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## **FRUIT FLY INFESTATION CONTROL TO ALLOW FOR EXPORTATION OF FRUIT FROM GRENADA**

The [Ministry of Agriculture of Grenada](#) and the [Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute](#) (CARDI) develop protocols for hot water treatment of golden apple fruits to allow for export into markets such as the US and EU thanks to FAVACA training. Their efforts have been hampered for the past 6 years because Grenada has been dealing with a new invasive species, the West Indian Fruit Fly ([Anastrepha obliqua](#)), which has infested much of the golden apple fruits and the fruit is therefore unable to pass USDA guidelines for exportation. A common remedy for infested fruits is a hot water bath, which is commonly used to kill insects and their larvae and allow the fruit to be exported without spreading the pests to other countries. Baths need to reach a certain temperature for a specified amount of time to kill all the larvae; however, if temperatures are too hot or the fruit stays in the bath for too long, they can be damaged and are thus unable to be exported.

Ronald Pilgrim, a CARDI post-harvest specialist, traveled to Grenada to train Ministry of Agriculture officials and representatives of post-harvest processing facilities on how to institute hot water treatments. CARDI requested that FAVACA recruit an entomologist to work in coordination with Pilgrim to determine safe temperatures and time combinations for controlling the fruit flies and their larvae, after which the post-harvest specialist will establish their effects on fruit quality. Answering the call for assistance was Timothy Holler from the [USDA-APHIS-PPQ Center for Plant Health, Science, and Technology-Fruit Fly Genetics and Management Laboratory](#) in Gainesville, Florida who traveled to Grenada November 7-13, 2010. As a result of the tests performed by Holler and Pilgrim, the Ministry of Agriculture can now start developing protocols to address hot water treatment to achieve quarantine security for exporting golden apples to the US. In addition, Holler worked with pest management officials and visited several infested areas on the island and trained CARDI and Ministry of Agriculture officials on enhanced methods for infestation control.



## **CAYMAN ISLANDS FOLLOW FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

[Department of Commerce and Investment](#) in partnership with the [University College of the Cayman Islands](#) (UCCI) requested training to enhance the skills and knowledge of start-up and existing business owners. Currently business counseling and training are offered through a small business development center (SBDC); however, the current staff cannot keep up with the demand. Creating a business center in a university setting would relieve some of the demand on the SBDC, offer students more business development training, and foster more business research in the Caymans. To

help integrate the SBDC model into the university system, FAVACA recruited Robert Myers, Area Director of the [Small Business Development Center at the University of North Florida](#), to travel to the Cayman Islands November 7-14, 2010 to provide an overview on the Florida SBDC model and train on creating a partnership between the University College of the Cayman Islands and the Department of Commerce and Investment. Myers worked with the participants on the levels of funding that would be needed to create a sustainable model, programs to incorporate from the Florida SBDC model, collaboration with local banks to serve their clients, and fundraising for the newly established center.

#### **UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES AND COLOMBIAN NGOS COLLABORATE WITH FAVACA EXPERTS**

[Fundación Aprendo](#), an Colombian organization with over 25 years of providing therapy and educational opportunities to special needs children, hosted an organizational development workshop in Barranquilla, Colombia in November 2010. FAVACA volunteers Hugo Cardona of [CoreStrategies for Nonprofits, Inc.](#) and Gabriel Parra, a Special Projects Coordinator for the [Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida](#), both originally from Colombia, presented to a group of five organizations on financial accountability, project management, and fundraising opportunities. The workshop and one-on-one consultations provided the skills requested by Fundación Aprendo and brought together local nonprofits that provide rehabilitation and educational opportunities for people with special needs and underserved communities. Parra inspired the organizations to think about out-of-the-box fundraising opportunities, including selling t-shirts to promote their organizations. As a result of the training, Fundación Aprendo has begun to host seminars around Colombia to promote their unique therapy skills, create awareness about their program, and raise additional funds.



Parra and Cardona then traveled on to Bogota for a three-day organizational strengthening and resource development workshop co-hosted by the [Universidad de Los Andes](#) and [Fundación Sentires](#). Fundación Sentires provides meals, after school care and training to underserved children in the neighborhood of Ciudad Bolivar of Bogota. Approximately 30 members of the nonprofit community and organizations that develop and implement social programs across Colombia gathered at the University's Center for Interdisciplinary Studies about Development (CIDER) for the workshop to network and build fundraising, project management, and financial accounting skills, and more.

#### **ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF VALUE CHAIN IN NICARAGUA**

The dairy sector in Nicaragua is a growing industry and has the ability to increase market share both domestically and internationally. Yet, there are significant challenges to overcome in order for the industry become a leader in dairy production and products. The biggest problem dairy producers face is the low milk yields (5-10 liters/day) per cow, which is significantly higher in other countries. Dairy cooperatives and producers will need to improve their competitive position by increasing their product quality and lowering the cost of production to maintain their economic feasibility in the international marketplace.



[Partners of the Americas](#) has provided a variety of dairy experts in the past several years to work with dairy cooperatives throughout the country to increase the capacity and quality of dairy products while also increasing the nutrition of cattle through increased forage techniques and nutritional supplements. Dairy farmers have started to implement new technologies and feeding standards which have produced some positive results; however, most farmers do not have an accounting method which encapsulates all of the associated costs and income generated to allow dairy producers to know if they are making a profit by instituting specific practices. Partners of the Americas requested veteran FAVACA volunteer Michael McGuire, Vice-President for Joint Ventures of Reiter Affiliated in Monterey, California to travel to Nicaragua November 7-21, 2010 to provide an economic analysis of

the technologies and practices applied by dairy cooperatives.

McGuire met with members of the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology ([Instituto Nicaraguense de Tecnología Agropecuaria](#)), the government's agricultural research agency, to work on implementing a publication to be used by extension staff to teach record-keeping to dairy farmers. McGuire collaborated with several managers from dairy processors to help calculate the cost of production for their individual products which will help with formulating a pricing and marketing strategy. Likewise, McGuire was able to work with dairy cooperative field staff to evaluate the economic impact of technical recommendations made by earlier volunteers. For instance, an expert on forage recommended growing King Grass for dry season feeding to the San Francisco de Asis Cooperative. McGuire was able to provide training to dairy producers and field staff on record-keeping and calculating costs and profits using a Spanish language spreadsheet, calculate monthly and annual returns and help farmers analyze which technologies help increase profits.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM ENACTED IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Until now, victims of sexual assault and rape in Antigua and Barbuda did not have a central location to receive care, treatment, or support to enhance the investigation and prosecution of cases. The lag time between the assault or rape and the collection of evidence often rendered samples useless. To further amplify the problem, many forensic teams did not have proper knowledge in evidence collection causing much of the evidence to be deemed inadmissible in court and charges brought against defendants to be dropped. Inadmissible evidence has caused an erosion of confidence in seeking help from the police and a continuation of assaults and rapes committed by the same perpetrators.



In November 2009, FAVACA supported the travel of Pam Kelly, the 2009 Florida Nurse of the Year of the [Crisis Center of Tampa Bay](#), to St. John's, Antigua to provide a workshop on overcoming challenges to sexual assault response and improving the coordination of services for victims across professional disciplines and agencies. Particular attention was focused on the long-term objectives a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) can achieve. Kelly met with health care professionals, law enforcement officers, forensic scientists, counselors, social workers, members of Parliament and advocates to provide each agency with training in best practices, victim interviewing techniques and evidence collection.

A year later, Kelly was invited back to continue working with the Directorate of Gender Affairs. From November 21-27, 2010, with partial funding from the Public Affairs Office of the [US Embassy in Barbados](#), Kelly provided a forty-hour International Association of Forensic Nurses' training for 18 sexual assault nurse examiners on the collection of forensic evidence on children, adults, and adolescents to prepare nurses for certification and clinical practice. Kelly was also asked to re-engage the SART team, a grouping of key stakeholders including the Minister of Health, prosecutors, law enforcement, and medical personnel, to review a list of unresolved issues, such as admitting photographs collected by the nurse examiners as evidence, examining consent issues for unconscious or intoxicated individuals, and reviewing and developing standing orders for sexually transmitted infections (STI), pregnancy, and HIV. To read more please click [here](#).



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