

PRESS RELEASE

CIDA Launches Three Projects

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The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon Roger Clarke, expressed his appreciation to the Canadian Government for its support in the knowledge transfer in the various agriculture subsectors that will see improvement in production and productivity and increased levels of export that will move the country forward in the global arena.

The Minister was speaking at the recent Launch of three projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) totaling Cdn\$451,891 through its Caribbean Regional HRD Program for Economic Competitiveness (CPEC) on Thursday, May 30, 2002 at the Courtleigh Hotel. The Minister remarked that "the three projects launched are true examples of how Jamaica is endeavouring to keep pace with the global trends through institutional strengthening and human resource development".

The projects launched are:

- ***"Technical Support for Enhancing the Export Competitiveness of the Ornamental Fish Industry, Jamaica"*** which is designed to deliver needed technical support to the Jamaica's Ornamental fish sector through training programmes aimed at building technical capacity of the sector by introducing to current and potential ornamental fish farmers and other stakeholders, a

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range of husbandry practices for important captive breeds, infrastructure and equipment requirements, export packaging requirements, and quarantine requirements. The project being coordinated by the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation.

- ***“Institutional Strengthening in the Private Sector Organisations”*** which involves the consolidation of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), Jamaica Exporters’ Association (JEA); Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA), The Jamaica Bankers Association, (JBA) and the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC). The purpose of the project is to support the Associations’ initiative to consolidate operations so they can provide improved services to member firms in Jamaica.
- ***“HRD Support for the Ebony Park Training Model for the Agro-Processing Sector.”*** This project will support the establishment of a training model for the Agricultural Sector at the HEART Trust/NTA Ebony Park Academy. It is intended to provide trained workers for the Agro-Processing sector. The project will also provide training for trainers overseas and will assist the Academy in establishing a HACCP certified food processing laboratory, and establish an apprenticeship program for the sector so that persons are working and learning on the job.

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The Canadian High Commissioner, His Excellency John Robinson, in his address stated that "trade issues are vital to the well-being of the people, particularly in a region of small, vulnerable economies. CIDA, through the three initiatives, will support stronger regional and international trade and assists the region in meeting the hazards, and the opportunities that lies ahead".

The Canadian High Commissioner also stressed that "any strategy for sustainable development must address youth and economic competitiveness. Today's young people will lead the world of this century. A corner stone to successful economic development, is to build a young, versatile and mobile workforce that can meet complex challenges, both at home and abroad".

He added that "fostering and encouraging entrepreneurial skills through appropriate education and training are sound investments in the creation of sustainable livelihoods that will enable individuals to contribute to the socioeconomic fabric of their communities. The CPEC initiatives is an important means of moving towards this end as it leverages technology, capital and knowledge"

The objective of CPEC is to strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Region to compete in the global economy through human resources and institutional development. CPEC will respond to proposals for assistance in two economic sectors – Tourism and Agro-processing/Agriculture. The type of funding available under this project is non-reimbursable grant of up to \$230,000 per project.

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