



CANARI brings Caribbean priorities on supporting rural enterprises to international meeting on poverty and environment

Port of Spain, June 25, 2015 – Caribbean priorities on supporting rural community enterprises were highlighted at the 20th meeting of the global Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) held in Edinburgh in May 2015. The meeting was held to assess how the partnership of mostly donors and development organisations could support implementation of the new global sustainable development goals.

The PEP was established soon after the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 when poverty and environment issues tended to be treated separately – in spite of their root causes and potential solutions being linked. The world has come a long way since 2002 and the new global sustainable development goals, which will be finalised at a meeting of the United Nations in September this year, recognise the intimate inter-linkages between social, economic and environmental issues and objectives.

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) focuses on poverty and environment issues as a core part of its work and has been supporting CARICOM Member States and other stakeholders to identify Caribbean priorities and effectively negotiate these in the global sustainable development processes.

At the PEP meeting, CANARI contributed to discussions on employment, small enterprises and green economy as a route for poverty alleviation. Experiences from four different regions - the Caribbean, Southern Africa, India and Europe - brought forward the potential of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for the bulk of economic activity in the formal and particularly in the informal sector. These small businesses are major sources of employment, contribute significantly to the national GDP and demonstrate the tremendous potential to pull people from absolute poverty and to deliver more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic development.

According to Zeenat Niazi from Development Alternatives in India who coordinated the session, “Different as the four regions are, both the potential and challenges were found to be quite similar. Small businesses are challenged by lack of access to finance and markets, better negotiation abilities, access to improved technologies, infrastructure, skills, information and knowledge.”

CANARI’s presentation was on [Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for Employment and Green Economy Services for Poverty Alleviation in the Caribbean](#) and highlighted recent work done under a [project](#) under its [Green Economy](#) programme.

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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:



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