

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

## SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

**PROJECT NAME:** Support for indigenous pepper producers.

Project Number: SU-M1021 - Project Num.: ATN/ME-15464-SU

**Purpose:** Develop a collective model for production and sale of hot pepper products for buyers in the capital city, to support sustainable livelihoods of women in three Suriname remote communities

**Country Admin**

SURINAME

**Country Beneficiary**

SURINAME

**Executing Agency:**

Amazon Conservation Team Suriname-  
Paramaribo Office

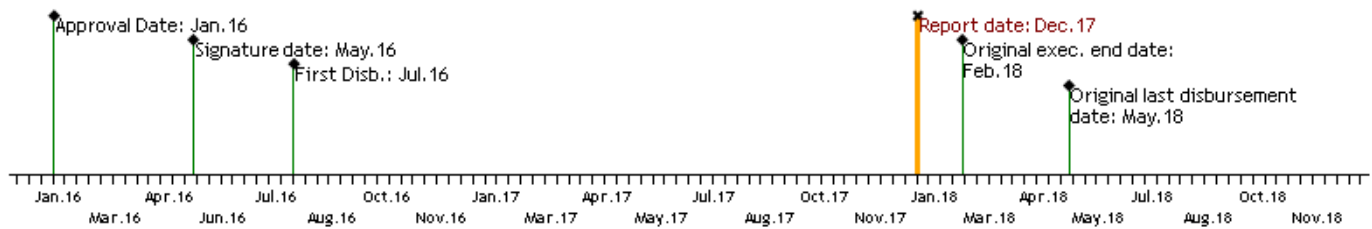
**Design Team Leader:**

WINSOME LESLIE

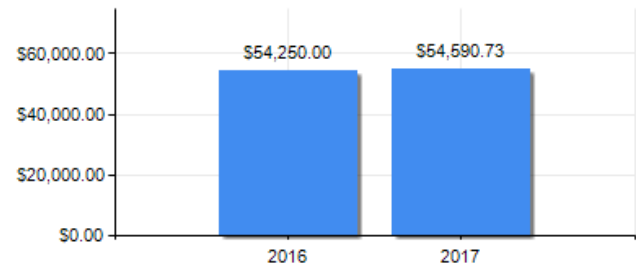
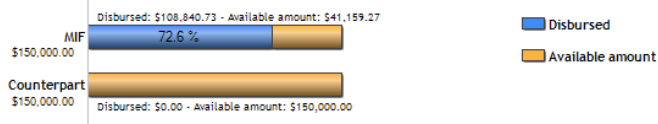
**Supervision Team Leader:**

VASHTIE DOOKIESINGH

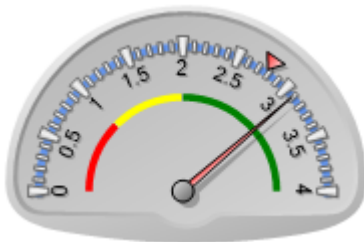
### PROJECT CYCLE



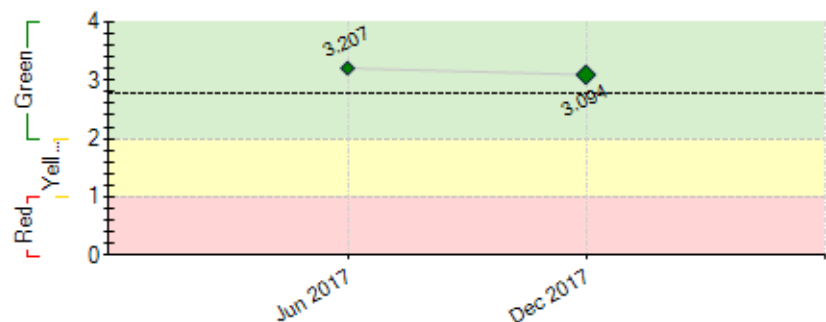
### FUNDS



### PERFORMANCE SCORE



Current score: Satisfactory: 3.094  
MIF Average: 2.779



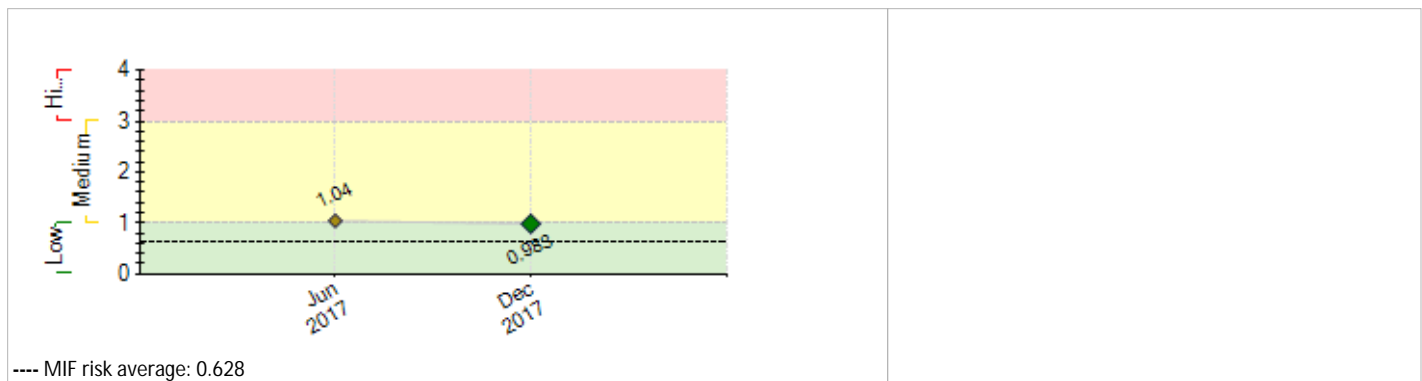
----- MIF performance average

### EXTERNAL RISKS

### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

**Risk**

Financial Management: 0  
Procurement: 0  
Technical Capacity: 0



## SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

### Summary of project performance since inception

#### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Training in basic skills of Processing of pepper/traceability in Tepu, Matawai & Kwamalasamutu. Existing Processing unit in Tepu is being adjusted to standards. Processing unit is constructed in Apetina (new Wayana village - spin off): Amongst the villages: 17 (15 in Matawai & 2 in Tepu). The training was partially done in Paramaribo. The processing unit of Matawai is planned for first quarter of 2018. Continue agricultural trainings in all communities (organic, soil management strategies etc.) Solar drying house built in Kwamalasamutu; smaller solar driers in Matawai, Tepu & in Apetina. Marketing & Branding of pepper completed, the promotional activities postponed to 2018, due to several events in December 2017. The labelling & packaging is still being finalized. Here a delay is experienced. ToR drafted for the combination recruitment of consultant: pricing model & collective enterprise. Unfortunately the availability of the consultant is shifted to February 2018. ToR for Case Study consultant drafted. The delayed activities planned for first quarter of 2018. Meanwhile consultant on pricing & collective enterprise will be completed. It's expected that two potential entrepreneurs are awaiting the moment of signing agreements with the communities. One can be mentioned, is the Green Child Enterprise linked to Jacana Wellness Resort. Liability if processing unit in Matawai is not built in the first quarter of 2018. The final objectives will be met in 2018.

#### Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

The ACT Suriname has made progress on preparation of the supply side for the value chain in terms of food safety upgrades, technical and other training. Securing consensus on a co-operative working structure between villages has been more challenging to obtain. The focus going forward needs to be on expansion of market opportunities which is dependent on agreement to plan and process in a co-operative and collaborative system so as to deliver required volumes on a consistent basis. In addition a fourth community has joined the project expanding the beneficiary pool of this intervention.

#### Summary of project performance in the last six months

The consultants: Agricultural training/ Food safety/Traceability/Marketing & Branding/ Packaging/ Umbrella brand designs, as well as Value Chain - were recruited and conducted the trainings, and produced the information/data for the next consultant: business skills and collective model to be hired. Trainings were provided in the field and in Paramaribo, but also visits to companies were undertaken. Composting, nurseries, water and soil management, disease and pest recognition and treatment were all addressed- within the context of organic production. Solar driers were introduced.

The Government of Suriname and the traditional Authorities became interested in the investment of the processing unit in Matawai, and have been promoting products like pepper and honey.

Delays were mainly due to limited availability of expertise. Mobilizing farmers and authorities was a challenge, due to NGO- fatigue occurring in the villages. In Suriname several projects are conducted around Indigenous and Tribal communities, which places a tremendous pressure on the people and their cultural accustoms. Internally in ACT a transition of leadership also had to be addressed.

Next phase: Completion of a business model and the skills to run this collectively, with the knowledge of pricing components. This should lead to signing of a MoU between the farmers and the marketing entities.

Monitor the use of processing units which should be completed in May 2018.

**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
<b>Goal:</b> Develop a new market for pepper products produced by Suriname's interior communities	I.1 Sustained sale of pepper products from targeted communities in Suriname's interior to buyers within the urban capital				May 2018	Yes Jan 2018	
	I.2 Number of all individuals employed within the targeted supply chain	0			80 May 2018	65 Mar 2018	
	I.3 Number of households deriving income from sale of pepper products	0 May 2016	50 Nov 2017		80 May 2018	65 Mar 2018	
<b>Purpose:</b> Develop a collective model for production and sale of hot pepper products for buyers in the capital city, to support sustainable livelihoods of women in three Suriname remote communities	R.1 Number of targeted female-headed farms with links strategic business partners in the pepper value chain	0	50 Nov 2017		80 May 2018	65 Mar 2018	
	R.2 Number of female-headed farms that have adopted new agricultural practices and related technologies such as soil conservation strategies and food safety.	0	20 May 2017	50 Nov 2017	80 May 2018	65 Mar 2018	
	R.3 Percentage increase in volume of pepper produced that complies with required quality standards.	0 May 2016	15 May 2017	25 Nov 2017	50 May 2018	65 Mar 2018	
	R.4 Practical Traceability System implemented to ensure food safety standards				May 2018	No Mar 2018	
	R.5 Collective organizations are established in each targeted community to coordinate and manage quality of supply to buyers, resolve disputes and distribute proceeds to producers				May 2018	No Jan 2018	
	R.6 At least 3 new buyers are included in the supply chain				May 2018	Yes Jan 2018	
<b>Component 1:</b> Improving Yield and Standards of Processed Peppers  <b>Weight:</b> 30% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	C1.11 Number of female-headed farms trained in agricultural practices to improve soil fertility, pest control and sustainability in cultivation to improve crop yield and quality	0			80 May 2016	53 Oct 2017	Delayed
	C1.12 Number of persons (producers and community members involved in the value chain) trained in agricultural practices within the targeted communities	0 May 2016			50 May 2018		On Course
<b>Component 2:</b> Marketing and Branding of Organic Dry Pepper as a Cultural Product  <b>Weight:</b> 20% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	C2.11 Marketing and Branding Campaign implemented				May 2017	Yes Jul 2017	On Course
	C2.12 Standardized packaging and labeling requirements defined and adopted by producers				Nov 2017	Yes Oct 2017	Delayed
	C2.13 Number of women producers (farms) trained in improving food safety requirements in harvesting, processing, packaging and storage of peppers.	0			80 May 2016	53 Oct 2017	Delayed
<b>Component 3:</b> Value chain strengthening through Business Skills and Collective model  <b>Weight:</b> 45% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	C3.11 Number of collective organizations in charge of coordination of production and sale into the supply chain within each of the three targeted communities established.	0 May 2016			3 May 2018		On Course
	C3.12 Number of individuals in beneficiary communities training in business practices	0			100 May 2016	2 Oct 2017	Delayed
<b>Component 4:</b> Knowledge: Case Study of Maroon and Indigenous Pepper producers and lessons learned:  <b>Weight:</b> 5% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	C4.11 Case study documenting experience in working with indigenous communities living in isolated communities	0			1 Apr 2018		

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date of achievement	Status
M0 Conditions Prior	1	Nov 2016	6	Jul 2016	Achieved
M1 [*] Development of technical training materials for producers and draft schedule for training events	1	Dec 2017	1	Dec 2017	Achieved
M2 [*] Completion of business skills training for an initial 25 producers	1	Jan 2018			
M3 [*] Memorandum of Understanding drafted and agreed in principle by leaders of community based organizations.	1	May 2018			
M4 Completion of business training for 4 participating communities	4	May 2018			

[\*] Indicate that the milestone has been reformulated

**CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE**

[None reported in this period]

**SECTION 4: RISKS****MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE**

	Level	Mitigation action	Responsible
1. Lack of agreement by producers on the	Medium	The intervention includes specific activities and associated budget to	Project Coordinator

nature and function of the collective organization		build consensus on the purpose and rationale for collective organization as well as developing a practical model which builds on traditional structures at the community level.	
2. Producers are unable to comply with quality and quantity standards as defined by buyers.	Medium	Producers will receive training in cultivation and food safety handling systems to facilitate implementation of standards at community levels. Collective organizations as well as individual producers will receive training and capacity building in business management skills required to coordinate production and transportation of required volume of peppers	Project Coordinator
3. There could be some friction if women earn more than men.	Medium	Involve men in supply chain through targeted activities.	Project Coordinator
4. Producers do not adopt required standards	Low	The intervention is structured to demonstrate the link between adoption of new standards and increased economic gains to producers	Project Coordinator
5. Buyers do not demonstrate interest in the product	Low	Two strategic buyers have already been identified and have participated in the initial pilot.	Project Coordinator
<b>PROJECT RISK LEVEL:</b> Medium <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS:</b> 8 <b>IN EFFECT RISKS:</b> 7 <b>NOT IN EFFECT RISKS:</b> 0 <b>MITIGATED RISKS:</b> 1			

## SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

**Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion:** P - Probable

### CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

*[None reported in this period]*

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

Negotiations with the traditional leaders to have an own contribution for the processing units in their communities to increase the ownership. The GoS is also interfering to have the Matawai use the community funds for these types of long term investments. In Apetina a processing site was built. In Tepu is being adjusted and in Kwamalasamutu the process of having a common space is being discussed.

There are ideas of making villages share-holder of the processing units, to further increase the ownership and the mechanism of controlling income, investments and profits.

## SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

	Relative to Implementation	Author
1. - Spontaneous participation of another community: Apetina. Brought logistic and coaching challenges. We used co-funding from other donors. - The comparison with coastal farmers using more fertilizers /pesticides to increase yields. Some farmers were in favour or BAU from the city. Awareness about the uniqueness/competitiveness - Farmers being proud when realizing the promos/intermediate packages material were shared.		Hanoeman, Niradj