



**Statement from Her Excellency Carla Hogan Rufelds  
High Commissioner for Canada  
Trinidad and Tobago**

Food security continues to be a major challenge faced by countries around the world. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #2 – Zero Hunger – aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. In the wake of the 2008 global food price crisis, the Government of Canada developed an international assistance food security policy and dedicated funding for food security programming around the world. The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), jointly funded by IDRC and Global Affairs Canada, is one of the successful programs addressing the critical challenge of global hunger through applied research. Importantly, the research partnerships test and scale-up practical and innovative solutions, designed to address real-time food security challenges.

Researchers have used genetics and agronomy to efficiently improve food production. Equally important is the reduction of post-harvest losses, which range from 30-50% for various commodities, and occur at different stages in the journey from farm to fork. Fruits are notoriously perishable, but highly desirable, both for their taste and nutritional value. When the shelf-life of fruits is increased, farmers, retailers and fruit lovers benefit.

One of the successful CIFSRF initiatives is the ‘Enhanced Fruit Preservation using Nanotechnology’ project. Research at the University of Guelph in Canada led to the identification of a natural product, hexanal, which can keep fruits fresh longer. The effectiveness of this natural product has been taken around the world through the CIFSRF project. Interestingly, the research team used nanotechnology to deliver the hexanal more effectively. In general, nanotechnology research has served as a powerful revolutionary tool, from electronics to the health sector. The potential of nanotechnology in agriculture is just beginning to be realized. The CIFSRF group of researchers’ success in using nanotechnology to enhance the shelf-life of various fruits in different countries shows real promise.

I am delighted that the research conducted through this large multinational project has been brought together in a special issue of this research journal. Tropical Agriculture is a historically recognized journal from the University of the West Indies that highlights applied research in agriculture from tropical countries. I congratulate the authors from the six countries who have put together a compelling series of findings ranging from laboratory results to practical field experience to socio-economic impacts.

These research results, also available online, will help to decrease post-harvest wastage using hexanal and will be of great use to students, scientists, policy makers and entrepreneurs as we continue to work towards *Zero Hunger*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carla Hogan Rufelds'.

Carla Hogan Rufelds  
High Commissioner for Canada  
Trinidad and Tobago

The wordmark for Canada, with the letters 'Canada' in a serif font and a small Canadian flag icon above the 'a'.