

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Making Agriculture Profitable and Sustainable

Project Number: TT-T1067 - Project Num.: ATN/ME-15827-TT

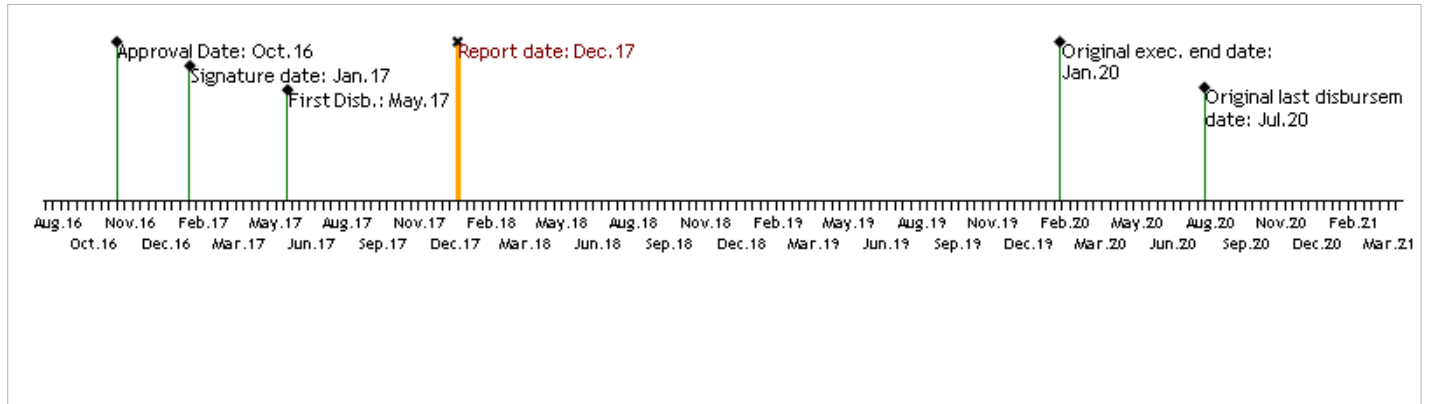
Country Admin
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Country Beneficiary
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

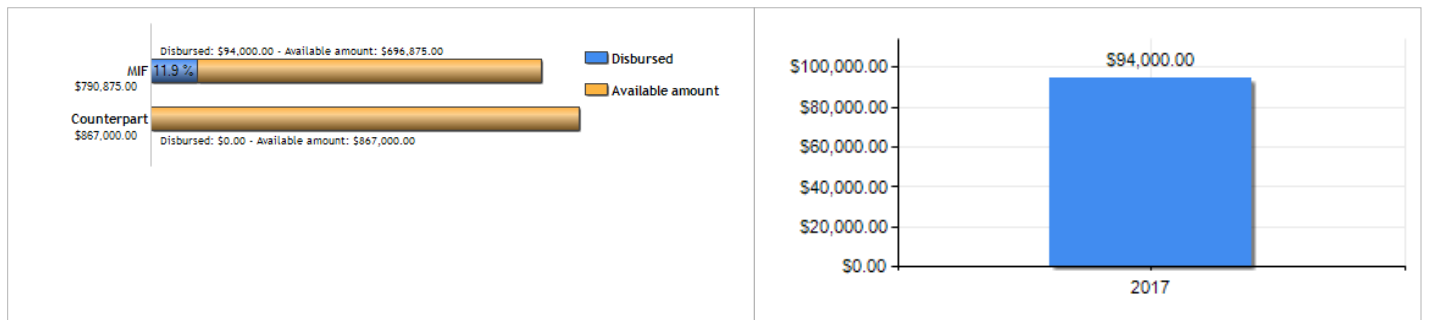
Executing Agency: The Cropper Foundation

Design Team Leader: KAVITA MAHARAJ
Supervision Team Leader: VASHTIE DOOKIESINGH

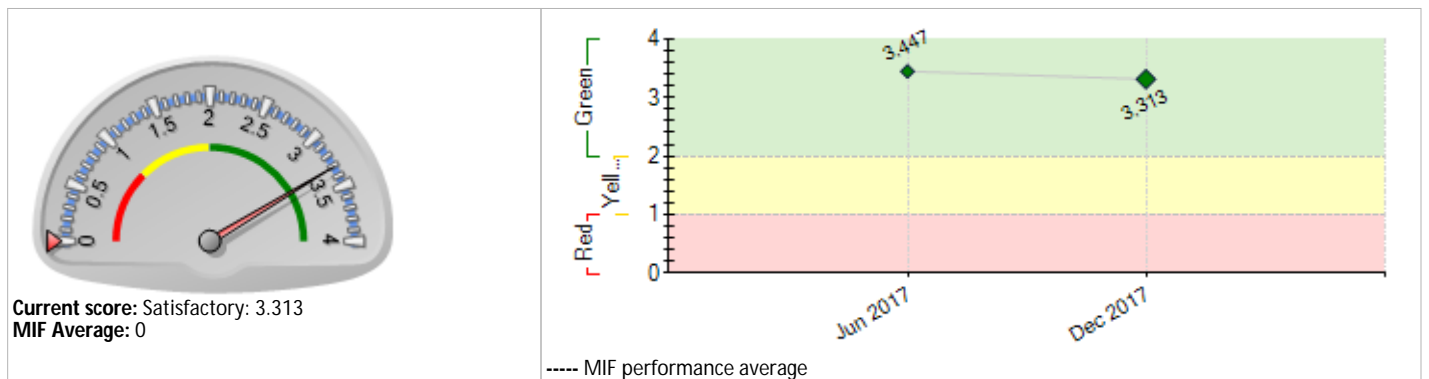
PROJECT CYCLE



FUNDS



PERFORMANCE SCORE



EXTERNAL RISKS

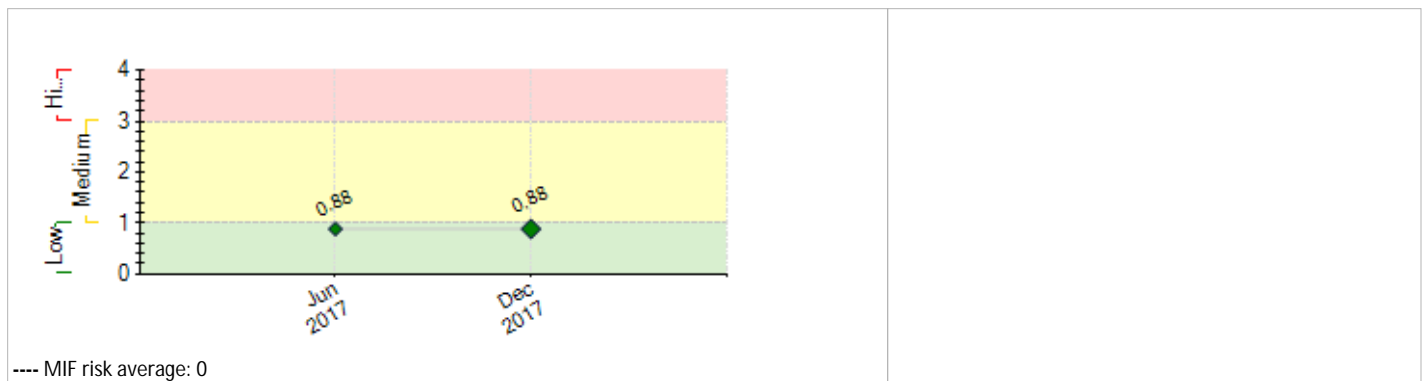
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk

Financial Management: Low

Procurement: Low

Technical Capacity: Low



SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

The main results achieved so far are: (i) the signing of contracts for Component 1 with The University of the West Indies' Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA), and Component 2 with (Caribbean Industrial Research Institute- CARIRI). (ii) Finalization of the Training Toolkit by The FFA, the second Milestone is delayed as we await confirmation of the number and names of the Agricultural Extension Officers to be trained from the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Agriculture. The National Agricultural Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO), a statutory body that oversees >800 farmers, has been engaged as a contingency as they can assist with providing their Extension Officers, and farmers to be trained. The FFA, with contributions from (CARIRI) have two training sessions (5 days each), planned for February and March 2018. The risk level of the project remains at medium, with the chance that trained farmers do not adhere to operational and quality standards required by Massy Stores (the buyers). The prospect of achieving the objectives are moderately optimistic as we believed once farmers realise the monetary gain from Good Agricultural Practices, successes will pass onto others, subsequently helping the environment. The Executing Unit will: (i) ensure continued engagement with FFA, CARIRI and other stakeholders on the training and testing aspect of the project; (ii) work closely with Massy Stores on the Marketing and Branding of the produced chemical-free agricultural commodities.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

Summary of project performance in the last six months

The main achievements of the semester were: (i) Component 1—Supporting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices, the consultancy's Terms of Reference (TOR) and contract were approved and signed by The University of the West Indies' Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA), their role is the "training-of-trainers" of Agricultural Extension Officers (who will then facilitate farmer training). (ii) Component 2—Independent Testing, the consultancy's TOR and contract were approved and signed by the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), they will facilitate the testing and accreditation of the chemical-free agricultural commodities produced. FFA is finalising the Training Toolkit for the training-the-trainer sessions; there may be a delay of (Milestone 2) as we await confirmation of the Extension Officers to be trained from the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Agriculture. The Executing Unit held stakeholder meetings with the National Agricultural Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO), a statutory body that oversees >800 farmers, and is finalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Corporation to provide farmers and Extension Officers for training as a contingency, should there be further delays from the Ministry. In the coming six months Milestones 2 and 3 will be achieved with efforts concentrated on: (i) Training of Extension Officers (ii) the development and testing of Standards and Protocols and Tests to detect the presence of chemicals in produce.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

Indicators	Baseline	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 3	Planned	Achieved	Status
Goal:							
Purpose:							
Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date of achievement	Status		

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE

[X] Others, which?: Co-ordination with government agencies regarding assignment and participation of agricultural extension officers

SECTION 4: RISKS

MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE

	Level	Mitigation action	Responsible
1. Farmers do not adhere to operational and quality standards required by the buyers	Medium	work with farmers that are currently working with the buyers and demonstrated the commitment required to implemented the practices developed by the project.	Project Guest
2. Farmers do not adhere to operational and quality standards required by the buyers	Medium	work with farmers that are currently working with the buyers and demonstrated the commitment required to implemented the practices developed by the project.	Project Guest
3. farmers do not understand the business case to participate in this niche market	Medium	The Cropper Foundation has partnered directly with a buyer to demonstrate that commitment of the firm to buying farmers products. This partnership from inception will demonstrate the market access potential of farmers products.	Project Guest
4. farmers cannot afford testing post project execution	Low	the executing agency is partnering with a local standards firm to develop an inexpensive testing protocol	Project Guest
PROJECT RISK LEVEL: Medium TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS: 4 IN EFFECT RISKS: 4 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 0			

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion: P - Probable

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Issue	Comments
[X] Lack of cost recovery mechanisms or external financing sources (government, donors and/or private sector) to continue the activities of the project once MIF resources are expended	Training and technical support must translate into better market opportunities for the intervention to be sustained by farmers
[X] A market is not generated for the project's services and/or activities (low payment capacity or low demand for those services)	Product pricing must meet farmers requirement for a higher price that for traditional products while remaining viable for the retailer to realize a profit and be accessible to a critical mass of consumers if the retail channel is to be sustained on both demand and supply side

Actions related to sustainability which have been taken in the reporting period:

The University of the West Indies Faculty of Food and Agriculture Department (FFA) is finalising the Training Toolkit for the training of Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers. Once these good Agricultural Practices are adopted by farmers and The Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) certifies that the produce is chemical-free, Stakeholder engagements with Massy Stores (the buyer) have confirmed their commitment to purchase the produce from farmers at a premium price.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

[No lessons learned found]