



## *Year End Message from Desk of the Chief Coordinator CaFAN/ECTAD*

Dear CaFAN Family,

Greetings and best wishes for the holiday season!

We look forward to more success in 2017, with your leadership, commitment, and togetherness. We want to continue to build on the positives and pay less attention to the negatives.

Ideas, suggestions, and regrets are easy to come by, but putting them into actions still remains the hardest part of the business. I urge you to concentrate on that hard part of the business because, at the end of the day, it is sound achievements that really matters. I also wish for you to always bear in mind that the race is not just for the swift, nor is the battle for the strong but those who endure to the end; using their brain power and finding solutions outside of the norm stand the best chance of achieving success.

We intensified our efforts in 2016 with the help of our partners, our regional platform – CTA, CaFAN, ECTAD, Bunny's Import & Export, Sandals Foundation – and our technical partners, CARDI, FAO, IICA, CARICOM, the University of the West Indies (UWI), Ministries of Agriculture, and COLEACP to focus on profitable sustainable markets for our small farmers in the network.

Just two days before Christmas, ECTAD, St. Vincent small farmers group exported over 80,000 lbs of commodities to Bunny's Import & Export, Trinidad, one of our regional platform members. Additionally, one of our member groups in Grenada, supported by Sandals has begun production to supply the Sandals Property in Grenada and seeks to supplement production shortages in the country by purchasing from other CaFAN members within the region. Meanwhile, our Barbados member continues to expand its market linkage with the Massy Stores and Sandals Properties. Our members in Suriname and Guyana are getting ready to join us on the EU Export market platform that is being explored by ECTAD to the tune of over 500,000 pounds of roots and tubers in 2016 and we are hoping to increase joint exports many times over in 2017.

It is often the quiet revolution like what we are doing that build the foundation to advance and grow the agriculture sector in real terms rather than loud voices around debating tables that lead to no action or no positive forward movement.

Blessings to all and a Happy and Fruitful 2017!

*Jethro T. Greene*  
24<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

