

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 2011 - JUNE 2011

## SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

**PROJECT NAME:** Implementation of Sustainable Farming Practices by Communities in the Northern R

Project Number: TT-M1017 - Operation Number: ATN/ME-11488-TT

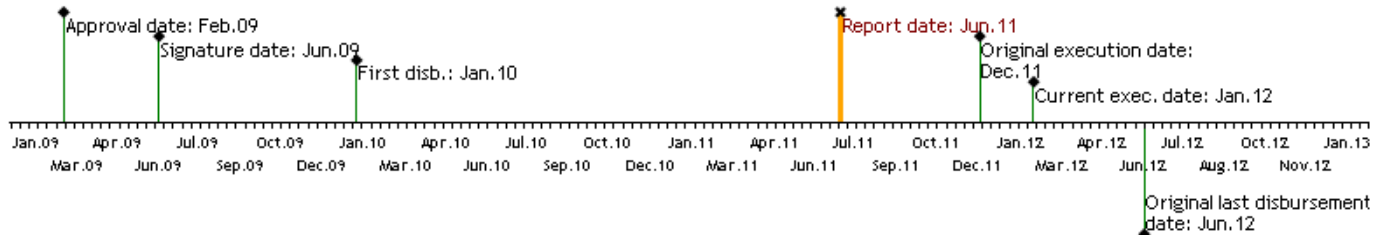
**Purpose:** Pilot a programme of alternative and sustainable farming practices to selected farmers in 2 selected watershed communities of the Northern Range

Country Administrator	Beneficiary Country	Group	Subgroup
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	ENV - Environment	AGRI - Sustainable Agriculture

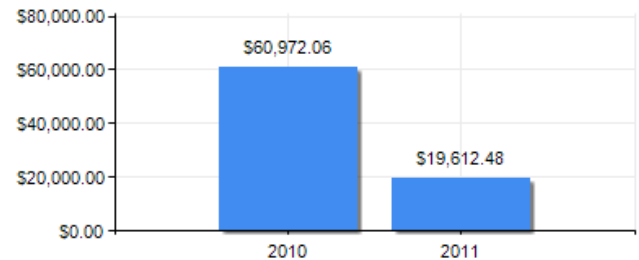
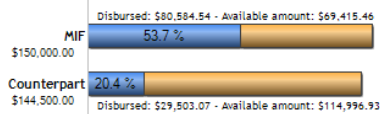
**Executing Agency:** Cropper Foundation

**Design Team Leader:** Dookiesingh, Vashtie  
**Supervision Team Leader:** Dookiesingh, Vashtie

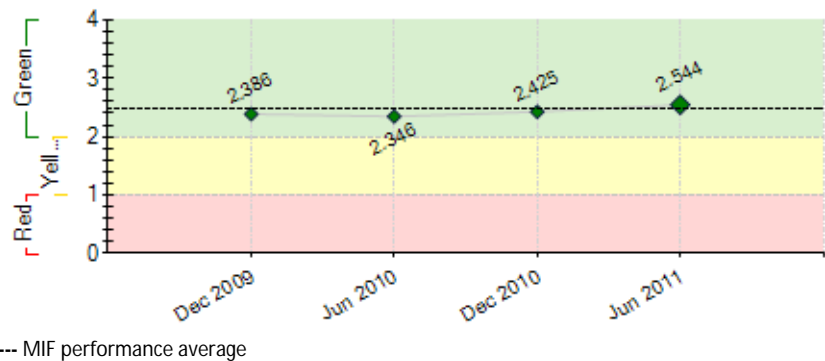
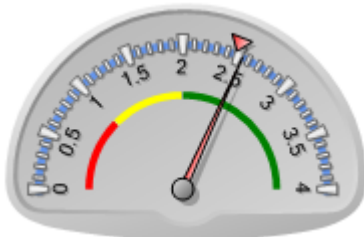
### TIMELINE



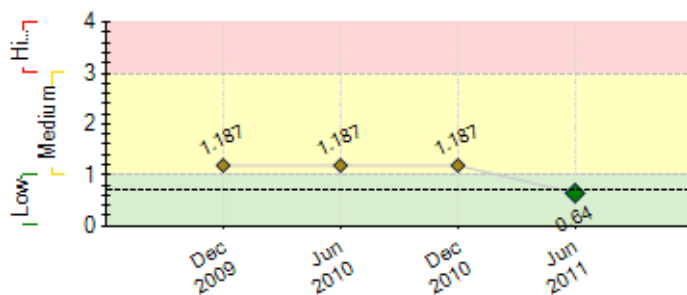
### FUNDS



### PERFORMANCE SCORE



### EXTERNAL RISKS



### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

	Risk
Financial Management:	---
Procurement:	---
Technical Capacity:	---

## SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

## Summary of project performance since inception

## Main results

- Project fully mobilized
- Hosted first Stakeholder's Workshop (November, 2010)
- Completed Baseline Assessment of farming conditions
- Completed Intervention Model for implementing sustainable farming conditions

## Delays &amp; Difficulties

- Further time and activities needed to complete baseline assessment report due to extraneous circumstances. The consultancy for the baseline assessment was extended up to July 31, 2010 to facilitate completion.
- Farmers in the watershed areas expressed the need for multi-dimensional and greater focus on the larger deficiencies of access roads, tenure conditions, increasing input costs and reliable market access. These issues are being incorporated as far as possible in the project design.

## Risks

We are confident that the final objectives of the project will be met by December, 2011, for the following reasons:

- Farmers do not implement sustainable farming practices. The project has been designed and executed such that farmers, as the major stakeholders, are involved in major project activities. The farming practices identified for implementation, are those which the farmer has played an active role in selecting, and are therefore more likely to be implemented.
- The project has so far kept to all agreed project milestones. In keeping with our approach thus far, activities towards outstanding milestones will be completed within a timely manner.
- Ongoing and direct interactions with farmers indicate a high level of buy-in and interest in alternative farming practices. The executing unit will continue to ensure fully-participatory stakeholder involvement in the design of the model for implementation.

## Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

## Summary of project performance in the last six months

## Achievements

- 1 Farmers selected for participation in the project.
- 2 Hosted second stakeholders' workshop to discuss implementation arrangements with farmers.
- 3 Determined strategy and modality for implementing sustainable farming practices in the two target areas.
- 4 Secured counterpart funding to meet full costs associated with material support towards implementation of sustainable farming practices

## Delays &amp; Difficulties

Farmers in the watershed areas expressed the need for greater focus on tenure conditions and increasing input costs; issues which affect their ability to engage effectively in alternative agricultural practices. Farmers have been put in contact with organisations such as the Trinidad and Tobago Organic Agricultural Movement, which has a legal department that focuses on land tenure issues in agriculture. Farmers' concerns are incorporated in the project design; farmers were/ are being made aware of the practices and alternatives for reducing farm input costs through a focus on on-farm recycling, reducing pest / weed outbreaks, and reducing crop losses.

## Next semester

- Implementation of sustainable farming practices in target communities
- Design of research-overlay plan
- Workshops and seminars to disseminate project results and model for implementing sustainable farming practices
- Audit and final project evaluation

## 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>Purpose:</b> Pilot a programme of alternative and sustainable farming practices to selected farmers in 2 selected watershed communities of the Northern Range	<b>P.11</b> Percentage increase of farmers in selected communities implementing sustainable agricultural practices	0				20	0	
		Jun 2009				Jun 2011		
<b>Component 1:</b> Technical Coordination <b>Weight:</b> 34% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	<b>C1.11</b> Percentage of farmers in selected communities are exposed to sustainable farming practices	0				60		Delayed
		Jun 2009				Jun 2011		
<b>Component 2:</b> Baseline Assessment,	<b>C2.11</b> Completion of Baseline Assessment	0				1	1	Finished

Research and Documentation of Results				Jun 2009				Jun 2010	Jul 2010	
<b>Weight:</b> 15%										
<b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory										
<b>Component 4:</b> Implementation of Alternative Farming Practices	<b>C4.11</b>	Percentage of participating farmers adopting sustainable farming practices		0				20	0	Delayed
<b>Weight:</b> 49%										
<b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory										
<b>Component 5:</b> Seminars/Workshops	<b>C5.11</b>	Public outreach plan to promote project results		0				1		Delayed
<b>Weight:</b> 2%										
<b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory										

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date achieved	Status
<b>M0</b> Previous Conditions	5	Dec 2009	5	Dec 2009	Achieved
<b>M1</b> [*] Completion of baseline research to measure environment and economic impact of current cultivation practices utilised by participating farmers.	1	Jul 2010	1	Jul 2010	Achieved
<b>M2</b> [*] Selection of participating farmers from selected hillside watershed communities for participation in the pilot programme	1	Aug 2010	1	Dec 2010	Achieved
<b>M3</b> [*] Design of Interventions at the Community Level	1	Dec 2010	1	Jun 2011	Achieved late
<b>M4</b> Final Evaluation	1	Dec 2011			
<b>M5</b> Implementation of Technical Support Program for farmers in selected communities	1	Feb 2012			
<b>M6</b> Development of a model to facilitate replication of the project and dissemination of information on model and project results	1	Mar 2012			

[\*] 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. Farmers do not implement sustainable practices	Medium	The project has been designed and executed such that farmers, as the major stakeholders, are involved in major project activities. The farming practices identified for implementation, are those which the farmer has played an active role in selecting, and are therefore more likely to be implemented.	Technical Coordinator
2. Crop failure due to pest/ disease outbreak	Low	Crops will be closely monitored for indications of increases in the number of pests; introduced farming practices will focus on actions to suppress any inimical increase in the number of pests or incidences of diseases through natural and/or organic methods.	Technical Coordinator
3. Crop failure due to unavailability of water (continued drought conditions) for substantial period of project duration	Low	Consider recent trends in weather patterns, location and hydrology of sites, as well as adaptation to consequences of climate change while designing project interventions.	Technical Coordinator
<b>PROJECT RISK LEVEL:</b> Low <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS:</b> 4 <b>IN EFFECT RISKS:</b> 3 <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 will be or have been implemented:**

In May 2011, The Cropper Foundation met with officials of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to discuss a follow-up project to the ATN/ME-11488-TT project. The concept for the proposed two-year project would involve continued implementation of sustainable farming practices in the Maracas/ St. Joseph Valley using the model developed from the ATN/ME-11488-TT project, and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework for quantifying the environmental and economic benefits of introduced sustainable farming practices. The FAO has invited the Foundation to begin preparations towards a full project proposal.

The Foundation is currently working towards written acknowledgment of support from the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago for endorsement and support of the proposed project as this is key to leverage financial and technical support from FAO that is allocated for this country.

**SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS**

<p>1. Keeping farmers' interest in the project is a significant challenge, which requires consistent engagement and interaction with the farmer. To maintain interest in the project, the project team is in frequent contact with key persons in the community such as heads of village councils and farmers' organisations, to keep them updated on project activities, and what is the likely course of action over the following months. These persons then pass information on to the larger community. In addition to this, update posters posted in the communities provide reminders about the project and help to maintain farmers' interest.</p>	<b>Relative to</b> Implementation	<b>Author</b> Rawlins, Maurice
<p>2. Prior to this semester, efforts to communicate the objectives of the project and any project findings had been marginal, resulting in a low profile of the project, and missed opportunities for collaboration with other initiatives. Therefore, within the last semester a project communications strategy was devised which includes:</p> <p>(1) A project newsletter which provides updates on project activities and results to date. So far three newsletters have been produced, and have been distributed locally, and regionally through online networks.</p> <p>(2) A project website was created which provides detailed information about project activities, project results and provides access to project resources. The project website can be accessed at <a href="http://tcf sustainablefarming.weebly.com/">http://tcf sustainablefarming.weebly.com/</a>.</p>	Sustainability	Rawlins, Maurice
<p>These two communication tools have had demonstrated success in raising awareness about the project, and increased opportunities for collaboration, such as an invitation extended to The Cropper Foundation to present on the ATN/ ME-11488-TT project at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society in July, 2011. Opportunities like these are likely to attract opportunities for collaboration and leveraging of support for continued implementation of project activities.</p>		