Status of Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition: Caribbean

Gaius Eudoxie
Senior Lecturer, Soil Science
Department of Food Production
University of the West Indies
Recent marine and freshwater sediments
Low-lying terrain with flat topography
High activity fine textured clay soils
Pre-Quaternary marine and freshwater sediments
Best soils in the Region for agriculture
Occur on flat terrain
Loam to clay texture
Older freshwater sediments
Occur on flat terrain with high rainfall
High degree of profile development
Sand/silt surface, clay subsoil
Calcereous materials: Soft
Occur on gently to steeply sloping terrain
High activity fine textured clay soils
Calcereous materials: Indurated
Shallow profile
Low chemical activity
Low water and nutrient retention
Volcanic parent materials
Structurally stable
Increased content of organic matter
Increased resilience to erosion
Leached and nutrient poor
Residual soils
Occurs mainly on steep sloping terrain
Varying fertility linked to acid or basic parent material
Shallow profile
Soil Fertility Status

- Low Organic Matter
- Low Macronutrients
- Wide pH Range
- Shallow Profile
- Poor Physical Condition
- Adequate 2° and Micro-nutrients
- Limited Soil Data and Information
- Limited Knowledge and Capacity
THANK YOU

GAIUS.EUDOXIE@STA.UWI.EDU