

Improving Household Nutrition Security and Public Health in the CARICOM (FaN) Bulletin- July 2018

Technical Reports to the Canadian IDRC

The 1st interim technical report (January – July 2018) for the project was submitted to the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on July 9th, 2018.

Project Set-up

Engaging research partners: The University of Technology, Jamaica, has signed the sub-grant agreement to partner with FaN and will begin work on their deliverables, through the following activities:

- ✓ assessments of the food systems
- ✓ food and nutrition security (FNS) vulnerability analyses
- ✓ capacity training in FNS
- ✓ evaluation of the governance for FNS
- ✓ design and implementation of food security-oriented micro-enterprises in the three countries

Country teams: On July 11th, 2018, representatives from the Ministries of Health and Education in St. Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG) met to establish their team. Mr. Cuthbert Knights, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, has been designated chair of the team and the researcher assigned is Prof T. Alafia Samuels. She will attend their first formal meeting on August 14th, 2018.

Objective 2: Qualitative Interviews

The SVG Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment has given ethics approval for conducting stakeholder interviews, which are scheduled for August 6th to 10th, 2018. These will be done by the data collection team- Drs. Madhuvanti Murphy, Heather Harewood and Natalie Greaves.

Objective 3: CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ)

The Steering and Working Group (SWAG) approved support to CROSQ for the revision of the standard “CRS 5: 2010 Labelling of Pre-Packaged Foods” in order to fast-track this process of establishing front of package standards for the region to be adopted by the countries. PAHO is also supporting this initiative.

Objective 4: Dissemination

The Office of the President of the UN General Assembly invited Prof Alafia Samuels to participate as a speaker in the interactive hearing, held **July 5th, 2018** at the UN Headquarters in New York, in preparation for the third UN high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. She spoke on Scaling Up responses to NCDs and referenced the particular vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States and the support from the IDRC through this project in addressing food insecurity in the region (video below).



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