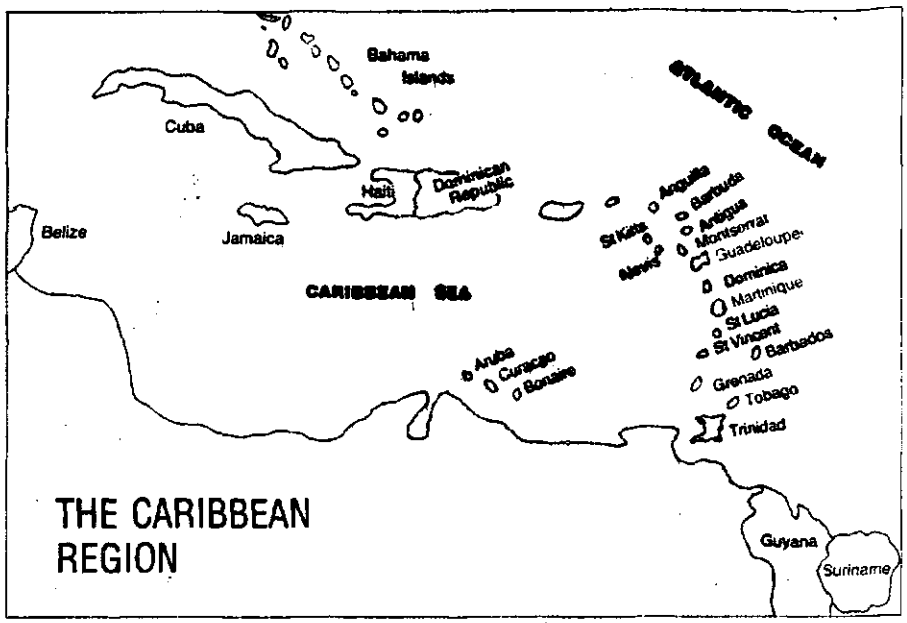
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE



THE CARIBBEAN REGION

GENERAL

CDCC/CCST/84/9

14 September 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fourth Plenary Session
St. John's, Antigua
17-19 September 1984

CCST WORK PROGRAMME 1983-84

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES

The results of data obtained by the Secretariat from individual country surveys will be evaluated and published, and the Secretariat will continue to assist those member countries requiring assistance in implementing the Project.

It is hoped to complete the Project in the coming year by holding an Analysis Workshop, with the co-operation of representatives of relevant organizations, to consider the national assessments in relation to identifying strengths and weaknesses in view of the issues highlighted in the Science and Technology Policy and Plan for the Caribbean and in the light of this, to make recommendations to governments.

Budget

	US $
Analysis Workshop:	
5 days	
Travel and perdiem of participants	
from all CCST member countries	
Printing of documents	15,000
TOTAL:	15,000

PREPARATION AND EXCHANGE OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL FOR EDUCATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Work will continue on the completion of a film on Food Technology (See Third Annual Report) in the Caribbean which has already been costed at US$11,400. Other productions that are scheduled are a film on Communications and Information and a Caribbean Science Film Magazine details of which are given below. As was stated in the Annual Report, it is intended that all productions be accompanied by booklets providing additional information on the content of the films. These booklets will be used as an educational tool in schools, workshops, seminars, etc.

Budget

	US $
Production of 1,000 copies for two films	3,000
	3,000
TOTAL:	6,000

Film on Communication and Information

It is proposed that a twenty minute fiml on Communication and Information be produced. This is expected to encompass not only organizations involved in telecommunications, but also highlight the use of information systems in the region. It will serve to create awareness and explore the range of applications of communications and information systems in the region.

It will be necessary to have the services of an expert in this field to ensure that the film is relevant to the target audience.

Budget

	US $
Air travel of film crew of 4	3,000
Perdiem's for 10 days	5,000
Audio-visual cassettes	2,000
Incidentals	500
Scriptwriter's fee	1,000
Adviser's fee	500
TOTAL:	12,000

A Caribbean Science Film Magazine

The Film Magazine will contain 3-4 short five minute fillers on various regional topics of interest in science and technology, forming a composite 15-20 minute television film. Individual components might include:

1. Research and development work;
2. Practical aspects of a scientific principle;
3. Biographical account of a personality;
4. Information on regional activities.

It is intended that this work will be done in collaboration with the various audio-visual units, television stations and national scientific organizations in member countries to identify, research and provide material for programmes.

The audio-visual units in the various countries are expected to provide the technical services required to carry out the filming and the television stations will provide the linkages necessary for the dissemination of the programmes.

The production of this Film Magazine would be co-ordinated by the Unit already engaged in this overall project and it will be necessary for the project leader to conduct a survey of the various countries to determine the feasibility of this proposal. It is hoped to produce at least two of these programmes in the coming year.

Budget

	US $
Travel and perdiem of co-ordinator for feasibility survey	3,000
Audio-visual cassettes	1,000
Incidentals	600
Air travel for film crew of 4	3,000
TOTAL:	7,600

TOTAL BUDGET

	US $
Booklets	6,000
Food Technology film	11,400
Communication and Information film	12,000
Science Magazine	7,600
TOTAL:	37,000

CONSERVATION AND EXCHANGE OF GERMPLASM OF CROP PLANTS

In 1983 funds(£2,000) were obtained from the Commonwealth Foundation for the implementation of work in this area. A consultant was recruited to initiate work on this project and his report is contained in document CDCC/CCST/84/4. Arising out of his recommendations, a plant breeder has been recruited to complete the first stage of the project and will commence work in September 1984.

His terms of reference are to:

(a) determine endangered germplasm of crop varieties (food and forest) of Jamaica, Grenada and Guyana;

(b) determine the most suitable conservation methods for the particular crop varieties and recommend appropriate mechanisms for such conservation;

(c) advise on protocol for exchange of germplasm and on collaboration amongst national and regional institutions.

At the end of these fact-finding visits, he will prepare and submit a report to the CCST interim Secretariat at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean which will be circulated to member governments for consideration and appropriate action.

IMPLICATIONS OF NEWLY-EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

A regional report on the Implications of New Technologies for Caribbean Development has recently been completed and some issues requiring urgent attention have been highlighted. This document is distributed to the Plenary Session for discussion and comment. Out of these discussions a workshop will be planned for 1985 by CCST in conjunction with UNESCO and the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development to further elaborate these issues.

Budget

	US $
Airfare and perdiem of participants	
Printing of documents	15,000
TOTAL:	15,000

A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND PLAN FOR THE REGION

The CCST will continue work on this important overall area based on the outcome of deliberations of this item of the Agenda for the Fourth Plenary Session.

CCST will co-ordinate its efforts with other agencies in the region such as CARICOM and UNESCO, in assisting to develop and strengthen technological capabilities in CCST member countries in the various aspects on science and technology highlighted in the plan.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The CCST will not elaborate any programme in this area because of activity already being undertaken by the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat. ECLAC (through its regional information programme) in conjunction with UNESCO, has scheduled a Training Workshop/Seminar on Network Development in the Caribbean, and a Consultation Meeting on the establishment and development of a Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experience in Science and Technology for Development in the Caribbean (CARSTIN).

It is expected that at the end of the Workshop, participants will have gained the necessary knowledge and information to participate actively in the on-going efforts to establish and develop a Caribbean Science and Technology Information Network (CARSTIN), to contribute to its functioning and to make effective use of the network facilities and services for the benefit of the Science and Technology Information user groups in the region.

The principle objective of the Consultation Meeting is to seek and receive advice from specialists from the Caribbean on the effective

implementation of the project for the establishment of a regional network for the exchange of information and experience in science and technology for development in the Caribbean region (CARSTIN).

For this purpose, invited specialists will be asked to:

- assess the present situation of science and technology information in the Caribbean;
- identify the priorities for national science and technology information development, with particular reference to the needs of the less developed countries;
- determine the structure and contents of the activities to be implemented through the CARSTIN project on a short and medium term basis in response to these priorities, and define the modalities of their implementation;
- advise on the mechanisms of co-ordination and co-operation required at the national and regional level for the effective participation of the countires in the development of the CARSTIN project.

The CCST proposes, however, to hold a Workshop on Micro-computers in the second quarter of 1985. This workshop will be aimed at public sector officials of government ministries and state enterprises and will serve to create computer awareness, to explore the range of applications of micro-computers and to identify selection criteria with respect to their purchase.

The Secretariat will attempt to secure extra-budgetary funding for this activity.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND PHARMACEUTICALS

As outlined in the Annual Report, a Workshop on the Pharmaceutical Sector in the Caribbean will be held in Cuba from 22-24 October 1984, with a Meeting of the CCST Specialized Committee in this field to follow on 25 October.

The Aide-Memoire to this workshop indicates that one of its objectives is to explore possible collaborative mechanisms to promote greater self-

sufficiency with respect to pharmaceuticals. The total cost of this workshop has been estimated at US$25,000.

CONSULTATION ON CASTALAC II

In relation to the Second Conference of Ministers on the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (CASTALAC II), a consultation of regional officials will be held in Trinidad and Tobago from 5-7 November 1984.

CCST has agreed to host this consultation jointly with UNESCO. It will explore the issues to be discussed at CASTALAC II which will be convened in April 1985 in Brazil.