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YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP IMPROVE ALZHEIMER'S CARE IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THANK YOU AMWAT!

GOOD MANUFACTURING PROCESSING IN DOMINICA AND ST. VINCENT SWEET POTATO WEEVIL REDUCED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ORGANIC FARMING AND PERMACULTURE PRACTICES TAUGHT IN JAMAICA MSI HIRING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISOR IN HAITI IN MEMORIAM- GEORGE MOORE

# YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP IMPROVE ALZHEIMER'S CARE IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

FAVACA is seeking matching donations for a project to support the Alzheimer's and Dementia Association of The Cayman Islands. This project is being made possible in part through a contribution from Cayman National.

The Association requested FAVACA training to address the growing need for expertise to diagnosis and treat Alzheimer's patients. Seeking to improve skills of medical personnel to reduce the need to seek medical attention outside of the country caregivers will learn best practices for patients with Alzheimer's through a top professional expert sourced by FAVACA who will volunteer their time.



This project made possible in part by a contribution from Cayman National.

Having reached out internationally for training, the quotes received by the Alzheimer's and Dementia Association of The Cayman Islands were far more than the Association could afford. With your financial contribution we can make this project a success!

#### THANK YOU AMWAT!

FAVACA would like to recognize the support of <u>AMWAT Moving Warehousing Storage</u>, formerly A Man With A Truck Movers, located in Tallahassee,



Florida. AMWAT continues to be a great partner and recently helped FAVACA with its recent office move. Thanks Amwat!

#### GOOD MANUFACTURING PROCESSING IN DOMINICA AND ST. VINCENT

The "Kalinago" people, the traditional people of the Caribbean, have customarily utilized cassava (Manihot esculenta) to produce "farine" a type of cassava flour resembling Cream of Wheat. The process is traditional and involves family labor. The factory facilities are rudimentary and good manufacturing practices are generally not implemented. Packaging of the final product is normally in an unlabeled plastic bag tied at the top to prevent spillage. In 2011 farine processors received assistance from the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) to upgrade their factory facilities in both the islands of St. Vincent and Dominica. Seven facilities were upgraded in St. Vincent and three in Dominica. To further increase the capacity of the producers, CARDI requested the assistance of FAVACA to train farine producers on good manufacturing practices (GMP) and techniques for microprocessors with little resources and education. FAVACA recruited the expertise of Dr. Ramana Govin, a consultant with worldwide experience working with farming groups on issues of agro-processing, food processing, small to medium size enterprise development in developing countries while also having considerable knowledge of farine and the marketing of farine products, to travel to Dominica and St. Vincent to work with farine producers on implementing new manufacturing practices. Dr. Govin traveled to Dominica January 6-12, 2013 to work with processors in the Kalinago Territory and farine facility in Dispax to increase their capacity to produce farine products while also establishing good manufacturing practices (GMP) to support product development and company growth. Govin then traveled to St. Vincent January 13-20, 2013 to work with farine producers on similar topics. While working with the processors, Govin noticed that most of the 10 processors did not have the financial resources to meet basic GMP and would need the assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture to increase sanitation practices, improve packaging and labeling, and marketing of products. Additionally, Govin noticed that processor's traditional way of producing farine depleted much of the starch and recommended a new method that would keep the nutritional value of the starch throughout the entire farine process. Lastly, Govin recommended that the processors increase the products they offer by processing other tubers. Some processors already offer sweet potato chips and plantain chips and others could follow in their example to increase their revenue.

### SWEET POTATO WEEVIL REDUCED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Sweet potatoes are a small but growing agricultural commodity in the Dominican Republic. Approximately 5,000 small farmers produce this crop but the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers have noticed that while more farmers continue to plant sweet potatoes, the average



annual yield continues to decline. Farmers report losses of forty percent or more of their crops due to the infestation of the Sweet Potato Weevil (cylas formicarius). Due to the tropical climate, farmers can produce sweet potatoes year round, compared to farmers in other countries where climate issues do not allow for continuous Yet the same climate which is planting. advantageous for growing year round, has resulted in the ideal breeding situation for the Sweet Potato Weevil resulting in the extreme losses that farmers currently face. To help control and even prevent the Sweet Potato Weevil from creating such devastation on yields for farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture along

with the Dominican Agriculture Board (<u>Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana</u>, <u>Inc. (JAD)</u>) requested the assistance from an expert to train farmers and extension officers on how to control and prevent the Sweet Potato Weevil.

FAVACA in collaboration with Partners of the Americas, recruited veteran FAVACA volunteer Dr. Abner Hammond, Emeritus Professor of Entomology from the Department of Entomology at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, to work with farmers and extension officers on assessing the current issues farmers are having with the Sweet Potato Weevil while also helping to develop recommendations and methods farmers can follow to reduce the losses caused from the pest. From January 27 - February 10, 2013, Dr. Hammond traveled to San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic where he provided a variety of presentations on prevention and pest control. Through talking with multiple farmers, extension officers and through field visits, Hammond was able to gather the methods that farmers currently use which aids in the breeding of the Sweet Potato Weevil and offered solutions that many farmers could implement to reduce the pest in their fields. Farmers often don't rotate their fields and Hammond suggested that a 2-3 year crop rotation would help control the weevils. Crops such as rice, corn or beans would be ideal crops to grow during the 2-3 years a field is not growing sweet potatoes. Hammond also suggested that if farmers are to use sweet potato vine cuttings for new transplants, the farmers should only take weevil-free portions of the vine and they should not use stems close to the soil surface since those portions contain the greatest number of weevils. Before farmers plant, pheromone traps should be used to determine the number of weevils present in a field. As a result of the training, Hammond developed a pest management flyer in Spanish to distribute to growers to inform them how to reduce sweet potato weevils in their fields.

## ORGANIC FARMING AND PERMACULTURE PRACTICES TAUGHT IN JAMAICA

The <u>Source Farm Foundation</u> is a non-profit NGO working within the Parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica whose mission it is to create opportunities for community economic development within the parish to facilitate sustainable development initiatives around organic farming, land stewardship and permaculture. The Source Farm Foundation works in conjunction with the <u>Source Farm Ecovillage & Farm</u> which operates a 5 acre teaching farm where students and travelers can learn about agriculture. Agriculture in Jamaica, especially in the Parish of St. Thomas, has struggled due to worldwide economic difficulties, increase in prices for inputs such as fertilizer and insecticide and lack of opportunities for small rural farmers in

Jamaica. To help reduce the reliance on and cost of fertilizer and other inputs for farmers, the Source Farm Foundation requested the assistance of FAVACA to provide an expert to provide training on organic agriculture and permaculture to small farmers and young individuals in the parish. FAVACA, in collaboration with Partners of the Americas, recruited veteran FAVACA volunteer Chuck Marsh, permaculture specialist and teacher with Useful Plants Nursery in Black Mountain, North Carolina, to travel to Jamaica from January 16 - February 17, 2013.

While in Jamaica, Marsh worked with the Source Farm Foundation to create the first small farmer training program called the One One Coco Project which provided extensive trainings on permaculture, agroecology, soils, erosion control methods, farming and gardening, and hillside farming innovations. Marsh also visited four farms in the parish and provided an assessment to farmers on how best to implement certain methods of permaculture which could result in new crops being grown in previously unused space on the farms. The farmers at each site expressed their interest in participating in a parish wide organic farming cooperative. Marsh also worked directly



with the Source Farm Foundation on issues of cooperative development strategies and helped the foundation lay the groundwork for the foundation of a local organic cooperative. The foundation has been marketing their organic farm produce in Port Antonio and the demand is already more than the current production capacity. Lastly, Marsh traveled to Kingston to provide a workshop on urban permaculture which provided hands on activities for topics on garden bed construction and building vegetable gardens out of recycled materials. Classroom lectures on urban farming and food gardening were also provided. Throughout Marsh's trip, the participants and farmers he encountered showed widespread enthusiasm for permaculture and organic farming practices and Marsh is committed to seeing that farmers in Jamaica have the appropriate resources to being to increase organic farming in Jamaica.

#### MSI HIRING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISOR IN HAITI

Management Systems International (MSI) is seeking a French-speaking Public Health Contracting Advisor to serve as a member of the MSI KONEKTE's and the USAID/Haiti Health Team on public health sector contracting and contract management by the Ministry of Health. The advisor will support the management and technical direction of the USAID/Haiti activities related to Ministry of Health (MSPP) contracting, performance-based health financing, sector-



wide planning, and public financial management as it relates to MSPP contracting. S/he will promote stronger collaboration with the Ministry of Health, international organizations, NGOs, as well as other USG counterparts working on these topics to increase aid effectiveness in the health sector.

Contract will be for a twelve-month period, with potential for renewal. The Specialist will be headquartered at MSPP in Port-au-Prince. To apply, please visit MSI's website: www.msiworldwide.com.

### IN MEMORIAM- GEORGE MOORE



It is with great sadness and fond remembrance that FAVACA honors the passing of George Moore. For many years Mr. Moore has been a board member, advocate and most of all a friend of FAVACA. He will be sorely missed.

## FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas

## FAVACA

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean and the Americas through volunteer service.

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