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SGP'S GREENREPORTER

"COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT"

A Biannual Newsletter Highlighting Community Efforts

Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to enjoy the second edition of the SGP Green Reporter. This edition offers a glimpse into some of the capacity building activities undertaken by SGP and contains impactful contributions by our grantees.

I would also like to use this opportunity to share with you some key aspects of SGP's transition from the current Operational Phase 5 (OP5) to OP 6.

This new operational phase will be guided by a new Country Programme Strategy that is adapted to the changing needs of our stakeholders. Two important features that will be very evident in this new operational phase are the shift away from working in distinct environmental focal areas to a more integrated approach oriented around thematic areas and the concentration of the majority of new SGP projects in specific landscapes and seascapes of national importance.

SGP will continue to seek to effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and also the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level actions.

In addition we will embark on additional initiatives that go way beyond grant making. These strategic initiatives include developing Civil Society Organisation (CSO) - Government Policy & Planning Dialogues, Promoting Social Inclusion and contributing to the development of Global Knowledge Platforms.

This is indeed an exciting time for the SGP family. Join the excitement and take a few minutes to read the captivating articles that demonstrate community action can have a global impact.

David Bynoe
National Coordinator



RIVER OF LIFE FARM
Bellairs' students lend support to the River of Life Organic Farm



REAPing Success
Students, teachers and community participate in gardening projects

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Learning agenda developed for SGP Grantee Network

GEF SGP implemented by UNDP took a participatory approach in the development of a learning agenda for members of the GEF SGP Barbados Grantee Network during the Second Project Inception workshop held on 4 March 2015 at the UN House.

The learning agenda is an action plan intended to help grantees be more efficient and effective in the implementation of their projects. It also calls for more experienced grantees to take a leading role in educating other grantees. During the workshop, grantees were tasked with reviewing any existing project implementation issues, prioritizing areas of concern and developing a plan of action for 2015. Each activity in the action plan will be organized by two grantees, with support from SGP Barbados when necessary.

Four learning activities were proposed:

- Effective use of web applications & social media marketing
- Financial record keeping
- Project Development & Implementation
- Monitoring and Evaluation



Grantees collaborating to identify key learning areas



“The SGP Grantee Network is a forum for knowledge sharing, building partnerships and resource mobilization”



The development of the learning agenda is a stepping stone to enhance the Grantee Network. The Grantee Network which currently has 23 CSO members, including past and present grantees, is a platform for knowledge sharing, building partnerships and resource mobilization.



Identifying suitable grantees to undertake roles on the agenda



The Learning Agenda

An action plan for grantees to ensure more efficient and effective project implementation

Congrats to our three new grantees!



Our newest grantee—Addis Alem Cooperative Society Limited

SGP Barbados' National Steering Committee (NSC) approved three SGP projects (Table 1), two of which are supported through GEF SGP Core funds for a value of ~USD\$ 99,834 while one project is supported through the Australian Aid's (AUSAID) Small Island Developing States Community-based Adaptation (SIDS CBA) programme for a value of USD\$ 48,000.

Grantees implementing these three projects have solicited co-financing of over USD\$ 200,000. Support has been obtained from both private and public sectors including, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management and Inter-American Institute Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).



Table 1: Three projects approved earlier this year by the National Steering Committee

GRANTEE	PROJECT TITLE	FOCAL AREA	GRANT (\$USD)
Addis Alem Cooperative Society Limited	Blended agroforestry renewable energy project (BAREP)	Land degradation	49,834
Deighton Griffith School Parent-Teacher Association	Best practices in sustainable organic agriculture at the Deighton Griffith School	Land degradation	50,000
St. George Farmers Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd	Using climate-smart agriculture practices to increase local food security and climate change adaption in the St. George farming community	Climate change adaptation	48,000

SGP Projects by focal areas

To date, SGP Barbados has supported 25 projects at a value of since December 2013. The majority of these projects (48%) fall within the focal area of land degradation.

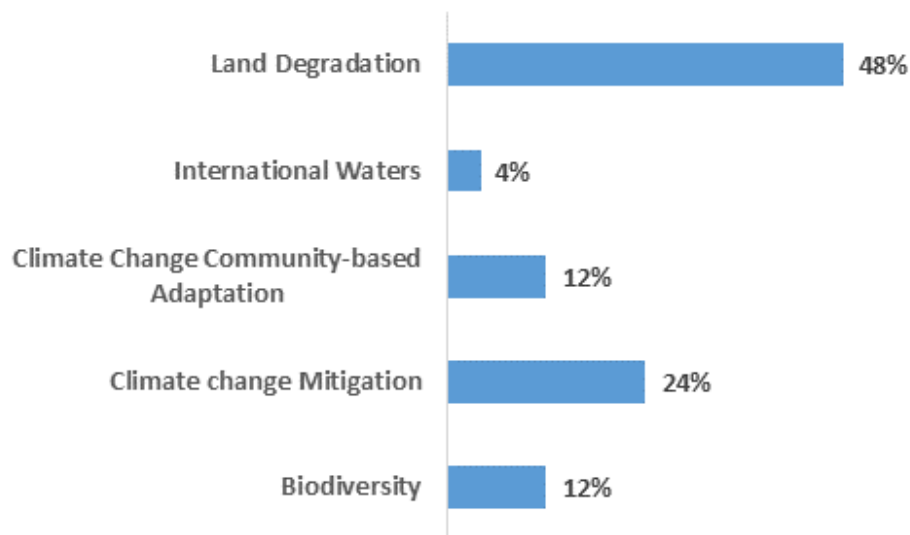


Figure 1: Percentage of SGP projects within the focal areas

A Climate Controlled Greenhouse

By Dwayne Squires, Solagrow Inc.

Solagrow has been pursuing its goal of controlling its greenhouse environment, with the main controlling factors being *Temperature & Relative Humidity*, the primary objective of its **"Community Based Solar Cooled Greenhouse Research Project"**.

Despite setbacks, Solagrow had established a contingency plan and created a prototype greenhouse prior to the project commencing. To date, most of software development and hardware testing was conducted within this greenhouse. This has enabled Solagrow to fast track the transition into the greenhouses at our main project location once fully erected.

The project has been filled with many challenges as its primary goal is unique and has not being tried within the Caribbean. The utilization of Solar Energy to cost effectively power energy efficient equipment to automate and cool tropical greenhouses has made this a "Green Project" in most respects. At this juncture, Solagrow has being successful in controlling the temperature and also keeping the relative humidity within a 10% range, for the growth of lettuce, the selected test crop for the greenhouses.

REAPing Success

By Marsha– Ann Clarke, Junior Achievement Charity of Barbados

Twenty-nine primary schools and one secondary school across Barbados are REAPing success thanks to GEF SGP. The Regional Entrepreneurship and Agriculture Program (REAP) primarily targets class 2 and 3 at primary schools but the project is reaching the infants, the community and teachers alike.

Here are just a few examples of project success:

- (A) 4-H Group at Ellerton Primary School has accelerated learning through agro-processing and the production, packaging and sale of healthy "no fuss" bars. Sales at Agrofest were over BBD\$ 400.
- (B) A farmer from the community visited Mount Tabor in St. John to share knowledge with students and to show proper use of tools.
- (C) Infants at Mount Tabor participated in organic gardening.
- (D) Agrofest's Chief Livestock Judge— Mr. Adrian Hunte served as a guest speaker at a few schools participating in REAP. At Ellerton, he guided students in calculating profits from Agripreneurship.
- (E) At Half Moon Fort Primary School the students recycled old boxes to hold their seedlings and were eager to transplant the beets, cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes and turnip seedlings.
- (F) Students at Holy Innocents' Primary School planted in tyres painted white to help reflect the sun and keep seedlings cool.

Successful REAP Projects



The making of no-fuss bars

Ellerton Primary School



Community knowledge sharing

Mount Tabor Primary School



Organic farming

Holy Innocents' Primary School

Sansevieria—An Underutilised fibre-producing plant

By Dr. Sandra Browne and Dr. Wendy Hollingsworth
-Barbados Institute of Environmental Professionals

Sansevieria is known amongst older Barbadians as 'lily'; mother-in-law's tongue and/or snake plant. This plant is one of those identified through the Natural Fibres and Seeds Project as one to be tapped for its unused fibres. *Sansevieria* grows throughout Barbados as an uncultivated clump plant growing in the wild. There are several varieties and cultivars of *Sansevieria* but one of those more commonly seen is shown here:



Sansevieria trifasciata

source of rope-producing fibre. *Sansevieria* is also presented as a viable ornamental for the horticultural industry and a medicinal plant exploited especially in African countries for its analgesic and antipyretic properties. As an indoor plant, *Sansevieria* is used as an air filter, possessing properties of removing air-borne toxins from homes.

As an activity of the Natural Fibres and Seeds Project, *Sansevieria* leaves were



“While less known in Barbados, *Sansevieria* is a prime source of rope producing fibre in Africa”



collected from a St. Philip location and processed to extract the fibres. Preparatory softening and loosening of the fibres was achieved by pounding the leaves and partial retting through soaking in water. Scraping of the leaves removed the green matter and revealed a white residual fibre which proved strong and lustrous. The fibres were washed and hung to dry. Initial use of the fibre was tested as cordage by artisans in new product development.

Sansevieria – a much underutilised non-traditional fibre-producing plant holds great potential for use in the crafts and textiles sectors.

Producing rope from *Sansevieria*



Scraping the leaf



Extracted *Sansevieria* long



Sansevieria transformed as cordage materials

The GEF SGP experience

By Wasim Worrell, River of Life Organic Farm

I must admit that abbreviations used in agriculture can be very confusing for example BT really means *Bacillus Thuringiensis* and Microfol is a brand name for ananesthesia, however the Microfol used in our farming project has the opposite effect when used on our plants. Sometimes I feel I need a B.S. that of course means a Bachelor of Science and not Britney Spears, you get my point.

No such confusion with GEF, when I think of GEF I think of Going Even Further. The GEF Small Grants Programme has allowed the River of Life Organic Farm to go even further than we had imagined. It has allowed us to touch the lives of many persons who have been marginalized as a result of the stigma associated with mental illness and to raise awareness about the benefits of organic farming. Ten persons have now been trained in organic farming and are engaged in the production of foods sold in the

Grantee's Corner



Students from Bellairs Research Institute working with beneficiaries

supermarket. Another amazing thing that has been happening is that volunteers are walking off the street to be part of our project. Our neighbours are even starting to do their own garden projects and asking for tips on how to grow organically.

For us, GEF means that we got enough funds to construct 2 shaded houses and to extend our plant nursery. We have also planted $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre in potatoes and cassava, better yet from the sale of our 500 lbs of Chinese cabbage and lettuce we got over BBD\$ 2,750 in

revenue. Imagine what will happen when we expand further. Now that's a reason to GEF (Get Excited For).



Conducting training sessions in the greenhouse with project beneficiaries

Greening MSMEs in Coastal Communities

By Nikki Hassel, The CARIBSAVE Partnership

Through the "Greening Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Coastal Communities in Barbados" project, MSMEs are transitioning to less carbon-intensive business practices.

To assist this transition, CARIBSAVE has developed tailored mitigation

recommendations for each business. The recommendations included the following: incorporate solar technology, reduce use of synthetic fertilizers, harvest rainwater, investigate feasibility of biogas digestion on-farm, establish good equipment maintenance practices, integrate energy-saving light bulbs and participate in the Green Business

Barbados programme. While all MSMEs involved in the project will benefit from receiving their recommendations, the fifteen highest greenhouse gas emitters will also receive financing to support implementation of some of the above interventions which require larger capital investment.

Grantee Tip # 2:



How to build partnerships

Building partnerships is key for the success of your project and should be a participatory process in agreement with the members of your group, who will reach out to external agencies and organizations to involve them in the project.

Building partnerships will allow the inclusion of external persons who have the technical capacity that your organisation may lack and also can expand the project impact.

Now ask yourself three critical questions:

- Who are the stakeholders of your project (at local, national and international level)?
- What is the interest of different stakeholders in your project?
- How can you best 'use' the expertise or influence of these stakeholders to reach the project objectives?

You could draw a stakeholders map which will help you to understand how to approach different stakeholders and ask for their support or assistance.

Remember it is a community project: benefits, contributions and voluntary work should be shared equally among partners.

Meet the GEF SGP intern for Barbados



My name is Delia Dominici and I have been working in the Caribbean for the last two years.

After working as an Outreach and

Knowledge Management volunteer consultant at GEF SGP Dominica, I was awarded a scholarship by the Italian Government to work at the GEF SGP/UNDP Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) office for a five months attachment, until the end of May 2015.

I have a Masters in Comparative Local Development, with a research thesis on social capital and local development in the Eastern Caribbean region (Dominica and St Lucia).

I recently specialized in European Studies with a Master in European Project Consultant and Policy Advisor in Brussels, Belgium, where I established professional contacts with different international agencies, including EDES Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) and the Mission of Eastern Caribbean States.

During the last months, I also assisted the organization of an EDES COLEACP/OECS Competitive Business Unit (CBU) funded regional food safety workshop on fine flavor cocoa in the Eastern Caribbean region, in partnership with GEF SGP, which brought together representatives from five cocoa producing countries in Dominica, St Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent and Martinique to promote regional integration and cooperation in the cocoa industry.

In Barbados I assisted in the support of SGP grantees, outreach and knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation. I also contributed towards the joint publication of a research article on SIDS CBA Comparative Multi-level Governance with case studies from ACP countries.

My GEF SGP/UNDP internship gave me the opportunity to get in contact with community-based organisations in Barbados as well as participate in the broader context of UNDP activities in the OECS and the Caribbean, in its social, economic and environmental dimensions.



"Delia shares her SGP experience in Dominica and Barbados"

NSC members tour project sites

In early April, members of the SGP Barbados' National Steering Committee, along with the SGP Barbados team visited four project sites to observe project progress and to provide further technical support to grantees. This also provided grantees with the opportunity to share their successes and challenges.



Dwayne Squires, Solagrow Inc. illustrating the use of software that will control greenhouse temperature and relative humidity

ERASMUS+ Information Session

On the 8 April 2015, the National Coordinator of the GEF SGP/UNDP Barbados facilitated a promotional ERASMUS+ and ERASMUS MUNDUS scholarships programme event at UWI Cave Hill Campus, in collaboration with the EU Delegation to Barbados and the OECS and the Erasmus Mundus Association (EMA) representative and GEF SGP/UNDP intern, Delia Dominici.

ERASMUS+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. It offers a range of opportunities for higher education students, doctoral candidates, staff and

institutions from around the world to foster EU-international cooperation and boost skills and employability, as well as modernizing education, training, youth work and sports.

The participation of GEF SGP/UNDP offered us the opportunity to address SIDS vulnerabilities through strategic areas of action such as climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land, forest and coastal management through increased cooperation in Masters and PhDs between UWI and EU Institutions.

Save the Date

11 July
World Population Day

16 September
International Day for the
Preservation of the Ozone
Layer

5 October
World Habitat Day

17 October
International Day for
Eradication of Poverty

24 October
United Nations Day

20 November
Universal Children's Day



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