

Description of Caribbean Conference on Education for Rural People: Food Security, Agricultural Competitiveness and Sustainable Livelihoods (Conference following the Caribbean Forum for Lifelong Learning)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), along with the Italian Development Cooperation and the Government of Saint Lucia, is organizing the *Caribbean Conference on Education for Rural People: Food Security, Agricultural Competitiveness and Sustainable Livelihoods* to be held on 18 and 19 May 2006 at the Rex Royal at Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia. The Conference will be linked directly to and immediately follow the *Caribbean Forum on Lifelong Learning* organized by The World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Education for Rural People (ERP), one of nine UNESCO *Education for All* Flagships, focuses primarily on basic education and skills training for employment for people living in rural communities. This includes a whole range of educational and training activities that take place in different settings and that aim to meet basic learning needs, including primary and sometimes lower secondary formal schooling; youth development; adult education; and literacy programmes. It also includes agricultural extension education, and any manner of short courses and other structured non-formal education and training opportunities.

The overall objective of the Conference is to bring together senior officials from ministries of agriculture and education in the Caribbean, along with representatives from non-government organizations, the private sector, universities, international development agencies and donor groups, to discuss how to foster education and training for people living in rural communities to increase employment and enhance livelihoods in the Caribbean and come up with recommendations for specific action to be carried out by interested stakeholders: governments, ministries of agriculture and education; civil society, including the business sector; development organizations and agencies; and the donor community.



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