



AUDIA BARNETT, Ph.D.
Representative to Canada

Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA)

Dr. Audia Barnett was appointed IICA Representative to Canada in October 2010. Based in Ottawa, her role includes forging technical co-operation alliances with Agricultural stakeholders in Canada towards fostering sustainable agriculture in the Americas.

She was previously the Executive Director of the Scientific Research Council (SRC), Jamaica, where she served with distinction for eight years. The SRC is the principal public sector agency responsible for undertaking, fostering and coordinating scientific research and development in Jamaica.

Prior to taking up her appointment as Executive Director of the SRC, Dr. Barnett was the Executive Director of the Secretariat for the National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST) of the Office of the Prime Minister in Jamaica. Her personal dynamism, experience and training have aptly equipped her to fulfil the mandate of IICA Canada.

Dr. Barnett has extensive experience in Food Science and Technology, having served as adjunct lecturer at the University of the West Indies as well as Consultant to the Food Industry for many years. She is the past Focal Point for the Inter-Governmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Convenor of the Food Safety Subcommittee of the National Food and Nutrition Committee of Jamaica, Vice President of the Jamaica Society of Scientists and Technologists as well as Professional Member of the Institute of Food Technologists (USA). She has also authored and published various peer-reviewed papers and articles for the public press.

Audia is a proud graduate of Wolmer's Girls' School, Kingston, Jamaica. She graduated from the University of the West Indies, with a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry; she also completed a M.Sc. degree in Food Science at the University of Alberta, Canada. Her interest in Biotechnology and its influence in the Life of Natural Sciences directed further studies culminating in a Ph.D. (Chemistry) from the University of the West Indies. She has also served as Research Fellow at the MIGAL Galilee Technological Centre (Israel) and the Agrotechnological Research Institute (The Netherlands).

She was appointed Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Technology, Jamaica, in 2007 and is the recipient of several awards and fellowships including the Pelican Award (UWI) and Fellow, Americas 2000 Project (Rice University, USA).

Audia Barnett is an Anglican and married with two sons.