



For Immediate Release

Empowering Jamaican fisherfolk to participate in governance

Port of Spain, October 26, 2015 – Over 28 fisherfolk leaders from the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union (JFCU) and other fisherfolk associations, representatives from the Fisheries Division and Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies met in Kingston to share their experiences in policy influencing and capacity building, and to identify policy opportunities at the national, regional and international levels to address challenges facing their organisations.

“After two days at the workshop, I feel empowered and feel that I need to do much more to help my organisation. It is also good to know that there are other agencies in the fisheries sector willing to assist fisherfolk” was the comment made by one of the fisherfolk leaders, Maxime Brown Dorman.

During the workshop, the participants reviewed global and regional fisheries and related policy instruments and projects (e.g. Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines, Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy and Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem⁺ project) to identify opportunities to address challenges and build resilient fisherfolk organisations and improve their livelihoods. The main challenges were identified in the areas of governance, leadership, succession planning, management, education and training, resource mobilisation and cost of operations. Participants also improved on their skills to produce effective communication messages for policy and decision-makers as well as other target audiences, and enhanced their knowledge of the basic principles of project cycle management and the importance of participatory monitoring and evaluation.



Working group session on effective communication with policy makers

The National Fisherfolk Workshop took place in Kingston, Jamaica, October 21 -22, 2015. It was convened under the European Union funded (€1,03m) Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance project, which is targeting fisherfolk organisations in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos. The project is aimed at improving the contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector to food security in these countries through building the capacity of regional and national fisherfolk organisation networks to participate in fisheries governance and management. It is being implemented by CANARI, working in partnership with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI-CERMES), Panos Caribbean, Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

END

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute is a regional, technical, non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 20 years. Our mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, capacity building and fostering regional partnerships.

Connect with us:

Connect with us:



For further information: Please see <http://www.canari.org/strengthening-caribbean-fisherfolk-to-participate-in-governance/> or contact Terrence Phillips at CANARI at terrence@canari.org or call: 1-868-626-6062

Submitted on October 26, 2015