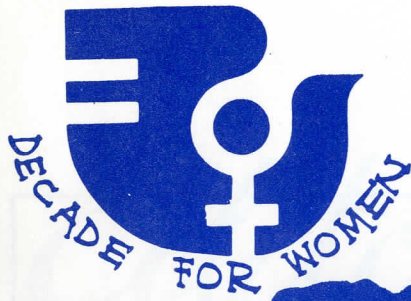


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WEST INDIES COLLECTION



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT CARIBBEAN WOMEN No. 6

1981



WOMAN SPEAK!

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WOMAN SPEAK!

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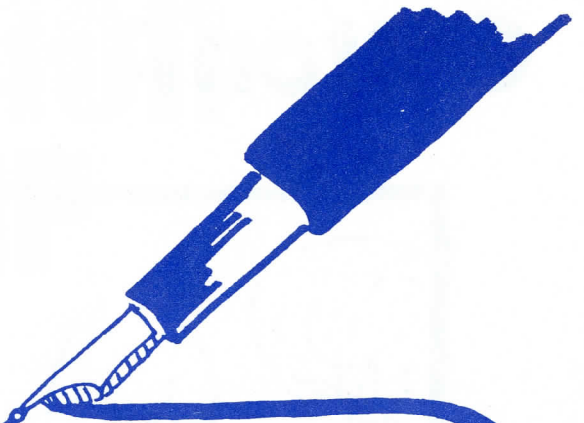
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Editorial



Three (3) recent papers dealing with various aspects of women in the Caribbean, point to the serious fact that the burden of unemployment in the region falls heaviest on women.

Figures from Facts About Women in Jamaica — Soroptomist Club of Jamaica indicate, for example, that in Jamaica in 1975 for every 14 men there were 20 unemployed women — these representing 20% of the labour force compared with 14% unemployed men.

In Barbados 1977, women represented 64.4% of the unemployed, compared with 35.6% men. In the Barbadian labour force there were 60.2% males and 39.8% females.

These figures are all the more frightening when one considers the report by Mrs. Joycelin Massiah Deputy Director of the ISER which shows that about 32% of households in the Caribbean are headed by females. In a country like St. Kitts the proportion is as high as 47%.

In her conclusion Mrs. Massiah notes that from the data examined it is more likely for women who head households to be unemployed than their male counterparts.

Against this background, it is clear that one of the most urgent challenges facing Caribbean governments and developmental agencies, is the creation of crash employment programmes for these women who Mrs. Massiah describes as "the poorest of the poor".

The predicament of these women, may give rise to techniques of survival, which may take them outside the law. The consequence of such action becomes all the more fearful to contemplate when one considers their roles as heads of households, thus figures of authority, and shapers of the values of Caribbean youth.

Cotton Production Project



ANTIGUA

In 1980 the Women's Action Group — the female arm of the Antigua Labour Party planned to start an Agricultural Project for its members, (especially from the rural areas).

Cotton was selected, since the Antiguan Government urged small farmers to help revive the cotton industry.

The group applied to the Government for land and were leased nine and one quarter (9¼) acres which they planted in cotton.

The crop ready in February this year, was reaped solely by the women. It was not an easy task since most of the women were employed, however this did not prevent them from taking on the additional burden of arranging transportation to and from the field for fellow workers.

Full-time employment for three women pickers were created out of this project, which became a joint effort with other women's groups.

The harvest yielded a total of 2,939 lbs of sea island cotton. In spite of the partial destruction of the 1981 cotton crop by the pink ball worm, the Women's Action Group sold the largest amount of cotton produced by small farmers.

Vegetables such as tomatoes and sweet potatoes were planted on a small portion of the land, have also found ready markets.

The Women's Action Group hope to produce a large scale crop in 1982.

CIVIC EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

BARBADOS

RELEASE FROM WOMEN AFFAIRS – BARBADOS

Extra-Mural Department in collaboration with Women's Affairs conducted a course in **Civic Education for Effective Leadership** earlier this year.

It was open to men and women.

The following areas were covered in course:-

- Leadership techniques.
- Administration and management.
- The Social and Economic Structure of Barbados and English-speaking Caribbean.
- Sources of National Funding (U.N., O.A.S., Caricom, I.L.O., C.D.B. etc).
- Techniques of writing proposals for funding and technical assistance.
- Social legislation.

The Department of Women's Affairs had recognised the need for such a course a long time ago. However, the seminar "Preparing Women for Effective Leadership" which was held in Trinidad last year, and jointly sponsored by U.W.I. Extra-Mural Studies Unit – St. Augustine Campus, and the Caricom Secretariat provided the impetus for this course.

WOMEN in CULTURE

CARIFESTA SYMPOSIUM

As part of the Carifesta programme held in Barbados from July 19 to August 3 1981, the Barbados Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with the Department of Women's Affairs, and the Women and Development Unit (WAND) sponsored a one-day symposium entitled "Women In Culture".

Objectives of the Symposium were:

- 1) to focus on the role of women in culture;
- 2) to explore the factors which encourage or inhibit the participation of women in various art forms;
- 3) to discuss ways and means of encouraging and promoting the increased participation of women in the performing and visual arts;
- 4) to demonstrate how women have used various art forms to express the experiences of women in the region.

Held at the Hilton Hotel, the first half of the programme for the day included:

- a) a keynote address — on Women in Culture by Marina Maxwell
- b) presentation of papers on the participation of women in various art forms,

Drama — Daphne Joseph Hackett

Dance — Ivy Baxter

Music — Olive Lewin

Literature — Majorie Thorpe.

The second half of the programme focused on actual demonstrations of how women have used the various art forms to express their experiences.



The artistes were:-

Molly Ahye — Folk Dance

Louise Bennett — Poetry

Christine Craig — Poetry

Cynthia Wilson — Poetry

Olive Lewin and Folk Choir —
Music

Miss Queenie, Kumina Leader —Religious rite

Pandora Gomez — Story Telling

SISTREN Drama Group — Drama

Heather Forde — Dance.

A report of the Symposium is being prepared for distribution throughout the region.

Hopefully a video tape of the day's highlights will also be available for viewing.

ECLA WORKSHOP

BARBADOS

A two (2) week Caribbean Regional Training Workshop on 'Project/Programme Planning Skills, was held in Barbados in June this year.

Coordinated by the Economic Community for Latin America-ECLA-and sponsored by the U.N. Voluntary Fund, the workshop drew on resource persons from the Caribbean Centre for Administrative Development (CARICAD), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Women and Development Unit-UWI (WAND).

Participants came from 14 Caribbean territories and ECLA Women in Development programmes.

Some of the main topics covered in the workshop were:

- Planning Process, management planning and control.
- Project Design and pre-planning.
- Data Collection and Research.
- Project Cost Planning.
- Funding Sources, policies and procedures.
- Feasibility Studies and Evaluation and Monitoring.

Participants found the Workshop a valuable learning experience both in content and methodology. It stimulated many new ideas which hopefully will be used.

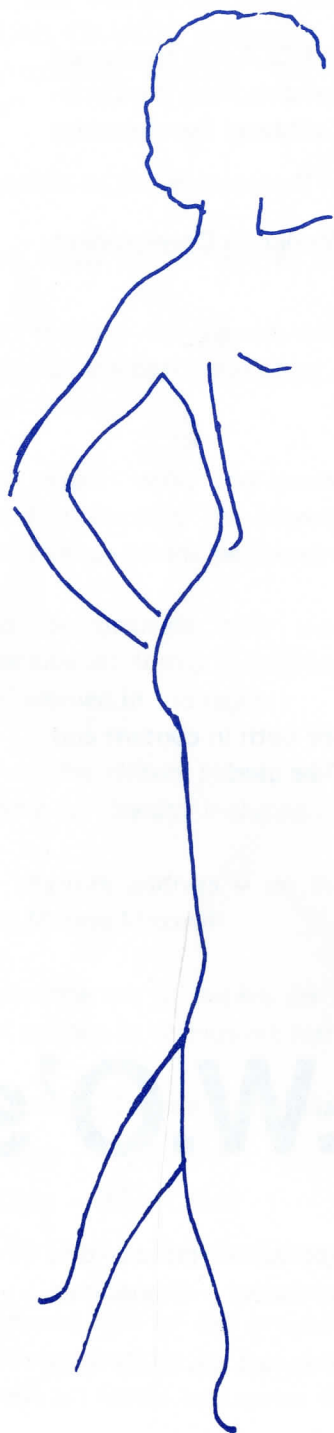


CARRIACOU N.W.O's

The New Jewel Movement (N.J.M.) National Women's Organisation reports that there are now five National Women's Organisation groups in Carriacou — Grenadines.

Future plans include assisting women in Petit Martinique to set up their own N.W.O's.

Cancer of the Cervix



The Commonwealth Caribbean Medical Research Council (CCMRC) has reported to the CARICOM Health Ministers Conference important studies on cancer of the cervix (neck of the womb).

Cancer of the cervix is the most common form of cancer found in the Caribbean Community. Medical authorities have been concerned for many years about the fact that most cases present themselves when it is already too late for effective treatment.

CCMRC recently supported research being carried out by Drs. P. Prabhakar and B.N. Rao from the University of the West Indies Departments of Microbiology and Anatomical Pathology respectively, on the relationship between Herpes Simplex Virus and Cancer of the Cervix. Cancer of the cervix uteri tops the list of all cancers in women in third world countries, including the Caribbean. Several epidemiological studies have shown that women in the lower social and economic strata who practise sexual intercourse early in life are more prone to this condition. Multiple partners, excessive sexual activity, multiple pregnancies in quick succession are known to contribute towards the occurrence of this disease. The symptoms of this cancer consist of vaginal bleeding and or discharge and pain. Unfortunately, by the time the patient attends the doctor with these symptoms, it is often too late to cure the disease.

Research has shown that before cancer of the cervix becomes apparent, there are several changes in the cells of the cervix over a number of years.

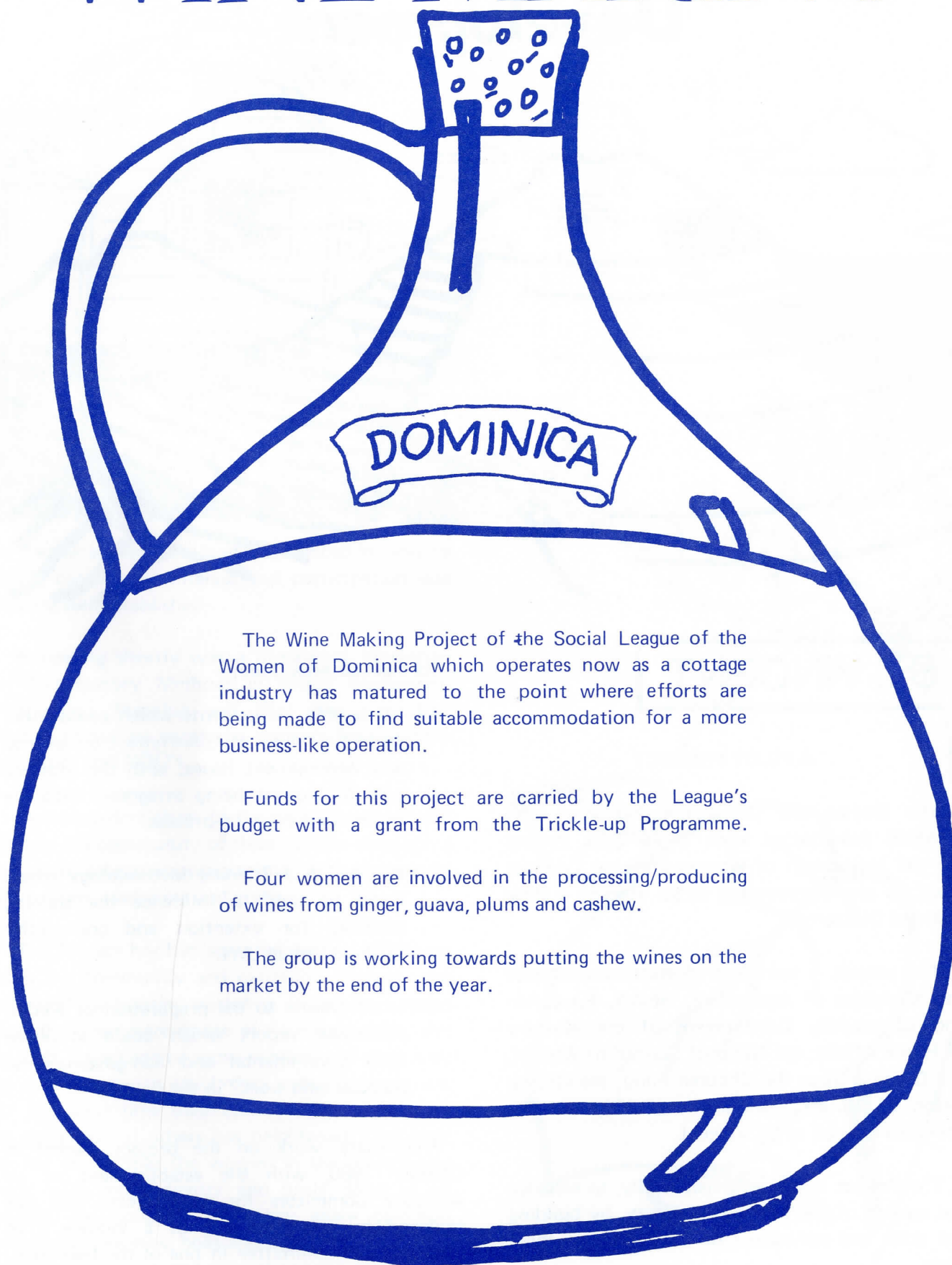
Recent developments have also shown that cancer of the cervix may be associated with a sexually transmitted disease caused by a virus, namely, Herpes Simplex type II. Herpes Simplex type II virus which is known to cause sub-clinical infection can remain in the cervix over a prolonged period and may produce successive changes in the cells which snowball into an overt cancer. It is very difficult to isolate and identify the virus directly from the cancer cells with the routine tissue culture techniques and to establish a direct relationship to the development of cervical cancer. However, more sophisticated techniques in some centres have facilitated the detection of Herpes virus or viral DNA and RNA in the cells of the cervix obtained by biopsy. Indirect evidence of the presence of virus can be had by the detection of specific Herpes Simplex antiviral antibodies in the serum of females.

There is increasing evidence that the prevalence of Herpes type II viral antibodies in women with cervix cancer is found to be much higher than in control women. In many studies, women with pre-invasive disease have also shown increased prevalence of Herpes type II antibodies. In such cases the subsequent occurrence of cancer can be predicted years ahead and remedial measures taken to avert it completely and successfully.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Pathology and Microbiology, University of the West Indies, are undertaking such a study in an attempt to detect the virus in cancer cells as well as antibodies in the serum of women by using immunofluorescent techniques and to therefore determine whether there is any association between Herpes virus type II and the cellular changes leading to cancer of the cervix uteri in Jamaica.

Should it be proved that this common female cancer in our community is related to an infection caused by a virus, it is not inconceivable that in the future vaccines could be developed as prophylactic treatment for this cancer.

WINE MAKING



The Wine Making Project of the Social League of the Women of Dominica which operates now as a cottage industry has matured to the point where efforts are being made to find suitable accommodation for a more business-like operation.

Funds for this project are carried by the League's budget with a grant from the Trickle-up Programme.

Four women are involved in the processing/producing of wines from ginger, guava, plums and cashew.

The group is working towards putting the wines on the market by the end of the year.

Integration of Women in Rural Development



ST. VINCENT

A PILOT PROJECT

The Women and Development Unit of UWI (WAND) has started work on a Pilot Project for the Integration of Women in Rural Development, in two communities in St. Vincent – Rose Hall and Dicksons.

The project is being run in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education and Community Development of the Ministry of Home Affairs; the National Council of Women, the Canadian Save the Children Fund, the Organisation of Rural Development (ORD), and the Christian Council of St. Vincent.

The Project is designed specifically, to enhance the quality of life in the community, by building the skills and self-esteem of the women in these areas.

Its main objectives are:

- (i) to develop components which could influence the policy of Government on women and development issues, with the ultimate goal of women being integrated into the wider developmental process.
- (ii) to develop a Training Methodology which could be used to influence the training provided for extension and community field workers at UWI.
- (iii) to contribute to the preparation of a comprehensive report which could influence both governmental and non-governmental agencies who work "in the field."

Preliminary work on the project started in October 1980, with the establishment of an Advisory Committee for the project. This was followed by the launching of a Women in Development Committee in one of the two areas,



so that when field activities commenced in January 1981, community interest and participation was already well established.

Following shortly was a three-week Workshop in Participatory Methods in Needs Assessment, Programme Planning and Evaluation, at Rose Hall attended by extension workers from various ministries and NQO's.

In the current phase of the Project, women and men in the community of Rose Hall are developing an adult education programme, and projects in agriculture, marketing and crafts.

The Project has had some interesting effects on both the community and extension workers who attended the training workshop. People have noted that they are more aware of their own skills, and as such, have become more confident in what they do and the way in which they express themselves. At the same time their awareness and sensitivity to the needs of others has heightened. One male farmer noted that the women in the community walk with more dignity and pride. Most of all people are realizing that they share common problems, concerns, hopes and aspirations, and that in order to survive and cope they need each other.

She Aims To Prevent Crime

"I believe in old adages such as 'prevention is better than cure'," Jessica Smith-Phillip says, "but unfortunately crime prevention is not as glamorous to the media as is the result of tracking down crime."

Now a Senior Superintendent of Police, Jessica was one of the first batch of women to become members of the Trinidad and Tobago police service. This was in August 1955.

Born in Belmont, Jessica was educated at St. Rose's, a Catholic girls' school, and Providence which was then known as 'the little convent'. She recalls that when she started secondary school she was "a little terror", but by the time she graduated she was head girl.

She had grown to appreciate such qualities as self-discipline which served her in good stead later when she accepted the demanding job of 'woman cop'.

Jessica came to the police service with considerable experience, gained while she was employed at the Customs Department. Previously she had taught for two years.

Looking back on her early days in the police service, Jessica says, "I consider myself lucky in that every phase of my life just seemed to be designed to prepare me for the next one.

"At school I was trained to do more than just acquire knowledge to pass examinations. Teaching taught me to deal with children and to recognise and appreciate the individual characteristics of those I made contact with. As a customs officer I was introduced to all kinds of people and this was important for a person who had lived a somewhat sheltered life before.

"Those were the days when a brisk trade in contraband goods was in full swing between Trinidad and Venezuela. I had to learn to spot those people who had something illegal to hide.

"It is not something instinctive, it comes from developing certain powers of observation. We had to carry out thorough searches through baggage and sometimes on the person. It amazed me the way people would think of unique places to hide goods."

Years of dealing with unscrupulous and dishonest people could have changed Jessica into a cynic, but fortunately this has not happened.

This pleasant and soft-spoken woman insists, "Dishonest people make up a very small percentage of the population, any population.

She is proud of the fact that in Trinidad women police gained early recognition and had already been appointed to the rank of inspector, when, in 1968, a female member of the New York Police Department had to sue the city before she was allowed to take the examination which allowed promotion to the rank of captain.

Senior Superintendent Jessica Smith-Philip considers the police service an excellent choice for the young woman who is genuinely interested in working towards making her community a better and safer place to live.

She says, "We can do a lot of good by keeping in touch with schools, youth groups, or even groups of young people on the blocks."

She says she believes involvement in sport and cultural activities can absorb young people sufficiently to prevent them from being diverted by harmful influences.

"Unfortunately we do not have as wide a range of programmes and projects as our society can use," she notes, "and sometimes the negative influences are closer to the young people than the positive ones are."

She would like to see more emphasis placed on crime prevention, although she admits, "As long as people break the law, efforts must be made to bring these offenders to justice. But, we should work harder at national level to impress on our young people that crime does not pay."

She also observes that it costs more to punish a criminal than it would cost to guide a prospective law-breaker into some beneficial and lawful activity.

This mother of two teenaged sons points out, "There are people who had been led astray as youths, but who were influenced into developing a talent or skill and have since gone on to become honest and successful. This is the knowledge and examples we must use when we set out to talk to our young people."

"We must encourage them to become nation builders, and to recognise that it is not possible to build a strong society on a weak foundation."



CCW Report

CCW IN BELIZE AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Two officials of Caribbean Church of Women CCW, Dorritt Bent CCW Co-ordinator, and Selena Tapper Project Officer, visited Belize and the Dominican Republic earlier this year.

In Belize the officers visited groups such as the Belize Council of Churches, to discuss the progress of its Human Development Project.

Another group on the itinerary was the Belize Development Corporation.

At one point on the Belize trip Ms. Tapper conducted a workshop on 'Understanding Development', for an ecumenical group of women. Topics ranged from 'Independence and its implications to the nation and the individual', to specific recommendations for opening avenues for information-sharing.

In the Dominican Republic, the officers met with groups to discuss and share ideas on development and its relation to man's spiritual and human needs.

CCW's NUTRITION BOOK

CCW Desk is at present busily engaged in the completion of a Caribbean Nutrition Book to serve some 27 countries of the region.

The rising price of foodstuffs which makes it increasingly difficult for the vast majority of the population to receive the daily basic nutritional food values required for basic health needs, is the rationale offered by CCW for the publication of the Nutrition book.

The book is aimed at:

- a) Discouraging the purchase of expensive and imported foodstuffs.
- b) Demonstrating that local foods can be attractively prepared.
- c) Emphasizing the nutritional value of indigenous foods.

All items used for the recipes are local to the Caribbean, and are easily obtainable.

With regard to the method of preparation measurements will be given in both the Imperial and Metric systems. In addition the nutritional value of each recipe will be indicated.

Plans are also being made to include a small section on 'Baby Foods', — aimed at infants 4 - 18 months.

Caribbean Cooking

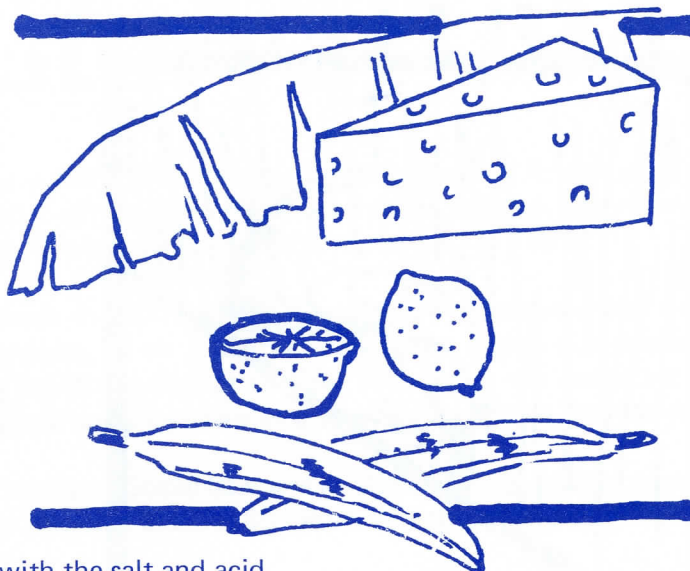
RECIPES

GREEN BANANA-CHEESE PIE

- 3 lb. green bananas
- 6-8 oz. Cheese
- 2 tsp. mustard
- 1½ cup milk
- 2 tsp. lime juice
- ¾ cup breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 oz. margarine
- 1 beaten egg (optional)

METHOD:

1. Wash, peel and boil bananas in 2 cups water with the salt and acid.
2. Grate cheese, cover. Grease piedish with ½ of fat.
3. Remove cooked bananas from fire. Cool slightly. Slice in ¼" circles.
4. Mix ¾ of grated cheese, crumbs and mustard in a bowl. Stir in milk and beaten egg. Mix well.
5. Fold in bananas with fork. Heat oven to 425°.
6. Turn out mixture into the piedish, sprinkle on remainder of cheese.
7. Add the remaining fat in dots on the top.
8. Bake 'til brown. Serve hot.

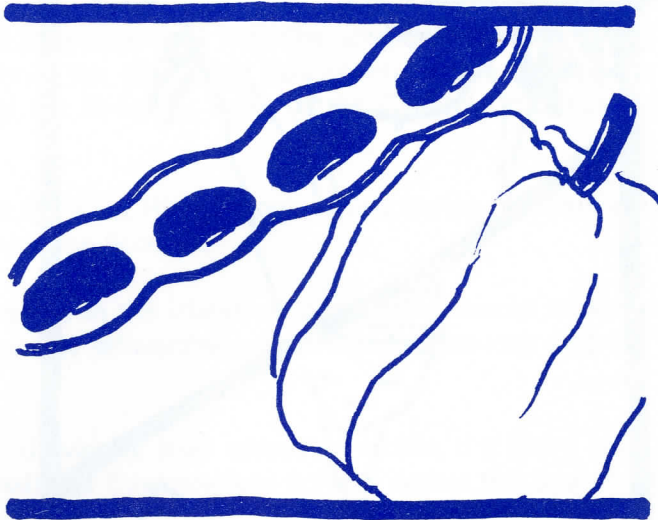


STRING BEANS ACCRA

- 1½ cups string bean pieces
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 red sweet pepper
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- ½ cup flour
- 1 sprig celery
- 1 small onion
- 1 tsp. salt

METHOD:

1. Cook the string beans, chopped onion and celery in ¾ cup water 'til all water evaporates.
2. Chop beans and seasonings coarsely.
3. Put into a bowl. Add beaten egg, salt, vinegar, flour and baking powder. Heat fat.
4. Mix well with a fork.
5. Using a moderate heat, fry by spoonful in fat. Do not overcrowd.
6. When brown on one side, turn each over and allow to brown on the other side.
7. Drain on absorbent paper.



THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE



In January 1981, WAND in collaboration with Midwestern Universities Consortium for International Aid (MUCIA), Women In Development (WID), and the Caribbean Research Centre, St. Lucia, with the permission of the Government of St. Lucia, carried out a **Survey on the Economic Role of Women in Small Scale Agriculture**.

Approximately 300 persons in farm households were interviewed including a number of women from whom specific data was collected on their lives, involvement and attitudes.

Findings of the Survey were discussed at a Workshop on June 11th. This Workshop was of extreme importance since the participants were drawn from a wide cross section of people from various levels of the society, and included interviewers (all women) who conducted the Survey, government officials, representatives from regional and international agencies, and staff of the Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project.

Out of the data came a series of recommendations which it is hoped will influence national policy on the provision of agricultural extension services to farmers, and will form the base from which to develop action programmes and projects to enhance women's participation in agriculture.

This Survey is a component within the larger regional UWI/MUCIA Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project. One of its objectives being the upgrading of delivery of agricultural extension services in the Eastern Caribbean.

The research findings of the Survey, along with the recommendations of the June workshop are being published as a report for distribution by WAND.

Female Student Creates History at UWI

Twenty four year old Cynthia Joseph of Antigua has created history by becoming the first student to graduate from the University of the West Indies through its Challenge Examination Scheme. She received Second Class Honours (Lower Division) in the B.Sc. (Management Studies) programme for 1981.

The Scheme, introduced on an experimental basis in 1977, allows candidates from non-campus territories, not registered at any Campus of the University, to sit the first year of the degree examinations (Part I) in their own territories, without having to attend formal classes. This allows the candidate to economise on the maintenance, tuition and economic costs involved in a three year stint on the Campus.

The programme was initially confined to the Faculty of Social Sciences at Mona, but has been expanded now to include the Faculties of Social Sciences and Arts and General Studies on the three campuses.

Effective October 1979, each campus agreed to service three of the Lesser Developed Countries (LDC). St. Augustine assumed responsibility for Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica, Cave Hill agreed to serve Antigua, Montserrat and St. Vincent, while mona continued to assist Belize, the Bahamas, St. Kitts and to serve the Jamaica programme.

Miss Joseph, a teacher at the Christ the King High School in Antigua was also the first student to enter Part Two of the degree programme after two years — the minimum required period. As a result of her performance, she was given a scholarship to complete the remaining two years of the Management Studies degree programme.

Cynthia Joseph was born in Antigua, the only girl in a family of ten. She attended the government school in All Saints Village then went on to the Christ the King High School where she received her secondary education, graduating with nine subjects at the Ordinary Level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE).

On leaving school, she joined the staff of the Christ the King High School. It was during her four year stint there that she joined in the UWI's Challenge Examination Scheme.

"I think the Scheme is particularly important for people in the islands who lack the financial resources to further their education against a background of very few scholarships and an inadequate loan scheme," Miss Joseph said.

"In addition, the fact that people are exposed to University level education within the island itself, encourages one to strive for higher education. The Challenge Examinations Scheme makes this goal more accessible."

Public Relations Office
UWI, Mona, Jamaica 1981

Female Headed Households and Employment in the Caribbean



A study of female headed households and employment in the Caribbean shows that about 32 percent of household heads are females, with St. Kitts recording the highest proportion (47 percent) and Guyana the lowest (22 percent).

Joycelin Massiah, Deputy Director ISER, U.W.I. has extracted these statistics from data from the 1970 Census. In a paper "Female Headed Households and Employment In the Caribbean", she states that of the 14 territories, eight record proportions in excess of 40 percent, and three record proportions of 25 percent and less.

"In general, countries with a significantly large black population are those recording a high proportion of female-headed households, while the converse holds for countries with significant proportions of East Indians (Trinidad, Guyana or native Indians (Belize).

"One territory, British Virgin Islands, which is known to have a very high proportion of migration affecting both sexes, also reflects relatively low proportions", she noted. Mrs. Massiah notes that females account for about one third of all household heads in the region. They tend to be older and to live alone to a greater extent than men. Their household sizes are approximately the same as these for men.

About half of them live in residential unions, the remainder (46 percent) either no longer residing with their partner, or participating in a visiting union (48 percent). They tend to be less educated than their male counterparts and to be less engaged in paid employment (including self-employment). Within the labour force they are equally involved in work as males, but the pattern of their occupational distribution is markedly different.

In her conclusion she points out that the 1970 Census and records of recipients of National Assistance from Social Welfare Departments, indicate that the problem of women who head households is the problem of poverty. Women who head households are more likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts, more likely to be involved in low paying occupations and more likely to be untrained for any occupation at all.

Do you wish to become a resource person in the Caribbean sharing your skills, experiences and energy with other women? If the answer is yes, fill this form out and be added to the list of other resource persons in the region.

RESOURCE PERSONS*

PLEASE CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND RETURN TO:

NAME & ADDRESS

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION
(Details, please)

Tutor/Co-ordinator, WAND, C/o Extra-Mural Dept., UWI, Pinelands,
St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies.

