

This spot could be yours.

Contact Our Advertising Dept

Tel: +1.246.467.2024/2030

Email: sclarke@barbadosadvocate.com

ID25



**RESERVE
THIS SPACE**

ID26

Today's Paper

Local News

Editorial

Business

Sports

Business Monday

Hello! Magazine

Subscription

Top News > [local](#)



David Bynoe, National Co-ordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme of the UNDP, presents John Hunte (right), Secretary of the Organic Growers and Consumers Association (OGCA), with a cheque for \$50 000 to assist with the 'Organic Certification for Organic Farmers in Barbados' project.

[te!](#) & Share

Organic farmers to be certified

9/16/2014

By Regina Selman Moore

A move is on to ensure that organic farming practices are better regulated in Barbados and farmers involved in organic agriculture are certified to do the job.

A project entitled "Organic Certification for Organic Farmers in Barbados", which is being funded by the UNDP (the United Nations Development Programme) and implemented by the Organic Growers and Consumers Association (OGCA), was launched yesterday at the Bellairs Research Institute, located in Folkstone, St. James and John Hunte, Secretary of OGCA and President of the UNDP Project Management Committee, explained the rationale for such an initiative.

"There is a lack of a method to implement a recognised, certifiable qualification for organic farming in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. The major organic agricultural association in Barbados, the OGCA, has no tangible means to verify the practices of their growers..." he noted.

"This challenge is compounded by the lack of a credible, sufficiently independent entity responsible for conducting inspections and awarding organic certification to existing organic growers and farmers wishing to convert to organic agriculture," Hunte added.

Noting that the term "organic" has become a buzzword among vendors and even conventional farmers, Hunte stressed that the term can be used as a marketing tool to mislead consumers into purchasing non-organic products.

"The ability to use the term 'organic', without any qualifying certificate of verification, undermines the value and integrity of the true organic grower and the whole system by which that grower assists in sound environmental practices," Hunte stressed.

Meanwhile, Hunte revealed that Barbados, through the Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI), has already adopted a version of organic standards, based on the internationally acclaimed CODEX guidelines for organic farming, but has not developed the system for delivery of inspections and certification of these standards.

The system for the award of a certificate of compliance also has to be above repute, Hunte said, and therefore calls for an entity or body, other than the OGCA, to organise and conduct inspections, review the inspection report and offer a certificate with a logo or design that can be used on packaging or at points of sale.

"This physical certificate and logo becomes the consumers guarantee of authenticity and also becomes a marketing tool that all growers can aspire to achieve, rather than claim without merit," Hunte maintained.

Meanwhile, David Bynoe, National Co-ordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme of the UNDP, has noted that the project seeks to have in place a national organic inspection and certification system, allowing local organic farmers to be certified as organic. Its objectives include training persons as farm inspectors, inspection record keeping, developing an organic farm training module for growers and consumers alike, and promoting the authentic organic brand. Bynoe later presented a cheque for \$50 000 to the OGCA, to assist with the project.

Stakeholders endorsing the programme included Ena Harvey, Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA) representative for Barbados and Management Co-ordinator for the Caribbean Region; Roosevelt King, Secretary General of the Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (BANGO); and Susan Mahon, Academic and Managing Director of the Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University.

[Email us your comments.](#) | [Top](#)

ADVERTISE
WITH US

Bridgetown, Barbados

29°C
Mostly Cloudy

[Hour-by-hour](#) | [10-day](#)

Enter city or U.S.zip

GO

So Many Reasons to Stay Connected.

Registration is Free
and Easy. [Register Now.](#)

**NETWORK
BARBADOS**