



CDCC/CCST/83/12

July 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Subregional Office for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Third Plenary Session
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
27-29 July 1983



THE CCST WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1983-1984



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

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Introduction

The Work Programme proposed for 1983-1984 is a reflection of activities already identified and implemented during the Establishment Phase (1981-1983) of the CCST.

When discussing the document, Council is asked to take note of the following:

- (i) The need to ensure continuity of Secretariat Services for several important activities are scheduled for the remainder of 1983 or early 1984.
- (ii) The recommendation for establishing the nucleus of a Secretariat as a first step towards creating an identity for the CCST.
- (iii) The collaborative role which CCST can play in the various regional initiatives which are now taking place.
- (iv) All additional activities have been proposed against the ability to procure additional funds. There have already been firm commitments of financial support from funding Agencies.

PROJECT I

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CAPABILITIES (See document CDCC/CCST/82/9)

Several countries have submitted their completed questionnaires to the Secretariat and these are being analysed. However, some countries have still to submit the information whilst others have asked for assistance from the Secretariat to undertake the survey. It is therefore, proposed for 1983-1984 that:

- (i) the data obtained by the Secretariat should be analysed and published.
- (ii) the Secretariat should assist those Member Countries who require help in implementing the Project.

PROJECT II

ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOURNAL/MAGAZINE FOR CCST

(See document CDCC/CCST/82/9

It is proposed to hold a Meeting of the Editorial Board as early as possible so that the First Volume can be published before end of 1983. Thereafter, it may be necessary to commission articles on a contractual basis in order to ensure regularity of publication, and a retired journalist with an international reputation as a leader-writer and editor has already indicated his willingness to undertake short term assignments in this field.

PROJECT III

Preparation and Exchange of Audio-Visual Material for
EDUCATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(see document CDCC/CCST/82/9

1. The films already prepared will be dubbed in the other two working languages (French and Spanish).
2. Three (3) other films, highlighting the Science and Technology Activities (Science Education, Agriculture, Health, New Technologies, Energy) in other CCST Member Countries will be prepared.
3. The audio-visual material already acquired will be used to train Teachers, Film Technicians and Adult Educators in the various methods of producing, displaying and projecting S+T information so that it can be readily understood and appreciated by non-scientists. This will be in the form of a Regional Workshop to be held late 1983/early 1984.

PROJECT IV

STUDY OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEVELOPMENT
OF ENERGY CROPS ON FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE REGION
(See document No. CDCC/CCST/82/9

The Report on the Project is being circulated to Funding Agencies with requests for financial support.

PROJECT V

CONSERVATION AND EXCHANGE OF GERMPLASM OF CROP
PLANTS (See document No. CDCC/CCST/82/9

Catalytic funds have been obtained from the Commonwealth Foundation and the Project will be implemented in the following phases:

PHASE I A Consultant with experience in tissue culture and with extensive knowledge of agriculture institutions in the Caribbean will visit relevant institutions in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and St. Lucia.

PHASE II A Report will be prepared with emphasis on the following:

- (i) Assessment of the facilities and the potential for regional research on methods of Conservation of Germplasm;
- (ii) Identification of possible centres of Conservation within the Caribbean/Latin American Region.
- (iii) Specific recommendations for enhanced collaboration amongst regional institutions.

PHASE III The Report will be circulated to Member Governments for consideration and appropriate action.

PROJECT VI

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRO-INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT

OPPORTUNITIES PARTICULARLY AT RURAL LEVEL

(See document No. CDCC/CCST/82/9

The Report on the Project is being circulated to Funding Agencies with requests for financial support.

PROJECT VIII

A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY FOR THE CARIBBEAN

(See document No. CDCC/CCST/82/9

A consensual Report on National Policies in Science and Technology will be prepared.

Council will also coordinate Sub-Regional Preparatory Meetings for the Second Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CASTALAC II).

Meetings of Representatives from National Science and Technology Policy-Making Institutions will be convened so that a collective regional position on Science and Technology can be articulated.

From these initiatives a consistent and comprehensive regional policy in Science and Technology will gradually emerge.

SPECIALISED COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

COMMITTEE 1

ENERGY

Several regional initiatives are already in progress and ECLA/CCST has been requested to serve on various Steering Committees and Working Groups. The CCST will therefore, continue to collaborate with the already established programmes and will not embark upon any new work.

COMMITTEE 2

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND PATENTS

With the assistance of the World Intellectual Property Organization a Regional Seminar/Workshop is being programmed for March/April 1984. The Workshop will bring together thirty (30) participants, from R+D institutions and Industrial Property Offices who are working or expect to work in the field of:-

- (i) Technical Information
- (ii) Acquisition of Technology
- (iii) Training (legal and institutional) in patent documentation and information services.

Resource persons will be identified from international, industrial and commercial enterprises as well as from the legal profession.

COMMITTEE 3

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Because of regional initiatives already taken in this area CCST does not at present propose to elaborate a programme.

COMMITTEE 4

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

A Seminar/Workshop has been programmed for 26-30 September 1983 on the theme "Agricultural Research Policy and Management". The Workshop has been made possible by generous financial assistance from:-

Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR)
Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing
Countries (SAREC).

Recommendations from the Workshop will indicate future programme of the Committee.

COMMITTEE 5

MARINE AFFAIRS (including Fisheries)

With the assistance of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) a meeting of this Committee will be convened as early as possible to (i) coordinate the visit to the Region of the Mission of Experts and (ii) discuss the action programme for enhancing the Marine Science Capabilities of Caribbean Island States.

COMMITTEE 6

"HEALTH, NUTRITION AND THE TECHNICAL
PREPARATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS"

1. A Seminar/Workshop spread over four working days is being programmed for February 1984, in Cuba. Lead Papers will be presented on the following themes:-

- (i) Global Overview of the state-of-the-art in Technical Preparation of Pharmaceuticals;
- (ii) Regional experiences in technical preparation of Pharmaceuticals;
- (iii) Role and contribution of national and transnational organizations in the field of Pharmaceuticals;
- (iv) Potential and scope for collaboration between national regional and international Agencies;
- (v) Industrial utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants;
- (vi) New trends in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

2. The Workshop will bring together fifty (50) participants comprising:-

- (i) High level scientists and decision-makers of Member States together with resource persons of international standing;
- (ii) Representatives from the following organizations: World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, CARICOM, University of the West Indies, University of Guyana, Commonwealth Secretariat; and
- (iii) Representatives of various Pharmaceutical Corporations with interests in the Caribbean.

Immediately following the Workshop, the First Meeting of the Committee on Technical Preparation of Pharmaceuticals will be convened.

COMMITTEE 7

UNIVERSITIES INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND
OTHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR
INSTITUTIONS

Arrangements will be made to convene this Committee during the third quarter of 1984.

COMMITTEE 8

NEWLY EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Arrangements will be made to convene this Committee immediately after the Seminar/Workshop proposed under Project VII.