



# NRWPTT NEWS

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Newsletter 2011/2012

## Special points of interest:

- Women Agents of Change
- UN International Women's Day 100th Anniversary
- CANROP Training
- NRW Training
- Opening of NRW Centre
- Upcoming Events

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## Year of Awards and Recognition: Women Agents of Change

In commemorating UN International Women's Day and Commonwealth Day a function was held on March 8, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain to honour 24 women for their tireless work, dedication and perseverance towards the advancement of women and girls. The twenty four women was named a Commonwealth "Women Agent of Change".

Among the awardees were 2 women of the Rural Womens Network: Ms. Rose Rajbansee and Ms. Gia Gaspard Taylor. Other recipients included Claudette Ali, Marilyn Stollmeyer, Rukminee Beepath, Arch. Barbara Burke, Hazel Brown, Grace Talma, Theodora Ulerie, Brenda Gopeesingh, Dr. Merle Hodge, Dr. Gabrielle Hosien, Rasheeda Ibrahim, Norma Lewis, Dr. Carol James, Akilah Jaramogi, Dr. Asua Kanbon, Dr. Joan Kazim, Feroza Mohammed, Dr. Nesta Patrick, Dhano Sookoo, Prof. Rhoda Reddock, Susan Sinanan-Gunnes, and Inspector Shelia Prince.

The awardees all expressed their gratitude for being recognized for their efforts over the years in uplifting the status of women within communities and society in general.

### Advocate for Woman Rights

*Mrs Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress hoped that this century would be a time when women the world over achieve, come into their own and are re-engineered fully to include that other half of mankind.*

*At this time we are proud to have you among us and we encourage you to keep being the light that we can all look to in solidarity and sisterhood and life. Happy New Year!*



Ms. Rose Rajbansee receiving her award from Mrs. Monica Williams, Director Gender Affairs.



Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor receiving her award from Ms. Yulle Williams, former Minister of Gender Affairs,

### 100th Anniversary Award

**On this historic 100th United Nations Anniversary of International Women's Day, March 8th 2011**

*"The Women's Information Network, the women in your region, and members of your community*

*honors you for your outstanding service above and beyond the call of duty".*

*May you experience the same joy you've brought into the lives of others.*



Photo of the 100th Anniversary award given to Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor at the UN Anniversary of International Women's Day.

## Corporate Governance, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Leadership and Use of Social Media and Web 2.0 Tools.

September 21–27, 2011, Saint Lucia

by Dennise Riley-Mitchell, Member NWRWPTT

The Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) is an independent and sustainable organization. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNIFEM) and Inter- American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) partnered to support a CANROP Training Workshop entitled "Institutional Strengthening of CANROP in Corporate Governance, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Leadership and Use of Social Media and Web 2.0 Tools".

The Training sessions were held in Saint Lucia from September 21 - 27, 2011 at the Bay Gardens Conference Room, Gros Islet and National ICT Centre, Castries with the main aim of effectively managing CANROP's finances towards sustainable growth.

The Workshop was facilitated by four facilitators: Ms. Shan Geer- Legal Consultant, Mr. Martin Weeks- Consultant, Ms. Rufina Paul- Gender and Agricultural Development Consultant and Mr. Federico Sancho - Head, Inter- American Information and Editorial Production Centre for Agriculture. Invaluable input was also obtained from Ms. Marlene Antoine-Johnson- Caribank Representative.

Participants were members of National Chapters of the CANROP from Barbados, Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Jamaica,

Suriname, Antigua, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago who were exposed to a wide scope of information related to: Corporate Governance, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Leadership and Use of Social Media and Web 2.0 Tools. Based on the importance and role of CANROP, steps were adopted to develop its membership and fulfill its objective to empower rural women to improve their standard of living through training, cultural exchange, networking and promotion of regional and international trade.

Key topics discussed ranged from the review and role of CANROP By Laws in good cooperate governance, Stakeholder interests, Contractual Liability Issues, Intellectual Property Rights, Disclosure and Transparency, Gender mainstreaming for Sustainability of rural livelihood, Gender differentiated market access, Entrepreneurship and Organizational Leadership, Strategies for fundraising nationally and regionally and the Development of a Social Network for CANROP. Those trained at the workshop are expected to transfer the knowledge and skills in their respective local chapters in their countries.

### Decisions derived:

- ✓ CANROP Draft By Laws to be revised, where required.
- ✓ Local chapters to ensure their organization comply legally with being a member of CANROP.
- ✓ Voting method selected- National Chapter and propionate votes.
- ✓ A communication committee to be developed and included in the By Laws.
- ✓ The Development of a Training Manual.

Based on previous considerations, Mr. Kervin Stephenson-IICA Regional Projects Specialist highlighted the fact that for the first time a field trip was organized for members to be exposed and have an appreciation of the various activities performed by our fellow St. Lucia rural women.



Participants in ICT training at the National ICT Centre, St Lucia

The group was also exposed to an extraordinary family based museum, where numerous artifacts and pictures were on display. Following a long and interesting day, the field trip concluded with a visit to Anse Ger Cocoa Microfermentary, where Ms. Christine Wilson- CANROP (President), demonstrated the art of paper making using stalk of the Banana Plant.

The final day of the Workshop culminated at the National ICT Centre, where the CANROP Website was officially utilized by the participants, this was followed by the closing ceremony with remarks from Ms. Una May Gordon, IICA Representative in the ECS and Ms. Charms Gaspart, Director Gender Affairs. Members were also presented with certificates of participation.

In closing, the Training Workshop was generally a successful one, as participants were able to gain comprehensive knowledge to take CANROP forward, as the strengths and weaknesses of the organization was analyzed, and where opportunities and threats were also identified for strategic planning for the next four to five years. The training sessions also highlighted the need for clear By Laws to ensure good governance, the importance of sourcing funds and finances as well as branding CANROP as a marketing strategy to position itself as a market leader. The SWOT analysis identified conditions that will no doubt provide CANROP with the tools to succeed.



- Top left - solar dryers
- Top right - CANROP Website launched
- Below left- brooms made by rural women in St. Lucia
- Below centre -training in ICT Web 2
- Below right - young palms under cultivation



**MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE & CARIBBEAN WEEK OF AGRICULTURE & CANROP MEETING 2011**

During the 10th Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in Roseau Dominica, October 16-21, 2011, a meeting of CANROP members was held on October 11 - 13, 2011. The meeting provided for the usual country reports and continuation of the Saint Lucia Meeting with a review of the By Laws. Election of officers was also conducted

President: Carmen Nurse –St Lucia;  
 V/President: Mildred Crawford—Jamaica;  
 PR.: Norgie Tucker;  
 Sec: Rosita Lynch—Barbados; Immediate Past Pres. Christine Wilson;  
 Tres. Theresa Maryshow—Grenada



## LAUNCH OF ROSE RAJBANSEE TRAINING CENTRE

In my capacity of president of the local chapter of the Network of Rural women Producers, I am pleased to extend best wishes and congratulations to rural women around the world on the occasion to mark the United Nations, International Day of Rural Women 2011. This special day precedes World Food Day which highlights the contribution made by rural women to the global food basket.

*"This year's International Day of Rural Women, as quoted by UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, falls at a time of heightened awareness of the important contribution women are making to social progress. Women have been rightly recognized for their role in supporting movements for democracy, human rights and peace. He stressed that their contribution to sustainable development is equally significant.*

*Many studies have shown that rural women are pivotal to addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty. They are the farmers, entrepreneurs and educators, the healers and helpers who can contribute to food security and economic growth in the world's most remote and vulnerable settings. Despite the heavy responsibilities they carry, rural women lack equal access to opportunities and resources. This hampers their advancement and progress.*

*More than 100 million people could be lifted out of poverty if rural women had the same access to productive resources as men, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. In fact, it has been reported that productivity on women's farms would increase up to 30 per cent, the number of hungry people would drop by as much as 17 per cent – an impact that translates into improvements for as many as 150 million individuals.*

*It would also mean that the children of those women engaged in food production will have greater opportunities and access to services, education and nutrition.*

*We know how to achieve these gains: Invest in rural women. Eliminate discrimination against them in law and in practice. Ensure that policies respond to their needs. Give them equal access to resources. Provide rural women with a role in decision-making. These measures will help drive sustainable development – one of the great imperatives of the 21st century. As we prepare for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held next year in Rio, let us remember that rural women have enormous untapped potential to generate results. On this International Day, I call on all partners to recognize the contribution of rural women to our world, and to help them do even more for our shared future".*

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In keeping with the message the executive and members of NRWPTT have been involved in addressing some of the concerns of rural women in our country, having just opened the "Rose Rajbansee Centre for Training and Rural Development".



**Dr. Victor Villalobos, Director General of IICA and Government Minister Timothy Harris from St. Kitts visited with the NRWPTT at the opening of the Centre**



The Centre held its second training session inviting members and non members to use recycled shredded paper and leaves to make handmade paper as the basic item from which participants produced a range of products including: gift bags, gift boxes, serving trays, paper jewellery, albums, note pads and even the face of a clock.

All items were on display both at the Centre and later at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Fine Cocoa Conference held in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The items were well received by the public and were sold out. Sales brought much needed income to members. It is our intention to promote these recycled products, as well as value added products made from mangoes so as to increase the earnings of members. Photos from left to right are: cocoa and conference display, paper jewellery and a clock face.



### Quote Corner

*'You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.'*

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

## WEB2 LEARNING OPPORTUNITY MADE POSSIBLE BY CTA, CARDI AND UNEP IN TRINIDAD TOBAGO

The world of technology is evolving. Over the past few years one aspect of technology, in particular— the web – was upgraded in terms of its purpose, target audience and level of accessibility. From its beginnings as a sophisticated and engineer-friendly research tool for universities and laboratories, the web was transformed into a powerful tool that connects people and facilitates collaboration for the purpose of publishing and sharing of information across cyberspace. The web as we know it today is interactive – visitors to websites can fill out virtual forms, transfer files, play online games, chat with friends and do so much more. This is in contrast to the generally static nature of the web as it existed a few years ago. This change in the web's interactive nature has given today's version of the web the title Web 2.0.

CTA has a mandate to facilitate access to and dissemination of information in the fields of agriculture and rural development in 78 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP).

Supporting the adoption of Web 2.0 applications represents a great opportunity for achieving the CTA's mandate. The Web 2.0 Learning Opportunities form part of CTA's initiatives that support development partners in networking, accessing and disseminating information more effectively.

At the end of the training, participants will gain a solid foundation on Web 2.0 principles which they can build on to start taking full advantage of what the platform has to offer. This document will serve as a point of reference for participants after the training sessions, together with the electronic support documents provided by CTA on each tool and module.

Our most senior member took up the challenge and completed the week's training. Congrats Rose!



Rose Rajbansee, a member of the Rural Women's Network in classroom and receiving her certificate of achievement on her successful week of training in Web 2 tools.

*The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, theme for 2012 is "The Role of Rural Women" at the UN from Feb. 27th—March 9th. The UN International Women's Day is Observed on March 8th annually while the UN International Day for Rural Women is October 15th, one day before World Food Day. As such events this year will run from March to October on the theme "Role of Rural Women" covering some of our local activities.*

*The Network will be represented at the Commission Status of Women Conference at the UN on February 27th, 2012*

*The way forward for 2012 - members are calling for more in-house training in Product Development, Packaging and Marketing and Consumer Relations as we prepare for the 4th Global Mango Conference and 4th Mango Festival June 27—July 1st 2012.*

*CANROP members from Suriname, Bahamas and Guyana all expressed interest in wanting to participate for this year's Mango Conference and Mango Festival activities in Trinidad for 2012.*

*New Project: "Art and Agriculture" - the Network will invite schools to enter a poster competition, while it is intended to approach the Hotel School to enter the Art in Food Presentation and our craft producers, artisans, jewellers, artists and agriculturists to display their best art form and agricultural products. This will be a collaborative project with members of the Diplomatic Corps.*

*We are still working on the details but it promises to be a date to remember.*



**The VI Summit of the Americas, April 14—15, 2012** - The 34 Heads of State and Government will meet in Cartagena, Colombia: Theme: ‘Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity’ which will focus on the role of physical integration and regional cooperation as a means to achieve greater levels of development and to overcome the Hemispheric Challenges in several key areas including poverty and inequality, citizen security, natural disasters and access to technology.

The Summit which occurs every three years, offers the opportunity for countries to jointly define a hemispheric agenda at the highest level to address urgent challenges and propel positive change.

The very important inclusive process of consultative sessions with Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors are held in preparation for the final summit which are fed into the Summit Implementation Document. This session was held on February 8-9, 2012 at the Organization of American States (OAS) Headquarters in Washington, DC. The president of the Network of Rural Women Producers, Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor represented the Network at the recent concluded consultative meeting.

## THE ROAD TO CARTAGENA

**“ Hemispheric Cooperation to Promote Access to and use of Technologies”  
and  
“Hemispheric Cooperation to Advance Public Security”**

The meeting was jointly organized and supported by the Summit of the Americas, the Department of International Affairs, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security.

The recommendations from these sessions will be presented on February 13, 2012 at the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), the core management body of the Summit Process and comprises the 34 democratically elected governments of the hemisphere which will be represented by their appointed National Coordinators.

The SIRG is responsible for reporting on the process achieved in The fulfilment of the Summit mandates and in the preparations of the Sixth Summit of the Americas.



Ms Gia Gaspard Taylor addresses the Consultation on the need for ICT’s training for rural communities, women and girls and food security in the field of agriculture in the face of climate change and its impact on natural disasters and loss of crops due to landslides and erosion.

*Ensuring and promoting sustainable development—which entails balancing economic growth, social equity and environmental protections—throughout the Western Hemisphere continues to be one of the chief objectives of the OAS.*



Helen Clark  
United Nations, Development Program, Administra-

## Conversation with UNDP Helen Clark

An invitation was extended to NRWPTT to a “Conversation with Ms. Helen Clark” Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on “Gender, Women and Girls, issues in Trinidad and Tobago.

The conversation focused on issues affecting gender, women and girls and how the United Nations system can support the work of the organization.

Rose Rajbansee represented the Network and reported “Ms. Clark was quite im-

pressed that the Network was the only organization representing rural women and girls”.

Ms. Clark was equally impressed by the Network’s Mango Festival Project which took one of the five prizes in the UNDP Innovation Projects 2010 in which women and girls were the main beneficiaries.

This is quite important to us as we prepare our presentation for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Conference to be held

later this month, the theme of which is “ The empowerment of Rural Women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges and emerging issues engaging young men and women , boys and girls to advance gender equality.

### *FACT:*

*Helen Clark is the first woman to lead the organization. She is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group.*

## UNDP Report 2012

Excerpt taken from the

### Remarks for UNDP Administrator Helen Clark

Launch of the Caribbean Human Development Report 2012: “Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security” Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, February 8, 2012.

*“It is a pleasure to launch the 2012 Caribbean Human Development Report (HDR), “Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security” in Port of Spain. This is the first Human Development Report covering this region. It focuses on patterns and perceptions of citizen security in the Caribbean, and analyzes the impact of insecurity and violence on human development.*

*Human development, as outlined in the first global HDR launched by UNDP in 1990, is about enlarging people’s freedoms, choices, and capabilities. High levels of human development generally enable a nation’s people to live longer, healthier lives, be educated, and have a decent standard of living. Citizen security is intrinsically linked to achieving these ends.*

*Violence and fear of victimization disrupts people’s daily lives and may destroy life itself. It limits people’s movement in their communities, and has a direct and indirect impact on health and well-being. In turn, a lack of opportunities and choices, reflected in high rates of unemployment, poverty, and growing inequality, may result in more violence and crime –creating a negative cycle of underdevelopment and insecurity”*

*Building social cohesion in communities through policies which give young people a sense of being valued and belonging to a community, country regardless of ethnicity, sex, class or other differences is very important “*

*The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Fourth Mango Festival & Conference*

*The upcoming Mango Conference will be held in conjunction with the 4th Mango Festival during June 27 to July 1, 2012. This event will be coordinated by the Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago.*

*Growers, Marketers, Government Bodies, Transportation Sector, Technology Sector, as well as Sustainability and Social Responsibility actors are encouraged to attend this event which will address critical issues in the Global Mango Economy.*

*Dr. Victort Galan, Chair Working Group, International Society Horticultural Sciences has already agreed to be a guest speaker.*

*Contact the network for further information and to take part in this exciting event at : [nrwptt@gmail.com](mailto:nrwptt@gmail.com)*



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## GOAT'S MILK VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS

A training workshop was held for making value added products from Goat Milk at the office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society (TTGSS) on January 19-20, 2012. Some members of the Network of Rural Women Producers, Trinidad and Tobago arm (NRWPTT) were invited to attend the workshop. The demonstration in making of the value added products were held in the Rose Rajbansee Training Centre. The workshop was set against the backdrop of the vast potential for producing value added products from local goat's milk and the need to increase knowledge and understanding of appropriate food safety practices in producing such value added products.



Mr. Gregg Rawlins, IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago (centre) surrounded by participants and instructors at the training session for making value added products from goat's milk carried out at the Rose Rajbansee Training Centre.

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