



Caribbean Poultry Association

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E-Newsletter from the Caribbean Poultry Association

***From the President:***

The Caribbean Poultry Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Desmond A. Ali as Executive Director. Dr. Ali of Trinidad & Tobago, a trained Microbiologist, has previously served as Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute in Trinidad and as Science Adviser to the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, England.

Dr. Ali will be responsible for developing regional and environmental projects to improve the competitiveness of the regional poultry industry.

The Caribbean Poultry Association is a Regional Trade Association that represents twenty members in ten Caricom States.

The Caribbean Poultry Association welcomes Dr. Ali as Executive Director and wishes him all the best.

Peter De Freitas, President

Dated this 27th Day of April 2009

***From the Executive Director:***

I am pleased and honoured to join the Caribbean Poultry Association as the second Executive Director. I thank my predecessor, Mr. Robert Best, who has served the CPA for nearly nine years with distinction. He has been largely responsible for establishing the CPA as one of the region's premier industry associations. I wish Mr. Best well in his future endeavours.

The poultry industry in the Caribbean has emerged in the last three years as the largest agroindustrial enterprise in the Caricom Region, eclipsing both previous mainstays of sugar and rice. The industry generates over USD500 million in gross output, employs close to 100,000 persons either directly or indirectly, provides close to 80% of the nutritional protein requirement of Caribbean peoples and at any point in time provides at least three months of food security to our national economies.

The industry now faces many challenges. First and foremost, sandwiched as we are between the two largest exporters of poultry meats in the world, namely Brazil and the United States, our markets are under constant threat. Secondly, the present international economic crisis has affected the purchasing power of consumers and caused a credit crunch. Thirdly, emphasis on biofuels by several countries has made the future pricing and supplies of grain unpredictable and subject to energy policies. Finally, the ever present threat of disease especially influenza is a worrisome international phenomenon.

My role is obviously to serve the needs of the membership as competently as possible. This devolves into three main areas. Firstly, I must work to develop a strategic plan for the association which links the membership to other stakeholders so that the industry continues to grow and meet the needs of our consumers. Secondly, I need to continue to improve the competitive position of our members through technology, research, training and standards so that we can meet the challenges posed by outside forces. Finally, I must build the image of the industry in the minds of our consumers, our Governments, our international institutions and our partners so that we are seen as progressive, caring and good corporate citizens.

Desmond A. Ali, Executive Director  
18 May 2009

## **Feature: Intensive Poultry Production Is Environmentally Efficient**

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 followed by the Kyoto Protocol agreed to by many countries in 1997 led to many studies on Global Warming and Climate Change. The Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) established that Global Warming and Climate Change are occurring largely because of Man's activities. Efforts through initiatives like Emissions Trading and Cap & Trade are intended to slow the rate of global warming through reducing the production and emission of global warming gases. Intensive agriculture has consistently been singled out as a major contributor to global warming even though the scientific data to support this thesis has not been forthcoming.

To test this thesis, the UK Department of the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) contracted Cranfield University in Silsoe, England to carry out a study *to determine the environmental burdens and resources used in the production of agricultural and horticultural commodities*. Cranfield used the principles of Life Cycle Assessment and computer modelling to study in the UK four key crops and six livestock commodities (poultry meat, eggs, pig meat, sheep meat, beef and milk). All inputs in each area were traced back to primary resources like coal, crude oil and mined ores. Cranfield measured the Global Warming Potential (GWP) for each commodity by studying *inter alia* production of nitrous oxide, methane, carbon dioxide, eutrophication potential, acidification potential, primary energy use and land use.

Cranfield concluded that poultry meat and egg production is the most environmentally efficient animal protein production system and indeed poses less impact on global warming than even organic or free range poultry/egg production. <http://randd.defra.gov.uk>; (Search for Report ISO205 -Determining the Environmental Burdens & Resource Use in the Production of Agricultural & Horticultural Commodities).

### **What's News?**

**Merger.** In Brazil, Perdigao has taken over Sadia to create the third biggest meat processor in the Americas after US giant Tyson and Brazilian JBS SA. The combined company, to be called BRF Brazil Foods SA, would slaughter 2 billion birds per annum, have annual sales of 11 billion USD and become the tenth largest food company in the Americas.

**Energy.** The International Energy Agency of the UN (IEA) has stated that oil consumption in 2009 would fall by 2.56 million bpd to about 83.5 million bpd.

**New Food Lab.** The first food testing laboratory to reach international standards in China was opened in April 2009 by Eurofins at Suzhou. The laboratory has been accredited for testing for pesticide residues, melamine, heavy metals and Microbiology.

**Mobile Slaughter Unit.** The Central Coast Agricultural Cooperative in California, USA, has commissioned a mobile slaughter unit which fits into a 28 foot trailer. It is claimed that by bringing the slaughter facilities to the animal rather than the other way reduces the stress on the animal and produces a far superior meat. This is a purpose-built facility assisted by a USD137,000 grant and can handle 50-80 animals per month.

**Increasing Poultry Production.** Russia is spending billions to expand local poultry production and have less reliance on imports. By 2012, Russia will halve the share of imports from the USA. The USA has in the past sent nearly 25% of its exports mainly leg quarters to Russia. The 55 billion USD poultry sector in the USA will need to find alternative markets. Loans by Russian State Banks in 2009 will exceed 2.23 billion USD for new farms and slaughterhouses.

Argentina too is doubling poultry meat production for export.

**Animal Welfare Portal.** FAO has set up a new internet portal, *Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare*, dedicated to providing information on animal welfare research, legislation, standards, practices and policies.

**Financial Assistance.** Brazil's Government National Monetary Council has approved a USD4.6 billion line of credit to Brazilian meat producers of which USD1.5 billion will go to rescue the struggling poultry industry.

**Trade.** The 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (USA) prevents the USDA from allowing imports of cooked poultry from China. A group of meat industry representatives have petitioned President Obama to rethink the legislation as it breaks US trade obligations. The meat representatives were no doubt thinking about the fact that China imported USD442 million of US poultry in 2008 incl. feet (paws) for which there is no market in the USA.

**Obesity.** Recent studies in the USA by Prof. Boyd Swinburne has shown that weight gains in the past 30 years can be explained more by excess food intake than reduction in exercise. In the past 30 years, there has been an average adult weight gain of 8.6 lb even though levels of exercise have risen. To return to the average weight of the 1970s, children must reduce daily energy intake by 350 cal (1 can of pop and a small fries), while adults must reduce by 500 cal per day (1 large burger).

### **Influenza Watch.**

**H5N1.** Egypt reported 5 new confirmed cases from 13-20 May 2009. . Egypt has to 23 May had 27 fatalities from 74 cases from the virus. The third Vietnamese province, to report H5N1 did so on 10 May when 49 ducks out of 142 died. So far for 2009, Vietnam has reported 5 human cases with four deaths.

**H7N9.** Reported in a Tyson breeder flock in Tennessee. 15,000 birds were culled.

**H1N1.** As of 23 May, 43 countries have reported 12,022 cases with 86 fatalities.

### **July 2009 Grain Futures (USD cents per bushel except, soybean meal USD\$ per short ton)**

**Corn: 430.2**

**Soybeans:1166**

**Wheat: 612.4**

**Soybean meal: 375**

### **Conferences & Meetings.**

21st Brazilian Poultry Congress, FIERGS Exhibition & Convention Centre, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande del Sul, Brazil. 26-28 May 2009.  
[www.congressoaviculturabrasil.com.br](http://www.congressoaviculturabrasil.com.br)

24th World's Poultry Congress, Bahia Convention Centre, Brazil, 5-8 August 2012.

China Food Future Summit, Crowne Plaza Century Park, Shanghai, 4-5 June 2009. Is an executive event looking at best practices for output, quality & sustainability.

Prepared by Desmond A. Ali  
25 May 2009