



# Status of LMO detection in the Caribbean Region

Linroy Christian (Ph.D.)  
Lael Bertide-Josiah (BSc.)

Department of Analytical Services  
Ministry of Agriculture

# Regional Map





# Capacity Building

- UNEP/GEF “Regional Project for Implementing National Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Region”
- June 2011 – 2015

Antigua & Barbuda

Barbados

Bahamas

Belize

Dominica

Grenada

Guyana

St. Kitts & Nevis\*

St. Lucia

Suriname

Trinidad & Tobago

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

# Key Project Components

- Establish legal framework for Biosafety/Biotechnology
- Institutional strengthening for decision-making and management
- Human resource development
- Strengthening information management
- Building regional support mechanisms



# Human Capacity Development

- Regional component of the GEF project has established a Masters Degree programme in Biosafety and Biotechnology at UWI - Cave Hill Campus Barbados
- Participating countries:
  - Antigua & Barbuda (2)
  - Belize (2)
  - St. Kitts & Nevis (1)
  - Saint Lucia (2)
  - St. Vincent & the Grenadines (2)
  - Suriname (1)
- Commenced September 2014
- Duration 15 months

# Current status: LMO detection

- No dedicated LMO testing facilities established, largely multipurpose laboratories
- National lab capacities being developed through project
  - Range of technologies under consideration
  - Belize currently conducts screening with Lateral flow strips
- Facilities identified for strengthening with PCR and ELISA capability
  - Bureaus of standard
  - National laboratories
  - Ministry of Agriculture laboratories
- Discussions surrounding a regional Centre of Excellence at UWI Cave Hill Barbados



# Challenges in LMO Detection

- Laboratory infrastructure
- Sustainability of testing programme
  - Laboratory equipment
  - Consumables
- QA/QC
  - Certified reference material
  - Proficiency testing
- Networking and sharing of resources
- Harmonised regional perspective and strategy

# Improving LMO Detection

- Improved lab infrastructure
- Increased training in relevant technologies
- Establishment of regional network
  - Technical exchange
  - Information sharing
  - Resource allocation
  - QA/QC
- Establishment of Regional Reference Lab
- Improved CARICOM involvement



# Acknowledgement

- Regional representative from:
  - St. Vincent & The Grenadines
  - St. Kitts & Nevis
  - Saint Lucia

Thank you

