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SGP2

# GREENREPORTER

"COMMUNITY ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT"

*A Biannual Newsletter Highlighting Community Efforts*

## *SDGs Charting the Way Forward*

One hundred and eighty nine countries embarked upon a visionary and ambitious journey in 2000 when they set 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that would illuminate their development path until 2015. The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) is proud to have contributed towards these goals in more than 126 countries around the world. The commitment to achieving these targets by world leaders has yielded several results to be proud of: hunger, and also the proportion of people without access to improved water sources, has been cut by half; extreme poverty and the global maternal mortality ratio has also been reduced by almost half.

Building on the momentum and success generated during the implementation of the MDGs, world leaders have committed to 17 new goals- the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs carry

with them associated targets and indicators to facilitate the appropriate monitoring of progress made against these goals. They embody a sustainable approach to ending poverty and hunger, therefore ensuring that the direct connection between people and the planet we live on is made explicit.

These goals provide a focal point for governments, as well as a rallying point for NGOs to facilitate implementation and hold governments accountable to their commitments. The SDGs will be embedded in SGP's new Country Programme Strategy (CPS) currently under development and projects will be monitored for their contributions towards these goals. Join us as we make our contribution to the SDGs and create the future we want.

Happy Holidays!

David Bynoe  
National Coordinator



### **Beyond the Bush**

The first National Conference on Natural Fibres



### **One step closer to organically grown produce**

The National Coordinator presents eleven persons with their organic crop inspectors certificates.

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# Civil society paved their way to Paris

Leading up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme implemented by UNDP, in collaboration with the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) and Pinelands Creative Workshop hosted the “Civil Society Climate Change Consultation”. The event brought together over 18 CSO representatives, including SGP grantees, to broaden their knowledge on climate change and to facilitate consensus on a strong civil society national position for COP21.

The UNFCCC COP21 is crucial in climate change policy discourse as it will craft a new legally-binding international climate agreement to reduce carbon emissions beyond 2020.

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, Ms. Chisa Mikami said, “Today is an opportunity for CSOs to contribute to the process and add their voices as key stakeholders who stand at ground zero of the effects of climate change.”

GEF SGP National Coordinator for Barbados, Mr. David Bynoe stated, “For SIDS like Barbados, climate change is not a story. The sea level rise around our coastline, increased flooding and drought events, wide spread coral bleaching and the scorching temperatures we have been experiencing make climate change a reality and the reality of a changing

climate means that we must change too.”

“GEF SGP remains committed to providing the catalyst required to foster metamorphosis of Barbadian civil society, along with civil societies in over 126 countries, as we partner to save the world taking community action that cumulatively has a positive global impact,” Mr. Bynoe stated.

Mr. Rodney Grant, Chief Executive Officer of Pinelands Creative Workshop, added, “We are not doing well in the governing space and we must insert ourselves in dialogues. Climate change is an issue that we cannot ignore as it reflects on our affinity and co-dependence on nature.” He stressed that we each have an individual responsibility to play a role.

Mr. Mohammed Degia, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade provided an overview of the COP process, its importance and the possible implications of the outcomes. He stressed that if we do not obtain 90% of what we will need, we will cease to exist.

At the end of the session, it was agreed that a communique expressing the concerns and the outcome of the consultation would be shared with the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Environment and Drainage. The CSOs present also committed to the further development of the Major Groups initiated in 2014.

## CSO Dialogue



### Opening Ceremony

*Chisa Mikami, Deputy Resident Representative provides brief remarks on climate change, stressing the importance of CSO involvement*



### Opening Ceremony

*Rodney Grant, Chief Executive Officer, Pinelands Creative workshop addressing participants*



### CSO discussion

*A cross section of participants identifying key issues for CSOs in the context of climate change negotiations/processes.*

# Our portfolio is growing

**Table 1: Projects approved during July—December 2015**

GRANTEE	PROJECT TITLE	FOCAL AREA	GRANT (\$USD)
Barbados Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools*	REAP Barbados—Secondary Schools	Land Degradation	50,000
Barbados Association of Retired Persons *	Better Life Gardening Project	Land Degradation	50,000
Barbados Association of Tourism Employees	Sargassum Cleanup: Restoration & Upgrade of Beaches	Biodiversity	2,513
Barbados Marine Trust *	Undersea Heritage Museum	Biodiversity	50,000
Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations	Building Resilience of Barbadian Fisherfolk to Natural Disasters and Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	5,000
Barbados Renewable Energy Association	Sargassum Bioenergy Project	Climate Change Mitigation	5,000
Caribbean Creative Cluster Inc. *	SIDS Adapt	Climate Change Adaptation	47,814
Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods	Strengthening Environmental Cohesion and Inclusion through Knowledge Transfer Action/2015	Capacity Development	50,000
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies	GEF SGP Country Programme Strategy Development for Barbados (Operational Phase 6)	Multi-focal	25,000
The Future Centre Trust	Capacity Building Workshops for the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Programme	Biodiversity	5,000
Healing Waters International Ministries*	Empowering Barbadian Communities to Go Green through local organic products	Chemicals	50,000
Pinelands Creative Workshop	Building the capacity of National CSOs to Participate in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Policies	Capacity Development	4,990
The Sojourner Foundation	Eradication of the use of harmful chemicals in organic food production	Chemicals	3,875
Youth Equipped to Achieve!	REAP Barbados—Secondary Schools	Land Degradation	2,775

\* The projects were up-scaled from planning grants to full grants.



Staff and Members of the Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP)

Our portfolio continues to grow as SGP Barbados awarded seed funding to 12 grantees, between June to November 2015, to transform their innovative ideas to action. Planning grants are developed to assist grantees in developing their ideas into full proposals. One of the most recent grantees, Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP) have benefited from this process and have up-scaled to a full-size project. Ms. Karen Barker, Business Developer from BARP said, “The planning grant facilitated some of the detailed technical work done to conceptualize the project’s activities/ requirements and develop the project proposal.”



## Beyond the Bush

by Sandra Browne and Wendy Hollingsworth, Barbados Institute of Environmental Professional (BIEP)

The Barbados Institute of Environmental Professional (BIEP) with support from the GEF SGP UNDP hosted the first “Beyond the Bush” Conference from 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Savannah Hotel in Barbados.

The national conference provided stakeholders with the results of the Natural Fibres and Seeds Project in addition to exciting prospects for long term possibilities of fibre usage on a much wider scale.

**“There are exciting prospects for long-term possibilities of fibre usage...”**

The conference brought the expertise of two international experts in their fields to treat such areas as practical and alternative uses of non-traditional fibres – Banana and Elephant grass, and visionary uses of discarded resources – seeing beyond the bush. David Croxton, a British specialist in the production of biomass, bio-fuel and composites from Miscanthus shared his expertise while Professor Nilza Justiz-Smith from the University of Technology, Jamaica, explored the



Experts David Croxton (1st left) and Professor Nilza Justiz-Smith (in sunglasses) discuss possibilities of banana fibre uses

hidden possibilities of natural fibres with special reference to banana fibre. Participants also had the practical experience of Barbadian entrepreneur, Randolph Sandiford of Matrix Marketing Inc. who has perfected the innovative incorporation of elephant grass and corn husk into his furniture and interior design products. Stella Hackett, a product development specialist mainly to artisan businesses provided guidance on innovative design and new product development.

Very positive results emanating from this conference included the collaboration between the newly established Barbados Natural Fibres Network and a manufacturer, for production of fibre cordage to be incorporated into furniture designs; the development of specific fibre products for export to a Bristol company, through the Network; the linkages made with the Caribbean focal point of the Global Natural Fibres Forum and the proposal for collaboration on a Caribbean fibres conference. The field trip on March 26 in

which the international experts participated, provided coordinators and stakeholders with a platform to discuss community-based entrepreneurial activities utilizing fibres found in those communities. Toward this end, the potential abundance of banana fibre was earmarked for future exploitation.



Miscanthus expert David Croxton joins other participants in exploring bush grasses in the field

### Project 'CEED'

By Fabian Sargeant, Vice President,  
Cultural Cross Roads Empowerment  
Barbados (CCREB)



National Coordinator, David Bynoe, examines one of the pyramid gardens in a St. Philip community

Climate change has taken the earth by storm and continues to reap havoc with its intangible hands of destruction. In response to this crisis,

CCREB embarked on a project entitled "Community Environmental Empowerment Drive ('CEED') which not only sought to build the climate change awareness at the community level, but also to introduce the concept of the 'Solar Powered Drip Irrigation Pyramid Gardens' for organic home gardening.

Seventy persons from three participating communities (Checker Hall, St. Lucy and Bellplaine, St. Andrew to Emerald Park, St. Philip) feverishly absorbed the information shared, with the assistance of Mr Leroi Coppin, tutor at the Barbados

Community College. Many of these persons are utilizing the 40 solar irrigated pyramid gardens, growing herbs such as parsley, chives and lettuce.

The growing interest has motivated CCREB to continue its work within communities to ensure that all communities across Barbados play their part in mitigating behaviors that contribute to climate change, as well as working towards being self-sufficient by adopting the practice of organic home gardening, while using the Solar Powered Drip Irrigation Pyramid Gardens.

### Local farmers receive practical training in solar PV

By Kemberley Gittens, Fmr. Senior Projects Officer, Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)

Fifteen farmers and agroprocessors in Barbados have increased their awareness in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and applications during a workshop on PV design and installation. The workshop was part of a series of ongoing trainings delivered by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) under the project, "Promoting renewable energy production in farming communities in Barbados" which seeks to enhance the application of renewable energy technologies (RETs) on farms across Barbados.

Facilitators, David Green, General Manager, Williams Solar Ltd and Destine Gay, PhD student at UWI, covered the basic construction and the operation of solar cells; grid-tied and stand-alone systems; the application and uses of different types of systems; installation



Hands on training on solar PV array mounted on a demonstration roof.

"...a serious eye-opener on the use and application of PVs to enhance our livelihoods and our way of living."

Saunjean Cutting, Participant

procedure and best practices; the calculation of payback and the return on investment and the maintenance procedures/practices.

CPDC undertook an assessment of

energy use and requirements for application of RETs on selected farms across Barbados; is in the process of setting up a demonstration farm showing use of a range of RETs and in addition to the PV training will also deliver practical workshops on the design and operationalization of biodigesters and solar dryers. This is in effort to support climate change mitigation and build resilience. The lessons learnt from the project will inform a policy dialogue between policy makers and project beneficiaries toward the end of the project.

# Inspectors for organic produce certified

By Hallam Hope, Public Relations Officer, Organic Growers and Consumers Association (OGCA)

The Caribbean has taken a further step to have more organically grown crops consumed within the region and abroad. Eleven farmers formally received certificates verifying their accreditation as inspectors of organic produce at a special presentation ceremony held today at the United Nations House.

The eight Barbadians and three Grenadians are now equipped to inspect and certify organic farms in the region, following an intensive five-day course hosted by the Organic Growers and Consumers Association (OGCA) of Barbados, with funding support from the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Participants received their Crop Inspection Certification at the certification ceremony held at the UN

The training was facilitated by Mr. Luis Brenes of Costa Rica, a member of the United States based International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA), along with supporting trainer Dr. Joseph Lindsay, co-funder and former President of the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement.

Commenting on the event, Secretary of the OGCA and Head of the Project Coordinating Committee, John Hunte said: "This and hopefully similar courses reduces the cost of certification to farmers, a major cost for them, while providing consumers and exporters with the confidence of knowing what they are purchasing is genuine organic produce."

Hunte noted: "There is a global trend towards eating healthy and new markets and opportunities have opened up regionally and locally as well for farmers to take advantage

of. The next step would be to provide the certified farmers with additional practice on farms similar to the hands-on and academic training received."

Some of the main partners of the training were Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University, based in Barbados, the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), the Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (BANGO) and individual donors who made monetary and in-kind contributions.

**"Certification will ensure consumers and exporters that they are purchasing genuine organic products are on the market..."**



Cross-section of participants during the presentation ceremony

## Grantee Tip # 3



### Take advantage of social media but use it responsibly

Our world has gone social and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) should take advantage of it. Social media is a great public relations tool to share ideas, insights, engage in discussion, increase awareness and build relationships and support with fans and followers.

Before you begin your social journey, ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the best social media platform to engage with your target audience?
- Who will draft the social media policy guidelines?
- Who will be responsible for creating and gathering content?
- What content will you use to engage audiences?
- How frequently will you share posts/updates?
- Which monitoring tools will you use?



## Permaculture Teaching Centre opens

Approximately eighty-three persons between 18-63 years old are certified permaculture designers after the Permaculture lab opened its doors one year ago. An initiative of the Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute, the Permaculture lab was developed as a teaching centre to demonstrate the principles of permaculture.

With funding from GEF SGP and the strong partnership built between the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector, CPRI was able to transform the former Cocoa research centre to a permaculture teaching centre.

CPRI has also secured 15 acres of land as a Permaculture Whole Systems Demonstration Site. The first 5 acres are under sustainable agricultural practices i.e. without the use of synthetic chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. The center has utilized two income generating mechanisms to support its operation and the livelihood of organic farming, generating US\$11,460 from hosting the Graeme Hall Farmer's Market in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.



**"Permaculture is a design science, inspired by nature and guided by ethics. Its purpose is to meet the needs of humanity while benefiting the environment."**



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## HRH Princess Royal, Princess Anne visit ROLF



*Ms. Kerri-Ann Worrell explains involvement of persons with mental health disabilities on the farm to Her Royal Highness Princess Royal, Princess Anne of Edinburgh and CCELD participants*

September 29<sup>th</sup> was a memorable moment for River of Life Farm (ROLF) as eleven participants of the Caribbean – Canadian Emerging Leaders Dialogue (CCELD) Barbados Tour, and President of CCELD, HRH Princess Royal, Princess Anne of Edinburgh visited the River of Life Organic Farm project site. The two acre site provides a rehabilitative strategy for mental health patients while applying best practices of sustainable agriculture to reduce land degradation.

Chairman of ROLF, Wasim Worrell, recalled the tour as a humbling experience. “At times when you’re working on a project, you’re uncertain how others value your work or even appreciate the challenges,” he stated,

Ms. Kerrie-Ann Worrell, a member of ROLF, stated, “We need to accept that

**“We need to return to simple solutions that make a real difference...”**

differently abled persons can engage in work-based activities and also help remove the stigma associated.”

Ten persons with mental health disabilities participated in an organic farming workshop which focused on crop production and making of organic fertilisers; two of which have started their own home gardening.

Her Royal Highness spoke candidly about the project noting its usefulness and practical approach to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in society. She praised the members of ROLF for their unprecedented and the cost effective approach to solve a real problem that confronted Barbados.

## Save the date

(January–Jun 2016)

**March 3**

**World Wildlife Day**

**March 8**

**International Women’s Day**

**March 22**

**World Water Day**

**April 22**

**International Mother Earth Day**

**May 9-10**

**World Migratory Day**

**May 22**

**International Day for Biological Diversity**

**June 5**

**World Environment Day**

**June 8**

**World Oceans Day**

**June 17**

**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**



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