



SPS Project
**10th EDF Sanitary and
Phytosanitary
Measures Project**



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Agriculture, Health and Environment Leaders benefit from 'One Health Leadership' training in Food Security and Food Safety

St. ANN, Jamaica, July 2nd (IICA). Thirty-five leaders selected from the agriculture, health and environment sectors in 12 Caribbean countries, participated in the recently held One Health Leadership Workshop: Interconnectivity for Food Security and Food Safety.

The workshop was held at The Cardiff Hotel and Spa in Runaway Bay, St. Ann, Jamaica between June 22 and 26, 2015 and co-funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Project "Support to the Forum of Caribbean States in the implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)", being executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The One Health Leadership series seeks to train and connect a core regional group of One Health leaders across 12 countries, selected from multiple sectors including government, non-government, academic and private in the fields of health, agriculture, and the environment. In this manner, the project will strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean veterinary, public health and environmental services to design and manage One Health policies, programmes and projects in order to develop more holistic scientific solutions to emerging and endemic problems that limit food security, public health, environmental health, and food safety.

"We are training leaders in One Health that have been selected from multiple disciplines, health, agriculture and environment from across the Caribbean region", said Professor Christopher Oura, Project Leader of the 'One Health, One Caribbean, One Love' Project. "Through the One Health Leadership training we are aiming to change the way people approach some of the major health issues that we are facing in the Caribbean. Our leaders are learning about the importance of addressing priority health issues from a multidisciplinary perspective using effective leadership skills."

The workshop on Food Security and Food Safety, which was the second module in the leadership series, covered topics such as determinants of food security and safety, antimicrobial resistance, the farm to fork approach to food safety and the social, economic and environmental considerations in food safety and food security. The workshop also covered aspects in leadership development, highlighting areas in understanding and improving team dynamics to get to results, dealing with conflict and performance measurement.

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In her remarks at the opening ceremony, Ms. Shauna Brandon, Rural Development Specialist, IICA, Jamaica said, “This workshop on interconnectivity addresses critical issues such as food as a system and promote the development of One Health teams and plans. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Project is again collaborating with key partners to host another installment in the One Health series.”

The overall action of the SPS Project is to strengthen agricultural health and food safety systems so as to increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment. The One Health Leadership Series assists in advancing the SPS Project objectives of building the capacity of public sector professionals. Efforts such as these assist in developing a cadre of professionals that are able to support the SPS regime.

The One Health Leadership series is a collaborative effort between the University of the West Indies School of Veterinary Medicine and the World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), IICA and the Ministries of Agriculture of Grenada, Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis. The coalition supports the Caribbean wide ‘One Health, One Caribbean, One Love’ initiative with funding from the ACP – EU Cooperation Programme in Science and Technology.

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Shauna Brandon, Rural Development Specialist brought greetings from Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), also at the head table are Dr Audrey Morris of Pan-American Health Organisation / World Health Organisation (PAHO / WHO) , Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa - Deputy Principal University of the West Indies , Mona Jamaica and Mr Dermon Spence, Chief Technical Director from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries