSUR and NAFTA.

2. Commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty.

3. Strengthen trade in goods and services, allow free movement of persons, and scale up the Regional Transformation Program in Agriculture to increase the human resource capacity and competitiveness in national and regional development.

4. Improve social statistical capacities to develop accurate indices of Poverty, Vulnerability and Human Development, to inform decision-making and attract donor funding for sub-regional and regional projects and programs.

5. Integrate gender into developmental activities, plan for sustainable and environmental development, and develop a Human and Social Development Strategy to improve food security and national and regional development.

6. Encourage Regional Task Forces such as the Futures Group and the Regional Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, to develop possible solutions to some of the most pressing social and economic problems of the Region.
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORK GROUPS

Dr. Omawale presented the recommendations from the work groups. For convenience, these recommendations to reduce poverty and food insecurity are grouped under four categories:

1. Institutional Development
   - Establish a supra-national (CARI-COM and/or CFNI) Survey/Data Coordination Unit that will collaborate with national statistical institutes, harmonize data collection efforts and make data available and publicly documented.
   - Intensify Inter-sectoral Coordination for clear, transparent, widely accepted national policy to counter competitive tendencies, due to struggle over limited resources.
   - Promote broad partnerships with civil society organizations and private sector in development of national anti-poverty and food security policies. This would promote consistency in their subsequent actions.
   - Pursue decentralization and strengthening of people’s organizations; support small farmers; promote national and regional cooperative production.

2. Policy Design and Coordination
   - Formulate country-specific strategies based on analysis of specific causes of poverty and food insecurity in each country.
   - Ensure domestic, regional and international policies consistent with poverty alleviation through: compulsory education, job creation and stemming rural-urban migration; creation of an enabling environment for economic growth and meaningful, legitimate employment and wealth creation.
   - Examine feasibility of COHSOD recommendations for a managed migration programme — seek support from other countries regarding brain/skills drain managed migration program (consultation, task force to devise strategy) inclusive of the GATS element.
   - Pursue operationalization of Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Unit to deal with SPS matters at a regional level and assist Ministries at the national level; rationalisation of standards, legislation, laboratories with international assistance.

3. Agricultural and Other Sectoral Development
   - Advocate strongly for Special and Differential Treatment in international negotiations (especially for special products or industries). Protect and strengthen the Regional Negotiating Arrangements and align with others who support the concept.
   - Actively research and explore niche markets and vigorously pursue value-added agricultural products.
• Vigorously pursue the Regional Agricultural Transformation Programme.

• Pursue and support focused applied research.

• Diversify within the region; select industries that could trade in the region.

• Promote environmental practices to enhance food production and address health and disaster hazard mitigation.

4. Measurement/Evaluation/Monitoring

• Provide evidence-based analysis to support recommendations (Benefit-Cost Analysis); identify best practices by studies of school-feeding and other projects throughout the region.

• Develop and use key indicators of inequity, starting with MDGs and add a few indicators of Poverty, Hunger, Obesity, Diet Quality, Gender Equity, Education, Health, Environment and Food Cost. To measure inequity, disaggregate by urban/rural, geographical regions, income quintile, across countries, and ethnicity where relevant.

• Do Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) type survey every 5 years; LSMS “quick survey” every year; use health and education sector data and PAHO national survey data; assess reliability and representativeness of health/education sector data; harmonize mapping strategies to link GIS with data.

• Assess Technical Capacity in each country — survey capability, etc.; facilitate broad participation, making data publicly available, with lead agency to coordinate data needs of ministries/agencies; do periodic special studies, e.g. impact of free trade agreements on food supply.

Working Group Recommendations

| Institutional Development
| Policy Design and Coordination
| Agricultural and other Sectoral Development
| Measurement/Evaluation/Monitoring |
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Small Grants Program is the second phase of this USDA initiative with CFNI. USDA has already contributed US$120,000 to start this Small Grants Program. CFNI is aggressively seeking supplemental funds from grant agencies for this Program, which is aimed at promoting innovative small projects, designed to enhance food and nutrition security and alleviate poverty in Caribbean countries. CFNI, USDA, CARICOM and others will prepare a "Call for Proposals", outlining the selection criteria and other conditions of the grants. The proposals will be reviewed by a committee set up for this task and CFNI will be responsible for administering the grants.

Inputs and recommendations from participants at the CFNI/USDA/CARICOM Policy Technical-Dialogue Meeting identified an initial set of priority specific areas/activities for funding:

1. Loans to small rural producers: fishermen, farmers, livestock holders
2. Agro-processing
3. Loans for Urban Food Production
4. Community Gardens for Women
5. Craft production and marketing
6. Cottage industries
7. Environmental Protection
8. Support School Food Vendors; linked to appropriate products and practices
9. Nutrition and Health Education
10. Public Health and Sanitation
11. Experiment with use of palm pilots linked to centralized computers for local data collection, transmission up and down.

Discussing the Small Grants Program, from left Dr. Ballyram, Food Economist, CFNI; Dr. James Stevenson, USDA; Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc, USDA and Dr. David Williams, International Affairs Specialist, USDA.
CONCLUSIONS

The Meeting was successful in bringing together policy-makers to share experiences and lessons learned from interventions to address food insecurity and poverty in the Caribbean and elsewhere. The Meeting also served to sensitize participants, especially ministers of government and senior government policy-makers, on the severity of the socio-economic conditions on poverty and food security in the Caribbean. It also served to reinforce the urgency to implement deliberate, focused and targeted programs to eliminate the debilitating conditions of poverty, social marginalization and vulnerability in the region.

Participants in Session at the Meeting
APPENDIX 1

INAUGURATION

Wednesday, 19 November 2003

08:30 Registration

Chairperson: Mrs. Ann Marie Bonner
Principal Director, Policy Analysis and Review Unit, Cabinet Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica

09:00 Invocation

Welcome, Remarks and Addresses

- Dr. Fitzroy Henry, Director, Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
- Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc, Director of Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Edward Greene, Assistant Secretary-General, Caribbean Community Secretariat
- The Honourable John Junor, Minister of Health, Jamaica
- The Honourable Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica

09:45 Economic Development and Poverty in the Caribbean
Prof. Denis Benn
Michael Manley Professor of Public Affairs/Public Policy, UWI, Mona

10:15 Conceptual Framework for Food and Nutrition Security Within Poverty Alleviation Strategies
Dr. Ballayram
Food Economist, Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute

10:30 Coffee Break
Wednesday, 19th November (cont’d)

**TECHNICAL SESSIONS**

**POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE CARIBBEAN: LESSONS LEARNED**

*Chairperson: Prof. Compton Bourne  
President, Caribbean Development Bank*

11:00  
**Poverty Alleviation Strategies in Jamaica: Lessons Learned**  
*Mrs. Pauline Knight  
Head, Social Manpower & Planning, Planning Institute of Jamaica*

Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

12:00  
**Panel Discussion: Non-Governmental Programs**  
**Hunger Anywhere is a Threat to Peace Everywhere: Food Sovereignty, Nutrition Security and Poverty Alleviation**  
*Dr. Judith Wedderburn, Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, Jamaica & the Eastern Caribbean  
Ms. Jocelyn Dow, Guyana*

12:30  
**Poverty Reduction Strategies, WTO, Sugar and Bananas—The Caribbean Experience**  
*Dr. Arlington Chesney, Director of Operations, Caribbean Region & Advisor to the Director-General on Caribbean Affairs, IICA*

Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

13:00  
*Lunch*

**POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO COMBAT POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY**

*Chairperson: Ms. Mellany Zonicle  
Director, Social Services & Community Development  
The Bahamas*

14:00  
**Food, Nutrition and Anti-Poverty Programs in the United States of America**  
*Ms. Peggy Cantfil  
Senior Analyst, School Program Development Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA*

Questions and Answers (15 minutes)

15:00  
**US Food and Nutrition and Anti-Poverty Initiatives in the Caribbean: Global Food and Education Programs**  
*Ms. Babette Gainor  
Director, Global Food and Education Programs, Food and Agricultural Service, USDA*

Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

15:30  
**Caribbean Development Bank’s Investment Initiatives to Alleviate Poverty and Improve Food Security**  
*Ms. Ann Marie Chandler  
Operations Officer, Caribbean Development Bank*
Wednesday, 19th November (cont’d)

POVERTY, FOOD SECURITY, GENDER AND EDUCATION

Chairperson: Miss Donna-Mae Knights
Office of the Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago

16:00 Food Security in an African Context: Some Gender Issues
Mr. Carl Greenidge
Director, Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, ACP-EC
The Netherlands
Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

16:30 Poverty Alleviation and Social Interventions
Dr. Aldrie Henry-Lee
Research Fellow, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social & Economic Research (SALIES)
UWI, Mona

Thursday, 20 November 2003

MEASURING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES TO REDUCE POVERTY

Chairperson: Dr. Manuel Peña
PAHO/WHO Representative, Jamaica

09:00 Efficient Food Surveillance Systems and Effective Targeting Geared Towards Food and Nutrition Security and Anti-Poverty Interventions
Dr. Lynn Brown
World Bank, Chair, FIVIMS Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), Washington, D.C.
Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

09:30 Measuring Social Inequalities in Health – Experiences and Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean
Dr. Carlos Castillo-Salgado
Area Manager, Health Analysis and Information Systems, PAHO, Washington D.C.
Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

10:00 Inequalities in Education, Health and Nutrition: Policy Implications
Dr. Cesar Vieira
Area Manager a.i., Governance and Policy, PAHO, Washington, D.C.
Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

10:30 Coffee
Thursday, 20th November (cont’d)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGIES AT THE SCHOOL AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL

Chairperson: Ms. Rosalyn Hazelle
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Improvement
Community and Gender Affairs, St. Kitts

11:00 Efficacy and Effectiveness of Social Interventions with Nutrition Orientation at the Household Level
Prof. Beatrice Rogers
Dean, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, USA
Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

11:30 School Feeding Programs in the Caribbean: Opportunities to Reduce Poverty and Food Insecurity
Mr. Godfrey Xuereb, Public Health Nutritionist, CFNI
Miss Laura D. Richards, Clinical Dietitian, CFNI
Questions and Answers (10 minutes)

12:00 Working Groups Formation and Expected Results
Coordinated by Dr. Omawale, Poverty & Food Security Specialist

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Working Groups (continued)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING GROUPS

16:00 Technical Recommendations to Caribbean Governments – Dr. Omawale
Presenters: Work Group Rapporteurs
Discussion (15 minutes)
Policy Dialogue Technical Forum

Friday, 21 November 2003

08:30 Registration

Chairperson: Dr. Fitzroy Henry
Director, Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute

National Anthem

09:00 Opening Ceremony – Remarks and Addresses

Dr. Carissa Etienne
Assistant Director, Pan American Health Organization

Dr. Chelston Brathwaite
Director-General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc
Director of Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA

Dr. Edward Greene
Assistant Secretary-General, Caribbean Community Secretariat

Keynote Address

Dr. The Honorable Omar Davies
Minister of Finance and Planning, Jamaica

10:15 Coffee Break

Lessons Learned from Poverty Alleviation and Food Security Programs

Chairperson: The Honourable Ismael Cal
Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belize

10:45 Food, Nutrition and Anti-Poverty Programs: The USA Experience
Ms. Kate Coler
Deputy Undersecretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Affairs, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

Introduction by Mr. Syburn Thomas, Agricultural Specialist, USDA/FAS

Discussion (10 minutes)

11:30 Regional Approaches to Anti-Poverty Programs and Food Security: Past Experiences and the Way Forward
Mr. Carl Greenidge
Director, Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation, ACP-EC, The Netherlands

Discussion (10 minutes)

12:15 Lunch
Friday, 21 November 2003 (cont’d)

PUBLIC POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE POVERTY AND ENHANCE REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY

Chairperson: Sen. The Hon. Calixte George
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Saint Lucia

14:00
Towards a New Food Policy Strategy for the Caribbean: Linking Food Security, Health and Surveillance
Dr. Deep Ford
Food Systems Economist, FAO Regional Office, Santiago, Chile
Discussion (15 minutes)

14:45
Globalization, Poverty Alleviation and Food Security in the Caribbean: The Imperative for a Regional Strategy
Dr. Edward Greene
Assistant Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat
Discussion (15 minutes)

15:30
Coffee Break

Chairperson: Senator The Hon. Deika Morrison
Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Jamaica

16:00
Recommendations for Future Action on Poverty Alleviation and Food Security Strategies
Dr. Omawale
Poverty and Food Security Specialist
Discussion (20 minutes)

16:40
Fostering Community Food Security: Announcement of USDA/CFNI Small Grants Program and Closing Remarks
Dr. Carol Kramer-LeBlanc
Director of Research and Scientific Exchanges, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture

16:50
Reflections on the Meeting and Closing Remarks
Ms. Kate Coler
Deputy Undersecretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Affairs, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

17:00
Presentation of Draft Communiqué & Closure
APPENDIX II

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### MEETING EVALUATION

#### To what extent do you think the objectives of the meeting were met?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>More Than Expected (%)</th>
<th>Fully (%)</th>
<th>Some what (%)</th>
<th>Not Much (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Provide a forum for key decision makers to discuss current approaches</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>57.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>programs in poverty alleviation and food security in the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Share experiences and sensitize decision-makers on lessons learned from</td>
<td>14.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>regional/extra-regional programs to alleviate poverty and promote food</td>
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<td>security in the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Provide an opportunity to elaborate new approaches and recommendations</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>53.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>to policy-makers for targeted interventions to reduce poverty and</td>
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<tr>
<td>promote food security in the region</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Identify key areas that require research in order to provide</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>10.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>decision-makers with information to enhance food security and</td>
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<tr>
<td>reduce poverty in the region</td>
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<td>5. Promote new partnerships and policy agreements to alleviate poverty</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>and promote food security in the region</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Provide the background to launch a Small Grants program for</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>42.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caribbean countries to pursue recommendations developed at the Meeting</td>
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#### Please rate the following sessions:

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<th>Poor</th>
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<td>12.0</td>
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<td>Food Security in the Caribbean: Lessons Learned</td>
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<td>2. Policies and Programs To</td>
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<td>12.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combat Poverty And Food</td>
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<td>Insecurity</td>
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<td>3. Poverty, Food Security,</td>
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<td>Gender and Education</td>
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<td>4. Measuring Social</td>
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<td>Inequalities to Reduce</td>
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<td>Poverty</td>
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<td>5. Poverty Alleviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategies at the School</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Household Level</td>
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<td>6. Recommendations from</td>
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<td>Working Groups</td>
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<td><strong>B. Policy Forum</strong></td>
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<td>1. Food, Nutrition and</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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<td>Anti-Poverty Programs: The</td>
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<td>USA Experience</td>
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<td>2. Regional Approaches to</td>
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<td>Anti-Poverty Programs and</td>
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<td>Food Security: Past</td>
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<td>Experiences and the Way</td>
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<td>Forward</td>
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<td>3. Towards a New Food Policy</td>
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<td>Strategy for the Caribbean:</td>
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<td>Linking Food Security, Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Surveillance</td>
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<td>4. Globalization, Poverty</td>
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<td>Alleviation and Food</td>
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<td>Security Strategies</td>
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<td>5. Recommendations for Future</td>
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<td>Action on Poverty Alleviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Food Security Strategies</td>
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#### What is your overall impression of the following?

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>More Than Expected (%)</th>
<th>Fully (%)</th>
<th>Some what (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The meeting</td>
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<td>2. Format of the programme</td>
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<td>3. Length of presentations</td>
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<td>4. Opportunity for discussion</td>
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<td>5. Meeting Facility</td>
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<td>42.9</td>
<td>21.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), founded in 1967, has as its goal the improvement of the food and nutrition situation in its member countries through five types of activities, namely: service, education and training, information dissemination, coordination and research. Each activity is carried out in close collaboration with member governments.

CFNI is a specialized centre of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) which represents the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Region of the Americas. In addition to its parent body, PAHO/WHO, the Institute is also responsible to an Advisory Committee on Policy which the member governments form the majority. Technically it is guided by a Scientific Advisory Committee the members of which are selected on the basis of their technical expertise in the field of food and nutrition.

1Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands