

Conférence du mardi 27 novembre 2001, 11h00 :

**Réseau « observatoire phytosanitaire et
agrumiculture dans la Caraïbe »**

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Résumé en anglais :

Caribbean citrus phytosanitary group : an integrated effort to improve the sanitary safety and cooperation in the caribbean area.

The efficiency of citrus production in the region is threatened by the rapid dissemination of several diseases with a high destructive potential and the invasion of vectors of other diseases present or not on the area. Dissemination of *Toxoptera citricida* throughout the Caribbean islands ; irruption of Citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri*) in Florida ; invasion of *Diaphorina citri*, vector of the Huanglongbing in some of our countries and the recent report of citrus variegated chlorosis (*Xylella fastidiosa*) in Costa Rica are some of the most important problems at the moment

At the time, all the diseases that are transmitted through grafting and by incorrect nursery practices (psorosis, exocortis, concave gum, gummosis, xyloporosis and many others) cause also important losses

The majority of Caribbean countries do not have the capacity nowadays to solve this situation and avoid great losses.

Promoted by Cirad, French authorities and Caribbean participants of the regional phytosanitary workshop on citrus (november, 2000), the Caribbean Citrus Phytosanitary Group had been created in april, 2001, coordinate by IACNET. Main objectives of this technical cooperation group are directed to prevent the introduction and the spread of emerging and important pests between Caribbean countries and to strengthen technical capacities in our countries related to prevention, diagnostic and control of phytosanitary citrus problems.

Identification of our problems and requirements in terms of phytosanitary conditions and formation had been already done as well as a course on citrus certification. New immediate tasks will be present in this seminar. For accomplishing them, collaboration and support of French authorities, regional and international organizations are required