



Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health

National Parliamentary Session *on Nuclear Security* Trinidad and Tobago

The Public Health Interpretation of Safe Nuclear Applications

7th July, 2023

Presented By: Dr Joy St. John
Executive Director
CARPHA



Outline

- Who we are, what we do, who we serve, Management Structure
- Introduction
- Regional presence
- CARPHA/IAEA Agreement
- CARPHA's work contributing to the IAEA Caribbean Regional Programme
 - Capacity building
 - EHSD
 - Non-communicable disease surveillance
 - VBD
 - FBD
 - CANREC - Ethical approval of research

Vision

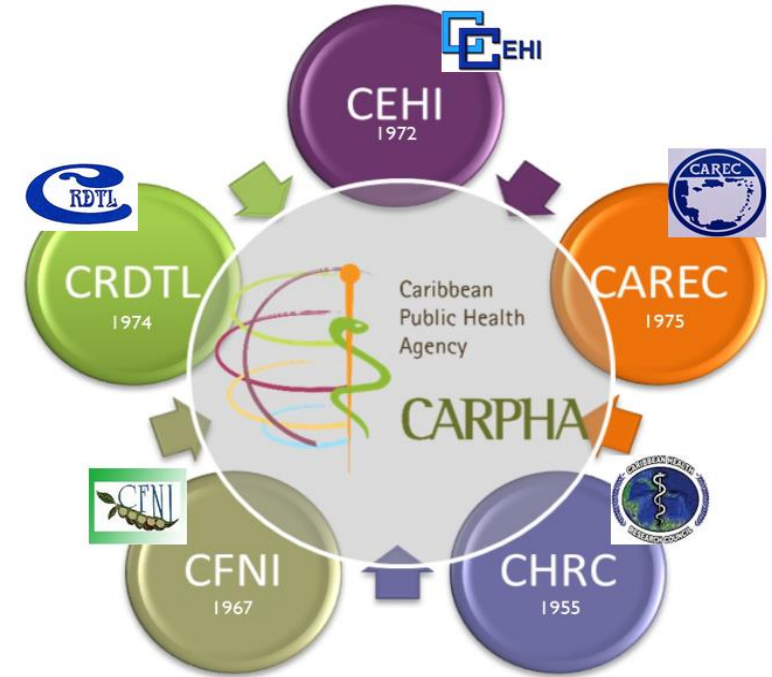
Healthy People,
Healthy Spaces,
Healthy Caribbean

Mission

As a professional organisation to build Member States capacity to prevent disease and promote health and wellness through leadership, partnership and innovations in Public Health



- A CARICOM Institution with responsibility for Public Health, one of 3 multinational PHIs
- Merger of former 5 Regional Health Institutions
- Established by CARICOM Inter-Governmental Agreement 2nd July 2011
- Operational 1st January 2013; Headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago with campuses in St. Lucia and Jamaica
- Officially launched 2nd July 2013



Who We Are

What we do

An evidence base for public health decision-making and policy in the Caribbean

Accurate, reliable, timely and relevant public health information to various Caribbean and international audiences

Coordinates required response and builds capacity of Member States to effectively respond to public health crises in the Caribbean

Monitors global agreements and developments that may impact on public health

Support to Member States to build capacity and coordinates the development of regional standards, guidelines and networks related to laboratory practice

Provides leadership in defining effective public health interventions in the Caribbean and development and adaptation of relevant models for various circumstances

Monitors and reports on measures to attain the approved objectives of the CCH

Builds strategic partnerships and mobilises resources for priority public health issues of the Region

Enhances national capacities to deliver public health goods and services to address new and emerging public health priorities in the Caribbean

PHA
disease
and protecting health



Anguilla



Cayman Islands



St. Eustatius



Antigua and Barbuda



Curacao



St. Kitts and Nevis



Aruba



Dominica



St. Lucia



Bahamas



Grenada



Sint Maarten



Barbados



Guyana



Saint Vincent
and The Grenadines



Belize



Haiti



Suriname



Bermuda



Jamaica



Trinidad and Tobago



Bonaire



Montserrat



Turks and Caicos Islands



British Virgin Islands



Saba

Who We Serve

Programmes/Services provided



Executive Director



Executive Management Team

Director- Corporate Services



Director- Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control



Introduction



**CARPHA and the IAEA
extended a practical
agreement which came
into force on 3rd
February, 2020**

Amended to include” capacity building for FBD detection and responses to reduce the incidence of transboundary animal diseases, including zoonosis, and to promote the safety, authenticity and traceability of foods along the food supply chain.”



**Duration 3
years (Expired
in June 2023)**

Regional Presence

- Collaboratively developed a “Regional Strategic Profile for IAEA Technical Cooperation with the English-Speaking Caribbean: 2020–2026”.
- Outlines regional priorities that can be addressed through the safe application of nuclear science and technology.
- Is intended to guide IAEA activities in the region and to provide a framework for collaboration among Member States and regional organisations
- Focused on six thematic areas:
 - Food Safety
 - Security and Nutrition
 - Human Health
 - Environment
 - Energy
 - Radiation Safety
 - Radiation Technologies



— Agreement - Areas of focus

Application of radiation medicine (diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation oncology) for diagnosis, treatment and management of cancer, and cancer control

Support the application of stable isotopes in the area of human nutrition

Insect pest management practices through the application of the sterile insect technology (SIT)

Environmental monitoring and to measure pollutants in air, land and oceans

Providing assistance for the implementation of the international basic safety standards for radiation protection and safety of radiation sources in support to the health regulations

Exchange and dissemination, as appropriate, of unclassified information of mutual interest

Collaboration in capacity building activities and knowledge sharing, including the development of training materials

Participation, as appropriate, in regional and international events in thematic areas of mutual interest and coordinate outreach activities

Capacity building for FBD detection and responses

Caribbean Regional Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (CR-FELTP)



Accredited training programme for public health professionals in the Caribbean. Currently two levels of training: Frontline/Basic and Intermediate (4 months - 1 year training programmes)

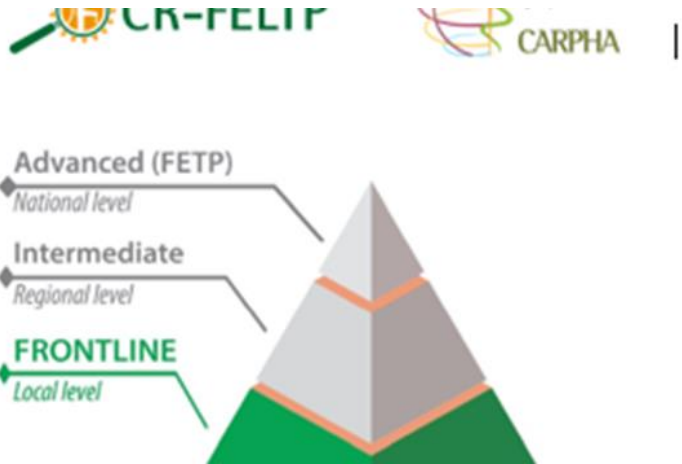
On-the-job training provides skills and tools to respond to problems in real time through surveillance, outbreak investigation and emergency response, operational research and analysis.

Contributes directly to building core capacities under the IHR. Aligned with WHO Workforce 2030 strategy.

Collaborates with approved partners to develop, roll out and assess the outcomes of specialty training courses related to public health priority issues and emergency response.

T&T –
2017 to Present:
> 70 graduates
(Frontline and Intermediate)

Surveillance system strengthening at sentinel sites; VBD surveillance integrating GIS in the field, EPI, and on the ground support for COVID-19 response.



Vector Borne Diseases



Hosted CARPHA pre-conference hybrid webinar on 'Networking for Success Against Vector borne Diseases' which included sessions on seroprevalence studies and Insecticide Resistance.

Exploring Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) technologies as part of CariVecNet Research Agenda.

Reconnect with new Focal Points to understand progress and synergies with Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) technologies.

Environmental Health and Sustainable Development

Capacity Building

- Enhance capacity of Technical and Laboratory staff to adequately train, guide, facilitate and assist CMS
 - Provision of enhanced training and resource capacity to environmental laboratories
 - Isotopic and other techniques to study water quality, detect (measure concentrations), analyse and track water pollutants
 - Development of monitoring programs to determine the impact on the environment and health

Environmental Initiatives



INTEGRATED WATER, LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (IWECO) PROJECT
CONSULTANCY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION FROM PLEASURE VESSELS (YACHTS) & TOURISM CENTRES
FINAL REPORT

INTEGRATED WATER, LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (IWECO) PROJECT
CONSULTANCY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS COMPENDIUM IN IWECO PARTICIPATING STATES (PSM/20069)
Regional Environmental Indicators Compendium
Final Report

Sources of Microbial Contamination in the Watershed and Coastal Zone of Soufriere, St. Lucia
Marsha Serville-Tertulien¹, Kareem Charlemagne², Newton Eristhee², Anna Majury³, Tamanna Sultana¹, Chris D. Metcalfe¹
1) School of the Environment, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada
2) Caribbean Public Health Agency, Castries, St. Lucia
3) Ontario Public Health Agency, Kingston, ON, Canada

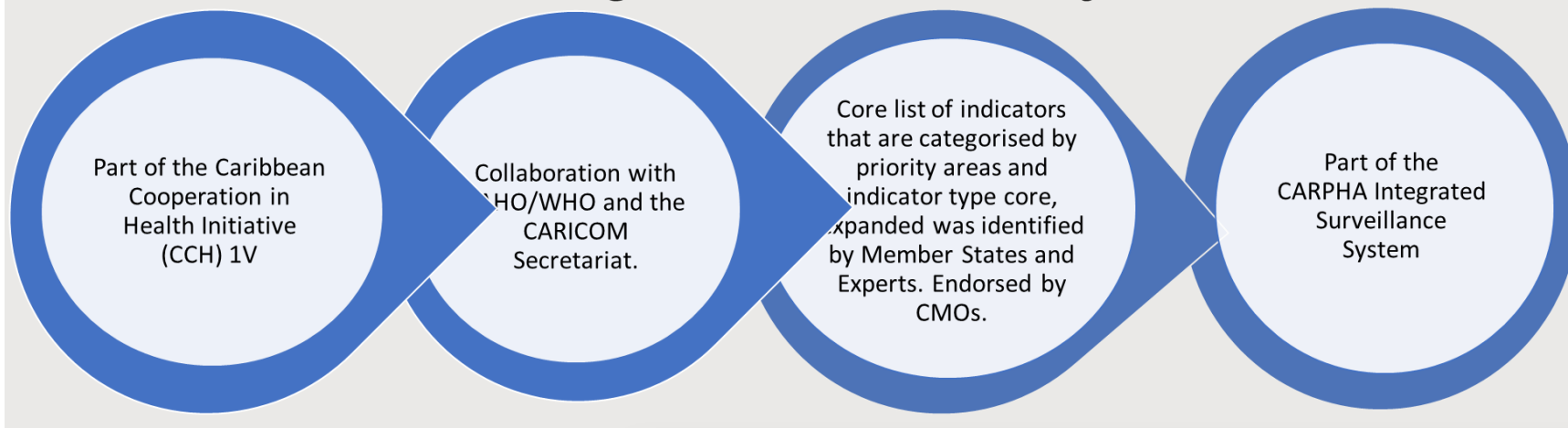
ABSTRACT: The Soufriere region on the southwest coast of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia is an important tourist destination and supports a local fishery. There is a history of high levels of bacteria of fecal origin in the nearshore zone of Soufriere Bay. Possible sources of microbial contamination in the Bay include discharges from the Soufriere River and transport of wastewater or fecal material from various locations in the town of Soufriere. To identify the sources of microbial contamination, a study was conducted. Grab samples were collected from various locations in the Bay. In grab samples, counts of total coliforms and E. coli were elevated. The elevated concentrations of total coliforms and E. coli in the grab samples coincided with the spikes in the lead acetate test results. The dates in Soufriere coincided with the dates of the discharges from the Soufriere River. The spikes in the lead acetate test results coincided with the discharges from the Soufriere River. The spikes in the lead acetate test results coincided with the discharges from the Soufriere River. The spikes in the lead acetate test results coincided with the discharges from the Soufriere River.

The Potential Economic Impacts of Sargassum Inundations in the Caribbean, Part 1: Insights from the Literature
Peter W. Schuhmann, Jeanelle Irvine, Hazel A. Oxenford, A. Karima Degia and Julian Prato Valderrama

Applying Hazard Risk Assessment and Spatial Planning Tools to Sargassum Inundations in the Eastern Caribbean Small Island States as a Basis for Improving Response
A. Karima Degia, Micaela Small, and Hazel A. Oxenford
SargAdapt Project Report
March 2022

Non-Communicable Disease Surveillance

National Regional Surveillance System



Nutrition



The screenshot shows a website with a green navigation bar containing the following links: Home, Who We Are, What We Do, Financial Statements, More, Contact Us, and English. Below the navigation bar, the text reads 'The Diabetes Nutritional Management Toolkit includes:'. There are six posters displayed in a row, each with a title and a brief description:

- My Caribbean Plate (poster)**: A poster showing a plate of food with the text 'LET'S ADD VARIETY'.
- Managing My Diabetes (poster)**: A poster with a circular diagram and the text 'Take as prescribed' and 'Check blood sugar'.
- Nutrition Labels Made Simple (poster)**: A poster with the text 'Notice these on the front of the package?' and 'EAT LESS'.
- Healthy Eating with Diabetes (with tips and recipes)**: A poster showing various fruits and vegetables.
- Managing Diabetes Mellitus - Care Guide for Persons with Diabetes**: A poster with a circular diagram and the text 'CARE GUIDE FOR PERSONS WITH DIABETES'.
- Nutritional Management for Persons Living with Diabetes - Healthcare Professionals Guide**: A poster with a silhouette of a person and the text 'HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS GUIDE'.

Nutrition security



6- Point Policy package for Healthier Food Environment

The 6-Point Policy package includes measures to address:


1. Food Labelling;
2. Nutrition Standards and Guidelines for schools and other institutions;
3. Food Marketing;
4. Nutritional Quality of Food Supply.
5. Trade and Fiscal Policies; and
6. Food Chain Incentives;

Implemented through multiagency collaboration.

Cancer Surveillance

IARC Caribbean Cancer Registry Hub support for Cancer Surveillance assessment for the IAEA imPACT Review in Caribbean Member States

Core Hub Functions

- Support cancer control interventions
 - Stimulate research
 - Site visits to review practices
 - Consultancy and mentorship to resolve specific issues
- 
- Support cancer control interventions
 - Stimulate research
 - Foster relationships between disciplines
 - Provide information on upcoming activities



Improving cancer data quality and accessibility in the Caribbean (2016-2022)

Advocacy

In-country site assessments: Aruba, Barbados, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Conduct of data quality assessments

Data Quality Assessment Report
Barbados National Registry - Cancer 2008, 2013, 2014, 2015

Provision of technical support for use of cancer registration software - CanReg5

Caribbean Registry Manual
Data Collection and Operating Procedures Module
Version 1.0
April 2020

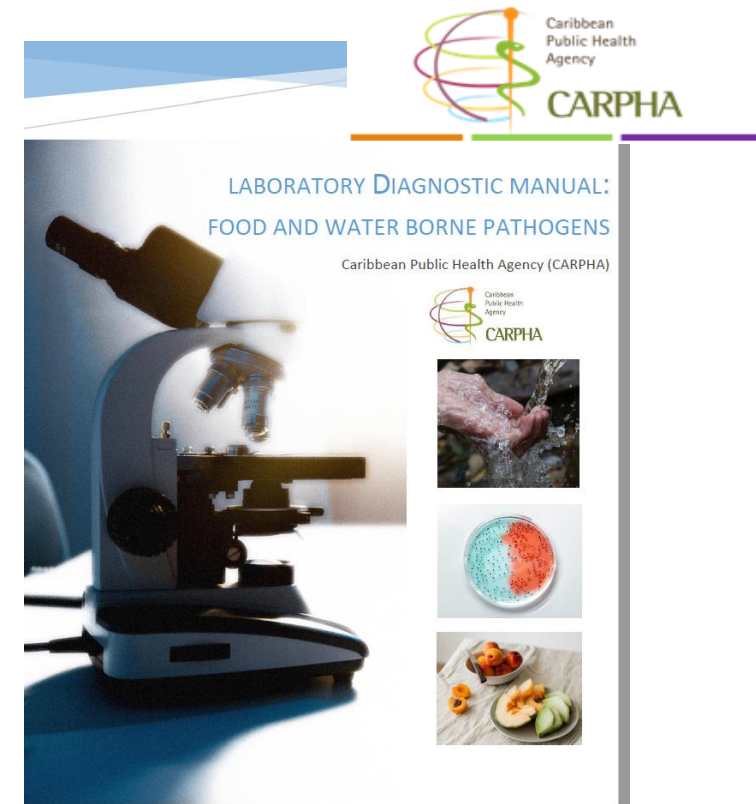
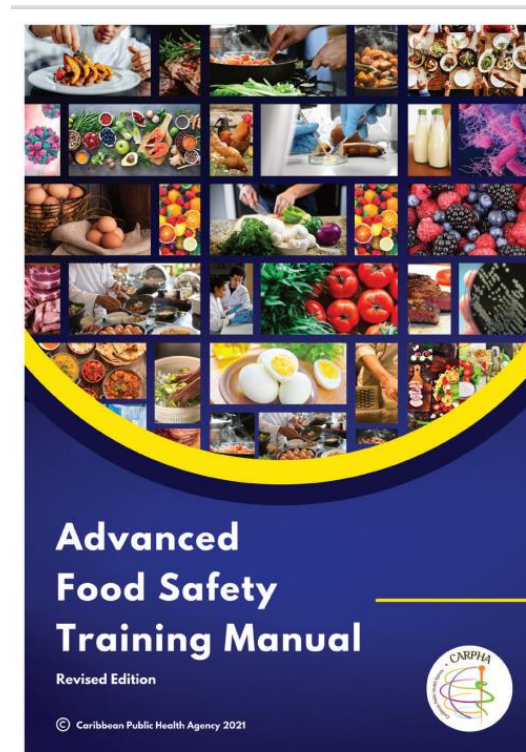
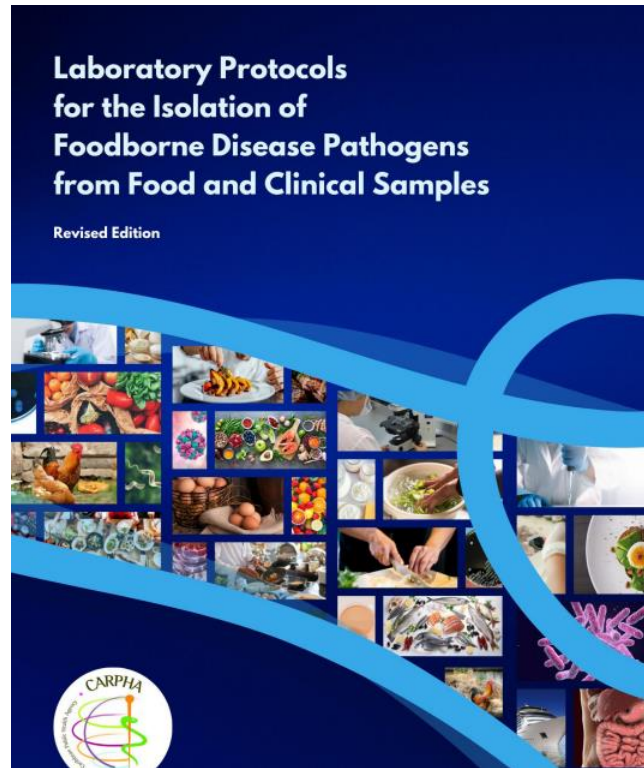
Standardization of cancer registration procedures

Conduct of training and provision of training opportunities in cancer registration

Provision of technical support for data exchange between US and Caribbean Cancer Registries

Inaugural IARC Summer School on Cancer Registration Basic Principles and Methods, in collaboration with IARC and the Martinique Cancer Registry

IARC CANCER Regional Experts



Integrated Food-borne Diseases (FBD) Key Areas of work

- Integrated "one health " approach to FBD surveillance and outbreak investigation
- Strengthening laboratory capacity for detection of FBD pathogens from clinical food and environmental samples , including AMR
- Capacity building in food and environmental safety

Caribbean Association of Research Ethics Committees (CANREC)



Continuous learning – Important
in guarding the region from
undesirable research practices