With the signing of the WTO/SPS Agreement, there has been liberalization in the trade of plants and plant products and an obligation on all countries to provide sound scientific data to support the application of any plant health measure(s) and regulatory measures to safeguard their agriculture.

Countries and territories, in the Caribbean Region face immense challenges in fulfilling this obligation for a number of reasons such as; lack of financial and human resources, technical competence and capacity, infrastructure, and baseline data. Further compounding the challenges is the reality that the Caribbean Region is one of the few regions that does not have a functioning regional plant protection organization.

In an effort to address these challenges facing agriculture in the region, the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) was formed to provide the Region an opportunity to share plant health information on pests of mutual concern, discuss assistance opportunities among member countries, territories and participating organizations, and formulate a regional safeguarding approach against invasive species.

In 2008 the CPHD in collaboration with the USDA APHIS IS decided to increase its surveillance and mitigating activities for fruit flies, with its main objective to safeguard the Caribbean from threats and/or impact of introduction, economic damage and spread of Tephritid fruit flies.

A comprehensive evaluation of the Fruit Fly Trapping and Surveillance Programmes for sixteen (16) countries was conducted to determine the status of trapping in various countries/islands. As a result of this extensive evaluation—three (3) major recommendations were tabled and adopted for the region. These included the training and retraining for Regions’ Fruit Fly Technicians, Geo Coding of Traps and of most focus the Standardization of the Recording of Fruit Fly Data.

Regional training was conducted in fruit fly identification, trapping, fruit collection, data management control methods for fruit flies, and trap geo coding. The main fruit flies occurring in the Greater Caribbean Region include the West Indian fruit fly, Anastrepha obliqua, and Anastrepha suspensa; others with limited distribution of the Carambola fruit fly, Bac. trocera caromolae, and most recently, some countries (Aruba and Dominican Republic (under SIT)) now infested with medfly, Ceratitis capitata.

The CPHD will continue to support the work of the Fruit Fly TWG and its member states in the Greater Caribbean Region to mitigate against and or manage the spread of economically important fruit fly species through modern and innovative measures.

**HELP US TO:**

PROTECT: Safeguard our agriculture & environment do NOT bring in undetected fruit.

DETECT: Monitor for Signs & Symptoms of the Fruit Flies

REACT: Report any suspect fruit to your Ministry or Department of Agriculture and follow ALL recommendations for Control or Eradication