WEBINARS
On July 29th Faculty of Food and Agriculture, St. Augustine Campus, University of the West Indies in collaboration with FaN hosted “Shifting to Sustainable, Healthy Diets” with academia, private sector and youth representatives presenting on nutrition in the time of COVID. Panelists and the audience contributed to some important recommendations which focused on (1) Food Choices, (2) Food Production and Processing, (3) Education and Promotion as well as (4) Food Policy. Click here to access the full webinar recording and here for the recommendations list.

FaN Country Webinars
This month FaN will host two of its Country Team Webinars, Dietary Patterns (SVG) and School Nutrition (SKN). Both will consider country specific research findings and strategies to facilitate implementation and sustainability.

RESEARCH
FaN PAHO Supplement on Food and Nutrition in the Caribbean
The FaN Publications Committee convened in July to advance the project’s 2nd dedicated supplement in the Pan American Journal of Public Health / PAHO Revista with the theme Improving Dietary Diversity in CARICOM. FaN researchers will contribute articles about their work in three main sections – (1) Overview, (2) Food Systems and (3) Consumption/Utilisation. The publication will be available online by mid-2022.

INTERVENTIONS
Official Launch of the Women's Farmers Academy
FaN working with Helen’s Daughters are now ready to launch a skills development, train-the-trainers programme known as the Women’s Farmers Academy in SVG and SKN. Facilitators will be trained by the Helen’s Daughters team in August and public recruitment of women farmers from SKN and SVG has been launched virtually and rolled out across social media. See the informational webpage and student recruitment campaign (Learn How to Build a Farming Business). The expected start dates for training is in October. The response has been so great that we will have to have a second training in SVG in early 2022.

Official Launch of the Food4ChangeCaribbean Story Writing Competition
FaN continues working with CARICOM and other key partners to create youth friendly resources to support the implementation of the revised Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum. Students (aged 7-17) from Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Jamaica are invited to participate in a two-stage Story Writing Competition, to create child friendly dialogue to illustrate the HFLE learning objectives. Five winners will get a Dell laptop and teachers / mentors can qualify to receive USD $500.

Creating Community Spaces for Healthy Food Patterns
This intervention with the Jamaica Council of Churches seeks to empower public health nurses (PHNs) to support health activities within their churches like (1) supporting congregations to share Bible Studies / Sermons; (2) assessing and supporting their church capacity for promoting healthy eating, PHN recruitment is currently ongoing; JCC and FaN are also working to enhance churches capacity to identify and intervene with their vulnerable populations.

Promotion
To involve as many people as possible in our Women’s Farmers Academy (WFA) and F4CC Story Writing Competition we have (1) designed and shared toolkits with the media across our study countries, (2) partnered with civil society actors to disseminate our recruitment materials, (3) done radio interviews in SVG and SKN, and (4) leveraged the web and social media using carefully designed posts.

FaN PROJECT TEAM SPOTLIGHT
On July 25th Professor Alafia Samuels joined a panel of distinguished public health specialists as part of the Jamaica Observer’s Your Health Your Wealth series. Under the theme, NCDs, COVID-19 and the Way Forward, Prof. Samuels shared that (1) due to unhealthy diets, premature mortality (death before aged 70 years) from NCDs was 3 times more likely in some Caribbean countries than in North America; and the presence of comorbidities has increased COVID-related deaths in persons as young as 40; (2) only 15% of Jamaicans who suffer from high blood pressure have it controlled to target; the remaining 85% are at greater risk for strokes, heart attacks etc. Empowering people to make healthier choices requires policy action that curbs aggressive marketing of unhealthy foods. Graphic front-of-package warning labels and taxation were mentioned as solutions.

Did you know?
The UWI Faculty of Food and Agriculture is celebrating 100 years of agricultural education in the region.

Website: https://food4changecaribbean.org | Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Food4ChangeCaribbean

This work is carried out with aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada.