



## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Mona, Kingston 7  
Jamaica, West Indies

Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies  
(SALISES)

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### *Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience: The Challenge of Sustainable Development in the Caribbean and Beyond*

May 9-11, 2012  
Kingston, Jamaica  
Mona Visitor's Lodge and The Jamaica Pegasus

#### Conference Report

#### Background:

In recognition of fifty (50) years of independence, for several states in the English-speaking Caribbean in 2012, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) launched the 50-50 research project under the theme “Fifty-Fifty: Critical Reflections in a Time of Uncertainty” (*see <http://thesalises5050project.blogspot.com/>*.) The remit of this multi-disciplinary research project is critical analyses of the first fifty years of independence in the Commonwealth Caribbean and an examination of the prospects for the next fifty years. Given this *Fifty-Fifty* initiative, the SALISES *Sustainable Rural and Agricultural Development* research cluster, chaired by Dr. Patricia Northover, embarked on a series of activities to reflect on the experiences and challenges marking a process of sustainable rural development. The **Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience Conference 2012** was thus planned to help focus attention on the related forces of *Globalization and Climate Change* which will determine our ability to address our inescapable vulnerabilities and support a process of *Rural Resilience*.

#### Conference Objectives

Through this intervention we sought to foresight the future face of agriculture and rural spaces within Caribbean states, identify the critical constraints on their development process, and contribute to the process of planning for their resilience in the face of many uncertainties, especially those associated with

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Climate Change. Other objectives of this initiative were: strengthening inter-disciplinary research; supporting young scholars; building networks of collaboration and partnership with stakeholders; raising public awareness of the issues and disseminating knowledge engendered through publications as well as through the launch of an internet portal on issues related to *Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Resilience* in the region. We will also be collating the best papers at this conference for a set of special publications on *Globalization, Climate change and Rural Resilience*.

Though spearheaded by SALISES, the **Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience Conference 2012** reflects a collaborative effort among faculty in the Department of Physics, Geography, Economics, alongside a partnership with C-Change Canada Caribbean, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the National Environment Planning Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

This conference, which we hope will be the first of many such inter-disciplinary gatherings to support the resilience of rural spaces and livelihoods, pulled together academics, the international donor and policy community, public sector agencies and private sector groupings in a lively discussion of pertinent issues affecting rural spaces. (For a listing of organizations and NGO's represented here please see *Annex 1*). Throughout this conference, diverse presentations, specific to the Latin America and the Caribbean region but also extending to North America and Europe were introduced. These presentations foresighted trends as well as highlighted multiple pathways to rural resilience.

### **Conference Overview**

The conference hosted over 40 speakers from across the globe and attracted a wide cross-section of participation, with around 140 in attendance each day for the conference, and approximately 100 persons officially registered for the conference, some of whom were mobilized by the exceptional team at NEPA, led by Ms. Ava Tomlinson, and Ms. Patrice Gilpin. This enabled us to hear the views and concerns of many persons from our rural communities and organizations. As a result, we had a wonderful mix of local, regional and international scholars sharing, learning and critically engaging, in an effort to push the agenda for sustainable development and rural resilience.

**CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**



Prof Robin Leichenko, 2<sup>nd</sup> Keynote

Participants:(standing) Top-Chigozili Onyije (Content Citizens Assn.); Below- Prof. Joseph Woolcock





Mr. Terence Cover, St

Thomas Environmental Protection Association and Benevolent Society offering a comment.



Panelists- *Building rural resilience: Understanding and Transforming Vulnerability: Day2*

From left: Christine Taylor, April Bernard, Martin Gromulat, and Ayesha Constable

### **Major sub-themes across the days**

The conference produced a plethora riveting presentations which looked at a cross section of concerns and issues relating to climate change. Themes examined during the conference included:

- **Measuring Impacts And Differential Response Capacities To The Double Exposure Of Globalization And Climate Change**

- **Envisioning And Mapping Pathways For Rural Resilience**
- **Building Rural Resilience Through Understanding And Transforming Vulnerability**
- **Economic Strategies For Successful Adaptation**
- **The Impact Of Gender On Rural Resilience Responses To Globalization And Climate Change**
- **Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture And Food Security**
- **RIO + 20**
- **Local Rural Resilience Initiatives**
- **Climate Change, Disaster Risk and Natural Resource Management Strategies**
- **Climate Change, Globalization and the Politics of Resilience**
- **Repositioning The Sugar Industry For Green Growth And Rural Resilience**

Through these panels, we thus sought to highlight the issues surrounding vulnerability, adaptive capacity and rural resilience response mapping in light of the global changes. We also sought to explore what these challenges mean for groups across the region. An important message reinforced in this conference was that in looking at all these issues, one has to adopt a gender sensitive lens in order to understand the processes and politics shaping both vulnerability and resilience. What does gender mean for vulnerability? How should we treat with these gendered structural differences? Relatedly, how does the character of development and migration help to reinforce or transform the links between rural vulnerability and urban vulnerability? These were a few of the many questions posed and engaged.

The increasing threat of extreme weather events for the agricultural sector was also addressed in the conference, and highlighted in two special plenaries on day 2, where the questions of rural resilience and development as well as challenges facing rural communities, sustainable agriculture and food security in the context of the region's 'double exposure' were addressed. From the presentations and discussions a focus was placed on promoting climate-smart agriculture, paying greater attention to early warning signs and integrating the communities and schools in this process, implementing organic farming practices, moving into niche markets, exploiting carbon credit markets by further reducing our carbon footprint, and providing better insurance for farmers. Current work being done by C5, CARDI, RADA and IICA among other organizations was also highlighted.

Day three continued to capture the core issues and built on the insights and discussions made on the previous days. Specific focus was placed on Rio+20 initiatives by the UN group and their vision for the next twenty years. Under the theme “Pathways to Resilience”, the scope of the Rio + 20 initiative and the role of health and community empowerment was emphasized and the work being done by the FAO, UNDP, PAHO and others to help the region become more prepared for the future was highlighted.

The strategies for building economic and social resilience to climate change in rural spaces were also covered on both days with specific emphasis on the issues of the awareness and understanding of this global force. Here a concern was raised as to how to strengthen our ability to plan and execute adaptation and mitigation strategies, given the adverse global and local situation in the countries of the region. There were success stories of work being done by local farmers to move into the new paradigm of modern technologies, by way of plant culture labs, green house farming, rain water harvesting and new composting techniques, inter alia.

The conference ended with a riveting, frank and somewhat controversial discussion of the sugar cane industry in Jamaica. The privatization of the industry and the justification for that was vigorously debated. The current challenges in the industry being experienced by one of the new owners, COMPLANT, Pan Caribbean Sugar Company Ltd, were also frankly elaborated upon. For a copy of the final programmes with abstracts please see our website at <http://salises.mona.uwi.edu/fifty-fifty/SRAD2012conference.html> .

### **Conference Lessons and Feedback for the future**

Overall, from these session gaps were highlighted in governance, leadership, research, data, education, capital investment outlays, knowledge culture and the state of human capital, institutional capacity, and most importantly the weak capacity for implementation of sustainable projects leading to meaningful change. The need for coordination amongst institutions, locally, regionally and internationally was also emphasized. The panel intervention did however highlight certain positives such as the scope of the work already being done and that people were thus being informed and assisted, albeit at a slower pace than needed.

Conference participants in general applauded the intervention as critical to building awareness of the issues and supporting networking and idea sharing. They also welcomed the information presented in

responding to the challenges of climate change and globalization, but suggested a need for a greater distillation and break down of the information to better facilitate stakeholders present from the rural community. An appeal was also made for workshops at the level of the community and for better attention to communication methods and systems. Feedback on the evaluation forms also recommended that future events planned on these issues should include more farmers and “grassroots” members of the communities, plus provide more emphasis some of the practical steps and approaches to increase rural resilience. Other areas for recommended action were:

- ✓ Deeper interdisciplinarity to include, engineering and physical sciences, and items such as climate change modelling
- ✓ Greater engagement with political decision makers and policy community
- ✓ More Presentations from community groups
- ✓ Planning for rural based conferences
- ✓ Moving from conference discussions to research projects to help empower the communities.

SALISES, of course, is already actively working to achieve the goals of greater interdisciplinarity and we have launched projects geared to address gender sensitivity in strengthening rural resilience, in cooperation with Institute for Gender and Development Studies and the Bureau of Women’s Affairs. The research group’s first event, in St Ann in support of International Rural Women’s day was used as the occasion for the launch of this initiative.

In order to support the on-going communication process, a significant number of these presentations will be hosted on our website at SALISES, and selected presentations and plenaries will be hosted on the University’s UWI-TV platform. The information, insights and specific recommendations offered will thus be available to the wider community as part of the effort to ensure public education is supported on these matters. Web-links will be established with our partner organizations, so that the stakeholders across Jamaica, interested in these issues will be able to source these presentations fairly easily. We will be developing a dedicated web portal, linked to our SALISES website, to focus on the issues of Rural resilience and Sustainable Agriculture, and it will form the center point for communicating with our audiences engaged with the challenges of rural development and climate change.

Based on the support from our sponsors and partners, in particular, the USAID (ACDI/VOCA), and The Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, (C5), several other initiatives were included as a part of this conference, including:

- ✚ The participation of the Jeffrey Town Farmer's community radio station JET FM 88.7- sponsored by C5.
- ✚ Live Coverage of the conference from Power 106, (number one (1) in the talk radio market in Jamaica) which covered the entire event over 3 days, on the renowned and world class programme, *Both Sides of the Story*, with Mr. Dervan Malcolm produced by Alton (Alty) Hylton. This was sponsored by USAID.
- ✚ Video shorts, from PANOS CARIBBEAN and "Time to Adapt" a project led by Dr Michael Taylor.
- ✚ Booth displays by the Institute of Jamaica, CARDI, NEPA, PIOJ, the EU-UNEP-GOJ climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction project, as well as displays from the students at the Department of Physics, and from our SALISES Publication Unit.
- ✚ Drama performances by the Women's Media Watch group.
- ✚ Live Musical performances performed by the Voices for Climate Change, the artists supporting the education and public outreach programme of PANOS- CARIBBEAN on the issues of climate change and sustainable development.

This conference was also privileged to have several distinguished keynote and guest speakers sharing with us their knowledge and perspective on the issue of climate change, disaster risk reduction, globalization and rural resilience. Our first Key Note Speaker, Dr. Clare Goodess of the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia's School for Environmental Sciences, set the tone of the event through her insightful Keynote address on: *'The Challenges of Integrated Assessment Studies: A Mediterranean Perspective: The CIRCE- Case Studies Integrated Framework and the CLIM-RUN project*. Our second Keynote Speaker, Prof. Robin Leichenko from Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, spoke to: *Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience: Emerging Double Exposure Challenges and Opportunities*.

Our first guest speaker Dr. Ede Ijjasz-Vazquez, the Director of Sustainable Development for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank, spoke to “***Multiple dimensions of resilience in rural areas and small islands - lessons from global experience and World Bank perspectives***” and offered practical insights into the ways in which development strategies and programmes can be developed to manage risks associated with increased climate variability in the region and its wide ranging impacts. And finally our last guest speaker, Dr. Barbara Carby, Director of the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre of the University of the West Indies, Mona who spoke to “***Disaster Risk Reduction Planning and Policy in Jamaica: Is there a connection?***” explored the issues of the evidential or scientific basis for Disaster Risk Reduction Planning and Policy in Jamaica.

We also wish to highlight distinguished guests who brought greetings at our opening ceremony:

- Prof. Alvin Wint – Acting Vice Chancellor, UWI
- Prof. Ishen Khawa, Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, who spoke on behalf of Prof Gordon Shirley – Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of UWI Mona
- Dr. Ulric Trotz – Science Advisor, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
- The Hon. Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change who brought remarks at our opening ceremony, and
- Mr. Dwight Uylett, Principal Director in charge of Policy Co-ordination and Administration, the representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF) , who brought greetings and remarks on behalf of the Hon Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Permanent Secretary (MOAF), Mr. Donovan Stanberry, on the closing day of the conference.

## SCENES FROM THE OPENING CEREMONY



*Dr. Ulric Trotz, (far right) addressing a question on the opening day, others at the head table, from far left, Dr. Goodess, Prof. Meeks, Prof. Wint, Prof. Khawa and Dr Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez.*



*Dr Clare Goodess, (front) with, from left to right: Prof Khawa, Dr Northover, Dr Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, and Prof Alvin Wint.*



*From left to right: The Hon. Minister Pickersgill, with Dr. Northover, Prof. Wint and Prof Brian Meeks, Opening ceremony.*

Many key persons and organizations were critical to the success of this conference, and we wish to express our sincere thanks to:

- ✚ Prof. Brian Meeks – Director of SALISES, UWI Mona and our Opening Chair, for his active support for this conference.
- ✚ The Government of Jamaica, its agencies, and especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, NEPA and the PIOJ for their whole-hearted support.
- ✚ The sponsors for supporting the event, who are listed below.
- ✚ To our Session Chairs, and the speakers who came from Jamaica & overseas, who shared their relevant knowledge & precious time.
- ✚ We also wish to say a very special thank you to the media and to Mrs. June Degia and Patricia Valentine, the team from the Marketing and Communications Office from the University of the West Indies, we wish to also say a special thank you for facilitating media exposure for the conference.

- ✚ To our hard working Student volunteers, Kevin, Alexander, Dexroy, Rachel, Gemma, Khalid, Amelia, Rachel, Sue-Yeng and Lorreane a very special thanks for your support, at a time when a few of you still had exams taking!!!
- ✚ To our many service providers, especially MAPCO Printers Limited, who produced the conference programme in record time and with recycled paper, Touchline Printers, who produced the tote bags also from recycled materials, to the staff and management supporting this conference at the Mona Visitor's Lodge and at the Jamaica Pegasus, to our technicians responsible for sound and multimedia support, to the photographer, Mr. Hutchinson, and the Videographer, Mr. Patterson, thank you for your hard work in recording this event.
- ✚ To the members of our conference steering committee, the supporting staff at SALISES, and the conference secretariat, we say a thousand thanks to you all who even worked above and beyond the call of duty!

Our vision for the next **Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience Conference** is to make it even bigger and better, where a confluence of divergent thoughts, ideas, nationalities will all come together under one roof to make great things happen. As we close this conference, let's look forward to the next events to be staged, publications, film and educational outreach material to be produced, and the vital rural resilience projects to be developed based on a process of continued collaboration and partnership. Of course, we hope to host or support all these important activities, under the umbrella of the SALISES's 50-50 Research Agenda.

### **Conference Steering Committee**

- **Dr. Patricia Northover, Chair: UWI-SALISES, Mona**
- **Prof. Patrick Watson, Co-Director C- Change Canada Caribbean and University Director of SALISES**
- **Prof. Michaeline Crichlow, Duke University, USA**
- **Dr. Michael Taylor, UWI, Mona- Head of Physics**
- **Dr. Kevon Rhiney, UWI, Mona-Dept of Geology and Geography**
- **Dr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, UWI, Mona -Dept of Economics**
- **Mrs. Nadine Brown- Planning Institute of Jamaica**
- **Ms. Doneika Simms- Planning Institute of Jamaica**
- **Ms. Leesha Delatie- Budair- Statistical Institute of Jamaica**

### **Conference Partners**

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries**
- **National Environment Planning Agency**
- **Planning Institute of Jamaica**

### **Sponsors**

- **UWI Vice Chancellor's Office**
- **UWI Office of Research**
- **UWI - Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, Mona.**
- **The Caribbean Community Climate Change Center ( C5)**
- **The Commonwealth Secretariat**
- **C- Change Canada Caribbean**
- **US Agency for International Development**
- **EU-UNEP-GOJ Climate Change Adapataion and Disaster Risk Reduction Project**
- **Jamaica Broilers**
- **InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ( IICA)**
- **Sugar Industry Authority ( SIA)**

## **ANNEX 1: LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE**

Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (C5)  
Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)  
Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)  
Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM)  
US Agency for International Development (USAID)  
ACDI/VOCA  
OXFAM  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF)  
Rural Agricultural and Development Agency (RADA)  
National Environment Planning Agency (NEPA)  
Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)  
Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)  
Bureau of Women's Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister (BWA)  
Social Development Commission (SDC)  
Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)  
University of East Anglia, School for Environmental Sciences.  
University of Puerto Rico  
University of Arizona  
Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo  
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey  
Colgate University  
Duke University  
GC Foster College  
Excelsior Community College  
Hydel University College  
Balrock Education Center  
UWI, Mona  
UWI, Cave Hill  
UWI, St Augustine

UWI- SALISES

UWI- CARIMAC

UWI- Mona Geo-informatics Institute

UWI- Institute for Gender and Development Studies

UWI- Institute for Sustainable Development

UWI- Mona School of Business

UTECH

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Pan American Health Organization (*PAHO*)

International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

St Thomas Environmental Protection Assn and Benevolent Society

Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)- Coast Guard

Bowden Pen Farmers Association

US Peace Corp

Redwood District Local Watershed Management Committee

Portland Environment Protection Association (PEPA)

Port Royal Fisheries

Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency

Negril Environment Protection Trust (NEPT)

NVIRO Mission/ Excellent Citizen's Loving Communities Foundation/Pentecostal Gospel Temple

Windsor Research Center

Portland Cottage Citizen's Association

JSIF/REDI-St Thomas Women's Agricultural Initiative

Longville Park Citizen's Association

Mocho Community Development Association

Content Senior Citizen's Association

Jamaica Network for Rural Women Producers (JNRWP)

Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust ( JCDDT)  
Alpha Infant Community Action Community  
Western Dispute Resolution Center  
National Best Community Competition and Foundation  
Linstead Development Area Committee  
Jeffrey Town Farmers Association  
Christiana Potato Growers Cooperative  
Jamaica Organic Agricultural Movement ( JOAM)  
PANOS- Caribbean  
CANARI  
Complant- Pan Caribbean Sugar Co Limited  
Sugar Company of Jamaica Holdings  
Sugar Transformation Unit  
The Competitiveness Company  
Smith Warner International Limited  
Mandala Foundation and Explorers

**ANNEX 11: FINAL BUDGET- see attached.**

**June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pat Northover", is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

**Dr Patricia Northover**