

PROGRESS REPORT

Organization of American States Project

Project Title: Application Of Science And Technology For The Strengthening Of Micro, Small And Medium-sized Food Processing Enterprises In The Rural Areas Of Latin America And The Caribbean

Reporting Period: January 2003 – April 2003

Country: Jamaica

1. **Introduction**

Jamaica continued implementation of the OAS-funded project for the strengthening of rural micro, small and medium-sized agri-business in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Scientific Research Council as the coordinating agency for the project in Jamaica, facilitated the implementation of the project through the activities of the National Coordination Committee. The seven-member committee met frequently throughout the period to develop the strategies for successful implementation of the project. Mrs Marcia Henry was selected by the Committee to function as acting Project Coordinator as the Coordinator, Mr. Maurice Lewis, of the Food Technology Institute went on study leave, effective January 20, 2003.

The Team presently comprises:

Miss Julia Brown	-	Scientific Research Council
Mrs. Marcia Henry	-	Scientific Research Council
Mr. Maurice Lewis	-	Scientific Research Council
Mrs. Lorna Gooden	-	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
Mr. Hawthorne Watson	-	Scientific Research Council
Mr. Christopher Whyne	-	Social Development Commission
Miss Heather Wright	-	Jamaica Business Development Centre

2. **Accomplishments to date:**

1. The acting National Coordinator, Mrs. Marcia Henry, attended the Coordinators' meeting held in Dominican Republic, March 11-14. The regional coordinators reviewed the project and developed the indicators for the three study areas (see Appendix 1).

2. Completed evaluation of the 27 food processing enterprises, which was conducted throughout March 2003 and April 2003. As a result, twenty-six companies were selected based on the criteria established as follows:
 - a. Rural
 - b. Food processor
 - c. Micro, small or medium-sized
 - d. Registered company with the bureau of standards and/or the registrar of companies
 - e. Willingness to be trained and to train other enterprises.

Attached is a profile of the companies that were selected and the names of the participants from each.

Members of the National Coordination Committee and extension officers of the Rural Agricultural Development Agency (RADA) administered the evaluation questionnaire on visitation of the 27 companies. The evaluation form is attached (Appendix 2).

Recommendations were made on evaluation of the companies, which will form the basis of the work programme for each company. Generally, the area of documentation of standard operating procedures and sanitary standard operating procedures is lacking in most of the enterprises.

3. Completed and printed a brochure on the project to provide information to the rural leaders, companies, and other interested parties. A banner was also prepared and used at the training sessions.
4. Developed the course outlines for the first modules in Quality and Environmental management. The National Training Institute provided expertise in development of the programmes.
5. A total of 52 persons from 25 companies attended the training in business management, quality management and environmental management held in April 2003. The programme lasted for two days for each subject area and began with an opening ceremony. Please see programmes attached.

In Business management 18 persons from 8 companies attended. The two-day session was held from April 8-9, 2003 in the parish of St Thomas. The Jamaica Business Development Centre (JBDC) was contracted to provide the training in business management. The sessions were held at the RADA offices in St. Thomas. An alternative location needs to be identified, as the training area at this location is not favourable for training in terms of size and ambient room temperature.

In Quality Management, 20 persons from 9 companies attended the training held April 15-16, 2003 at the Eltham Training Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture in St Ann.

In Environmental Management, 14 persons from 8 companies attended the training held April 23 – 24, 2003 in Mandeville, Manchester. The sessions were held at the RADA offices in Manchester.

Three RADA extension officers also participated in the training, one from each cluster.

On evaluation of the sessions, participants gave high (excellent to very good) ratings of the course facilitators and felt that the course was very relevant to their needs. The participants showed a strong commitment and high levels of enthusiasm to the programme. The courses were highly interactive in approach and drew on the wealth of experience of the participants.

Discussions held throughout the training, pointed to the need to address the social challenges that negatively impact the enterprises and are a threat to their sustainability. This is particularly so in the St Ann and St. Thomas clusters. These challenges include negative peer pressure, bad work ethics and attitudes, poor reading and writing skills, improper conflict resolution and lack of personal budgeting. It was felt that organizations such as the Social Development Commission could develop and implement programmes to address these challenges both within the enterprises and in the communities at large.

List of Companies Evaluated

Company Telephone #	<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Nature of Business</u>
<u>St Thomas Cluster</u>		
982-4318	Canco Ltd, Seaforth	Food Processing (Canning)
982-4960	EC's Koconutz Ltd, Seaforth	Jamaican Sweets made from coconut
703-0999	Woburn Lawn Spicy Group, Ness Castle, Cedar Valley P.O.	Manufacturer of Spices and Seasoning
367-0317	Wilmington Development Action Group	Processing of Cassava leaves
982-8388	Port Morant Food Processors, Chapel Hill	Food Processing (Canning)
706-1993	Ton-Rick Enterprise Ltd , Yallahs	Seafood Processing
993-6736	Reache's Chips Producers, Reach Dist., Portland	Chips Productions
706-9300/1	Sous Cottage Industry, Lloyd's P.A.	
<u>St. Ann Cluster</u>		
996-8237	Hart Hill, Buff Bay	
996-1956	Buff bay Development Action Committee (BUBADAC), Buff Bay	Juice Manufacturing
995-3075	Sun Valley Plantation, Oracabessa	Production of Coconut Water
700-0725	Mello Fello, Fellowship Hall, St Mary	Production of Coconut Water
772-0502	MagnaCorp Investment Ltd, Free Hill, St. Mary	Production of Coconut Water and Banana Chips
992-2153	Glenleigh, Highgate, St. Mary	Juice Processing
984-9052	RADA Twickenham Bammies	Manufacturer of Bammies
825-8274	Lime Tree Garden Peanut Industry	Peanut Processing
917-2318	Walkerswood Caribbean Foods Ltd	Agro Processing (sauces, jams, jellies etc)
974-5064	Econergy Engineering Services Ltd, St Ann's Bay	Agro Processing
426-9391	Managri Processors, Faith's Pen	Baking

List of Companies Evaluated

Company Telephone #	<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Nature of Business</u>
<u>Manchester Cluster</u>		
955-0100	West Best, Westmoreland	Manufacturer of canned ackees
603-3439	Pickapeppa, Shooter's Hill	Manufacturer of sauces and vinegars
944-2543	Mayfield Milk, Maidstone	Cheese making
963-0611	John Bascoe, Hartfield	Meat processing
987-2110	North Clarendon, Morgan's Pass	Candied Fruits and peels and canned ackees
986-9873	Tijule, Palmers Cross	Manufacturer of jams, jellies, bammies and canned ackees
986-8229	Old MacDonald, Sandy Bay	Manufacturer of sausages
965-8060	Southern Fruits, Bull Savannah	Manufacturer of canned ackees, carrot juice, mango nectar, ketchup

List of Participants who attended Training Courses

Company Number	<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Name of Participant</u>	<u>Name of Participant</u>
<u>St Thomas Cluster</u>			
1.	Canco Ltd, St. Thomas	Ruth McKenzie	Patrick Buchanan, Dorothy Ramsay
2.	EC's Koconutz, St. Thomas	Yvonne Chin	Louis Chin
3.	Woburn Lawn, St. Thomas	Ronald Shepherd	Carol Davis
4.	Wilmington, St. Thomas	Donavan Wallace	Festus Bailey
5.	Port Morant Food Processors, St. Thomas	Sharon Williams	Yvonne Anglin-Barclay
6.	Ton-Rick Enterprises Ltd, St. Thomas	Marion Stewart	Carolyn Henry
7.	Reache's, Chips Producers, Portland	Melka Currie, Maxine Thompson	Ina Kenton
8.	Sous Cottage Industry	Yvonne lee	Monica Higgins
<u>St. Ann Cluster</u>			
9.	Buff May Development Action Committee (BUBADAC), Portland	Ralph Grant, Lilian Barnett, Joycelyn Reid	Clarence Brown, Lolita Campbell
10.	Sun Valley, St. Mary	Arnold Binns	
11.	Mello Fello, St. Mary	Ralph Sutherland	Ann Marie Cameron
12.	MagnaCorp Investments Ltd, St. Mary	Lyden Stone	Sydney Francis, Ian Joseph
13.	RADA Twickenham Bammies, St Catherine	Nordia Smith	*Barbara Graham
14.	Lime Tree Garden Peanut Industry, St Ann	Ethel Shirley	Hyacinth Thomas, Veronica Scott
15.	Walkerswood Ltd, St Ann	Lilieth Guy	
16.	Econergy Ltd, St Ann	Hazel Small	Ethloria Clunie
17.	Managri Processors, St Ann	Claudette Roosevelt	Debbie Henry

* This participant attended the training held in Mandeville, Manchester on environmental management

List of Participants who attended Training Courses

Company Number	<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Name of Participants</u>	<u>Name of Participants</u>
<u>Manchester Cluster</u>			
18.	West Best Foods Ltd, Westmoreland	Vivette Gooden	
19.	The Pickapeppa Co. Ltd, Manchester	Noel Miller	
20.	Mayfield Milk Producers & Processors Ltd, Manchester	Olive Smith	Norma Johnson
21.	John Bascoe Boys' Home, Manchester	Orville Bailey	Lenford Heron
22.	North Clarendon Food Processors, Clarendon	Claudette Codner	Curine Nembhard
23.	Tijule Ltd, Clarendon	Monacia Williams	Rosalyn Trouvers
24.	Old MacDonald Farms Ltd, Clarendon	Jermaine Dixon	
25.	Southern Fruits & Foods Ltd, St Elizabeth	Delone Horne	Donna Bromfield

