

Sustainable Agriculture

Women creating their future



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Agriculture and Community Empowerment for Rural Women in Ti Colon /Barre St. Joseph (Phase1)

**Prepared and Implemented by: Ti
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Farmers' Group**

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WOMEN CREATING THEIR FUTURE

The small community of **Ti Colon/Barre St. Joseph**, located in the southern hills of the Cul de Sac Valley on the **Caribbean Island of Saint Lucia**, is now poised to enter a new period of development led by its **WOMEN**.

With funding from FAO and more recently **GEF SGP UNDP**, they have begun a process of development based on **Sustainable Agriculture**, which includes: soil conservation; Agro-forestry; Agriculture diversification; and Capacity development of themselves and their community.

The WOMEN are now engaged in business training, completing a five-year strategic plan and laying the foundation for developing the **AGRO-PROCESSING** potential of their community.

Ti-Colon/ Barre St. Joseph Women Farmers' Group

Our Vision:

To make the women more self-sufficient economically while creating a sustainable livelihood and community.

Our mission:

Empowering women with the education and skills to create a sustainable economy.

Empowering women through education

- Training session in vegetable and crop production.



Empowering women through education

- Training session in agribusiness and nutrition.



Empowered women working towards sustainable agriculture



Terracing to reduce erosion



Using plastics to control weeds

Empowered women working towards sustainable agriculture

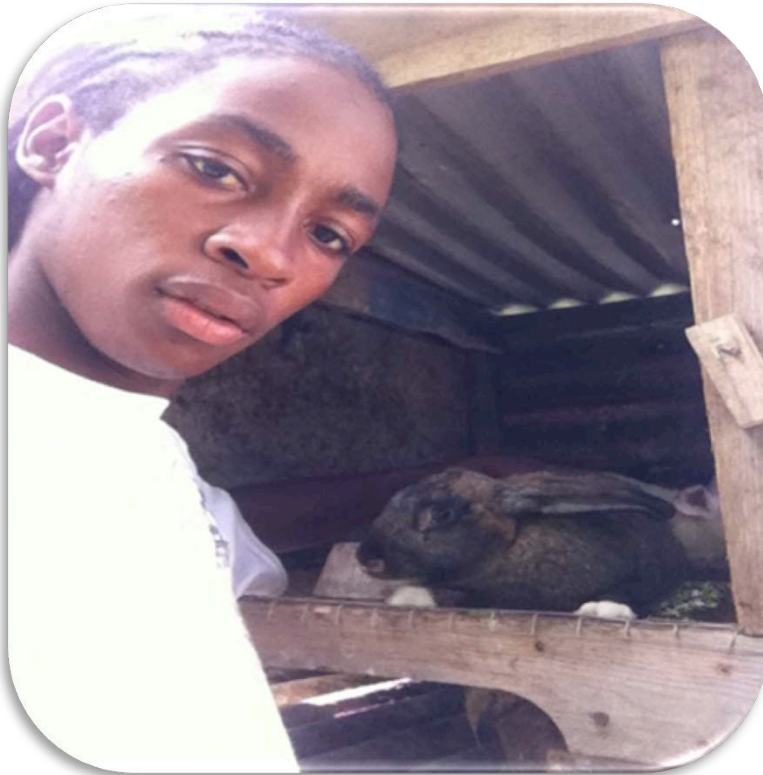


Organic Pesticides used on the farm

Organic pesticides made from household products

Exploring the use of organic pesticides to improve farming

Empowered Women Working towards sustainable agriculture



Exploring new crops
and livestock for
farming to improve

Inclusive development





Achievements

- Functioning, cohesive and result- focused women's group.
- Rediscovery of the comparative advantage of the community, i.e. agriculture.
- Integration of sustainable methods and systems into agricultural production.
- Constant search for innovative methods to improve agricultural production.
- Intra and intergenerational equity.
- Creating the future through strategic planning.
- The emergence of new leaders.



Major Lessons learned

- **Inclusive community development** requires constant communication, transparency and the sharing of benefits.
- **Effective community leadership** is about giving space to persons to contribute and giving a voice to the voiceless.
- **Sustainable community development** must include a sustainable livelihood component(s).

The Future

- Completing the strategic plan.
- Developing the agro-processing potential of the community.
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into community development.

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