

Third International Conference on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)
Samoa, 1-4 September 2014

Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting
Kingston, Jamaica, 2-4 July 2013

**FAO Special Event: Addressing major threats for improved livelihoods
and sustainable development in the Caribbean SIDS.**
3 July 2013, Kingston, Jamaica.

Chair Introductory Remark by Mr. Don McGlashan, Director-General
The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica

Ladies and Gentlemen and Representatives of the various government agencies of the Caribbean SIDS, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, UN and regional agencies:

Good afternoon and welcome to this Special Event that has been organized and supported by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I would like to express my profound appreciation to FAO in supporting the Caribbean preparatory process.

After the excellent opening remarks by honourable officials and distinguished guests on the significance of this Caribbean preparatory meeting and the upcoming Third International Conference on SIDS to be held in Apia, Samoa in September 2014 as a platform for action. I would have little to add in emphasizing the significance of this gathering in providing the inputs for actions. Hence, I would like to present this FAO facilitated Special Events entitled **Addressing major threats for improved livelihoods and sustainable development in the Caribbean SIDS**. It has rich and diverse content covering the main and emerging challenges faced and the potential opportunities to be harnessed in achieving the sustainable development of our people in the Caribbean. It also presents some options, approaches and transformative action that could feed into the SIDS International Conference. This again is fully in line with SIDS international conference's ultimate goal for a "focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document" that will bring renewed political commitment and stronger partnership to address the emerging challenges and create the enabling environment for sustainable development of SIDS.

The presentations by the four speakers are purposely aimed to relate to some of the overarching objectives of the Third International Conference on SIDS. The first Speaker, Mr. Carlos Fuller from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, CARICOM will set the stage on the major and emerge threat climate change presents to SIDS.

The second speaker, Ms. Keeley Holder, Produce Growers Ltd. (private sector) will present on policy options and examples for diversified and resilient livelihood focusing on agriculture and trade.

The third speaker Dr. Ranjit Singh, University of West Indies, Trinidad, will highlight the case for strengthening supply chains through value addition and enterprise development in the agriculture sector.

The fourth speaker Ms. Anna Cadiz, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Trinidad will highlight the experience of CANARI as an NGO regarding partnership, as it is one of the key areas identified by the UN in the achievement of SD by SIDS.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In a context of global economic crisis, Caribbean SIDS must progress in achieving inclusive and sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector. This FAO-led and facilitated event demonstrates that the Regional Preparatory Meeting in the Caribbean can provide the platform for these countries in identifying challenges and opportunities in their unique environmental and economic contexts towards a sustainable path within a post-2015 development agenda.