Introduction

This paper examines the state of trade research in the Commonwealth Caribbean, from the angle of its contribution to an effective integration of those economies in the international system. It was prepared on the basis of a literature review, a survey/questionnaire, and interviews with key informants. The introduction considers why increasing attention is being given to building developing countries’ trade capacities and what this means specifically for trade policy research. In order to establish some context, the first section outlines some of the trade policy issues confronting the Commonwealth Caribbean today. The second section reviews recent, current and planned trade research in this region. The third section provides an assessment of the institutional strengths and weaknesses of Caribbean trade policy research. In addition to the bibliography, Annex 1 provides examples of current TRTA in the region.

While there is still a debate about the exact role that trade plays in poverty reduction, it is clear that many developing countries would benefit from increasing their capacities in the area of international trade. In early years, foreign assistance focussed on helping countries to remove the physical and institutional constraints on trade – e.g. through building roads, improving quality control of exports, enhancing productivity through the development of high yield varieties. Subsequently considerable attention was paid to the characteristics of export markets (e.g. through market surveys). Assistance began to address market access issues during the Uruguay Round of international trade negotiations, as developing country officials sought to improve their export earnings by requesting the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers in developed country markets.

When the issue of structural adjustment in developing countries was put on the table, the costs and benefits of domestic policies had to be assessed. The task has become more complex as the scope of policies considered to affect trade – and therefore the subject of international trade negotiations and rules – has broadened, while the fora in which trade agreements are negotiated (bilateral, regional and multilateral) have proliferated. It is recognized that the process of trade policy making can contribute to its success – or failure; engagement with the various actors within government and outside can be critical.

In brief, the point to be made here is that the definition of trade capacity has changed over time, and with it the scope of trade capacity needs and donor intervention. In the recent OECD publication, *The DAC Guidelines. Strengthening Trade Capacity for Development* (2001), a distinction is made between:

1 This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the IDRC. The authors wish to thank all the respondents who filled the questionnaires and answered to our questions. Their comments and contributions were essential to this project.

Creating and sustaining trade-friendly economic policy environments
Formulating and executing trade policy and negotiating and implementing trade agreements
Promoting competitiveness in the enterprise sector through the production of exportable goods and services
Improving trade and investment facilitation and support
Understanding international market requirements (e.g. standards, rules of origin).

In this review, we are concerned more to identify the capacities and gaps in the trade policy research area, rather than capacities in firm-level production, or infrastructure and broader facilitation. We are interested in institutional and human capacities rather than physical capacity. Nonetheless we make brief reference to these other areas, as some donors have included them in the scope of their TRTA in the Caribbean region.

1. Trade policy in the Commonwealth Caribbean

The Commonwealth Caribbean economies are heavily dependent on trade and to promote these trade interests they are party to several trade agreements and frequently involved in trade negotiations. In order to contextualize the region’s trade research needs, this section provides a brief overview of recent trade policy developments involving the Caribbean.

In many ways, the region is at a cross-road; integration within the Caribbean is slow, but negotiation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is moving ahead with 2005 as the target for the new agreement entering into force. Between them, the United States and Canada absorb the largest share (more than 40%) of Caribbean exports. The results of the FTAA will be of crucial importance in terms of market access. While it will lead to further erosion of the preferences they have been granted in the US and Canada under the Caribbean Basin Initiative and CARIBCAN, it could also mean better access in many sectors. On the other hand, the eventual elimination of what are still relatively high tariffs on Caribbean imports may seriously affect government revenues while also presenting adjustment problems to some sectors. Even though the Caribbean has been moving away from import substitution, the trade regime is still far from being fully open and some governments remain heavily dependent on tariffs for fiscal revenue.

The second largest trading partner of the region, the EU, is also in the process of reviewing its trade relationships. The preferential treatment granted under the Lomé Convention (1975-2000) has been extended under the Cotonou Agreement until 2008. The EU intends subsequent relationships with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states to be based, in much greater part, on reciprocity than on preferential treatment. How should these trade arrangements be designed?

Finally, a new multilateral round of trade negotiations has been launched at the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be completed by 2005. What are the Caribbean’s trade priorities, and what should be their objectives and strategies for these negotiations? These are only a few of the questions which policymakers need to confront.

CARICOM

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was established in 1973 as a regional integration project bringing together all Commonwealth Caribbean countries, and later including some other regional

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3 This should include all tradeables not just exports.
The first focus of CARICOM is to reduce and eliminate the tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to merchandise trade within the region. This goal has mostly been achieved, resulting in steady growth of intra-CARICOM trade in the 1990s. Nevertheless, intra-CARICOM trade still accounts for a small part of these countries’ exports (on average 22.2% in 1998 – for individual members, the shares ranged from 3.3% to 43.3%).

In 1991, CARICOM established a common external tariff (CET). This customs union sought to lower external tariffs to a ceiling of 20% (from 70% in 1991) and an unweighted average tariff rate of 10% (from 20% in 1991). Despite these changes, agricultural imports continue to face high average tariffs relative to international levels and a number of NTBs, such as import licensing, throughout the region. Finally, there are so many variations and exceptions allowed to the CET that, in practice, trade policy differs from one member to another.

In 1989, the CARICOM heads of government agreed to establish a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The revision of CARICOM treaties to create a common market was completed in March 2000 and resulted in nine new protocols for integration. Some of these protocols entered into provisional application before 2000. For instance, in 1998, CARICOM's Protocol II on services entered into force – the most important advance toward the creation of the single market (Coke Hamilton, 2000). It allows the right of establishment and the right to provide services, move capital and skilled labour for any CARICOM national wishing to provide services within the community.

However, several obstacles to trade in services as well as in labour and capital mobility prevent regional economic integration. Indeed, even if these protocols have been adopted, there are several problems facing their implementation. A flagrant example of the deficiencies of the integration project is the lack of labour mobility provisions for most CARICOM citizens. Only university graduates are allowed free movement within the region (i.e. this category of workers does not require work permits) in addition to the service providers covered under Protocol II. In March 2002, CARICOM members established a 3-year timetable for the removal of remaining restrictions on the movement of nationals to provide services, move capital and establish businesses in other CARICOM countries.

There are several factors behind CARICOM’s weak economic integration, notably the divergence in members' interests and objectives. CARICOM "has not become an integral part of the political environment of its member states. CARICOM's policymaking often proceeds in isolation, accompanied by governmental disengagement and polite disinterest on the part of the region's public. According to some critics, the structure of CARICOM remains elitist and designed to serve sectional interests at the expense of mass involvement" (Bryan and Bryan, 1999, p.7). Moreover, the institution lacks implementation and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the treaties and protocols adopted at the regional level become actual policies at the national level. Attempts to reform CARICOM’s institutional structure have yet to produce results.7

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4 CARICOM was founded in 1973 by Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Montserrat. Suriname joined in 1995 and Haiti in 1997. Bahamas is a member of CARICOM but not of the Common Market.


7 In order to provide institutional support for the implementation, CARICOM heads of government agreed in 2000 to create a number of national and regional committees to supervise the reforms. At the national level, "Member States would establish Inter-Ministerial Consultative Committees and would encourage the establishment of business and labour advisory committees. [At the regional level] they established a Prime-Ministerial Sub-Committee for the CSME to give impetus to its establishment and operation. The Sub-Committee would be supported by a Technical Advisory Council comprising members from regional institutions and civil society, private
One facet of the CSME is the coordination of the members’ external economic relations. To this effect, CARICOM created in 1997 a unit for external trade policy coordination, the Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM), with offices in the Caribbean, Geneva and Brussels. Its role is to develop common positions and strategies for CARICOM members. In October 2001, the RNM was consolidated for financial and functional reasons, with Richard Bernal becoming the Director General. A number of Ministerial Spokespersons were appointed from different countries, one each to lead CARICOM in negotiations in the WTO, the FTAA, with the EU/ACP and bilateral/sub-regional agreements. The Ministers will be supported by RNM technical advisors (one each for the WTO, FTAA and EU/ACP) as well as a group of voluntary, high-level, associates. Overall supervision of CARICOM external negotiations has been given to the Prime Minister of Jamaica (Field-Ridley, 2001, p.7). As discussed further below, the RNM has also commissioned a series of research and policy papers, and organized training seminars and workshops for the region’s trade policy-makers and negotiators.

CARICOM is also pursuing coordination of trade and other policies (environment, infrastructure, etc) with other countries in the Greater Caribbean, both under the Association of Caribbean States and through bilateral agreements, such as the CARICOM FTA with the Dominican Republic, which came into effect in 2001-02, and preferential trade arrangements with Venezuela and Colombia from the mid-1990s, and Cuba. Some of these efforts have been problematic as recent disagreements arising from DR exports of citrus fruit illustrate. Nonetheless further CARICOM agreements (with the Andean Community, Chile and Central America) are also proposed.

A sub-set of CARICOM, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), has been somewhat more successful at coordinating their economic policies. They have a common Central Bank and currency. From March 2002, they have allowed the free movement of OECS people. With the assistance of the OECS Secretariat, they meet regularly to discuss issues of common concern and scope for joint action, as in the case of trade policy. They have agreed to joint representation at the WTO through a Joint OECS mission in Geneva as well as at the EU in Brussels. In 2001, the OECS experienced its first WTO trade policy review, and one conclusion to emerge was the need for further harmonization of the sub-region’s trade policies. Particular concerns for the OECS have been their small size, dependence on banana exports, and the scope for replacing these with exports of services (tourism, financial services) as their preferential access to the EU is phased out.

FTAA

In 1994, political leaders from the Western Hemisphere met in Miami and launched negotiations toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The negotiations cover a wide range of issues: market access; investment; sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures; subsidies, antidumping and countervailing duties; government procurement; intellectual property rights; services; and, competition policy. The objective is adopt an agreement in 2005 which will remove all barriers to trade and investment in the hemisphere.
Caribbean countries are involved in these negotiations. Their biggest challenge in this process has been to convince the other parties of the principle of special treatment for smaller economies. Indeed, the FTAA may entail economic shocks for the region, and the Caribbean needs transitional arrangements to face and adjust to them. Within the FTAA process, the Caribbean has made efforts to ensure that its particular economic and fiscal problems are reflected in the rules that are being negotiated. But, these efforts have run into difficulties because both developed, and some developing countries, have challenged the assumption that smaller economies need special measures.

A FTAA working group on smaller economies was originally created, within which the Caribbean and Central American countries proposed ways to address their particular needs, such as a waiver of the requirement for full reciprocity or a longer transition period for the implementation of the agreement. In 1998, this was converted to a consultative group responsible for making recommendations to the Trade Negotiations Committee. The current discussions for special treatment focus on technical assistance for negotiations and implementation and a transition period for the implementation of some specific provisions of the FTAA. Given the new institutional structure, some analysts fear that "the realities of bargaining power mean that the group of smaller economies could find themselves in the role of spectators to the negotiations of the major players" (Bryan and Bryan, 1999, p.13).

**US Caribbean Basin Initiative**

In 1984, the United States adopted the Caribbean Basic Initiative (CBI) which offers duty-free access to Caribbean and Central American countries for a large number of goods produced in the region. In 1995, 20% of US imports from the region were covered by this preferential treatment. Apparel products, which were not covered by the CBI, were charged duties only on the value-added to US inputs during their assembly in the Caribbean. This so-called "production sharing program" covered 37% of US imports from the Caribbean Basin. The remaining imports came in duty-free, under MFN treatment or GSP, or faced low duties (such as petroleum products from Trinidad) (Jessen and Rodriguez, 1999, p.25).

After NAFTA came into force in 1994, Mexico was given preferential treatment compared to the Caribbean countries. This may have contributed to the gradual decline in CARICOM manufacturing exports from 1995 when they peaked at $531 mn (up from $284 mn in 1990) (Caribbean Trade and Investment Report, 2000, p.4). In order to prevent trade diversion, especially in the garment industry, the Caribbean countries requested "NAFTA parity" from the US government, i.e. access to the US markets on terms similar to Mexico. Only in May 2000 did the US Congress adopt legislation expanding CBERA to include textiles and clothing, and all other previously excluded products, subject to strict rules of origin. However, the new Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) in effect since October 2000 does not amount to NAFTA parity (Leon and Salazar-Xirinachs, 2001), as the duty-free treatment for some of these products is limited by a tariff-rate quota. Also, it will expire in 2008 or when the FTAA enters into force. Some CBI countries are therefore pursuing FTAs with the US in order to secure full NAFTA parity.

**CARIBCAN**

Most exports to Canada have enjoyed special duty-free treatment under CARIBCAN, a program dating from 1986. It has been extended to 2006 and expanded to incorporate some new products. But a number of key items like clothing and footwear remain excluded. It is for these items that CARICOM is now seeking parity with Mexico in the Canadian market through the negotiation of a FTA with Canada. In the meantime, as little as 7.5% of CARICOM exports to Canada in 1998 entered under CARIBCAN.\(^\text{12}\)

\(^{12}\) The bulk of exports to Canada are duty-free on a MFN basis; only 4% are dutiable. WT/L/323, 22 October 1999.
Lomé Convention

For almost 25 years, Caribbean products have had a privileged, duty-free access to the EU. Indeed, the EU had granted such preferential treatment to its former colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP countries) under the Lomé Convention (from 1975). In 2000, the successor to the Lomé Convention – the Cotonou Agreement -- marked a significant change in ACP-EU trade relations. Since 1975, the Lomé Convention had been based mostly on non-reciprocal trade preferences granted by the EU. In the Cotonou Agreement, the parties agreed to negotiate regional economic partnership agreements – i.e. a form of regional FTA, based on reciprocity and compatibility with WTO rules (a waiver was needed for the earlier preferential arrangements which violated WTO rules of non-discrimination). The negotiation of the new agreements is to begin in September 2002 and they are to enter into force in 2008. During the preparatory period (2001-2007), non-reciprocal trade preferences will continue to be applied. Those ACP countries which are least-developed (LDCs) will not be required to conform to the same reciprocity principle, while non-LDCs may explore arrangements outside of a Free Trade Area with the EU, if they so desire. Otherwise, from 2008 they will start on a transitional phase towards free trade with the EU. As members of the ACP group, Caribbean countries will have to participate in these negotiations and assess what are their specific interests and objectives.13

Even though the EU as a whole accounts for some 19% of CARICOM exports (compared to 38% for the US and 5% for Canada) the future of relations with the EU is critical for certain countries and commodity sectors.14 In particular, the EU absorbs a large share of CARICOM banana, sugar and rum exports as a result of special protocols for these products. Already there is considerable concern about how to respond to the EU’s new banana regime, resulting from the WTO dispute (see below). There has been less use of EU preferences for other products except by Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica.

WTO

All CARICOM countries are members of the World Trade Organization, except for the Bahamas which began the process of accession in 2001. For the region, besides the Cotonou waiver, the two major WTO issues of concern to the Caribbean in recent years are the dispute over Caribbean bananas special access to the European market and the launch of a new round of multilateral negotiations.

In 1995, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the US brought a WTO challenge against the EU’s preferential treatment for ACP bananas. The dispute settlement body ruled in 1997 that this treatment had to be modified. The EU’s initial response led to a further dispute, on the grounds that its measures did not adequately change the preferential quotas and licensing system for banana imports. The regime finally adopted in 2001 will have major consequences for the Caribbean region. Indeed, EU preferences were essential for the Caribbean banana farmers, as their production costs are much higher than the Central-America based and US-owned producers, given differences in size, climate and terrain.

Beginning in 2006, the EU preferential regime will be based on a single tariff (as opposed to a two-tier tariff with a prohibitive tariff applied above a certain quota) which most likely will not give a sufficient margin for the Caribbean producers to compete. The economies of several small islands such as Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent are highly dependent on banana exports (with bananas accounting for 16% of St. Lucia’s GDP and 17% for St. Vincent and Dominica). Therefore, the issue of the transition toward the new regime is a crucial one which CARICOM will have to address.

14 Caricom Secretariat website at http://www.caricom.org/statistics/tables/tablevii.htm
In addition to finding ways to deal with the consequences of the banana dispute, the Caribbean countries have to spend resources on the new WTO negotiations launched at the fourth Ministerial meeting in Doha in November 2001. Many Caribbean countries expressed strong reservations about a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Along with many other developing countries, they complained that the promises of increased market access to be derived from the previous, Uruguay, Round, had not been realized, whereas they had experienced high costs of implementing its various provisions. Indeed, many Caribbean countries have encountered problems in the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements, i.e. changing national legislation, creating agencies to enforce them, etc. They also experienced difficulties meeting their WTO notification requirements because of inadequate human resources and infrastructure.

Given these problems and the resources needed for Caribbean countries to participate in negotiations covering a wide range of issues, their representatives were opposed to the launch of a broad round. For instance, in 2001, before the WTO Ministerial, Ambassador Ransford Smith of Jamaica declared that, “The best interests of this Organization and its membership will not be served by simply expanding its work programme”. He stressed that "among the issues posed are the sheer human resource and technical demands; in an area such as competition policy, as many as eighty or more developing countries presently have no national competition policy legislation or the associated experience in administering such legislation, yet might be called upon to negotiate this issue at the multilateral level" (RNM update, 0118). The Ambassador proposed that, instead of a new round, the WTO focus on the ongoing negotiations on services and agriculture and assess the impact of existing trade agreements.

Despite opposition and reluctance from many developing countries including the Caribbean, a new round was launched in Doha in November 2001, covering a wide range of issues such as investment, competition policy, trade facilitation and procurement. One element of the final WTO Ministerial decision, which was strongly supported by the Caribbean countries, is a new work program which will examine ways to ensure small and vulnerable economies are more fully integrated into the multilateral trading system, without creating a new sub-category of WTO members (para. 35). How to engage in these multiple discussions and negotiations at the WTO? The Caribbean countries have yet to answer this question.

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15 A Communiqué issued by the OECS-WTO Members on June 7, 2001 stated that they are "keenly aware that efforts are being made to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. They feel that they cannot justify their unequivocal support to this initiative unless the problems of implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and Decisions raised by developing countries, including the special circumstances of small island developing states, are satisfactorily addressed and resolved." OECS web-site

16 For the complete text of the Ministerial declaration:
http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/min01_e.htm
2. Recent, current and planned trade research

We can distinguish three main groups of researchers on trade issues in the Caribbean. First, academic researchers are based in one of the three campuses of the University of the West Indies – Mona (Jamaica), Cave Hill (Barbados) and St. Augustine (Trinidad) – as well as the University of Guyana. In addition, some sources suggest that it would be appropriate to include Caribbean researchers working in universities outside the region, notably in the US, given the high degree of mobility of Caribbean researchers between the US and Caribbean university system. We make some references to this ‘diaspora’ capacity below, although it falls outside of our terms of reference and should generally be considered less accessible to Caribbean policy makers.

Second, are the researchers in the non-academic, non-governmental sector, including both researchers affiliated with NGOs such as the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), those working in the private sector (Chambers of Commerce etc) and independent consultants.

Third, there are trade researchers in governments and a number of Caribbean regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organizations, such as the Caribbean Development Bank.

As elaborated below, the distinction between these various categories is difficult at times as some researchers move between all three. A number of academics do research for governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector organizations and companies, and NGOs.

2.1 Research undertaken in Caribbean universities

The following table lists the university-based researchers who have recently undertaken and/or are presently doing work that relates to trade issues. We have not been able to make contact with all the researchers in the list, so it is possible that they are no longer active in the trade area. But given their recent involvement, typically through published work on trade, we thought their names should be included.

Broadly this work can be divided into five categories. Some researchers are addressing the relationships between trade liberalization, structural adjustment and poverty; others are concerned with the particular issues of regional integration; a third group is considering economic competitiveness of particular countries/sectors; a fourth group is examining issues of the mobility of labour and capital; and finally there is a group addressing the newer issues of environment and competition policy.

Some of the research is more academic – i.e. there is less consideration given to the implications of/for public policy, let alone the particular needs of trade negotiators. Conversely, some of the research is much more geared to policy-makers, with little consideration of theoretical aspects.

While much of the research is being undertaken by economists and political scientists, administration and business specialists as well as lawyers are also involved.

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17 In fact, mobility is so high that some of the information here, which was collected in January 2002, is already out of date.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the researcher</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Benn</td>
<td>UWI, Mona, Jamaica</td>
<td>Integration studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Boodoo</td>
<td>UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Caribbean integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Birchwood</td>
<td>Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Caribbean integration</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Burris</td>
<td>UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Trade liberalization and structural adjustment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neville Duncan</td>
<td>UWI Mona, Jamaica</td>
<td>Caribbean integration, poverty, public policy</td>
<td>Political science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Downes</td>
<td>UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados</td>
<td>Labour market</td>
<td>Econometrics, Labour economics, Economics of business decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevor Farrel</td>
<td>UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Monetary policy, financial services</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyrone Ferguson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional integration, Cuba</td>
<td>Political economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Gonzales</td>
<td>IIR, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (and Senior Associate, RNM)</td>
<td>General trade policy, regional agreements and integration</td>
<td>Political science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neville Hall</td>
<td>UWI, Mona, Jamaica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damien King</td>
<td>UWI, Mona, Jamaica</td>
<td>Trade liberalisation and structural adjustment</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don D. Marshall</td>
<td>SALISER, UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados</td>
<td>FTAA, NAFTA OECS private sector and government export readiness</td>
<td>Political economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelton Nicholls</td>
<td>Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies, UWI, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Caribbean integration, commodity trade</td>
<td>Trade economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Nurse</td>
<td>IIR, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Trade and industrial policy, cultural industries, festival tourism, broadcasting and WTO</td>
<td>Political science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Pantin</td>
<td>Dept. of Economics, and Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU), UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.</td>
<td>Sustainable Economic Development in Small &amp; Island Developing States.</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramesh Ramsaran</td>
<td>UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Caribbean economic policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon Shirley</td>
<td>UWI, Mona, Jamaica</td>
<td>Competitiveness, export readiness</td>
<td>Management studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taimoon Stewart</td>
<td>UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Competition policy in WTO and FTAA negotiations Trade-related environmental issues and IP issues (patents)</td>
<td>International Political Economy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There is no particular centre for trade research in the region – even at the Institute for International Relations (IIR) at UWI, while there are a number of researchers doing trade-related research, this does not appear to have been the result of a strategic decision to focus on trade, although this may happen in the future (as discussed further in Section 3).

An Agricultural Trade Negotiating Unit (ATNU) has been set up at UWI St. Augustine, in collaboration with the RNM, and headed by Patrick Antoine, RNM senior advisor on agriculture. Finance and other support is being provided for an initial three-year period by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), UWI and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The ATNU will provide technical support to the RNM and national governments for agricultural negotiations (WTO, FTAA and ACP-EU) and for other national agricultural issues. It will also work closely with the region’s agribusinesses.

The Caribbean Law Institute at UWI Cave Hill, headed by Prof. Ralph Carnegie, has received USAID funding to work on reform and harmonization of the region’s commercial laws, to facilitate the integration and liberalization process. It is possible that the Institute might also get more involved in trade law issues.

### 2.2. Research undertaken by Caribbean NGOs and private sector

A number of Caribbean NGOs have become involved in discussions about trade policies, how they are made, and the implications for poverty reduction efforts in the region. In order to inform their public consultations and advocacy, they have undertaken research (typically secondary research).

The Caribbean Reference Group on External Affairs (CRG) brings together eight organizations, representing over 1,000 national and community-based organizations. Besides the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) which acts as coordinator, these are the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), the Centro de Investigaciones para el Caribe (CIECA) based in the Dominican Republic, the Association of Caribbean Economists (ACE), the Association of Development Agencies (ADA) in Jamaica, the Haitian Platform for Alternative Development (PAPDA) in Haiti, and the Windward Islands Farmers Association (WINFA). CRG is particularly concerned to ensure effective NGO, labour and academic participation in the region’s trade negotiations (e.g. under the FTAA) (CRG, 2001, p. 3). To this end, it has commissioned research papers by researchers affiliated with ACE, on options for the banana industry, reforming the WTO, and the impact of trade liberalization on the region’s economies and peoples. These were used in two sub-regional
consultations with CSOs to develop policy recommendations for the region’s trade negotiators. This work received financial support from OXFAM Great Britain, NOVIB and OXFAM Canada.

CPDC has also received funding from CIDA to organize a series of national consultations, to increase public awareness of international trade agreements and negotiations, and to influence trade policy-makers. This will draw on existing research rather than generating any new research activities.

At the same time, CPDC is working with Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and Caribbean members of the International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN), and others, to bring a gender perspective to discussions and research on trade. IGTN-Caribbean has commissioned a literature review of Caribbean research on trade, focusing on food security and the WTO rules on agriculture, national compliance with TRIPs, the implementation of GATS, and investment policies. The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) has approached CIDA for funding to support the development of gender indicators for measuring the impact of trade on women and their households. DAWN-International provided $10,000 in seed money for research on land tenure, gender and trade policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Sinckler, Celcia Babb, Shantal Munro-Knight</td>
<td>Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)</td>
<td>Cotonou, FTAA, WTO Bananas and WTO Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelcia Robinson</td>
<td>Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)</td>
<td>Impact of trade agreements and liberalization on women, Lomé Convention and participation of women in negotiation processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariama Williams</td>
<td>Institute for Law and Economics, Jamaica, DAWN-Caribbean (and International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN), Center of Concern, Washington DC, US)</td>
<td>Gender and trade; Trade in services; WTO, Lomé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association</td>
<td>Industrial competitiveness; online database on trade agreements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce</td>
<td>Business attitudes on trade issues; Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Caribbean Transnational Conference (Caribtran)</td>
<td>CSME; regional integration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the private sector in the Caribbean, there is also considerable interest in the consequences of the changing global and regional trade environment. This has led to various initiatives. For instance, CIDA is supporting the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association to participate in trade negotiations over market access, agriculture, anti-dumping and competition policy. Besides a number of workshops, the dissemination of information via a website, on-line database on the country’s trade agreements, and a newsletter, a study of the industrial competitiveness is also planned.

Another CIDA project, with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Trinidad and Tobago, will create a unit to do trade policy research, dissemination and capacity-building focusing on services. While some work will be done by Dorothy Riddle (a services analyst based in Canada), it is expected national

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18 The recommendations are included in CRG 2001 and cover topics ranging from labour and environment to competition policy.
researchers will also play a role. The project will also involve surveys of business attitudes on trade issues.

Finally, the aim of the Caribbean Transnational Conference (Caribtran) is to create an annual conference at which issues relating to the formation of the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) can be discussed. Research papers would be prepared as the basis for the conference, which would bring together CEOs of the largest companies operating in the region, as well as leaders of regional trade unions, private sector and other civil society organizations, and trade ministers. This project is also receiving CIDA funding.

Besides these initiatives, there are efforts in both the universities and in public sector organizations to do research that will enhance private sector understanding of the challenges and opportunities arising from the changes in regional and international trade rules. For instance, at the IIR, MA students are encouraged to do studies advising the private sector on what is happening on particular issues at the WTO. The business/management departments have been done some work on issues of competitiveness and industrial strategy in response to global competition. The Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) has commissioned studies, for example on trade and economic cooperation between CARIFORUM and Cuba (Gonzales and Lewis 1998). It has done work for the CARICOM Secretariat on CARICOM/Andean Group trade, surveying views on bilateral trade promotion. It also uses its website to distribute studies on trade policy issues done for other organizations and a trade newsletter, Tradewatch.

Finally, there are a number of consulting firms that do trade research, such as GSR Associates in Trinidad.19

### 2.3 Research undertaken in Caribbean governments and inter-governmental organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Antoine</td>
<td>RNM, Lead technical advisor</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Bernal</td>
<td>RNM, Head</td>
<td>General trade policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nand Bardouille</td>
<td>OECS Economic Affairs Division</td>
<td>General trade policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compton Bourne</td>
<td>Caribbean Development Bank (ex-UWI Trinidad)</td>
<td>Public finance, development economics, general trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Colthrust</td>
<td>Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desiree Field-Ridley</td>
<td>CARICOM Secretariat</td>
<td>General trade policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Gill</td>
<td>RNM (ex-UWI Trinidad)</td>
<td>EU-ACP; general trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman Girvan</td>
<td>ACS (ex-UWI Jamaica)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denny Lewis</td>
<td>Central Bank of Barbados</td>
<td>Export specialization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Coke-Hamilton</td>
<td>RNM technical advisor</td>
<td>Trade law, Services; Smaller economies; Government procurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alister McIntyre</td>
<td>Distinguished associate, RNM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arnold McIntyre</td>
<td>Lead advisor, RNM*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughn Renwick</td>
<td>Caribbean Export Development Agency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Spence</td>
<td>RNM technical advisor</td>
<td>Intellectual Property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) has become the leading official Caribbean organization, contributing to the Caribbean’s trade research capacity and output. It has received substantial funding from bilateral and multilateral donors to support a program of research, training, and communications. Some of this work (such as the website and the electronic newsletter) was suspended in late 2001-early 2002 for a variety of financial and administrative reasons. A shortfall in finance coupled with the completion of the first phase of some donor program funding, led to the RNM being restructured and the preparation of a new strategic plan.

It is not clear exactly how many research reports have been prepared for the RNM, nor on what subjects, as their distribution tends to be restricted to government officials, and there is no publicly available inventory of this work. As a result, only a few titles of RNM studies by Caribbean researchers are included in the list of references below. It seems that some 30-40 reports have been prepared, ranging from larger studies to shorter studies and technical papers. Much of the work has been done outside the region, but as many as 15-20 Caribbean researchers have also been involved, both preparing the reports and also discussing them in the series of small meetings (RNM “Reflection Groups”) organized for this purpose.

Training in the 1999-2001 period involved some 300 CARICOM officials participating in workshops on trade negotiating skills and on a range of specialized trade topics. In addition DFID and CIDA provided funds for a dozen or so younger professional trainees to do apprenticeships in trade negotiations and research by being affiliated to a national, regional or international organization involved in trade negotiations and by participating in training workshops.

The RNM’s communications activities have involved several lectures, papers and presentations at workshops, seminars, conferences, regional consultations and informal discussions, as well as the use of the RNM website and an electronic newsletter, RNM UPDATE.

At the same time there have been attempts to improve communication between the RNM’s different offices (within the region and Europe) and the trade ministries of the 14 CARICOM countries, with USAID providing computers and technical support. One result could be the more effective design and use of the research commissioned by the RNM. But the system has not yet been fully implemented.

The CARICOM Secretariat is also involved in much of the RNM work. For its own part, it continues to play a large role in the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. It publishes occasional reports on trade, such as the "Caribbean Trade and Investment Report 2000: dynamic interface of regionalism and globalisation". Some of its own staff prepare policy papers on trade issues for presentation at conferences. It also commissions reports – for instance, with IDB funding it is working with a team of international consultants on a series of diagnostic studies of implementation of certain WTO rules (TRIPs, TBT etc) in the region. In the mid-1990s it used CIDA funds under the CARICOM Regional Institutional Strengthening Project (CRISP) to commission a number of trade research reports (e.g. the GSR Associates report on the implications of NAFTA and the REDMA report on the Uruguay Round Agreements).

The OECS Secretariat publishes a monthly Trade Policy Brief, targeted at OECS member state trade policy-makers and the RNM, often drawing on the work of regional researchers. It has commissioned consultants to do trade research. For instance, in 2000, the Secretariat outsourced three reports on the post-Cotonou negotiations to researchers most of whom are based in the Caribbean region. Its capacity to support regional governments is being developed with technical assistance from CIDA, USAID and the WTO. USAID, supported by other US government agencies, has focussed on reforming the trade
environment through changes in telecommunications regulation, competition policy, commercial law, and SPS.

The OECS Secretariat was heavily involved in preparing and coordinating member governments for their first WTO trade policy review in 2001. At that time it was agreed that the WTO would help to build OECS capacity in the areas of customs administration and valuation, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, standards, and trade policy formulation and management. The Secretariat will work to harmonize OECS policies and practices in these areas and to develop a regional approach to negotiations.

Finally, within a number of the other regional organizations and national governments there are analysts with trade research experience, as indicated in the table above.

2.4 Other remarks

"It is important to point out that quite a lot of the current research on Caribbean trade is in fact conducted outside the region, by individual consultants or by institutions such as the CTPL in Canada, the University of Nottingham in the UK, the University of Miami, OAS, IDB, and ECLAC, to name a few."

In this section, we have listed some 40 people working in the Caribbean who have been associated in the recent past with some type of research relating to trade policy. The list is quite varied, both in terms of the nature of the work done (discipline and depth of research, link to trade policy considerations) and the availability of those people now to do longer-term research projects. Even taking into account the probability that there are others whose names should be added to this list, the general conclusion is that the capacity within the region is limited, and that is why a number of studies (as well as training activities and conferences) are still being done by researchers (trainers and conference organizers) from outside the Caribbean – these include some diaspora researchers (such as Anthony Bryan and David Lewis) as well as others based in the UK/Europe and North America.

The particular strengths and weaknesses of the research in the region, and priority areas for research, are discussed further in the following section.

3. Assessment of the institutional strengths and weaknesses of trade policy research

In this section we review the strengths and weaknesses of Caribbean trade policy research in terms of research collaboration and networks, the links between policymakers and researchers, funding, and areas/types of research.

3.1 Research collaboration and networks

"The RNM in particular is well integrated into the international research network, if informally. There needs to be more work on developing intraregional research and research by the private sector/NGO community. This is weak."

Despite its recent financial difficulties, the RNM appears to have been a good model, and one which other countries/regions are keen to replicate. Certainly it has fostered the networking of some Caribbean

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20 The quotes here and in later sections are from the interviews undertaken in the course of this survey.
researchers with each other, (as well as with regional policy-makers, on which see 3.2) and with researchers in trading partners, especially the EU and the US. The networking has been most effective for those within the RNM itself; or within the small circle that is involved in the Reflection Group meetings on a regular basis. But this still remains relatively exclusive. Not all trade researchers in the region have access to this network, whether they are in the university system or attached to civil society and private sector organizations.

Another problem is the lack of transparency and accessibility of the research produced for the RNM, CARICOM and the other official organizations. As many of the research reports have been prepared for use in the development of negotiating positions, they have not been published – there is no publicly available list of the studies done for the RNM and the CARICOM Secretariat, let alone for national governments or private sector organizations. As a result it is possible that there is a duplication of effort. Certainly it has been difficult if not impossible for researchers to build on the studies already undertaken by others on a consulting basis, nor has it been possible for civil society organizations to use these studies to inform their own advocacy work. The matter has been raised at meetings organized by NGOs and researchers, but it does not seem likely to be resolved in the near future. This underlines the need for research to be funded that would remain in the public domain.

The other networks within the region which address trade issues, amongst others, are the Association of Caribbean Economists, and those involved in the Caribbean Reference Group. These do not include all other trade researchers. Some researchers prefer to be associated with researchers in the same discipline in Northern countries (e.g. business researchers tend to mix more with business researchers in the US) rather than with others in the Caribbean.

In the greater Caribbean, the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Economicas y Sociales (CRIES) brings together groups from 14 countries including Barbados (the CPDC), Belize (the Society for the Promotion of Education and Research) and Trinidad and Tobago (Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development). CRIES has organized regional meetings to discuss various aspects of integration and the role played by civil society.

There are also networks that span the hemisphere that include the Commonwealth Caribbean region. For instance the OAS Trade Unit has created a network to bring together trade researchers from throughout the Americas (and a few others researching Americas trade issues) – known as NetAmericas. In some respects this is a network of networks, as it includes researchers involved in LATN, Red Mercosur and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)21. The aim is to facilitate and stimulate the exchange of research and discussion on research topics. The NetAmericas website22 has a password protected space for this purpose. Utilization is reportedly below expectations, and this is attributed to factors such as difficulties for some researchers in accessing the internet, and lack of time/habit. At present Richard Bernal is the only Caribbean researcher listed, though others have been contacted as part of an effort to expand membership. The network does not have a research fund, though it does organize conferences at which funds are given to researchers presenting papers are given. For instance the next conference in 2002 will focus on ‘Integrating the Americas’.

### 3.2 Links between policymakers and researchers

"There are very close links between researchers and policymakers. In fact, the well-known researchers often also hold a public position or act as advisors to public officials. This is particularly evident in the area of trade, where there are only few real specialists in the region."

21 There is only one Caribbean researcher listed as a member of LACEA, Damien King. http://www.lacea.org
22 http://www.netamericas.net
"We need a formal process to bring together thinkers who would examine what is the impact of trade policy on our economy and on our social policy. A lot of academic research is doing abstract modelling, it is not useful."

"There is not sufficient forward planning of research linked to policy issues."

"Increasingly policy makers are beginning to consult with non-governmental organizations and are receptive to our key recommendations for changes to existing WTO policy and repair of the impacts of WTO trade rules on Caribbean economies."

"The trade network needs to be institutionally based in order to have a longer-term impact."

There are close links between a number of key researchers and the policy makers in the region’s governments, as a result of the RNM, CARICOM and OECS initiatives. These linkages have been reinforced through various meetings e.g. of the RNM Reflection Group. The RNM communications system being developed with USAID support was also intended to strengthen these linkages, but it is still not operational.

Outside this inner circle, there are other researchers who have intermittent contact with governments, either at a national level, or regionally. Some of these contacts are short, but focussed on particular issues arising, for example, from sectoral research work. This type of networking has been enhanced by the large number of technical workshops in the region on a variety of trade-related issues, which are attended by officials (policy-makers and practicioners) as well as a few researchers working on those issues.23

Other contacts are more frequent but shallower – as in the case of the consultations bringing together policy makers and civil society organizations to discuss trade issues arising from negotiations about the WTO, FTAA and regional integration. As noted above, researchers are involved in a number of CSO activities concerning trade policy, and are often involved in these consultations. The RNM website was intended to build linkages between policymakers and the public, but this too remains underdeveloped.

A third group of researchers are not well known in policymaking circles. On the one hand, policymakers find their research too academic, i.e. too theoretical and/or removed from the immediate context of trade policy. On the other, some researchers are concerned that research for policymakers involves the lowering of academic standards; they prefer to concentrate their efforts on research that can be published in academic journals, and that can strengthen their connections to academic networks in their discipline, often outside the region.

3.3 Funding

"Not enough regional resources are being spent despite the fact that trade is so important for the region"

"Almost no funding is forthcoming from the Caribbean private and public sector for this kind of research. Funding is sourced from extra-regional governments and international aid agencies. Most of this funding comes to the region through government, labour and non-governmental organizations."

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23 A WTO-CARICOM memorandum of understanding on technical assistance for the period 2000-2002 stipulates that resource persons from the region are to be used wherever possible in workshops and seminars.
As the Annex Table shows, there has been considerable funding allocated to trade issues in the Caribbean by a variety of bilateral donors and international organizations. The bulk of this funding has been used for institutional capacity-building – e.g. training officials (actual or potential) through workshops, seminars and internship programs. There has also been considerable investment in developing the human and physical infrastructure needed to reinforce this capacity. Outreach to the private and civil society sectors has been another priority.

Some TRTA projects involve technical advice being provided to Caribbean government officials, drawing primarily on current regulation and practice in the donor country. Less attention is given to building up a policy research capacity within the official bodies being addressed let alone within the Caribbean university system, for instance, to consider whether alternative approaches might be more effective in the Caribbean context.

There are many seminars conducted in the region on trade issues, which can serve to stimulate research both in terms of highlighting areas where research is needed, networking, as well as in providing some funding (e.g. for researchers to prepare papers).

In the past, research was given fewer resources than training – as there was an urgent need to raise negotiating capacities. But there may be a case now for shifting resources from training to research. Several trade-relevant reports have been produced or are planned – ranging from diagnostic studies (e.g. of trade-related technical assistance needs) to analytical reports on Caribbean interests in particular trade negotiating issues, options for future trade relations with the EU etc. Some of this funding has been used to support work by Caribbean-based researchers, though a large amount has been spent outside the region. (The strengths and weaknesses of these reports, and areas for further research are elaborated further in the next section.)

Even if some academic researchers are involved in externally funded studies, they are often contracted as individuals to do work that is not in the public domain, and this limits the institutional strengthening impact of the funds. As a result there is a strong sense that funding in the region for independent, academic yet policy-relevant trade research is inadequate. The universities lack funding for research by faculty or by postgraduate students.

Funding is being made available to CSOs and the private sector to undertake some secondary research but in general the focus is more on consultation and communications activities, and (especially in the case of the private sector) some training. CSOs have found it difficult to raise funding for primary research – and especially the type of participatory research which many favour.

### 3.4 Areas/types of research

**What is missing:**

"Knowledge of the external environment -- an article on Caribbean agriculture reflected familiarity with the regional situation but little insight into how agriculture is dealt with in other developing countries and what other countries have done to improve their agricultural export performance."

"Research from a private sector standpoint - opportunities and threats"
"An important problem is the lack of good statistics... We need a formal process to bring together thinkers who would examine what is the impact of trade policy on our economy and on our social policy. A lot of academic research is doing abstract modelling, it is not useful. Research should be participatory, give space for the voices of the poor, social policy analysis and gender analysis."

"Sectoral studies... For example, we do not know what services liberalization means in terms of employment and social policy."

"Lack of vision, there are many negotiations going on: WTO, FTAA, Cotonou and the single market economy, but there is no clear prioritization of these."

"Gender dimensions of trade and sector focused research – tourism, manufacturing, exports, financial services, entertainment, technology, etc."

"Research units within the private sector, labour and non-governmental organizations to facilitate research as an ongoing investment of these institutions... UWI should design a specialized course in trade research and negotiation that can graduate competent students in 18-24 months."

"Prompt publication and dissemination of research findings."

"More substantive trade research is now needed."

Our discussions about future research prompted suggestions both about the types as well as the areas of research, and also about measures to enhance research capacity within the Caribbean.

In terms of the type of research, it seems that policymakers now have access to a number of larger studies on the key trade issues they need to understand for negotiating purposes. While there may still be a need for substantial studies on some of the newer issues on the negotiating agenda (see below), there is a case for placing more emphasis on shorter technical papers, to be used for advising negotiators.

At the same time, more resources should be given to longer term, independent trade-related research at the universities – to build up their institutional capacity to analyze the trade-driven shifts in the regional economies and to assess appropriate policy responses.

The suggestions for areas for research are wide-ranging – from sectoral, micro-level studies, to studies that examine gender-differentiated impacts, and new issues such as the Singapore issues, more detailed aspects of services trade such as health services and labour mobility. Data collection e.g. on the services sector is needed in many countries. There is more work to be done on older issues such as agriculture, S&D, and integration within the Americas. The Caribbean has been negotiating agreements with other regions in case the FTAA does not materialize. Lists of topics for research and/or technical notes have been drawn up by the ACP and Commonwealth Secretariats, but these are not publicly available.

There are various ways of ensuring that university research is more directly relevant to the regional trade policy community. One is to provide training to researchers, through the development of a MA program in trade. This is being considered within IIR, at UWI St. Augustine and also at UWI Mona. If a trade research fund were created, another strategy for ensuring policy relevance would be for a representative of the RNM to provide comments on the policy relevance of research proposals before these are selected.
4. Conclusions

There appears to be a significant need for trade research in the region. The need remains despite the series of activities and studies undertaken in recent years, especially after 1995, when it became clear that the Caribbean was faced with demands for rethinking its trade policies in response to changes in the WTO global trade rules, as well as changes in its relationships with the US (with NAFTA and the proposed FTAA) and with the EU (post-Lomé) and pressures for deepening integration within the Commonwealth Caribbean and broadening it to the Greater Caribbean. With the launching of a new round of WTO negotiations with a considerably broadened work agenda the demands for informed trade policy decision-making have increased yet again.

More importantly, it seems that the bulk of trade policy work in recent years has been more short-term, consultancy work rather than longer-term academic research. As outlined above, consulting can even be argued to have detracted from academic research. A key constraint is capacity to absorb research funding. There are a limited number of researchers working in areas relating to international trade.
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### Annex 2 Examples of TRTA in the Caribbean by Donor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Time frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>Regional Trade Policy Project</td>
<td>Capacity development inside and outside government to formulate trade policy options, negotiate, and comply with international agreements</td>
<td>C$ 5mn</td>
<td>5 years 2000-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 elements: RNM Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>C$2.5mn</td>
<td>2000-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CARICOM Support Responsive Fund</td>
<td>10-month professional trainee program</td>
<td>C$1mn</td>
<td>2001-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Support to private sector and civil society to do trade policy research</td>
<td>C$1.2mn</td>
<td>2000-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDA</td>
<td>OECS Trade Policy Assistance</td>
<td>Develop OECS trade strategy, meet WTO obligations, participate fully in FTAA negotiations</td>
<td>C$ 3mn</td>
<td>5 years 1999-04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Regional Trade Policy Capacity-building</td>
<td>Technical studies on key trade policy issues, technical expertise on negotiations, communications strategy, laptop computers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Business Linkages Challenge Fund</td>
<td>Promotes partnerships to enhance competitiveness and economic opportunities that benefit the poor</td>
<td>UKL 14.7 mn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td></td>
<td>Program via CARIFORUM to develop international competitiveness of the Caribbean rum industry</td>
<td>70m euro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDB</td>
<td>Support to RNM</td>
<td>Support with RNM functioning, (eg internal communications, coordination, logistical support), technical and negotiations training for officials</td>
<td>US$ 1.175mn</td>
<td>1998-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDB</td>
<td>WTO Implementation in CARICOM</td>
<td>Area-specific studies on implementation Support for recommended action (institutional reform, training)</td>
<td>US$ 0.55mn</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>TradeNet</td>
<td>Communications system</td>
<td>US$ 0.8mn</td>
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</table>

USAID Total estimated at $3 million
also known as Trade Information Network Virtual Secretariat to link ministries and RNM to provide public with trade information

USAID Caribbean Competition Policy Help countries improve enforcement of national laws, includes internships and conferences on competition law enforcement strategies

USAID Caribbean Agricultural Competitiveness Oecs

USAID Caribbean Agricultural Trade Policy Activity Oecs US$ 0.5mn

USAID Caribbean Law Institute Work with Attorneys General on commercial law reforms to support trade (including environmental law, competition law, dispute resolution) and to harmonize laws US$ 0.25mn

USAID Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards Compliance Developing protocols, fielding specialists to help countries assess safety systems and recommend policies/frameworks to meet international SPS

USAID Telecommunications design Assist OECS to open their telecommunications markets, set up common regulatory agency, workshops on regulation of e-commerce, Internet-based services

WTO Technical assistance 8 Caribbean regional and 6 national workshops on: Competition policy, Customs valuation, SPS/TBT Services, Trade negotiations, Mainstreaming trade Government procurement, Negotiations 2002

Sources: USAID 2001, WTO WT/COMTD/W/95/Rev.3, internal documents