



Agri-Food Value Chain Manual for the Caribbean Region

St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago: September 30, 2015

How to increase food security, raise household incomes and achieve economic growth in the face of climate change are all factors facing the Caribbean region. The purpose of a manual developed by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and Value Chain Management International (VCMI) is to assist governments and industry to achieve these outcomes through enabling the development of sustainable agri-food value chains. Evidence from around the world proves that the development of robust innovative value chains is an effective means for farmers to connect with end markets and to implement changes that result in increased incomes. Robust value chains also increase the competitiveness of downstream businesses such as processors, distributors and retailers, resulting in the ability to replace imports and increase food security.

The purpose of value chain analysis is to produce a roadmap that enables practitioners to develop sustainable value chains by enabling members to systematically upgrade performance in line with market demands. The manual's development stemmed from a realization that there existed a lack of practical materials for assisting the development of value chains. Neither had any such materials been tailored to the Caribbean region. The effectiveness of the workbook was proven through piloting the techniques in the roots and tuber sectors of Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The manual's development was enabled by funding provided by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Netherlands based international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union.

Mr. Bruce Lauckner, the CARDI project manager, stated that the manual was already proving useful in the analysis of value chains in St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, which need to be strengthened to help replace and mitigate for the loss of banana preferences.

Printed copies of the manual are available from CARDI, UWI Campus, St Augustine, Trinidad (868 645 1205). Electronic versions of the manual can be accessed online at www.cardi.org or www.vcm-international.com.

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CARDI

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) is named as an Institution of CARICOM in Article 4 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. It is positioned to “enhance the socio-economic well-being of the Caribbean people through Research for Development that improves the competitiveness and sustainability of regional agriculture”. Website: www.cardi.org

VCMI

Value Chain Management International (VCMI) is an international consultancy dedicated to improving the profitability and competitiveness of commercial businesses, particularly in the agri-food sector, through promoting and enabling the management of closely aligned value chains. VCMI helps businesses develop closer strategic relationships with customers and suppliers, resulting in their being able to learn and adapt more effectively and realize greater profits than if operating unilaterally. Website: www.vcm-international.com