

Purpose

The Dialogue aims to explore the emerging investment opportunities in the Caribbean that will drive the development of the region. ICS brings together program managers, policy makers, and private sector stakeholders to engage in a candid exchange focused on sustainable and profitable partnerships. The one-day symposium also provides a trusted mechanism where Caribbean businesses can access information and resources from potential partners for their initiatives.

Invited Speakers

Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute
Caribbean Central American Action CARICOM
Embassy of Barbados
Embassy of Guyana
Embassy of Haiti
Embassy of Jamaica
Embassy of St. Kitts
Inter-American Development Bank
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana
Ministry of Agriculture, Haiti
Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica
Overseas Private Investment Corp
US Department of Agriculture
US Export-Import Bank
US Small Business Administration
World Bank

ABOUT ICS

The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)3 organization established in 1993, dedicated to building bridges between Caribbean Americans and the US population at-large. Together with partner organizations from industry, government, and civil society, our objective is to provide education, advocacy, and action on issues impacting Caribbean peoples to enable their survival, growth, and prosperity in the ever changing global marketplace.

The Institute provides a forum for the public and private sectors, the non-government organization community, scholars and others interested in promoting a dialogue; and assists in the execution of actions that result from that dialogue. Since its inception, ICS has been on the forefront of the challenge to bring attention to the issues of critical importance to the Caribbean-American community, which is estimated at near 10 million.

ICS is the first Caribbean-American community organization in the Washington, D.C. area devoted to the successful inclusion of Caribbean Americans in US policy making, and the economic development of the Caribbean region.



1629 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-0460

icsdcorg@gmail.com
www.icsdc.org



*The Institute of Caribbean Studies
proudly convenes*

INVEST CARIBBEAN 2011

13TH ANNUAL
CARIBBEAN AMERICAN
BUSINESS LEADERS
DIALOGUE

**"Mining The AgriBusiness Value
Chain: Food-Fuel-Pharma**

Friday, November 11
Renaissance Marriott
999 Ninth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

AgriBusiness & The Caribbean

The Foundation

Many Caribbean countries have relied on US trade preferences and policies established to energize their economies, such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative which grants the region non-reciprocal duty-free access to US markets for the majority of products. With the exception of Guyana, whose major exports include rice and sugar; for several islands, agriculture's contribution to GDP is between one and five percent, with commercial farming centered on bananas and sugarcane.

With the exception of Trinidad and Tobago, which possesses oil and natural gas reserves, the other countries are net importers of fuel. In 2010, the US imported \$133 million in agricultural, fish and forestry products from the region. In contrast, the US exported \$1.26 billion in agricultural, fish and forestry products to the region. This is up 2.9 percent from 2009. Caribbean agribusinesses should capitalize on future opportunities to tap into US markets.

The Future

The decline of Caribbean agribusiness has created a problem with potentially severe circumstances for the region. A lack of capital investment in the agricultural sector coupled with a food price crisis has made the region more susceptible to food insecurity. A lack of sustained dialogue and coordinated action with agricultural smallholders may be the critical error in trying to improve the agricultural sector. Continued progress of the development of agribusiness in the Caribbean requires not only an increased development of the means of production, but also the steady coordination of that means of production. The implementation of agri-food value chains that are inclusive to Caribbean smallholders should be further explored, to strengthen agricultural sectors.

Agenda

(purposed)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration
Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Opening Plenary Panel I
An Overview of Opportunities: Critical Elements of The Food, Fuel and Pharma Value Chain

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Panel II
Unleashing The Opportunities: Resources to Meet Rising Challenges, Trends and Influences

12:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Luncheon Panel III
Stories From The Field: Connecting The Diversity of Emerging Opportunities

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Panel IV
Engaging The Financial Sector

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Closing Session

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

VIP Reception

7:30 PM - 1:00 AM

Caribbean American Heritage Awards Gala



LifeSEED

Pilot Program

The Life Skills Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Development (LifeSEED) initiative is a project of the Institute of Caribbean Studies that supports micro-enterprise development among women farmers and unemployed and under-employed youth in the Caribbean. The program will provide them with resources and economic opportunities to become more productive and contributing members of society.

Through collaboration with Caribbean and American businesses, LifeSEED will provide entrepreneurial training focused on life and business development skills. The curriculum includes team-building, conflict resolution, leadership, communication, as well as the practical lessons of starting and managing a business. The program will also offer sessions that examine ethics in business, corporate social responsibility, and the global marketplace.

Register Online: www.investcaribbean.us

Registration Closes November 10