

## TAA Caribbean Study Tour 2016

From the 1920s, the British Colonial Service and later the Ministry of Overseas Development (now DFID) sent both British and Empire/Commonwealth nationals to be trained at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) in Trinidad. Many of these students became Agricultural Officers and Advisors across the Empire/Commonwealth and internationally. The 1960s saw the last UK students attend the Diploma in Tropical Agriculture course at ICTA, by then part of the University of the West Indies (UWI). To commemorate this event, fifty years on, a group of TAA members and partners toured the West Indies. Ten travelled by cruise ship (Figure 1) which visited several islands. Another member made separate arrangements, joining the group at several points on the tour. He was the only former ICTA student to visit the UWI campus at St Augustine, parts of which were still familiar, but there had been major developments over the intervening 50 years.



Figure 1. TAA members aboard the cruise ship in the Caribbean.

Tim Roberts organised the UK side of the visit, but it would not have been possible without the immense work of TAA member Bruce Lauckner, based at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) in Trinidad, with the support of Barton Clarke, Executive Director of CARDI who arranged for CARDI staff on the islands visited to prepare a programme, and where possible, to accompany us. We were also fortunate that our visits to Antigua and Montserrat were organised by TAA member Jane Guise who currently lives and works on Montserrat. The cruise ship visited 11 islands throughout the Caribbean, including the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, where it was hoped the group would meet with French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) officials and possibly see some ongoing field work, but a late change in the ship's itinerary made this impossible. Other islands visited, where tourism has largely replaced agriculture, were St Martin, St Kitts and Tortula.

Read the full article in *Agriculture for Development*, No 31, Summer 2017, pages 50-54, <http://www.taa.org.uk/publications.asp?menuId=4>