



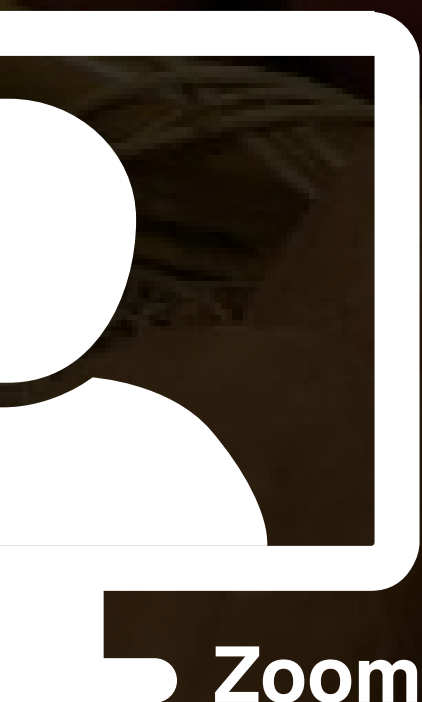
# Sustainable Strategies to Enhance Sweet Potato Yields and Minimize Losses to Pest and Diseases in the Caribbean

October 25th to 27th 9.00 am to 12.00 noon

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://cabi.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYsce6tqDopGdFdg67cgqi8PX3kQ82-FPzv>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



## Objectives of the Webinar:

- 1. Build partnerships** between CABI's Member Countries, academia, research institutions and the private sector to enhance yields and reduce losses of Sweet Potato production, a priority crop in the Caribbean.
- 2. Promote Greener Value Chains** for Sweet Potato Production that is resilient to Climate Change in the Caribbean
- 3. Share information and experiences** among extension, research and farmers to increase yields and reduce crop losses in Sweet Potato production in the Caribbean.
- 4. Utilize the information from this virtual event** to develop a PRISE proposal for donor funding.





## Session One: October 25th 2021

**Chair: Regional Rep, Caribbean and Central America**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome	Dr Richard Shaw, Senior Regional Director, Europe and the Americas
9.10 –9.15	Assessment of participants' baseline knowledge on pest and diseases of sweet potato in the Caribbean	All participants complete short online survey.
09:15 – 09:30	Status of Pest and Disease Management of Sweet Potato in the Caribbean	Dione Clarke Harris, Entomologist, CARDI Jamaica
09:30 – 10:15	Biological Control of Sweet Potato Weevils: current status and perspectives in the Caribbean	Dr Eduardo Hidalgo (CABI)
10.15 – 11.00	Eco-friendly solutions for Pest and Disease Management in Sweet Potato	Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar, Professor of Plant Pathology & Head, Department of Food Production Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies
11.00 – 11:30	Question and answer	



## Session Two 26th October 2021

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9.00 – 9.10	Welcome and overview of the session one	Chair
9.10 – 11.30	MAFAS Ltd.'s Sweet Potato Production Technologies combines optimum crop nutrition with biological pesticides for maximum tuber yield and minimal loss to pest and diseases	Mr. Marcus Mycoo, Managing Director, MAFAS Ltd.
11.30 – 11.55	Question and Answer.	All
11.55 – 12.00	Closing remarks	Chair

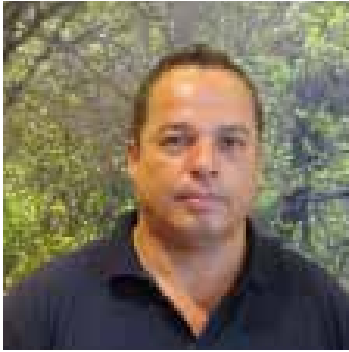


## Session Three: 27th October 2021

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9.00 – 9.05	Welcome and overview of session two	Chair
9.05 – 10.45	Pests of major concern: Sweet Potato weevils and other root feeders in the Caribbean	Mr. Gregory Linton, CARDI
10.45 – 11.15	Leaf Feeders and Stem Borers affecting Sweet Potato in the Region	Mr. Jhaman Kundun, CARDI
11.15 – 11.45	Other pests of concern in Sweet Potato production in the Caribbean	Dr Annika Minott, CARDI
11.45 – 12.00	Questions and Answers	All
12.00 – 12.15	The way forward: CABI's collaboration with key Member States and Partners to Develop a PRISE project for managing Sweet Potato Weevils in the Caribbean	Mr. Naitram Ramnanan
12.15 – 12.20	Knowledge acquisition survey	All

# Speakers

## CAB International



### **Dr Eduardo Hidalgo**

Dr Eduardo Hidalgo Jaminson is a specialist in ecological agriculture. His focus is on a systems approach for pest management. With a background on plant protection and applied Entomology, Eduardo worked for more than 20 years on the use of antagonistic fungi and entomopathogenic microorganisms for the development of biological alternatives for the control of pests and diseases on food crops. Based at the CABI Office located at the Centre for Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education (CATIE) in Costa Rica. He has been working for CABI for the last 7 year as a country coordinator for the Plantwise programme, training and supporting technical staff on phytosanitary diagnosis and use of the plant clinic methodology for reaching farmers in order to reduce crop losses in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and in 2019 took over the coordination for Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and

Tobago. Eduardo has also been a professor on integrated pest management for the last 19 years supporting research on topics that contribute to the development of crop management alternatives in the Region. He has participated and coordinated several multi institutional projects in Latin America. All these projects involving strain selection, formulation and efficacy trials both at laboratory and field levels.



### **Mr Naitram Ramnanan**

Mr. Naitram (Bob) Ramnanan is an agronomist by training with over 30 years' experience in Caribbean Agricultural Development. He has worked for all the international and regional agricultural organizations that operate in the Caribbean. He also spent four years at the National Agricultural Marketing Corporation in Trinidad where he was at the forefront of the development of the National Agricultural Market Information System (NAMISTT). For the last 12 years he has been focused on the impact of invasive species on biodiversity and their impact on small island economies. He is currently CABI's Regional Representative for the Caribbean and Central America. His focus for the future is establishing a sustainable funding mechanism to sustainably manage invasive species. Mainstreaming agroecology to promote sustainable agriculture to minimize the current negative impact of

agriculture on the regions environment while enhancing our capacity to produce safe foods and increasing food security in the Caribbean. Building effective partnerships among academia; research institutions, farmers and other private sector players will be key in fulfilling these objectives.



### **Dr Richard Shaw**

Dr Richard (Dick) Shaw is currently one of three Senior Regional Directors in CABI and is responsible for CABI's labs and offices in Egham (UK), Delémont (CH), Brazil and Trinidad & Tobago. Dick is an applied entomologist by training and have worked for CABI for over 25 years in the field of invasive species and biological control. His research has allowed him to carry out extensive overseas survey work, as well as lab safety testing of potential agents and the presentation of results to scientific conferences and the public alike. Her recently managed the Japanese knotweed biocontrol programme for the UK, USA and Canada which culminated in the first officially-sanctioned release of a weed bio-control agent.

## Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)



### **Ms Dion Clarke-Harris**

Ms Dionne O. Clarke-Harris is an entomologist with over 20 years' experience working in the Caribbean. She holds a Master of Philosophy in Entomology from the University of the West Indies and Certification in Project Management from the Project Management Institute. She has specialized in the area of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) working in tropical crops including citrus, vegetables, coffee, root and tuber crops and coconut. Currently, she is the Lead on CARDI's Integrated Pest Management Group and CARDI's representative on the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and has also written/co-authored various publications on integrated pest management and invasive species. In addition, she is the Acting CARDI Representative in Jamaica.



### **Mr Gregory Linton**

Mr. Gregory Linton holds a Master of Science Degree in Plant Protection from the Chapingo Autonomous University, Mexico. He is an Agricultural Engineer specialized in Agricultural Parasitology. He has five years' experience with Integrated Pest Management in bananas, coconut and sweet potato. He also has three years' experience in biological control of some citrus pests and the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug. In addition, he has worked in nematode sampling and has good knowledge of the taxonomy of insects and fungi.



### **Dr Annika Minot**

Dr Annika Minott holds a doctorate in Plant Medicine from the University of Florida, USA. She is a scientist at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and she also serves as the CARDI Representative for the Cayman Islands. Her research/work interests relate to crop science, roots and tubers, Integrated Pest Management, and germplasm management.



### **Mr Jhaman Kundun**

Mr. Jhaman Kundun holds two Masters Degrees; the first in Integrated Pest Management from Harper Adams University, Edgmond, England as a Chevening Scholar and the second in Agriculture & Environmental Technologies from the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. He has also undergone leadership training through the Leadership for Development Program as an Australia Awards Scholar. He is a proud alumnus of the University of Guyana where he did his undergraduate degree and also has a diploma in Agricultural Science from the Guyana School of Agriculture. Mr. Kundun worked in the Guyana sugar industry then joined the CARDI team in 2018 and assumed the position as Officer-in-Charge for the CARDI Guyana Unit in November 2019. His focus is on collaborative approaches to agricultural development, IPM, pheromones, bio-control, bio-climatic research and analysis

of agricultural data. Jhaman has accumulated more than 10 years in academia, agricultural industry and consulting experience in the areas of agricultural and environmental science, and collaborative decision-making. He is the recipient of the British Crop Production Council Award 2017, The Commonwealth Star of Australia along with several other awards and research and has published in the Journal of Chemical Ecology among others.

## University of the West Indies (UWI)



### **Professor Duraisamy Saravanakumar**

Prof. Duraisamy Saravanakumar is a Professor and Head of the Department of Food Production at the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, Trinidad. He received his B.Sc. in Agriculture, M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India. He did his Postdoc at the University of Turin, Italy on postharvest diseases. His research interests are the development of biologicals for the management of plant diseases suited for tropical, sub-tropical and temperate regions and molecular techniques for detection of quarantine pathogens. He has published more than 70 research papers in peer reviewed journals with a Google H index of 25 and citations of more than 3000. He is one of the topic editors for Frontiers issue in Plant Growth Promoting Microorganisms for Sustainable Agricultural Production and Guest Associate Editor for Frontiers in Crop Biology and Sustainability.

## MAFAS



### **Mr Marcus Mycoo**

Mr. Marcus Mycoo is the Managing Director/ Chief Consultant of MAFAS Ltd. Marcus completed his B.Sc. degree in Agronomy and M.Sc. in Crop Protection as well as an Executive Marketing Diploma from the University of the West Indies. He has over 28 years of experience working extensively throughout the Caribbean and Central America. He has also done several consultancies on behalf of the FAO, EU and MOA (Trinidad). Marcus has served in many committees and professional bodies that are tasked with agricultural development in the Caribbean. He is also an IFOAM/JOAM trained Organic Produce Inspector. His company specializes in marketing plant growth regulators, ecological friendly pesticides and specially formulated plant nutrients. In collaboration with the manufacturers they represent across the Caribbean and lead farmers they have developed and trialed on farmers'

fields agronomic packages that satisfies the plants inherent nutrition needs for maximum yields by optimizing and synchronizing the plant growth hormones and fertilization in combination with biopesticides. There is a special focus on crops with export potential. The farmers they work with have reported obtaining significantly higher than average yields while minimizing losses to pests, diseases and extreme weather conditions such as flooding and drought. In addition, the technologies they promote are also enhancing environmental sustainability.



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