

# Communi-clik

*Breaking News* from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



June 2010

**Post Harvest Production in St. Kitts & Nevis**  
**Veteran Beekeeper Improves Hive Construction in Haiti**  
**Integrated Pest Management in St. Kitts & Nevis**  
**Orlando Haitian Diaspora Workshop – July 17, 2010**  
**Follow FAVACA on Twitter!**

## **Post Harvest Production in St. Kitts & Nevis**

Farmers in St Kitts and Nevis have been trying to grow onions and white potatoes for a number of years but the quality of the produce is often poor which can be attributed to the post harvest problems (soft rot in white potatoes and improper curing in onions). Other crops with post harvest problems in St. Kitts include sweet potato, tomato, peanut, papaya, banana and cabbage which spurred Pathleen Thomas from CARDI-/St. Kitts to request training in post harvest techniques. Post harvest training is crucial given the fact that the Department of Agriculture in Nevis opened a food processing unit several years where mango chutney, pepper sauce and other processed foods were made but many farmers are not able to sell their produce to the processing plant due to the poor post harvest quality.



Dr. Angeleah Browdy, a lecturer at the [University of Florida's Food Science and Human Nutrition Department](#) traveled to St. Kitts & Nevis May 15-23, 2010 to lead several seminars on post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables to local farmers and extension agents from the Ministry of Agriculture and CARDI. While in St. Kitts and Nevis, she met with Department of Agriculture representatives to discuss deficiencies in their post harvest protocols and she visited several packing houses, storage facilities and assessed the transportation systems to gain a better perspective of the post harvest infrastructure on the island.

The training was conducted over several sessions to help increase the quality of products produced by farmers and the expectations the post harvest facilities require for their consumption.

## **Veteran Beekeeper Improves Hive Construction in Haiti**

Beekeeping in Haiti is a growing but still underutilized industry in Haiti. Beyond the immediate benefit of pollinating agricultural fields, beekeeping creates a cottage industry where beekeepers can sell honey and secondary bee products like candles and waxes adding much needed income. In a collaborative effort to increase the hive technology used by beekeeping associations across Haiti, FAVACA and [Partners of the Americas](#) identified hive construction material manufacturing as two areas that could greatly strengthen the capacity of local beekeepers.

Makouti Agro Enterprise, Southern Apiculture Society, Komin Akien Apiculture Association (AAKA), and the Pilate Beekeepers Cooperative were just a few of a variety of beekeeping organizations from the Northern and Southern Departments of Haiti that veteran FAVACA volunteer Sofie Geckler worked from May 23- June 6, 2010. Geckler taught the construction of [Kenya Top Bar](#) hives, which is less expensive to construct and easier to maintain than the [Langstroth](#) hives commonly found in the United States. Working closely with local carpenters to construct approximately eight hives Geckler was able to provide templates to ensure each wood piece is cut correctly. Beekeeping equipment in Haiti is only found in select areas of the country and is rather expensive, yet also very necessary to maintain healthy hives. Protective gloves and veils are especially important and the latter is in short supply in Haiti, so beekeepers and tailors were taught how to make gloves and veils with locally found materials. Thanks to Geckler's volunteer service, at least 40 beekeepers, carpenters, and tailors can construct Kenya Top Bar hives or protective veils.



### **Integrated Pest Management in St. Kitts & Nevis**

Several major pests have caused major crop losses to farmers across the two islands, including cabbage loopers, aphids, whiteflies, and especially the diamondback moth, according to the [Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute \(CARDI\)](#) St. Kitts & Nevis as well as the [Ministry of Agriculture](#).



In order to gain a better understanding of the accumulation of pests and potential treatments, Dr. Oscar Liburd from the [University of Florida's Department of Entomology and Nematology](#) in Gainesville, Florida, and originally from St. Kitts & Nevis, shipped several varieties of reduced risk pesticides to St. Kitts several months before the training. The randomized block design experiment collected data on any pests that were seen in large quantities. The pests collected were then pinned on a board or placed in a small vial with alcohol for identification by Liburd. Upon arrival in Basseterre in mid-May, Liburd inspected the test plots and explained to farmers and extension agents which pesticides had the best results. Trainings

on pest identification, the harmful effects of those pests, and ways to reduce pests per acre were provided to farmers, agricultural extension agents from CARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture from May 15-23, 2010.

### **Orlando Haitian Diaspora Workshop – July 17, 2010**

Following successful Haitian Hometown Association workshops in the greater Miami area and requests from central Florida Haitian diaspora, FAVACA through the generous support of the [Tupperware Foundation](#), will host a Haitian Hometown Association Workshop in Orlando to provide training to local Haitian-American organizations on fundraising, grant writing, and organizational strengthening. Veteran FAVACA volunteer James Mueller of [James Mueller Associates LLC](#) will lead the workshop with the aim to help the Haitian diaspora's efforts to improve conditions in Haiti. He will be accompanied by Tania Delinois, also a veteran FAVACA volunteer that provided post trauma counseling in Haiti after the earthquake, and received her Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Florida Atlantic University.



The workshop will take place on Saturday, July 17th at the [University of Central Florida \(UCF\)](#), in Orlando Florida. Arrive early for the morning registration and network with the organizations

attending. Coffee and pastries will be available at the registration beginning at 9:00 am. The workshop will be from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. We are looking forward to seeing many of our old friends and making some new ones. For more information please contact [angie@favaca.org](mailto:angie@favaca.org) or 305.470.5070. FAVACA would like to provide special thanks to the Holiday Inn for their contribution to this event.

### Follow FAVACA on Twitter!

We have entered the Twitter world; follow us today to get up to the minute developments of FAVACA volunteers throughout the hemisphere, updates on FAVACA events and networking opportunities and much more. Click here and [Tweet FAVACA today!](#) Don't forget *Friends of FAVACA* can join us on [Facebook](#) and share your volunteer stories.

**FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas**

<b>Miami Office</b> 7220 NW 36th Street, Suite 608 Miami, Florida 33166 (305) 470-5070 <a href="mailto:favaca@favaca.org">favaca@favaca.org</a>	<b>Tallahassee Office</b> 1310 N. Paul Russell Road Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (850) 410-3100 <a href="mailto:favaca@favaca.org">favaca@favaca.org</a>
---	--

Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean and the Americas through volunteer service.

[www.favaca.org](http://www.favaca.org)

