



**For immediate release**

### **Dominica's fisherfolk, Fisheries Division and Cooperative Division vow to improve collaboration**

**Roseau, November 26, 2015.** Post- Tropical Storm Erika, Dominica's fisherfolk and representatives from the Fisheries Division and Cooperative Division pledged to improve collaboration to strengthen the capacity of fisherfolk cooperatives on the island to advocate for inclusion in the rebuilding efforts. This was one of the messages emanating from the just concluded national fisherfolk workshop.

Fisherfolk called for better collaboration with the government agencies so that fisherfolk cooperatives can improve their involvement in decision and policy-making. "It is time for us to start making decisions for ourselves," said one impassioned participant. Cooperatives are avenues for fisherfolk to discuss issues and share their unified positions, but the representatives from the National Fisherfolk Cooperative (NAFCOOP) and its affiliates believe that they are not being recognised as major players in fisheries governance. NAFCOOP said that it needed further education and training to improve its capacity to partner in fisheries governance and management.



*"We need training if we have to be independent." A participant speaking at the final national fisherfolk workshop in Dominica on November 24, 2015. Photo credit: CANARI*

The final of two national fisherfolk workshops took place from November 24 to 25, 2015 at the Garraway Hotel, Roseau. One of its objectives was for participants to prioritise the challenges facing fisherfolk and their organisations for further action.

The workshop was organised under the *Strengthening Caribbean Fisherfolk to Participate in Governance* project. The project is aimed at improving the contribution of the small scale fisheries sector to food security in 17 Caribbean countries through building the capacity of regional and national fisherfolk organisation networks to participate in fisheries governance and management. The European Union-funded (€1,03m) project is being implemented by Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), in partnership with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies and Panos Caribbean in association with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Associations (CNFO) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CFRM).

### 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.

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**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](mailto:terrence@canari.org) or call: 1-868-626-6062

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