



Partnership Initiative for
Sustainable Land Management



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SOIL SPECIALISTS FROM 8 CARICOM STATES TO TRAIN AT UWI IN SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT

Phase 1 of PISLM's CSIDS-SOILCARE Project Empowers Caribbean Nations Towards Food Security

St. Augustine, Trinidad – National representatives from eight CARICOM countries will meet at UWI St. Augustine to attend a 5-day Fieldwork Training in Sustainable Soil Management. The training is being executed in collaboration with the PISLM Regional Research, Advisory and Capacity Building Facility on New Adaptation Technologies (RAC/NAT), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN) and The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus (UWI). Since the 1970's, there have been almost no surveys or collection of comprehensive soil data for the Caribbean. For those who have data, only a few countries have it digitized. Attendees from Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Lucia will train in various functions, such as soil sampling design, sample collection and modern cataloging techniques including georeferencing. The training will aid in building capacity that can be shared with their teams in their respective countries.

The Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS) SOILCARE project is a joint venture between PISLM and FAO-UN. It seeks to create an enabling environment that supports countries in establishing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. The project aligns with UN SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and 15 (Life on Land), focusing on target 15-3, to end desertification and restore degraded land.

As part of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted in 2015, the LDN Target Setting Programme has been engaged by more than 120 countries worldwide. LDN is a state in which the quality of land and soil is either stable or improving (not degrading) so that natural ecosystems can flourish and food security for citizens is enhanced. In our regional dearth of soil data at a time when natural disasters are occurring with more frequency and strength, it is critical that Caribbean countries bring their soil and land quality data up to date so that effective recommendations can be made and solutions found for soil and land management challenges.

The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS) is the inter-governmental convening mechanism established by the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. It was established at their 14th Meeting in Panama, pursuant to the Forum's 2003 Decisions 4. PISLM is the principle body assigned by the 25th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) [Environment], which was held in April 2008 in Guyana. It coordinates, on the behalf of CSIDS, the Land Resources components of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA (MSI/BPOA) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) in CSIDS. It also serves as the framework for implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in CSIDS. For more information, visit pislmsids.org, visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/pislmsids or contact our Media Office at rdavis@pislmsids.org.

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