

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**5 May 2005**

### **Board of Governors Convene in Guyana**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) will be convened on 11 May, 2005 at the Le Meridien Pegasus, Georgetown, Guyana.

Chairman of the Board of Governors is Hon Ignatius Jean, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of St Lucia.

The Board is comprised of Ministers of Agriculture of twelve Member States of the Institute.

At the meeting, the CARICOM Ministers will discuss issues relating to CARDI's Regional Coordinating Role in CARICOM under the Regional Transformation Programme (RTP) including developments in Biotechnology.

CARDI is the lead agency for Research and Development in the agriculture sector for the Caribbean Community and is responsible for Technology Generation, Validation and Transfer, Market Development and Integrated Production and Market Programmes.

The Institute also provides technical information; marketing and agribusiness support, technical assistance, as well as provide and extend the application of new technologies in production, processing, storage and distribution of agricultural products of Member States.

The Member Countries of CARDI are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Institute is an autonomous organisation founded in 1975 to fulfill the agricultural needs of the Caribbean Community.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr Keith Archibald and the Executive Director Dr Wendel Parham are also attending the Board of Governors meeting.