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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
Subregional Office for the Caribbean  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE  
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



UPDATED INFORMATION NOTE ON THE  
CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



**UNITED NATIONS**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA Office for the Caribbean

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INTRODUCTION

In March 1977, during the Second Session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC), it was decided that urgent steps should be taken to establish a Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) and this decision was brought to successful fruition with the adoption and signing of the Statutes by eleven countries in Kingston, Jamaica on 17 April 1980.

The CCST is envisaged as a unique operational mechanism for enhancing regional co-operation and mutual assistance in Science and Technology which will strengthen the thrust for regional self-reliance whilst simultaneously observing the national independence and sovereignty of its Member Countries.

Objectives

The CCST is constituted as a nucleus with functional co-ordinating responsibility for Science and Technology within the region, but with the day-to-day activities devolved amongst the various national institutions.

Its specific aims include:

- (i) to implement CDCC objectives by designing and executing appropriate joint scientific and technological projects, and also advise the CDCC and its member countries on scientific and technological issues requiring attention;
- (ii) to identify institutions that could participate in the projects, and establish the mechanisms for co-operation;
- (iii) where no relevant institutions exist, to propose measures for the implementation of particular projects;

The Chairman (elected annually)  
The Vice-Chairman (elected annually)  
The Honorary Treasurer (elected for three years)

These three Officers together with one other Council Member constitute the Executive Committee of the Council.

Working Languages

The working languages of the Council are English, French and Spanish.

Work Programme

The initial activities of the CCST have been planned for a two-year period (1981-1983) which may be considered as the Establishment Phase of the Council.

Before a project is endorsed by the CCST it must be capable of giving tangible results within the given time frame and must also possess certain general characteristics.

These characteristics are:

- (i) it must enhance science and technology collaboration amongst Member Countries;
- (ii) it must complement and support other regional efforts and avoid duplication;
- (iii) it must endeavour to bridge the gap between the academician, the technician and the end-user;
- (iv) it must include mechanisms for wide dissemination of results amongst Member Countries.

These general guidelines have been observed when identifying and endorsing projects and all requests for financial and/or technical support to international and national agencies have been sympathetically considered.

To date eight projects have been identified and approved by the Council. Briefly, and in order of priority, these are:

2. To use the processes of preparation of the audio-visual material to train (at national level) teachers, film technicians and adult educators in the various possibilities of displaying and projecting scientific and technological information so that it can be readily understood and appreciated by non-scientists.

PROJECT IV

Title: "Study of the Consequences of the Development of Energy Crops on Food Supplies in the Region".

Objective:

To provide information which will assist decision-makers and planners in the critical choice of options on the production of crops for food or for fuel.

PROJECT V

Title: "Conservation and Exchange of Germplasm of Crop Plants".

Objective:

To assist regional centres with the identification, exchange, conservation and storage of genetic material of indigenous and introduced crop plants.

PROJECT VI

Title: "Development of Agro-Industries and Employment Opportunities particularly at Rural Level".

Objective:

The identification of small-scale processing of agricultural produce, particularly in rural areas, in order to reduce post-harvest losses and to increase individual income by the sale of processed and semi-processed products.

PROJECT VII

Title: "The Potential and Limitations of Newly Emerging Technologies with special reference to Developing Countries".