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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
Office for the Caribbean
CARIBBEAN CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
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COMMENTS ON THE NEW PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE CDCC

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CDCC/WP/78/4 Creation of an Institute for Research into the use
of sugar-cane and its by-products for the production of food,
meat and milk, fuels and fertilizers in the Caribbean Region

This is an interesting initiative of major proportions. Sugar-cane is the living substance which most efficaciously converts solar energy into chemical energy which man can use. The extension and diversification of its uses is certainly a useful task which could contribute to alleviating the crucial shortages affecting modern man: food and energy.

CDCC/WP/78/11 Study of gummosis in sugar-cane

The objective of this is to encourage research into the disease and the exchange of information among several universities in the Dominican Republic.

The CDCC secretariat observes that it would be more profitable to establish wide-ranging co-ordination of research in the many Caribbean organizations investigating this subject.

I am in full agreement with the viewpoint of the secretariat.

Reflections of the FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America
CDCC/WP/78/3. The Establishment of a Regional Centre of Improved
Genetic Material for Agricultural Products

The objectives, functions and location seem excellent. Its basic purpose is to produce seeds and material for propagating the vegetation of the area. There is a clearly-established need for it.

What, however, is incomprehensible is the long delay proposed by the CDCC secretariat in its request for the prior implementation of a series of feasibility studies and inventories. It would seem that the secretariat hopes to solve all other types of agricultural, economic and social problems using the proposed Centre. This is obviously impossible. A regional centre for producing genetic material might help to solve the problem of adequate supplies of this material, and it could be used to increase production, thus benefiting farmers. Higher yields will mean the reduction of production costs, and this will benefit the consumer population. Both social benefits are important and more than justify the establishment of the Regional Centre, without any need to seek further implications which could hardly be part of its responsibilities. I therefore consider that the secretariat's proposal will only delay the implementation of a laudable initiative.