

Want to start an *Agriculture Think Tank*? Here's how we did it!

The **Agriculture Think Tank** was started as an effort by the BAFY – Bahamas Agricultural Forum for Youth. Professionals in the Industry discuss possibilities for Agriculture in the Bahamian economy, at the Agriculture Think Tank, with a view to encouraging the youth to choose agriculture careers. The group meets monthly (March – October) to discuss various topics under the wide umbrella subject of Agriculture with a view to finding solutions and networking.

BNYC has partnered with BAFY to host the think tank to discuss various possibilities in the Agricultural Industry. The think tank is hosted at the Finn Damtoft Agricultural Library, 8th Terrace off Collins Avenue, 4-5pm. The topics discussed to date are:

- i. September 2009 (first Think Tank) – Diversifying the Bahamian economy with Agriculture
- ii. Creating new Cottage Industry with Value-added products (e.g. juice, jam, sauces, ham roasted with native woods)
- iii. Oct. - Buy Bahamian - LaMonica Glinton, BAIC
- iv. Nov. - What is SPS? - Dr. Maurice Isaacs, DOA
- v. Dec. - Working in Groups (Co-operative Model) – Francis Davis, BCLL
- vi. March – New Technologies in Agriculture -Tim and Dr. Selima Hauber, Lucayan Tropical

Many ideas were shared: agricultural cooperatives, backyard farming, food processing, farmer's insurance, and many reports that have been done in the past on the industry in The Bahamas, history of the industry, land access and accessing agriculture information. The next Agriculture Think Tank is scheduled for April 23, same time and place. Mr. Leno Davis (MSc. – Conservationist) will be speaking on the topic "*Recycle Your Garden*". For additional information on the news that is the subject of this release, please contact: Astrid Cleare, IICA Bahamas Office, astrid.cleare@iica.int .



BAFY BLOG:

<http://bahamasagriculturalforumforyouth.blogspot.com/>

BNYC – Bahamas National Youth Council
BCLL – Bahamas Cooperative League Ltd.
DOA – Department of Agriculture
BAIC – Bahamas Agricultural & Industrial Corporation
IICA – Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture