



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND & FISHERIES**  
**CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MALF partners with the FAO on Disaster Risk Management Workshop**

**March 04, 2020:-** “Simply put, the purpose of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness is to reduce the number of hazards that turn into disasters.” So said the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Consultant, Dr. Roberto Sandoval, during his presentation at the opening day of a three (3) day Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Systems, Approaches and Tools for Agriculture (Crops, Livestock, Fisheries / Aquaculture and Forestry).

The FAO Consultant added that globally, the Agriculture Sector suffers an estimated 23% damage and loss due to disasters annually. In the Caribbean region he said that production loss to crops is estimated at 9% while all other regions are at an average of 4%.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- ♣ Develop a comprehensive understanding of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Systems, Approaches and Tools for Agriculture (Crops, Livestock, Fisheries / Aquaculture and Forestry;
  
- ♣ Identify / Review the Key Elements and Framing of the Emergency Response Strategy and Action Plan; and
  
- ♣ Identify specific capacity building themes/ training topics on Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM), including disaster preparedness and response.

On the last day of the workshop there will be a review of the Proposed MALF Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) Plan.

The workshop currently being held at the Corporate Headquarters of the Ministry, Land and Fisheries (MALF) is hosted by MALF in collaboration with the FAO. Also speaking at the opening of the session were the Director, Agricultural Planning Division (MALF), Ms. Neela Maharaj and MALF's DRM Chair and Senior Project Analyst, Ms. Joan Lewis.

Participants comprised staff of MALF, FAO as well representatives from the Tobago House of Assembly (THA).

*Photo Caption-*

*DRM 1: Disaster Risk Management Chair and Senior Project Analyst in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Ms. Joan Lewis (right), sits alongside Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Consultant, Dr. Roberto Sandoval, at the opening day of a three (3) day Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Systems, Approaches and Tools for Agriculture on Wednesday 4th March, 2020.*

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