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# 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

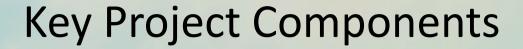
St. Kitts & Nevis\*

St. Lucia

Suriname

**Trinidad & Tobago** 

St. Vincent & The Grenadines



- 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

