

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2011 - DECEMBER 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

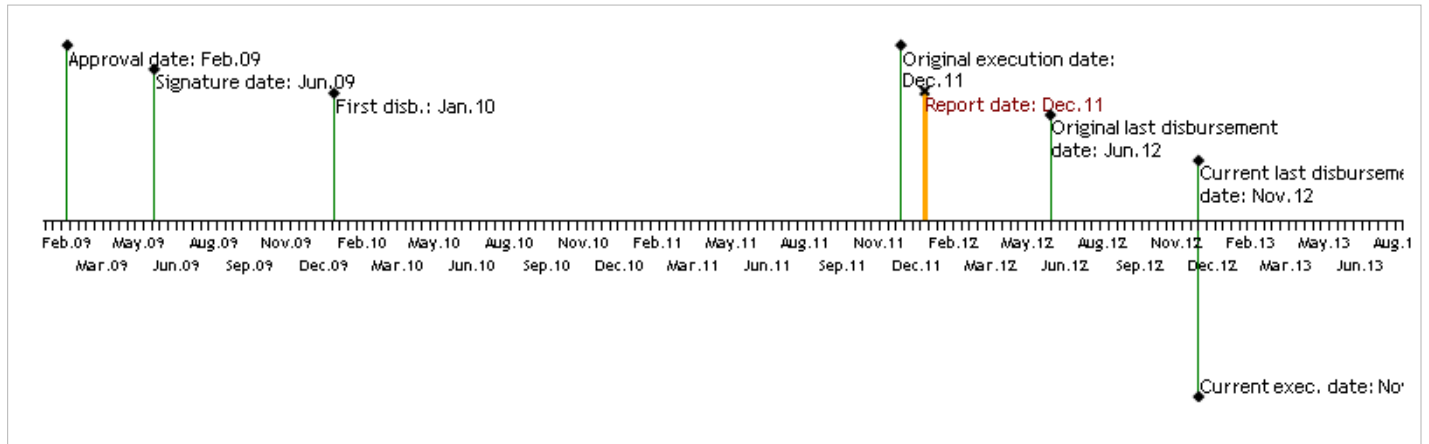
Purpose: Pilot a programme of alternative and sustainable farming practices to selected farmers in 2 selected watershed communities of the Northern Range

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

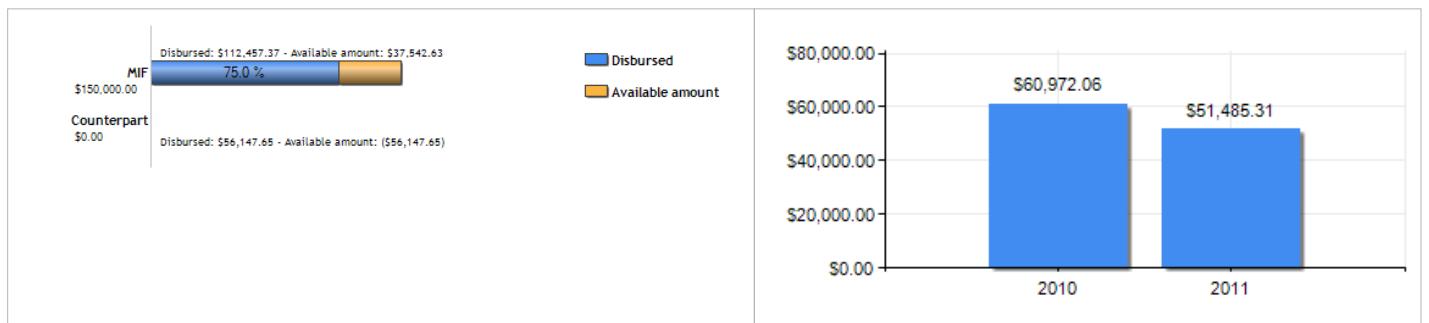
Executing Agency: Cropper Foundation

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

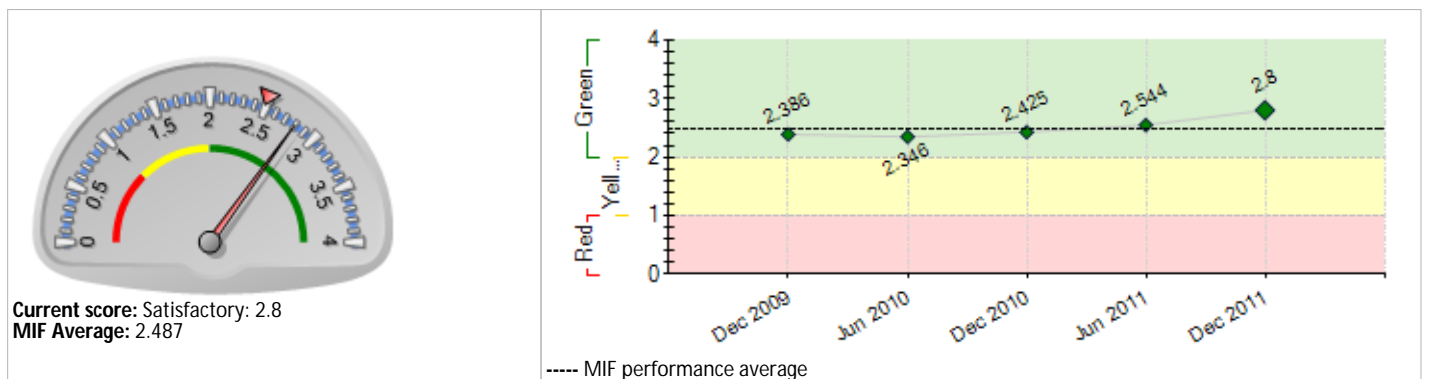
TIMELINE



FUNDS



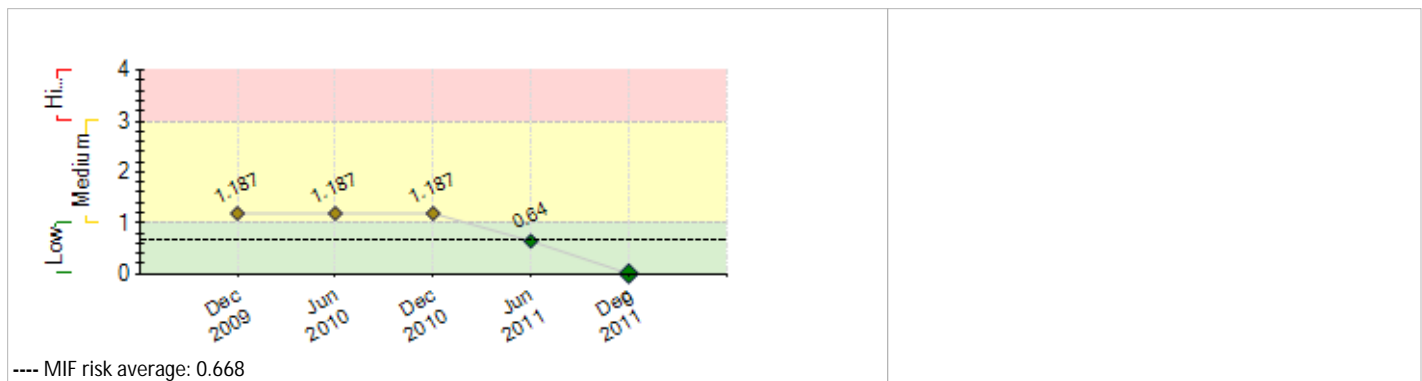
PERFORMANCE SCORE



EXTERNAL RISKS

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

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



SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

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
- Selected farmers for participation in the project
- Hosted second Stakeholder's Workshop (May, 2011)
- Determined strategy and modality for implementing sustainable farming practices
- Secured counterpart funding

Delays & Difficulties

We are confident that the final objectives of the project will be met by January 31 2012 for the following reasons:

- Further time and activities needed to complete baseline assessment report and intervention model; these consultancies were extended 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, increasing input costs, and increasing market access. These issues are being incorporated as far as possible in the project design.

- 1 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
- 2 Our interactions with participating farmers indicate a high level of buy-in and interest for implementing sustainable farming practices.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

The Cropper Foundation has worked effectively towards achievement of project objectives

Summary of project performance in the last six months

Main achievements

- 1 Worked with 30 farmers to devise and implement individual strategies for integrating sustainable farming practices (SFPs) into their farming operations
- 2 Provided material support to farmers for implementing their SFPs plans
- 3 Monitored, evaluated and documented the opportunities, barriers and challenges in implementing SFPs in the two target areas
- 4 Organised field workshops for sharing experiences among farmers in the target areas

Delays

The process of selecting the specific inputs for each individual farmer took longer than anticipated, and this was due to the need for careful selection of inputs to adequately meet the needs of a farmer's production plan. Once the inputs were selected, the process of procurement and delivery of inputs was fast-tracked to ensure that there was adequate time for monitoring and evaluation of the use of the inputs by farmers in practice.

Next Steps

The technical aspects of the project will come to an end on January 31 2012, and therefore efforts for the next semester will focus on:

- Communicating and Disseminating project findings to stakeholders through a National Workshop on January 18 2012, and through communication tools including a video of sustainable farming practices that will be uploaded to YouTube and other popular media, a report on the project, and a final project bulletin;
- Securing additional funding for continuing the interventions that were made in the two target areas, and also expanding into other Valleys and communities in the Northern Range.

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
Purpose: Pilot a programme of alternative and sustainable farming practices to selected farmers in 2 selected watershed communities of the Northern Range	P.11 Percentage increase of farmers in selected communities implementing sustainable agricultural practices	0				20	20	
		Jun 2009				Jun 2011	Dec 2011	
Component 1: Technical Coordination Weight: 34% Classification: Satisfactory	C1.11 Percentage of farmers in selected communities are exposed to sustainable farming practices	0				60	60	Finished
		Jun 2009				Jun 2011	Oct 2011	
Component 2: Baseline Assessment, Research and Documentation of Results Weight: 15% Classification: Satisfactory	C2.11 Completion of Baseline Assessment	0				1	1	Finished
		Jun 2009				Jun 2010	Jul 2010	
Component 4: Implementation of Alternative Farming Practices Weight: 49% Classification: Satisfactory	C4.11 Percentage of participating farmers adopting sustainable farming practices	0				20	20	Finished
						Jun 2011	Dec 2011	
Component 5: Seminars/Workshops Weight: 2% Classification: Satisfactory	C5.11 Public outreach plan to promote project results	0				1	1	On Course
						Mar 2011	Dec 2011	

Milestones		Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date achieved	Status
M0	Previous Conditions	5	Dec 2009	5	Dec 2009	Achieved
M1	[*] 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
M2	[*] Selection of participating farmers from selected hillside watershed communities for participation in the pilot programme	1	Aug 2010	1	Dec 2010	Achieved
M3	[*] Design of Interventions at the Community Level	1	Dec 2010	1	Jun 2011	Achieved late
M4	Final Evaluation	1	Dec 2011	1	Dec 2011	Achieved late
M5	Implementation of Technical Support Program for farmers in selected communities	1	Feb 2012	1	Jul 2011	Achieved
M6	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

[X] Others, which?: Engaging farmers in a process of change in cultivation techniques required a longer timeframe than originally envisaged

SECTION 4: RISKS

MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE

PROJECT RISK LEVEL: Low TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS: 4 IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 2 MITIGATED RISKS: 2

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:

Since June 2011, The Cropper Foundation (TCF) has been in discussion with the FAO about the development of an extension project of the EcoAgriCulture which will continue the adoption of sustainable farming practices among farmers in the Maracas/ St. Joseph Valley among other things. A project proposal was submitted to the FAO in September 2011, and we await the outcome of the application. In November 2011, a meeting was held with officials of the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs to discuss - inter alia - collaboration on the project proposed to the FAO. The Ministry indicated their interest in the follow-up project with the FAO, and we are currently in discussions with the Ministry to secure an official letter of support.

In December 2011, 8 farmers in the Maracas Valley were trained in the use of the A-frame by one of the project's technical consultants. The A-frame is used for contour planting, which is a type of farming practice that assists in soil conservation. Farmers articulated their commitment to continue using the A-frame and on that basis, A-frames were constructed for the farmers' personal use and funded through counterpart funding.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

1. The communications strategy of a project is of crucial importance for projects that aim to influence practice and policy. The reality is that for most projects, the bulk of the communication tasks are undertaken at the end of the project and have less influence on policy and practice. Project design and implementation should therefore prioritize communication as an aspect of the project that transcends the entire project implementation cycle.	Relative to Design	Author Rawlins, Maurice
2. There are critical factors to the sustainability of any community intervention, and one of these is the capacity of the community to 'do' for themselves. Building capacity as a structured component within the project design provides greater opportunity for sustainability of the initiative; however it is often assumed that building up the capacity of the community will come naturally through intervention. This project was able to build capacity of the farming communities in some respects, however the output of the effort could potentially have been more significant with a more structured approach. In going forward, a suggested formulation would be to look at the set of activities that would help to ensure sustainability, for example building community capacity through improved governance etc., and using these activities to help inform the time-frame and resources needed for the project.	Sustainability	Rawlins, Maurice
3. Farmer to farmer communication and information sharing was found to be one of the most powerful tools for dissemination of information. Follow-up projects should therefore focus on strengthening the farmer to farmer networks including farmers organisations which help to facilitate these networks.	Design	Rawlins, Maurice