



ISSUE#4 VOLUME #1 May 2016

# SGP GREENREPORTER

"COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT"

*A Biannual Newsletter Highlighting Community Efforts*

## *New Country Programme Strategy*

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) implemented by UNDP will formally launch its 6th Operational Phase (OP6) in Barbados during the month of July 2016.

OP6 will be guided by a new Country Programme Strategy, developed through a participatory civil society driven stakeholder approach that is consistent with the objective of SGP.

The Barbados CPS reflects the consensus reached by SGP stakeholders on a ridge to reef approach with the selection of specific landscapes and seascapes to be given special preference.

This will facilitate a more focused approach to grant-making, and promotes strategic programming of projects to achieve a greater impact, catalyze synergies and opportunities for scaling up.

Another key element of SGP's approach in OP6 will be to enhance its role as a Grant-maker+ by strategically planning for the provision of services that will achieve a greater portfolio impact.

SGP will be providing services to our grantees that go far beyond grant making, fully capturing the technical, capacity building, networking and partnership support services that has become synonymous with SGP over the years.

This is an exciting time to partner with SGP!

David Bynoe  
National Coordinator



### **Promoting Green MSMEs at AgroFest**

Our grantee-partner CARIBSAVE and project beneficiaries participate in AgroFest



### **BAS launches Blackbelly sheep manual for farmers**

The manual provides farmers with best practices to protect the genetic biodiversity of Blackbelly sheep in Barbados

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## Multi-sectoral dialogue on renewable energy

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, with funding from GEF SGP, the Caribbean Policy Development Centre hosted a Roundtable discussion with farmers, policy makers and development partners on renewable energy policies that affect Barbados in the transition to a Green Economy. The session sought to strengthen collaboration between stakeholders by identifying areas which require further support and determine critical policy and other steps needed to enhance sustainable farming practices. It was also an opportunity to discuss the benefits and challenges of renewable energy technologies (RETS), as local farmer, Annette Beckett shared her experiences of transitioning to a RET demonstration farm.



*Mark Hill of Innogen Technologies and Annette Beckett at the roundtable discussion*

## BAS launches blackbelly sheep manual



*From the left, James Paul (CEO of BAS) and David Bynoe (right) review manual*

Local blackbelly sheep farmers now have a user-friendly manual to improve sheep production practices. The manual, "Blackbelly Sheep Basic Production Guidelines," produced by the Barbados Agricultural Society was launched on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April during a media conference at the BAS Headquarters. It is a key knowledge product of their GEF SGP funded project "Conservation of the Genetic Makeup of the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep (BBBS) & Improvement of the Marketing Opportunities to the Industry". Chief Executive Officer of

BAS, Mr. James Paul stated, "There is a growing concern over the management of the flock in terms of preserving the genetics of the flock." He stated the manual was useful beyond care of the animal, since it will encourage farmers to be more responsible in terms of developing the intellectual property and maintaining the genetic diversity.

The manual will be shared with sheep farmers and those interested in entering the sheep production system.

**"This project has been pivotal in advocating appropriate breeding techniques and ensuring that farmers can capitalize on the market opportunities that arise from having ownership and direct access to pure breed BBBS."**

**David Bynoe,  
National Coordinator**



# CSOs provide input into new Country Programme Strategy for GEF SGP

Civil society organisations (CSOs) gathered at the UN House on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, for a national consultation for the development of the new Country Programme Strategy (CPS) for Barbados for Operational Phase Six. CSOs highlighted several environmental, social and economical areas to be addressed, including sustainable fisheries, inclusion of vulnerable groups, food security, micro/eco/agri business and education/certification & recognition. The consultation was facilitated by a team from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. CERMES has been selected to develop the CPS under the guidance of GEF SGP and will be wrapping up consultations with development partners and government agencies to finalise the CPS.



*(Top photo):  
Dr. Adrian Cashman, Director at CERMES reviewing the consultation process with CSOs.*



*(Bottom photo):  
CSOs participating in group sessions to discuss areas of priority for the CPS*

## SGP Project by Focal Areas

To date SGP Barbados has facilitated the investment of over 5 million US dollars (inclusive of GEF SGP contributions, Australian Aid funding, co-financing—monetary and in-kind) in community-based initiatives since December 2013. The majority of these projects (37%) fall within the focal areas of land degradation.

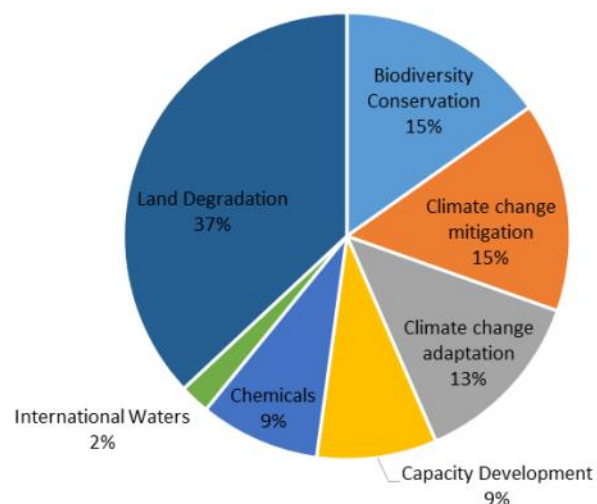


Figure 1: Percentage of SGP projects per focal areas

# Open Day Event- Agrofest- National Agricultural Exhibition 2016

By Marium Alleyne, Project  
Officer, THE CARIBSAVE

The current activities undertaken by CARIBSAVE for the Greening Micro, Small, Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Project were well suited for Agrofest's theme this year, "Grow, Sell, Eat, Repeat" and as such CARIBSAVE seized the opportunity to participate in this national agricultural exhibition. CARIBSAVE's display was featured in the Educational Section (Section B) and consisted of a game, posters, videos, and publications which focused primarily on efforts within the project to replace carbon-intensive operations within small businesses with more sustainable "green" technologies and practices through the piloting of a micro finance disbursement mechanism. Some of the "green" technologies that were highlighted included the installation of Photo Voltaics (PV) on fishing vessels and farmhouses; solar powered rainwater harvesting systems for farm systems and the use of a solar dryer for agro processing.

Two beneficiaries from the project, Mrs. Wendy Everseley Small (farmer) and Mr. John Hunte (fisherman), were present to share their experiences as project participants. They also highlighted the present and



*John Hunte, a fisherman from Weston engages youth in RETs*

future benefits to their businesses from the use of the renewable energy technologies awarded under the project. The use of the PV system on Mr. Hunte's fishing vessel has helped him to realise fuel savings and increased safety measures while at sea. Mrs. Everseley Small will experience a reduction in the cost of electricity related to her farm activities as a result of using the PV system in her farm operations. In addition, their participation in the project has made them stronger proponents of the use of renewable energy technologies in small business operations.

One of the main attractions on display was the Carbon Footprint Game which was very popular with the children. This game allowed participants to measure their carbon footprint and it also provided simple and effective steps that can be undertaken in order to reduce their overall carbon emissions.

**"Project beneficiaries have become strong proponents of the use of renewable energy technologies"**



*Young boy participating in the Carbon footprint game*



# Reflections: Community-based Organic Agriculture Project

By Phillip Lashley, Caribbean Centre  
for Food Security & Sustainability  
(CCFSS)

The last year taught me many lessons, perhaps most importantly, to record what is happening in order to learn from it. In that spirit, I share this note.

### Take pictures. "Nuff said".

**Do Something-** Mistakes we made: some in the timing of our crops, in scheduling or design or even the way we laid out the roof on our container. These emphasized the importance of planning; but it is even more important to GET GOING. Sometimes we let "perfect" be the enemy of "good". Waiting until the "perfect" moment and set of circumstances might mean never starting. Be reminded that along the journey having to deal with mistakes means that you're actually doing something.

**If you sell all you have, you will have to buy what you want.**—One of the best decisions we made during the project was not to sell all of our produce, rather to share what we had grown among the participants. Our young farmers have been able to take home cassava, sweet potato, beets, carrots, eggplant and every week, salad greens and a bag of culinary herbs.



Youth learning about greenhouse construction

First, this translates into \$30 or \$40 not spent on vegetables, available for something else in the household. Perhaps even more importantly, parents and family members see the contribution being made to the household by the participation in the farming project and they're eating organic produce.

Someone from the NGO, Sojourner Foundation, suggested this; which leads me to my next thought.

**Let go of Ego**—We felt that we should sell all the produce and share the revenue; yet the CCFSS project managers were willing hear other perspectives. Letting go of "your way", in order to see others and perhaps BETTER ways of doing things is important.

**Do not become discouraged**—Several times through the project there were difficult challenges. Continued vandalism, a fall off in attendance at one point, and sometimes a lack of revenue to do some of the things we needed to move the project forward.

Another farmer shared her story with us. After feeding her layer chickens for almost 5 months with no signs of eggs, she was considering butchering them and moving on. Then one Saturday

morning she checked the coop and found two eggs and was heartened to continue.

**Communities appreciate consistency-** We learnt that community members have seen and heard people come into their communities with projects, with a lot of talk about what will happen, and the direction things will take, without much follow through. It is important that we not be discouraged and become inconsistent in our community actions. The participants will recognise the inconsistencies and react accordingly; similarly, we know the rewards that consistent action brings.

**Involve all ages-** Over the last year, we have involved children, teens, young people, everyone up to retired persons, in the project components. Building communities requires everyone. Everybody has something of value: our role is to help them distill and share it. Youth bring strong arms and agile minds. Elders bring experience and knowledge. Everyone can learn, if they are willing.

**You cannot not plan everything** -Can you forecast every rain? Unplanned circumstances will turn up. You will go over budget in some areas. One of the most important things is to communicate; not just the challenges, but also the things that are going well. While CCFSS still has a long way to go as my grandmother might say "not as far as we have come".

I hope that sharing these thoughts has been of some benefit to you, my fellow grantees.

# With a Big Heart and A Humble Start, You Can Make a Great Impact on the World

By Kerrie Ellis-Worrell, River of Life Farm

This year's Expanded Constituency Workshop, was held in Trinidad from March 1 – 4, 2016 and unexpectedly it was organised differently from the workshops that are usually held each year. On day 1, participants were allowed to engage more in various discussions, from the very start of the workshop. This allowed me to meet many forward thinking and philanthropic minded individuals, as Civil Society Organisations met to talk about their challenges, needs, and the issues that we share in common within the Caribbean Region. On Day 2, I learnt from Mr. Delfin, The Global Manager for the GEF Small Grants Programme, that the River of Life Organic Farming Project, which I Co-Founded, is just one of approximately 19,000 projects managed by the GEF worldwide. What an eye opener this was as I got a better understanding of the many people who really care about our environment and about the impact that our current lives can have on our future existence.



Field visit to Asa Wright Nature Centre

With this said, it was the visit on day 4, to the Asa Wright Nature Center (a “Not-for-Profit” Trust and wildlife reserve in Trinidad), that helped me to appreciate how people, with big hearts can move from humble beginnings to make a bigger impact on their communities. I also saw how other CSOs will sometimes forge ahead to change their world and would “pitch a tent” (according to one Antiguan CSO) if they need to or would always be on the lookout to better their communities (just like

‘go- getter’, Ms. Ruth Spencer from Antigua). All-in-all, I learnt that we are not alone if we have a big dream and step out in faith, with God’s help, to make a difference in our world. With the help of GEF funding, we see people at the grassroots level who are motivated to think quick, move fast and “just get the job done”.

So forge ahead, big thinkers, go and change your world for the better. Be the person who, from a humble start, possesses the heart, to make the biggest impact in your world!

**“I got a better understanding of the many people who really care about our environment and about the impact that our current lives can have on our future existence.”**



## SGP's short film wins third prize CBA10

SGP won third prize at the 10th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change's (CBA10) short film session in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The short film was presented by GEF SGP National Coordinator. The film "SIDS ADAPT" was the only film that addressed the unique context of CBA in Caribbean SIDS. It highlighted that community-based adaptation is vital to our survival and sustainability. The video was a synopsis of some community-based adaptation strategies in Barbados, Dominica and St. Lucia. SIDS ADAPT is funded through the SIDS CBA Programme, which is a partnership between the Australia Aid of the Government of Australia and SGP. The video can be viewed here:

## The Green Knowledge Fair is here!



*CoESL team promoting the Knowledge Fair at the Multi-national Fair*

The Green Knowledge Fair scheduled for 2nd-3rd June at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre will be the centre for grantees and key stakeholders to network, share experiences/lessons learned and showcase best practices from SGP projects to promote the replication and scaling up of results for greater policy influence. SGP Barbados' first Knowledge Fair will be organized by our grantee-partner, Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods (CoESL). We hope to see you there! Visit our GEF SGP Barbados' Facebook page for further updates.

## A Better Life through Sustainable Home Gardening

BARP has joined a growing movement of CSOs who have been advocating the importance of agriculture and organic home gardening to the sustainable development of Barbados through its Better Life Gardening project funded by GEF SGP. The project was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the Savannah Hotel. According to the President, Edward Bushell, it will be a multifaceted project that will encourage home gardening, help reduce and control the incidence of non-communicable diseases in Barbados, reduce members out of pocket expenses at the grocery store, be a source of income, and promote physical activity.



*Senator, the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade attending the BARP's project launch at the Savannah Hotel (third from right)*

# Environmental NGO launches book series, video and game app

PHOTOGRAPHER: John Matthews 2016



*Founder, Aisha King and Coastal Zone Management Unit Officers with Zana at the launch.*

The environmental NGO and animation group, Trekvoy Art and Literary Endowment for the Naturally Talented (T.A.L.E.N.T.) was lauded by the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP for increasing environmental awareness via cartoons, videogames and books for primary school aged children.

During the group's soft launch, David Bynoe, National Coordinator of GEF SGP in Barbados saluted TALENT's endeavours which were developed by the founder Aisha King.

The Zana series, originally developed in 2012, is based on a young fictional female character called Zana and her ad-

ventures in Barbados. Its collection now includes the animated pilot "[Zana's Great Big Chore](#)", the story book "Zana Goes Spearfishing" and the Android game app "[Attack of the Lion fish](#)".

The emcee and primary school teacher, Ms. Debbie McCollin, expressed her delight of having stories with Caribbean themes and local accents to engage primary school children. Ms. McCollin commended the creator Aisha King for creating stories that could draw young boys and girls in to Zana's little world.

The books are now available at Chattel House bookstore in Sky Mall.

# Building climate change resilience in fisheries

The Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO), one of GEF SGP's newest grantees, will be implementing the project "Building Climate Change Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Change" under our SIDS CBA portfolio.

In its planning grant phase, the organisation will be meeting with various fishing communities to better understand the vulnerabilities of the communities, establish a Disaster Committee which will guide the development of a community-based national disaster management plan for fisherfolk, and implement climate change adaptation interventions in selected communities.

Established since 1996, BARNUFO is an umbrella fisherfolk association in Barbados which seeks to improve the socio-economic conditions of fisherfolk through sustainable development of fisheries.

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