



Policy Forum Guyana

## Press Release: AgriSmart 2024 – Supporting a Sustainable Agricultural Future for Guyana

**Georgetown, Guyana – October 9th, 2024:** Policy Forum Guyana successfully hosted its much-anticipated **AgriSmart 2024: Empowering Guyanese Farmers Through Climate-Smart Agriculture**, an event that brought together 60 participants, including farmers, experts, and key stakeholders dedicated to advancing sustainable agricultural practices in Guyana.

The virtual event saw representation from **farmers across Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10**, along with esteemed organizations such as **Partners of America, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Bounty Farm Ltd., National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Eco-Trust Society, and Recover Guyana**. Educational institutions like **Woodley Park Secondary and Brickdam Secondary** were also actively engaged, alongside other notable participants like **Holder Independent Farmer, Climate Hub, Freecycle Hub, Compost Creations, AgriTech, and the Guyana Organisation of People with Disabilities**.

**A balanced and diverse group of 45 participants (21 males and 24 females)** took part in the discussions, which were centered on climate-smart agricultural practices, innovative technologies, and sustainable farming solutions that are essential for building resilience against climate change and ensuring food security.

One of the highlights of the event was a powerful video featuring the stories of Guyanese farmers—**Nariefah Mohammed, Angus Matai, Beverley Clenkian, and Nicholas Fredericks**. The video showcased their struggles and resilience, from the devastating floods of 2021 to the severe drought in 2024. The testimonies emphasized the urgency of adopting climate-smart agricultural practices to overcome these challenges and ensure a stable food supply.

Key presentations were delivered by:

- **Mr. Jermaine Joseph**, Country Director, Partners of the Americas Farmer-to-Farmer Program (Guyana), who discussed the benefits of the Farmer-to-Farmer Program and its impact on local farmers.
- **Barbara Bennett and Ms. Morgan Urich**, representatives from the USDA Climate Hub, who shared insights on leveraging technology for climate resilience in small-scale farming.
- **Mr. Warren Barlow**, NAREI, who explored practical techniques like vermicomposting and shade house farming.



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- **Mr. Christopher Singh**, Developer of the FoodShare App, who introduced an innovative platform designed to support local farmers and enhance community engagement.

The event was a key part of **Agriculture Month 2024**, celebrated under the theme **“Transforming Tomorrow: Championing Food Security Through Innovation and Technology.”** Participants engaged in vibrant discussions, exchanging ideas and strategies for advancing Guyana’s agricultural sector in the face of climate change.

**Meirisa Jennings**, a farmer who attended the event, expressed her appreciation, stating, “Thank you to all presenters and Policy Forum Guyana for organizing this very informative session. I look forward as a farmer to work with you guys in the future.”

**Benita Davis**, Technical Project Coordinator at Policy Forum Guyana, emphasized the need for continued collaboration, stating, “AgriSmart 2024 has shown us that by uniting farmers, experts, and organizations, we can champion food security and build a more sustainable future for Guyana’s agriculture.”

The event concluded with a commitment to ongoing dialogue and action, as participants expressed their eagerness to implement the knowledge gained to drive sustainable progress in their respective regions and organizations.

For more information on AgriSmart 2024 and upcoming initiatives, please visit our website at [policyforumgy.org](http://policyforumgy.org) or contact us at +592-227-4908.

### Policy Forum Guyana

c/o 56B Hadfield st & Austin Place, Georgetown Tel: 227-4908, 7073511

E-mail [policyforumgy@gmail.com](mailto:policyforumgy@gmail.com)

Website: [www.policyforumgy.org](http://www.policyforumgy.org) FB/Instagram: Policy Forum Guyana