

# ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL QUARANTINE FACILITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF SUGAR CANE GERMPLASM AMONG ACP COUNTRIES



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# INTRODUCTION

## **EU Funded project for sugar producing countries for Africa Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (2009-2013)**

Objective :

To enhance the productivity and efficiency of the sugarcane industry in ACP countries by promoting germplasm exchange, making their industries more responsive to the challenges in the global economy

### **Purpose of the International quarantine**

To provide ACP countries with sugarcane plants free from detectable pathogens in order to safeguard their industry from potentially damaging diseases

# Project components

- Cost: Euros 918 510 (for the period 2009-2014)
- Renovation of an existing quarantine to meet biosecurity level 3
- Equipping of a plant pathology Lab
- Renovation of a tissue culture facility + equipping
- Training of staff
- Training of ACP members quarantine officials

# Sugarcane Quarantine in Mauritius

Mauritius has been regularly importing germplasm since 1914

A National closed quarantine is in existence since 1946

The responsibility for the national quarantine has been vested on the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute since 1953

Setting-up of an international quarantine station in Mauritius, which any member of the ACP countries can use to facilitate exchange of disease-free germplasm



## Benefits:

**Minimizing the risks of introducing potentially devastating diseases into ACP countries**

**Avoiding duplication of resources by establishing an international facility in one state**

**Using up to date disease detection technologies and tissue culture to speed availability of germplasm**



# **DEVELOPMENT OF DISEASE TESTING AND ELIMINATION PROCEDURE FOR POTENTIAL DISEASES**

Based on:

- Country of origin of germplasm
- Requirements of importing country
- Risk assessment analysis



# Activities in Progress

## Existing glass houses renovation

Near completion:

- New pathology designed to meet biosecurity level 3
- Tissue culture Labs designed and being equipped



**GH for imported germplasm & tissue culture plants**

# Activities in Progress

## Training in molecular diagnostic of diseases

Major diseases not present in Mauritius: SCMV, SCSMV, Fiji disease, Downy mildew

CIRAD provided training to staff in molecular detection of SCMV, SCSMV, and red leaf mottle virus



Real-time PCR successfully optimized for SCYLV and for *X albilinean*



# Expected Project Outputs

- Quarantine facility available for ACP countries to allow safe movement of germplasm
- Create awareness on diseases of quarantine importance
- Diagnostic protocols available to ACP countries
- Capacity building of plant health officials in ACP countries

# Before 2014.....

- A fee will be charged for introduction of germplasm
- A higher fee will apply to non ACP countries

# After 2014.....

- The facility is expected to be self-sustainable

# Additional Information

- Details on project can be obtained through the ACP Sugar Research Programme website:  
[www.acp-srp.eu](http://www.acp-srp.eu)