
I am pleased as the President of the Caribbean Poultry Association and current Chairman of the Board of Directors to welcome you to this our Second Caribbean Poultry Association Annual Technical Symposium on Shaping our Future for Sustainability.

Our First symposium exploring this same topic but dealing with other issues was held in T&T in September 2014. That symposium turned out to be a huge success as it provided a splendid opportunity for public and private sector persons to interact and share in technical discussions that will indeed shape our industry in the coming years.

These annual symposia provide an opportunity for us to get away from our daily problems and focus on strategic issues that confront our industry. These symposia also provide a medium for intimate and open discussions between persons who make Government policy and us in the industry who help to shape such policy, then have to live with and accommodate to such policy.

The Caribbean Poultry Association is a fully private sector organisation now 16 years old, young by many standards but in this short space of time, we have become one of the region’s premier agribusiness associations. We represent well over 80% of the broiler meat and table egg producers across the region including Haiti having a membership of eight producing companies, six associations in 9 Caricom Member States and two associate members in the USA. We are members of the International Poultry Council, the Latin American Poultry Association and CISA - the Animal Health Commission for Latin America.

The Memorandum of Association provides the following objects for the CPA:

...to be the recognized representative organization of the CARICOM Poultry Industry Producers and Associated Industries in order to promote the development, growth and expansion of the CARICOM poultry industry and to encourage the growth and development of economic linkages and Agribusiness in the CARICOM Region through the provision of technical assistance, business guidance, networking, establishment of strategic alliances, economic assistance and service to operators in the poultry industry and associated activities.

The Mission of the CPA is being met through the following activities:

- Facilitating information exchange
- Developing scientific and technological knowledge
- Addressing global and regional developments
• Facilitating networking within and outside the sector
• Building expertise and knowledge
• Being the regional spokesman for the poultry industry
• Collaborating on all non-competitive issues that impact the industry

The CPA also offers benefits to Governments:
1. A ready source of information on the poultry industry to assist in policy making
2. Provision of technical expertise and knowledge
3. Networking for best practices and guidelines
4. Preparation of standards

There are also benefits to our regional publics, academia and the international fraternity through the dissemination of non-proprietary information on the Caribbean industry.

After 16 years of existence, the problems that now face us in 2015 are different in scale and range from the problems that faced us in 1999 when a group of intrepid producers led by Jamaica and The Bahamas met in Atlanta at the time of the poultry show to discuss cooperation on non-competitive issues. I acknowledge the presence of Mr. Robert Levy who played a seminal role in the formation and early years of the CPA.

The work programmes of the CPA reflect these dynamics and are tailored to meet the needs of a changing environment.

We have what I think is an interesting and informative programme ahead of us today and tomorrow. I am pleased to see so many of you here with us today. I want to say a special thanks to our many sponsors whose names and logos appear on the documentation which we have handed out. I wish to express a special welcome and grateful thanks to all our speakers especially those from overseas who have taken time from their busy schedules to share their experiences and knowledge with us.

I also want to thank the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries of Jamaica for their support. I am especially grateful to our Jamaican CPA members, the Jamaica Broilers Group, the Caribbean Broilers Group and the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association for their assistance, support and enthusiasm.

On behalf of the Caribbean Poultry Association, I welcome all of you and wish you a successful symposium.

Patrick de Groot
President
Caribbean Poultry Association
05 October 2015