



CIARD Global Consultation

Stocktaking for Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations

Organization: Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
(CARDI)

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Part 1: Most Significant Change

1. Basic Information:

The **Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)** is a regional organisation established in 1975 with headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago and offices in 11 other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member countries.

Knowledge generation, diffusion and application are key tools in CARDI's strategy to foster the innovation required for CARICOM's development of sustainable industries along the agriculture value chain. Since circa 2006, open access to digital copies of CARDI publications via the CARDI website, <http://www.cardi.org>, was adopted by CARDI to facilitate knowledge diffusion. The most significant change at the regional/sub-regional level that CARDI has achieved in the management of agricultural information and knowledge was the increase in number of digital CARDI publications available on the CARDI website. The change enhanced the capacity of the Institute to provide its CARICOM stakeholders with relevant and timely information.

2. Description of the Change:

Implementation of CARDI's open access policy to CARDI publications was significantly facilitated by the restructuring and redesigning of CARDI website in 2011-2012. Since 2006 e-copies of CARDI publications have been posted on CARDI website, but numbers were very few. Through the restructured CARDI website, the number of CARDI publications available and accessible in e-copy increased as the publications section on the website is moving from only a bibliographic list of titles to full-text documents.

The Virtual Library <http://www.cardi.org/card-publications/virtual-library> was launched on the CARDI website in December 2012, and stakeholders have been accessing CARDI's technical information by downloading open access, full-text, e-copies of CARDI's factsheets, manuals, journal articles and proceedings.

Another outcome of the change was that CARDI videos, previously only available on DVDs, could now be viewed by stakeholders online. The Video Gallery also has a link to the CARDI Youtube account <http://www.youtube.com/user/CARDIcaribbean> which was created in June 2012.

Sub-websites for Roots and Tubers <http://www.cardi.org/cfc-rt> and Protected Agriculture <http://www.cardi.org/cfc-pa> were created. These are portals to CARDI publications and resources from other Caribbean and international agricultural institutions. CARDI News and Events have RSS feed.

Addition of content/e-copies is on-going on the CARDI website.

The change sponsor was the CARDI Executive Director. The CARDI Librarian is primarily responsible for updating content especially, Virtual Library, news / events. The IT department oversees the software, hardware and network issues. CARDI researchers provide information on activities in the Country Offices, CARDI's commodities and thematic research programmes. The Consultant - Website Designer developed the website and offers technical support. The challenges have been timely updating of content, and converting print to e-format. WordPress training of a person in each CARDI country office has begun, so they can update their respective country page and post news/events accordingly.

3. Significance of the Change:

There has been increased usage of the materials now available on the website. In February 2013, a review of the Virtual Library showed the following estimated download statistics for CARDI publications:

- **800 hits** - CARDI/CTA workshop proceedings: *Improving the policy framework for developing climate change agricultural systems: the role of plant genetic resources*
- **140 hits** - *CARDI Review*
- **240 hits** - *Factsheets*
- **220 hits** - *Technical publications (journal articles, manuals)*
- **75 hits** - *Proceedings (paper presented at conference)*
- **65 hits** - *Infosheets*

Downloads for the Video Gallery as of 19 April 2013 were, for example:

- 49 times *What is CARDI*; 30 times- *Protected Agriculture part 1*
- 28 times *Protected Agriculture part 2*
- 21 times *Yams Mini set Preparation and Trellising*

The sub-websites on Protected Agriculture; and Roots and Tubers give CARICOM stakeholders a "one-stop shop" to CARDI and non-CARDI resources on these topics. Usage of the Protected Agriculture website (as of 26 April 2013) is reflected in following examples of the thematic sections:

- Marketing has 37 documents, hits per document ranging from 46 to 9
- Production has 136 documents, hits per document ranging from 81 to 6
- Good Agricultural Practices has 15 documents, hits per document ranging from 34 to 8
- Pests and Diseases has 105 documents, hits per document ranging from 54 to 6
- Fertilization has 26 documents, hits per document ranging from 38 to 6

Another impact is that it allows just-in-time delivery of documents to CARDI researchers and CARICOM agricultural stakeholders. Example, CARDI offices throughout the Region can download and print factsheet for farmer, instead of being dependent on hard-copies shipped from CARDI Headquarters in Trinidad. A researcher in Belize needs a CARDI video to show at the Belize National Agriculture and Trade Show. Instead of CARDI Headquarters, Trinidad and Tobago, shipping a DVD to Belize (5 days via Courier), the researcher downloaded video onto his laptop and will air the video (off-line) to farmers, extension officers attending the Show.

CARDI's researchers also benefit from greater visibility of their research output and publications.