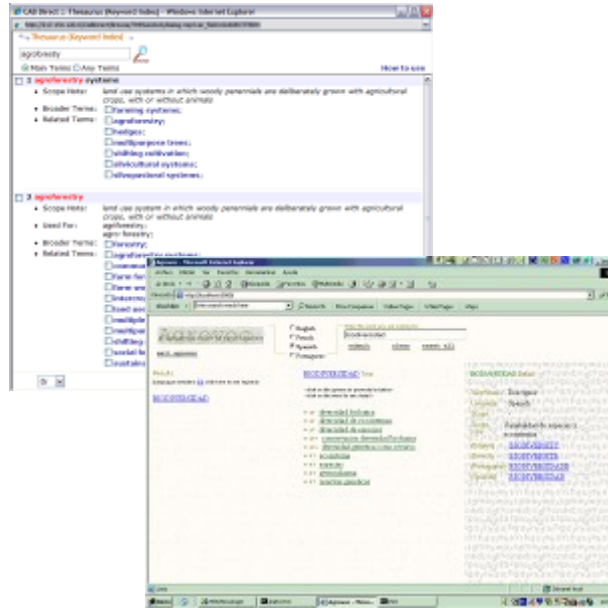


PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Information specialists or managers:

- Librarians, information scientists, documentalists or other professionals linked to information services for agriculture in the Caribbean.
- Proven experience and career on information services for agriculture.
- Linked to a national agricultural institution.
- Be able to dedicate from as little to 1.5 hours per day during course operation, including readings and assignments, considering on the length and scope of each course.
- Be self motivated, self-disciplined and independent.
- Be unafraid to ask question, receive feed and actively participate in forums
- Be willing to learn and to meet deadlines
- Have regular access to a computer with modem or speed internet connection
- Feel comfortable with computers and the internet, including e-mail and Web.
- Able to learn through "virtual" interaction with a group of professionals



If you want more information

About the course write to:

Distance Education Center
iica.cecadi@iica.int

Telephones: (506)2216-0263
2216-0265
2216-0268

IRSA



PRESENTA:

Information — IRSA
Resources and Services
for the agricultural sector in the Caribbean

UN CURSO:



**CENTRO DE
CAPACITACIÓN
A DISTANCIA**

HOSPEDADO EN LA PLATAFORMA:

**ENTORNO VIRTUAL
INTERACTIVO DE
APRENDIZAJE PARA LA**



Introduction

Countries face the challenge to access, to organize and to spread great amounts of information and to do it in an efficient way using the new technologies of information and communication (ICT), as well as doing it knowing that "information resources" are fundamental in the processes of reaching competitiveness, sustainability, generation of knowledge, fairness and prosperity.

A suitable management of information in the Caribbean by means of a "**Program of leadership in information management**" will have a positive impact in the functions and practices of governments and private sector, specifically in the provision of better information services for sanitary protection, research, education, extension, trade and businesses of its countries.

In those terms the contribution of the program will be to support the construction of a more dynamic and participative knowledge society in the Caribbean. To settle a group of individuals that can respond to the commitment signed in the Extraordinary Summit of the Americas, the Connectivity V Agenda and the Agro Plan 2003-2015 for agriculture and rural life related with information services. Inside the Agro Plan, a vision of an agriculture for 2015 is stated, where Agri-food chains could count on reliable information systems and expand knowledge for development. And our responsibility is that indeed. Let us work together so we can start our path to that vision.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM

To contribute to process of building capabilities of agricultural information specialists that will facilitate:

(a) advocacy on the importance of information for agriculture;

(b) coherence in the development of information systems and metadata for agricultural services;

(c) better organization, use of, and access to critical information services for networking, research, trade and agribusiness in the region; and

d) stronger and newer synergies with other CTA/IICA projects (e.g MEAgroInfoSys, CARAPN and CAIS) and networks (e.g, CANROP, CABA, CAFY and others) in the region.

UNIT 1: Building a Common Scenario for an Information Strategy

UNIT 2: Preparing our Framework: Users, Offer, Demand, Competency, Structure and SWOT Analysis (two weeks)

UNIT 3: Building an information strategy for my organization (two weeks)

UNIT 4: Adding value to my information strategy (one week)

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The programs will allow participants to:

- Increase capabilities and consolidate a group of professionals on the methodologies to advocate, build and lead information strategies, virtual libraries and its services for agriculture.
- Ensure a common regional strategy on agricultural information.
- Link those strategies to international initiatives.
- Set future plans of action on agricultural information for each country.

After training the participants will be better able to:

- advocate and lead information strategies in the region;
- handle electronic materials and provide information services;
- build institutional digital information collections using standardized tools and techniques;
- establish strong links to sustainable national networks or communities of agricultural information users; and
- link national networks and their services to the international systems operating.