

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

01/01/2020 - 06/30/2020

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation number: JA-M1035

Suboperation number: ATN/ME-15663-JA

Project Name: Project Grow: Accelerating the Inclusion of Small Scale Farmers and Youth into the Commercial Cassava Value Chain

Purpose: To enhance the capacity of small and medium scale farms to supply quality cassav

Country admin

JAMAICA

Country beneficiary:

JAMAICA

Group:

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SubGroup:

Executing Agency: Desnoes & Geddes Foundation

Team Leader: TERRYANNS

Project cycle:

Report Date: 2020 - 07 - 01

Approval Date: 2016 - 08 - 04

Signature Date: 2016 - 10 - 24

First disbursement date: 2017 - 05 - 10

Original Execution End Date: 2019 - 10 - 24

Current Execution End Date: 2020 - 10 - 24

Original Last Disbursement Date: 2021 - 04 - 24

Last Current Disbursement date: 2021 - 04 - 24

SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Project's performance summary since the beginning

The project has engaged over 200 farmers and 600 youths through capacity building a research activities. Under the research component high starch, high yielding cassava varieties as well as intercropping has been tested. 3 entities have provided financial support to farmers. Training has also been provided to the State agency responsible for agricultural extension support. Over 10 million kg of cassava has been purchased by Red Stripe valued at over US\$1.6m. Unintended benefits of the project has been the increased interest in the cassava value chain of other agro-processing companies to utilize cassava for human and animal consumption and its potential for use as fuel.

Supervision Team Leader comments

The project team is committed to ensuring the successful implementation of the project towards the achievement of the objectives.

Project's performance summary in the last 6 months

The project has been affected due to the Corona virus pandemic. With most of the project activities requiring face to face contact, our youth and stakeholder training sessions were put on hold and extension services were provided virtually. Harvesting of cassava was temporarily affected due to curfew measures, some farms have not started the replanting process due to COVID and the extended drought being faced. The case study was halted, however it has restarted and should be completed shortly. No new loans were provided during the period. In field research activities were completed and the write up of the findings are being undertaken.

Supervision Team Leader comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

C1 : Enhancing Technical and Agronomic Capacity for Cassava Production Weight 20% Qualification ~not selected~

Indicators	Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Farmer Training curriculum and technical manual for climate smart cassava production developed	0	1 (2017 - 12 - 24)	1 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished
I2 Number of Project Grow field staff and technicians trained in climate smart cassava production (disaggregated by sex)	0	15 (2021 - 01 - 24)	39 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished
I3 Number of farmers trained in climate smart commercial cassava production (disaggregated by sex)	0	200 (2020 - 12 - 24)	125 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished
I4 Number of farmers trained in agro entrepreneurship and receiving business advisory services (disaggregated by sex)	0	200 (2020 - 12 - 24)	0 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished

C2 : Developing a Climate Smart Production System Weight 30% Qualification ~not selected~

Indicators	Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Number of high yielding climate smart cassava varieties tested	0	8 (2020 - 12 - 24)	12 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished
I2 Number of nurseries established to propagate high yielding climate smart plant material	0	6 (2020 - 12 - 24)	3 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished
I3 Number of nurseries established to propagate high yielding climate smart plant material	0	3 (2020 - 12 - 24)	3 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished

C3 : Scaling Up Youth Training in Agriculture and Cassava Production

Weight 25% Qualification ~not selected~

Indicators	Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Number of youth trained in farm management and cassava production (disaggregated by sex)	67	1000 (2020 - 12 - 24)	69 (2019 - 10 - 16)	In progress
I2 Number of youth trained in leadership and life skills (disaggregated by sex)	67	1000 (2020 - 12 - 24)	0 (2019 - 10 - 16)	In progress
I3 Number of Project Grow youth receiving job placement assistance from NEO (disaggregated by sex)	0	1000 (2020 - 12 - 24)	20 (2019 - 10 - 16)	In progress

C4 : IMPROVING ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN THE CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN **Weight 5% Qualification ~not selected~**

Indicators	Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Number of specially adapted credit products developed for cassava farms	0	2 (2017 - 12 - 24)	2 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished
I2 Number of farms receiving credit	0	200 (2020 - 12 - 24)	100 (2019 - 10 - 16)	In progress
I3 Volume of credit disbursed to Project Grow farms	0	1600000 (2020 - 12 - 24)	766812 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Finished

C5 : Knowledge and Strategic Communications **Weight 20% Qualification ~not selected~**

Indicators	Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Case Study	0	1 (2019 - 12 - 24)	0 (2019 - 10 - 16)	Delayed

Milestones	Planned Value	Achieved Value	Due Date	Achieved Date	Status
Conditions Prior	10	10	2017 - 04 - 30	2020 - 04 - 01	Achieved
Technical Cooperation Agreement finalized and work program for (i) ecosystem bas	1	1	2017 - 10 - 30	2020 - 04 - 01	Achieved
Agribusiness curriculum developed	1	0	2016 - 10 - 27		Overdue
Technical manual and training manual for ecosystem based approach developed	1	1	2018 - 03 - 31	2020 - 04 - 01	Achieved
50% of agribusiness and ecosystem based trainings scheduled completed	50	60	2018 - 11 - 30	2020 - 03 - 31	Achieved
100% of agribusiness and ecosystem based trainings scheduled completed	100	100	2019 - 02 - 28	2020 - 03 - 31	Achieved
Variety Trials	1	1	2020 - 06 - 30	2020 - 08 - 25	Achieved
Capacity Building Support	250	0	2020 - 11 - 30		Pending

CRITICAL FACTS THAT HAVE AFFECTED PROJECT'S PERFORMANCE

Design of project/Components

SECTION 4: RISKS

	Impact Area	Severity	Prob.	Date	Responsible	Mitigation action
Counterpart funding and support from NEO for youth training may not materialize.	Final Outcome	(3) Medium	Very Low 20%	2020 - 02 - 14	Project Coordinator	The project will revise its targets for youth training in accordance with the resources that are available. Additionally, the project will utilize Train the Trainer provided by NEO and will have Extension Officers trained to then deliver the training to youths
Farmers are unable to repay the loans for starter kits.	IMPROVING ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN THE CASSAVA VALUE CHAIN	(4) High	Medium 60%	2020 - 02 - 14	Project Coordinator	Farmers selected for purchase contracts will be carefully screened by both Red Stripe and the financial institution to determine their capacity to produce cassava and repay the loan.
Farmers may be reluctant to adopt new methods and technologies and may not apply	Final Outcome, Intermediary Outcome	(4) High	Very Low 20%	2020 - 02 - 14	Project Coordinator	Contract farmers will be selected through a rigorous screening process, checking their potential commitment to comply with new production methods and with quality standards. In addition, the field technical team will be performing regular supervision visits to contract farms and training modalities will be appropriate for the targeted training population (literacy, availability etc.). Furthermore, the contract farming arrangement will provide incentives for compliance through a pricing structure under which higher starch content will receive a higher market price
Jamaica, like most small island developing countries, is vulnerable to the impac	Intermediary Outcome	(3) Medium	Medium 60%	2020 - 02 - 14	Project Coordinator	The promotion and use of high-yielding climate resilient cassava varieties could help to mitigate the risk of crop losses. Further to this, the geographical dispersion of the cassava clusters across the island will also mitigate against this risk. The cassava cultivation training provided will also build the knowledge of farmers on land practices to reduce the effect of adverse climatic conditions
The partnering financial institution has lower than expected	Final Outcome	(4) High	Medium 60%	2020 - 02 - 14	Project Coordinator	The MIF has worked with Red Stripe to develop specific TORs in order to select a financial institution with the capacity, experience and track record to manage the credit facility.

capacity to
develop

TOTAL RISKS QUANTITY: 5 IN EFFECT RISKS: 5 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 0

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Indicate likelihood of project sustainability after project completion:

ASPECTS THAT PUT THE PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AT RISK

[There were no aspects reported during this period]

Actions related to sustainability which have been implemented in the project:

Training of RADA Extension Officers was started with Officers in Manchester and Clarendon and was to have continued across the island however COVID restrictions have postponed the training.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

	Relative to	Author	Date
It is very important that when projects are to collaborate during implementation that there is a clear and correct understanding of the activities and deliverables under each project to ensure a smooth partnership and avoid hiccups.	Design	Stephannie Hutchinson	2019 - 10 - 22