

THE NATION

FAO CERES MEDAL FOR CICELY WILLIAMS

Jamaican-born nutritionist and paediatrician Dr. Cicely Williams has been honoured with a Ceres medal featuring her.

Since 1971 the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has been issuing Ceres medals featuring distinguished women as the Roman goddess of agriculture to highlight the important role of women in dealing with the world food problem.

The 84-year-old Dr. Williams began her major work in Ghana where she studied protein malnutrition in infants. This condition was later introduced into medical literature by Dr. Williams with the name of Kwashiorkor.



A release from the FAO out of Rome said "Dr. Williams has devoted more than 50 years to

the integration of nutrition with maternal and child care and her services includes work in a

farm school in northern Greece, on malaria and pellagra in Malaya and

vomiting sickness in Jamaica.

"In 1948 she was called by the World Health Organisation to head its first section on maternal and child health. Her work in mother and child health comprises over 50 publications and research and teaching at London University, the American University of Beirut, the Tulane University School of Public Health in New Orleans and the Department of Paediatrics of the University of Maryland School of Medicine".

The medal was designed by Lady Juliet Simpson. With the honour Dr. Williams joins the ranks of American Dr. Margaret Mead, Kenyan Dr. Julia Ojiambo and Sudanese Dr. Fatima Abdel Mahmoud.

In 1975 Jamaica honoured Dr. Williams by awarding her the Order of Merit.