

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to another edition of CMA's quarterly Newsletter...

Dear Members,

As we step into this new quarter, we mark the 30th anniversary of the Association, and reflect with pride on three decades of growth, collaboration, and success. This milestone is a testament to the dedication and strength of our community.

We are also pleased to celebrate the recent promotions of three members who have taken on new roles, demonstrating resilience, dedication, and leadership. Their growth not only reflects their hard work but also inspires us all to strive for excellence in everything we do.

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● We Congratulate..



Gilbert Spooner, who has taken on the vital role of **Managing Director at ADM Barbados Mills** following the passing of the former Managing Director and a past President of CMA, Karlene Nicholls. Gilbert brings a wealth of experience, having previously served as Managing Director at ADM Caribbean Agro Industries - Grenada.



Kirl Charles of **ADM Caribbean Agro Industries - Grenada** has been promoted to the position of **Managing Director**, succeeding Gilbert in his former role. We wish her success in this new capacity.

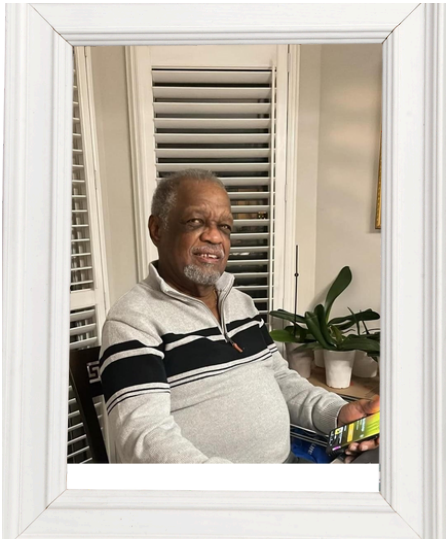


We welcome **Scott Mitchell**, who stepped into the role of **Managing Director at National Milling Company of Guyana (NAMILCO)**, succeeding Bert Sukhai, who retired in January 2025 after many years of dedicated service.

Please join us in congratulating Gilbert, Kirl, and Scott on their new roles and in wishing them continued success as they move towards a promising future.

message from FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Caribbean Millers' Association - 30th Anniversary



Dennis McGee
(Founding President)

May 31st, 2025, marks 30 years since a small group of Caribbean and Central American nationals took the bold step in Kingston, Jamaica to conceive the idea of a miller's association for the region. Our aims then were to:

- To protect the flour milling industry from unfair competition.
- To develop and exchange problem-solving ideas across the region.
- To present a regular lobbying position for negotiation with government agencies.

As we celebrate this milestone, it is essential to recognize the unwavering commitment and collaborative spirit that

have driven our success over the past three decades. The Caribbean Millers' Association (CMA) has grown from a modest beginning into a formidable organization, dedicated to the advancement and sustainability of the milling industry in our region. Throughout these years, we have faced numerous challenges and embraced countless opportunities, always striving to uphold our core values of integrity, innovation, and unity. Together, we have not only protected our industry but have also fostered a culture of excellence that continues to thrive today.

As your founding President, I would like to pay a special tribute and thanks to Mitch Skalicky of U.S. Wheat Associates, Philip Milliken of Belize, Carlos Belgrave of Barbados, Enez Whittaker, and Doreen Morgan of the Jamaica Flour Mills, who performed yeoman service in making this dream a reality. Many of us have retired or moved on to other endeavours however, your aims have remained the same, ensuring that the journey has been marked by significant milestones, including the implementation of innovative technologies, the strengthening of intra-regional trade, and the establishment of robust partnerships with key stakeholders. We have also championed initiatives that promote sustainable practices, ensuring the long-term viability of our industry.

The CMA's commitment to continuous improvement is evident in your ongoing efforts to enhance product quality, optimize operations, and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the Caribbean and Central American regions. As we look to the future, you must remain dedicated to nurturing the talent and potential within our community, fostering the next generation of millers who will carry forward our legacy of excellence.

"The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well; and doing well whatever you do"

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

It really warms my heart to see you succeeding like this. Congratulations!



*MQ
corner:*

The future of manufacturing is in the hands of those who can innovate and challenge conventional thinking. - Unknown



Caribbean Week

Business to Business

Caribbean millers form association

Representatives of flour milling companies from eight Caribbean nations met recently at the Jamaica Conference Centre to hold the inaugural general meeting of the Caribbean Millers' Association (CMA).

Dennis McGee, general manager of Jamaica Flour Mills was elected to serve the first two-year term as president of the CMA whilst Belize Mills' Philip Milliken and Juan Azurmendi Hernandez of Cuba will serve as vice-presidents. Carlos Belgrave of the Barbados Mill was elected secretary/treasurer.

The decision to form an association of flour millers for the Caribbean region was decided last year by a steering committee made up of representatives from Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Grenada and Curacao. They agreed that the association should be formed primarily to develop and exchange problem-solving ideas across the region, protect the flour milling industry from unfair competition and also to present a regular lobbying position for negotiations with government agencies.

Representatives from Cuba joined the group for the inaugural meeting and other mills in Guadeloupe, Suriname, Guyana and the Dominican Republic have also indicated that they will be joining the association.

The CMA's secretariat will be located in Jamaica and officers will serve two-year terms, but will not be allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms.

The executive of the CMA is mandated to get the secretariat up and running, and establish an extensive



The executive of the Caribbean Millers' Association: (left to right) Secretary/Treasurer, Carlos Belgrave of Barbados; 1st Vice-President, Philip Milliken of Belize; 2nd Vice-President, Juan Azurmendi Hernandez of Cuba; President, Dennis McGee of Jamaica.

Below is an excerpt from Jamaica Flour Mills Newsletter - April 1997:

On May 31, 1995 a group of seven persons, all representing flour milling concerns in the Caribbean and Central America, met at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, under the chairmanship of Dennis McGee, General Manager, Flour Milling Division of the Jamaica Flour Mills Limited. This meeting, the brainchild of McGee, formed a Steering Committee toward the formation of a Caribbean Millers' Association.

On November 4, 1995 the Caribbean Millers' Association became a reality with its Inaugural Meeting at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

Representative from Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Curacao, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and Trinidad & Tobago attended, with apologies for absence from Suriname, the Dominican Republic and Guyana.

Highlight of the meeting was an address by Ambassador Peter King, Special Envoy of Jamaica. Ambassador King gave a historical overview of the dynamic international trading environment and exhorted the millers to campaign for the following:

- adequacy and continuity of food supply at the national and regional level;
- minimum level of nutrition for all households; and
- reserved stocks in case of natural disasters and maximum contribution to supply from domestic sources.

Present at this meeting, also was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Senator the Honourable Phillip Paulwell who pledged government support for the concept of an Association such as this.

Dennis McGee was elected President of the Association, with two Vice Presidents; Philip Milliken, General Manager of ADM Belize Mills Limited, and Señor Juan Azurmendi Hernandez, Director General, Union Molinera in Cuba; whilst Carlos Belgrave, General Manager ADM Barbados Limited was elected Secretary/Treasurer. These persons comprise the Executive Committee of the Association and will serve for two (2) years.

On Friday, November 8, 1996 the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Hilton Hotel in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Highlight of that meeting was an address by Senator, The Honourable Phillip Goddard, Minister of International Trade in Barbados.

The Association is now an incorporated entity in Jamaica, which was selected as the location for the Secretariat.

Benefits are already being derived from the union, chief of which is the offer from US Wheat Associates to sponsor scholarships to millers within the CMA to attend training courses at **Escuela Latinoamericana de Molineria (ESLAMO)**, the Milling School in Venezuela. This is welcome news, since previous to this all our millers had to either travel to Canada or the United States mid-west for training. The first group of students will attend courses in Venezuela in June 1997.

Tribute must be paid to President Dennis McGee for his foresight in initiating the **CMA** and to the management of the Jamaica Flour Mills for its encouragement and support of this venture.

The second Annual General Meeting of the **CMA** will be held in Cuba later this year.

Editor's Note: The 2nd AGM was held in Belize.

IGC forecasts sharp dip in flour trade

Global wheat flour trade is forecast to decline to a 3-year low in the 2024-26 marketing year, falling to 15.3 million tonnes (wheat equivalent), 10% below the 6-year high reached last year, the International Grains Council (IGC) said in its latest Grain Market Report.

The IGC said in its March 20 report that the retreat in flour trade primarily was linked to reduced import needs in Iraq, where the government recently authorized higher wheat exports amid ample local supplies, and moderating flour purchases by buyers in sub-Saharan Africa.

“Ample and competitively priced supplies from Turkey saw imports by sub-Saharan Africa climb to a 7-year high of 3.1 million tonnes in 2023-24,” the IGC said. “The increase was led by Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, with the latter also boosting purchases from Egypt amid challenging conditions in the domestic milling industry. However, with this season’s curtailed export potential in Turkey, deliveries to sub-Saharan Africa are set to fall back to more normal levels, forecast at 2.4 million tonnes, down 200,000 from the October update but similar to the 5-year average.”

Like Iraq, some buyers in the region are boosting purchases of wheat, which the IGC said is highlighted by the fact that the portion of wheat flour in reported all-wheat deliveries to sub-Saharan Africa to date stood at around 6%, down from 12% for the 2023-24 season.

The world’s other major flour importer, Afghanistan, is projected to have nearly identical intake from the previous year, importing 3.05 million tonnes in 2024-25.

“Despite reports of heavy local wheat supplies and efforts to boost exports, flour dispatches from Kazakhstan to Afghanistan, typically the main destination, during the first six months of 2024-25 were reported to be fractionally lower year on year at around 900,000 tonnes,” the IGC said.

- A 10% year-on-year decrease is projected



Kazakhstan’s overall flour exports this season are set to reach a 7-year high of 3 million tonnes, up from 2.7 million in 2023-24, the IGC said.

Turkey, the world’s largest flour exporter, is forecast to see a 33% drop in shipments this year to a 10-year low of 3.8 million tonnes, the IGC said. The country was impacted in the first few months of 2024-24 by import restrictions limiting access to competitively priced wheat supplies from the Black Sea region.

“While the recent removal of import limitations for wheat could aid future deliveries, the upside may be limited by the waning demand from Iraq and increased presence of Egyptian suppliers in some African markets,” the Council said.

The IGC’s initial outlook for 2025-26 flour trade is for a moderate rebound to 16.1 million tonnes amid some recovery in purchases by sub-Saharan Africa coupled with modest annual increases in some other regions, including some parts of Asia. However, it noted that flour imports by Iraq are likely to stay well below recent highs as local grain supplies are expected to remain at a relatively high level.

Exports by Turkey in the coming marketing year are expected to rebound following the removal of wheat import restrictions, “but will likely fall short of historical highs amid reduced buying from Iraq and potentially increased competition from Egypt in some markets.” The IGC forecasts Turkey’s 2025-26 flour exports to reach 4.7 million tonnes, about 900,000 higher than this year’s total.

Source: World Grain (April 2025)

Author: Arvin Donley

CARIBBEAN MILLERS' ASSOCIATION**welcomes...****REDDY CONSULTANCY & TRADING NV**

who joined the CMA March 2025. We look forward to collaborating with this firm and exploring the contributions they can make to the growth and development of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP

**MEMBERS**

ADM Barbados Mills Ltd.
 ADM Belize Mills
 ADM Caribbean Agro Industries
 Caribbean Flour Mills
 Caribbean Grains, St. Lucia
 De Molen Flour Mills
 East Caribbean Group of Companies
 Grand Moulins des Antilles
 Jamaica Flour Mills Ltd.
 Jamaica Grain & Cereals Ltd.
 Les Cereales d'Haiti
 Molinos de Puerto Rico
 Molinos del Ozama/CMI
 National Flour Mills
 National Milling Company of Guyana
 Nutrimix Flour Mills
 Pan American Grain Company

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Buhler
 Caribbean Milling
 CESCO EPC GmbH
 Codema
 Commercial Packaging
 Engrain
 Insepra Limited
 Kansas City Bags
 KICE
 Lemapack
 Manyan Inc.
 Material Motion
 Muhlenchemie GmbH
 OCRIM
 Pinnacle Feeds
 Polypro Solutions
 Reddy Consultancy & Trading
 Sangati Berga
 U.S. Wheat Associates
 Viserion Grain

Thanks for reading!

Stay tuned for our next edition, where we'll keep you informed on the latest development in CMA, milling news, the upcoming AGM and more.