



Caribbean Food Crops Society
Agricultural Experiment Station
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**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN
Hector L. Santiago**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, MEETING REGISTRATION & HOTEL
RESERVATIOS**

Dear CFCS Member:

The 44th Annual CFCS Meeting will be held in Miami, Florida from July 13 to 17, 2008. The theme for the meeting is **“Repositioning Caribbean Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainability”**.

Opening Session; Monday July 14, 2008: A very exciting, engaging and timely opening session is planned in support of this year’s meeting theme. Former Governor of Florida and Former United States Senator Robert Graham has confirmed his attendance to give a special welcome and provide his remarks on **“The Caribbean Basin Initiative: From Third Border to Good Neighbor Policy”**.

Following Senator Graham’s remarks, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Republic of Guyana has been invited to present the keynote address and share his thoughts on **“Perspectives on Enhancing Sustainable Growth and Development of Caribbean Agriculture”**.

The remaining presentations of the Opening Session will provide support to the theme and will include Mr. Charles Bronson, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture providing remarks on **“Florida - Caribbean – United States Agricultural Trade and Marketing Challenges”**. His Excellency Edwin Carrington, Secretary General Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been invited to share his thoughts on **“Caribbean Community’s Political and Economic Challenges in**

the Twenty-First Century". Mr. Bruce I. Knight, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA, has been invited to discuss "**Perspectives on United States - Caribbean Basin Enhanced Trade and Food Safety Challenges**". Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has confirmed his participation to discuss "**Vision of a New Transformation Paradigm for Caribbean Agriculture**".

Meeting Website: The meeting website is now active and can be found at <http://cfcs.eea.uprm.edu/>. Follow the "More Information" link under the "Our Next Meeting" heading on the right side of the page. At this website you can see the most updated CFCS program, see detailed information regarding visas, obtain further hotel information, find instructions for submitting your abstract and register on-line for the meeting.

Obtain a U.S. Visa: The meeting website also details important information for foreign travelers on obtaining a U.S. visa. Applicants should apply to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in his/her country of residence. Visit <http://usembasy.state.gov> to find the U.S. Embassy closest to you. Advance planning is essential to ensure that you have a visa in time for the meeting.

Host Hotel: The host hotel for our annual meeting is the Miami Beach Resort and Spa (<http://www.miamibeachresortandspa.com>). The room rate per night at the hotel for CFCS participants is \$119 plus 13% tax (single or double occupancy) if the reservation is made directly with the hotel. Morning refreshments, served in the poster presentation area near our meeting space, will be included with the registration. It is important to note that to qualify for the \$119 room rate, you should make your reservation exclusively with the hotel at phone number 305-532-3600 or 877-597-9696. Mention (i) Group Name: University of Florida and (ii) Event Name: Caribbean Food Crops Society.

Call for Abstracts: This letter announces the first call for abstracts. Follow the "Submit Abstract" link from the website for complete instructions. Abstracts should be submitted to cfcs08@ifas.ufl.edu no later than April 16, 2008. An example abstract is provided for guidance and suggestion. Please remember to indicate if you would like to provide an oral or poster presentation. We are encouraging CFCS members to submit poster presentations wherever possible. Posters will be displayed during the entire meeting, with a special reception to be held in the poster area on Tuesday night, July 15, 2008 for presentation of the posters.

Meeting Registration: Follow the "Registration" link from the website for on-line registration. To speed the registration and check-in process at the meeting, we are strongly encouraging on-line registration and payment of meeting fees prior to the meeting. Participants that register and pay fees online prior to the meeting will receive complimentary transportation from the Miami airport to the hotel and

return. There will also be an express registration onsite for those who pre-register online.

Costs:

CFCS Member Registration Fee <i>(includes complimentary annual membership)</i>	\$230.00
CFCS Non-Member Registration Fee	\$275.00
Spouse/Guest Fee	\$150.00
Student Registration Fee	\$60.00
Tuesday Only Attendance for the Invasive Species Workshop <i>(For those attending Tuesday's Workshop only and not the entire CFCS conference. This fee is not required if you register for the full CFCS conference. Includes morning refreshments, workshop, breaks, and Poster Reception)</i>	\$60.00
Florida Cultural Night for Students Fee	\$40.00
Wednesday Night Awards Dinner	\$60.00
Field Trips <i>(includes transportation and lunch)</i>	\$50.00

SPECIAL SESSIONS:

Invasive Species Workshop

A full-day Invasive Species Symposium, organized by the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG), will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. For additional information please contact Dr. Carlton Davis at cgdavis@ufl.edu or Dr. Waldy Klassen at klassen@ufl.edu.

Meeting of PROCICARIBE and Directors of Agricultural Experiment Stations

A joint meeting of PROCICARIBE and Directors of Agricultural Experiment Stations in the Caribbean will be held on Tuesday July 15, 2008 for discussion of topics of joint interest. For further information contact Bruce Lauckner at blauckner@cardi.org or Dr. Altagracia Rivera de Castillo at ariveradecastillo@gmail.com.

CACHE Meeting

CACHE will hold its Board Meeting and General Session during the CFCS meeting. The Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday July 15, 2008 and the General Session will be held on Wednesday July 16, 2008. For further information contact Dr. John Fernandez at john@uprm.edu.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Welcome Reception

An informal welcome reception will be held at the Miami Beach Resort and Spa on Sunday night, July 13, 2008. Cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Florida Night Reception

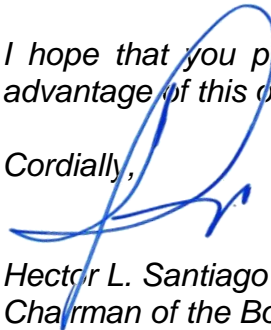
A reception is being planned with music and local food.

CFCS Awards Dinner

Plans are being made for our traditional Awards Dinner which will include cocktails, dinner and dancing. A fee of \$60.00 has been set for the dinner which will be held on Wednesday night July 16, 2008.

I hope that you plan to attend the CFCS Annual Meeting in Miami and take advantage of this opportunity to see south Florida.

Cordially,



*Hector L. Santiago
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer*