Remarks from the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) on the Accreditation of the Pesticide Research Laboratory (PRL)

All protocols observed

Greetings All!

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) is delighted to offer our sincerest congratulations to the Pesticide Research Laboratory (PRL) on its attainment of accreditation for the scope of pesticide residue analysis by the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC).

We regret that we are unable to attend today’s recognition ceremony but could not allow this opportunity to pass to extend our congratulations on this significant achievement.

Apart from the successful technical cooperation extended to PRL by CROSQ and others, this accreditation is also significant as it represents the second accreditation performed through the CROSQ Caribbean Cooperation for Accreditation (CCA) Scheme which provides conformity assessment bodies with regional opportunities to access affordable and readily available development assistance in the pursuit of accreditation.

Jamaica and the Caribbean at large are well known for its vast array of fresh fruits and vegetables which provide immense nutritional value. More of these fruits and vegetables are being processed along the value chain as the region seeks to increase its capacity in creating value added products.

Pesticide residue analysis and control is critical as pesticides remaining on or in food due to their application to food crops need to be detected; the results need to be accurate, repeatable and traceable and PRL’s accreditation now attests to this, internationally!
PRL is the first laboratory to be accredited in the region to perform pesticide residue analysis! The Pesticide Research Laboratory therefore has an important role to play in the facilitation of trade, not only for Jamaica, but for the whole of CARICOM – what a marvellous achievement this is and we look forward to the leadership that the PRL will provide in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean in this important area of pesticide residue analysis.

In closing, CROSQ expresses sincere gratitude to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) for the financial support that facilitated the accreditation of PRL.

Thanks to Ms. Maxine Campbell for providing the technical consultancy to the laboratory and the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) for its support in this intervention.

And thanks to JANAAC for the uncompromising standards and rigors that they put us all through, thereby forcing continuous improvement, the fundamental principle of our Quality-Competitiveness industry.

And of course, last but not least, congratulations to Professor Tara Dasgupta, Dr. Raymond Reid and the team at the Pesticide Research Laboratory for their vision, endurance and persistence in the face of numerous obstacles to get this job done!

Continue to keep up the good work!

Mr. Deryck Omar
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