

## Brief CV of the Coordinator



**National Coordinator: Suzuette Soomai,  
Trinidad and Tobago**

Ms Suzuette Soomai became the National Co-ordinator of the global trawl project EP/GLO/201/GEF in Trinidad and Tobago in 2003 and coordinates project and counterpart activities through the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources ([www.agriculture.gov.tt](http://www.agriculture.gov.tt)). Ms Soomai joined the Fisheries Division in 1994 and as a Fisheries Officer she has been directly involved in a broad scope of activities which include marine resource assessment and management, fisheries information management and the monitoring and development of aquaculture and the aquarium fish trade. Since 1997, Ms Soomai has been involved in fisheries assessment-related work including a suite of data collection activities related to national groundfish resources.

Ms Soomai also acts as a national counterpart to other regional and international fisheries resource assessment and management activities on groundfish resources of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Fisheries Division. In this regard, Ms Soomai has been involved in the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)/ Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) *ad hoc* Working Group on Shrimp and Groundfish Resources on the Brazil-Guianas Continental Shelf. This includes the supporting data collection activities, collaboration with the fishing industry as well as the conduct of national and joint resource assessments nationally on shrimp and groundfish fisheries and the attempts in the region to develop mechanisms for the management of shared stocks of the Guyana-Brazil continental shelf. Ms Soomai is also one of the technical advisors to the Trinidad and Tobago Negotiating team for conclusion of a fishing agreement with Venezuela.

Ms Soomai has also been involved in the efforts of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) which aims to promote sustainable use and conservation of the

fisheries resources of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States. Ms Soomai participates in the Scientific Meetings and Methods Working Group Meetings of the CRFM and acts as Species Rapporteur for Groundfish.

Ms Soomai also acts as a national counterpart to the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) project for the Promotion of Sustainable Marine Fisheries Resources Utilisation in Trinidad and Tobago.