

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Canal Polders Green Initiative (CPGI) - Training Workshop



**Georgetown, Guyana:** The Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED) in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Regional Democratic Council – Region # 3 and Canal Polders Interim Management Committee (I.M.C) successfully completed three (3) training sessions in Greenhouse Technology for thirty-six (36) farmers of Canal Polders # 1 and 2 on 15<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

This training workshop forms one aspect of the Canal Polders Green Initiative (CPGI) which seeks to provide sustainable economic opportunities and increase farmers' productive capacity in Canal Polders through the demonstration, application and use of greenhouse technology. The training workshop encouraged the adoption of greenhouse technology among farmers in order to reduce the high production cost and improve the quality of local produce.

The training sessions was facilitated by Local Economic Development Officers, Ms. Shivana Persaud and Mr. Satya Dayaram, as well as Hydro-Green Products consultant, Mr. Colwayne Morris. The training sessions were divided into theoretical and practical sessions that focused on hydroponic farming. The training sessions focused on the advantages of hydroponic farming compared to traditional farming, natural pesticides and disease control, sanitation and maintenance of greenhouse facilities. The practical sessions gave participants the opportunity to observe and discuss greenhouse features and engage in a demo planting exercise. Participants were very interested in the hydroponic drip systems, substrates and availability of greenhouse components.

Mr. Dhanraj Singh, National Country Coordinator for CARILED closed the workshop and noted that "the initiative is timely and will significantly boost the Region's capacity to deal with the challenges of climate change in the local agriculture sector". Mr. Singh further explained that the Canal Polders project was meant to demonstrate partnerships between local government authorities and the Canal Polders residents towards local economic development.

The Canal Polders project adopts a public-private partnership approach between local government authorities and communities that seeks to develop and create jobs in local economies. The project also targets single mothers who depend on subsistence agriculture and should assist in closing the gender gap within the region.



## CARIBBEAN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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### About CARILED

CARILED is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada, through Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada. It is a six year program launched in May 2012, with headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, and sub-offices in Saint Lucia (OECS) and Ottawa, Canada. The program is implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA), the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). The program focuses on local economic development and currently works in seven Caribbean countries to develop models of Local Economic Development that can be shared throughout the region. It aims to partner with local government authorities to support the growth and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). For more information on CARILED, please contact [cariled@fcm.ca](mailto:cariled@fcm.ca). FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES ONLY, please contact [kizzannleesam@fcm.ca](mailto:kizzannleesam@fcm.ca)