

NETWORKED INTELLIGENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT



**ORGANIC FARMING, ECO-TOURISM and CLIMATE CHANGE
REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR *KNOWING AND GROWING*
FARMERS – December 11-15 2009, Dominica**

Workshop Report

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ORGANIC FARMING, ECO-TOURISM and CLIMATE CHANGE
REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR KNOWING AND GROWING FARMERS
December 11-15th 2009

Implementing Organization

Networked Intelligence for Development, Jamaica/Canada

Participants from

Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia,
St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad

Collaborating Private & Public Institutions

Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Community Development, Culture,
Gender Affairs & Information, Dominica
Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement, Dominica
Elias St. Jean "Tony of LaPlaine Farm," Dominica
Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement, Jamaica
Jungle Bay Resort and Spa, Dominica
Mongoose Film, Video. Production, Jamaica

Invited Resource Persons

Al-Mario Casimir, Head of the Organics Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry,
Dominica
Bradley Guye, Forestry Engineer, Environmental Coordinating Unit, Ministry of Health and the
Environment, Dominica
Georg Hubmer, Geschäftsführer / Director Ejecutivo, CONA, Austria
Liam Laurent, IT Project Coordinator, Agricultural Information Management Systems - EU/ADP
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Dominica
Nathalie Walsh, Sales and Marketing Manager, Digicel Ltd., Dominica

Workshop Sponsors



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I. Background and focus of the Dominica workshop

1. A public-private partnership

The sixth in the series of regional Knowing and Growing workshops, the Dominica workshop continued the network's focus on organic farming, permaculture, and other bio-friendly forms of farming in the context of climate change, but with additional coverage of eco-tourism because of the venue. These farming systems are presented as the main viable long-term solutions for food security for the Caribbean, both because of their natural principles and methods that care for the earth and because of the product diversity that they encourage.

A partnership agreement between the UNDP and the owner of the Jungle Bay Resort (www.junglebaydominica.com) through the CARUTA project was sealed in November 2009. CARUTA is the Caribbean Regional Unit for Technical Assistance, a project that addresses rural poverty and has a specific focus on agriculture. Under this project the regional workshop for women farmers of several islands took place from December 11th to 15th 2009 in the eco-resort. The training workshop also addressed the use of ICTs as tools to encourage on-going networking among the farmers. Jungle Bay's Mission is to enhance the natural environment and improve the livelihoods of surrounding communities so that the region is improved in a sustainable way, while providing quality, comfortable nature-based experiences for their guests. Jungle Bay employs 63 full-time employees from the local rural community thereby encouraging capacity development and economic growth of the immediate surrounding communities. The facilities of the resort were made available to the workshop participants on a non-profit basis.

This venture was a good example of private sector contribution and commitment to community development. Partnership with the private sector is critical to the sustainability of development support to the region.

2. Workshop objectives and background

Objectives

The workshop objectives were three-fold:

- to introduce participants to the technical aspects of organic farming and its relevance to climate change;
- to further participants knowledge on climate-related issues, such as weather stations, financing, infrastructure and food security; and
- to consider the links between organic farming and sustainable eco-tourism. With tourism and increasingly, eco-tourism critical to the economies of the Caribbean, small-holder farmers need to be included in the profit sharing. The increased awareness of, and concern for, local development by tourists should lead to partnerships between local farmers and the resorts that cater to the discerning eco-tourist.

All participants were asked to identify their goals and expectations for the workshop and to express why they were interested in organics. Their objectives can be categorized into three key areas:

1. Organic farming related objectives

Participants wanted to learn exactly what they need to do to be called an organic farmer. They expected, after the workshop, to be able to improve their production skills, and to have learnt

something about organic pest management and organic manures. As well they wanted to be able to develop the right arguments which would persuade people to support and to purchase organic production and foods.

2. Computer skills related objectives

Participants wanted to learn to use computer-based communication more effectively, sending emails, using Skype, networking and searching for information.

3. Communications and networking objectives

Participants wanted to be able to stay in touch and to have follow-up at regional level. Some hoped that they would be able to learn from and share with “older farmers”

Background

Two non-profit organisations, **Networked Intelligence for Development** in Canada and the **Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement**, have been working together since 2003 to build the capacity of and promote networking among women farmers to farm organically through the *Knowing and Growing Network*. Following an initial joint venture in 2004 where 50 women farmers from 13 Caribbean countries participated in the first *Knowing & Growing* training workshop, the two partner organizations committed to continue working to deliver applied and technical expertise in organic¹ farming, small business development and information and communication technologies (ICTs) to women farm-entrepreneurs in the region. Workshop have subsequently been held in Grenada (2006), Guyana (2007), Jamaica (2008 and 2009) and Dominica.

Organic agriculture is the fastest growing of all sectors in agriculture, worldwide. Shifting to organic farming is an attractive alternative for small farmers in the Caribbean, as the demand for organic produce and products continues to grow and as the banana and sugar industries on several of the islands face a downturn. The principles of organic farming also run counter to monoculture farming that is



1: Identifying indigenous names for plants



2: morning review exercise

¹ The FAO definition of “Organic” is “certified organic products are those which have been produced, stored, processed, handled and marketed in accordance with precise technical specifications (standards) and certified as “organic” by a certification body.

still dominant in most of the region, and in that way represents a form of 'un-learning' mainstream thinking around farming and 're-learning' or 're-connecting' with more traditional ways of farming that women are still familiar with. Organic farmers are able to apply local resources and knowledge as well as non-chemical inputs to their farming systems, conserve their soil and land quality, and revive Indigenous Agricultural Practices. This in turn can have a positive long-term impact on food security and promote a return to cultures and systems of holistic environmental management. When national agricultural policies focus primarily on commercial farming, as a means to earn foreign exchange, they are very likely to ignore or exclude small farmers who do not produce a high acreage of a single crop. This also means that those farming methods that encourage multi-cropping or a range of crops, forest and livestock, often are not considered as commercial entities.

Organic farming is, furthermore, a highly knowledge-intensive and intimate method of farming relative to other methods. ICTs lend themselves to more efficient and effective management of these farming practices. Everything from farm management, pest control, the use of indigenous herbicides, crop monitoring, and soil culture promotion to organic standards, certification and marketing requires constant monitoring, data collection and record keeping. At the same time, many small-scale organic farmers farm in isolation and might not benefit from the larger community-based networks that support non-organic farmers. ICTs are important for farmers to use to build and nurture relationships



with the entire chain of organic agents including importers, traders and wholesalers. Many of the certification processes are also increasingly web-based, making it imperative for farmers to familiarize themselves with the ease of access to information and application procedures that on-line applications lend themselves to. As technologies shift to more wireless and more hand-held devices, this makes connectivity and networking from farm to farm a more viable possibility for the near future.

3: Explaining companion planting

At the same time, as in many other regions in the world, women play a vital if under-recognized and unsupported role in food production. In the Caribbean, women own and control less land than do men. The majority of female farmers are small farmers. Despite policies intended to assure equitable development women, they still receive less extension training and access comparatively fewer loans for farm development, product development and marketing. It was noted, for example, that of the 150 plus greenhouses that had been distributed among farmers in Dominica, only four went to women farmers. Although there is little available data on hectares in organic agriculture in the Caribbean it is indicated that in every territory a high percentage of women farmers show an interest in farming in traditional and holistic fashions but do not have access to the standards and production processes required for organic certification.

Because women tend to farm smaller plots of land than men, they have less opportunity to articulate, negotiate or act upon their concerns in the food production sector at the policy level. At the same time, research indicates that not only do they make up to 65% of day-to-day on-farm and 80% of marketing

decisions, but that there is also a growing level of expressed interest and commitment to organic farming methods among women, not least because they have already experienced first hand the damaging effects of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, and because they are very concerned about their immediate family's health.

II. Thematic issues of concern to workshop participants

While the larger portion of the workshop was devoted to **technical aspects** of organic farming, the business realities of farming and related **policy concerns** were introduced into the discussions at every available juncture. This is because the facilitators feel that it is important that the meeting provides participants with opportunities to:

- draw the links between their individual actions, their collective activities and the political, trade and agricultural contexts that they work in;
- recognize the potential impact of their local decisions on national, regional and international developments, including food policy and trade;
- realize that they are members of a worldwide movement that flourishes beyond their immediate communities and that shares similar goals and visions.

Some of the key thematic issues that were discussed at the meeting included the following:

1. Women's voices seem to be missing

The workshop opened with a screening of two documentary films, 'Burning Agenda' produced by the Buccooreef Trust (<http://www.youtube.com/user/buccooreef>) and the Red Thread's production of a 2005 film documenting women's management of the floods in Guyana that year. In stark contrast to the first documentary, the second had women's voices throughout the film, taking decisions to manage the disaster of the floods. The first film had no women's voices at all, infact women were invisible. This is why it continues to be important to work with and through women's organisations and community groups to ensure that they understand their exclusion from issues and can strategise to insert themselves into all levels of policy dialogue particularly on issues directly relating to agriculture and climate change.



4: compost discussion during farm visit

The workshop registration form asks participants to identify what they understand by the term climate change in the Caribbean context. While most of the responses indicate that there are discernible shifts in weather patterns, the participants are less clear about what the reasons for these unpredictable turn in weather events might be, and even less clear about what solutions might be, or how they might be involved in applying these solutions. Some of the women live near the coastline and are especially aware of the dramatic and damaging impacts of ocean swell.

2. Climate Change, Food Security and Organic Farming

The mono-crop, slash and burn, high synthetic input agriculture that is practiced in the region runs counter to conserving and nurturing the land, and optimizing natural resources and natural defence mechanisms. The combination and convergence of a number of factors has left agriculture in some islands in serious crisis and soil health, water supply and food security compromised.

By drawing the links between erosion, depletion of soil content, and the damage of stormy weather, participants were able to consider the long-term advantages of managing their farms through an holistic organic system.

Participants considered the value of nurturing healthy soil, to grow healthy food, to feed a local population, and distinguish between organic farming and local (traditional) farming methods and what this means for sustainable local livelihoods. In so doing, the cause and effect of mono-cropping, stretching the crop to its maximum (as opposed to its optimum), and cycles of famine and low harvests, were drawn. The workshop facilitators also debunked a series of common myths; that to convert to organic requires leaving the farm fallow for three years; that conventional crops have a higher yield than organically grown.

Farmer participants weighed the consequences of food technologies on their personal and environmental health, as well as on the monopolization of global market and were able to draw their own conclusions about the benefits of using local inputs for local farming for local consumption.

3. The Organic Export Sector vs. Local Food Security

Organic agriculture is one of the fastest growing of all sectors in agriculture, worldwide. According to a recent study², currently more than 26 million hectares of farmland are under organic management worldwide. This is more than two million hectares more than in the previous year - an increase of almost ten percent. The organic sector is, on average, under half a percent of the total agricultural sector in most countries, the exceptions being Germany and Austria which have between two and three percent of their agricultural area under organic production. The major organic products sold in global markets include in order of importance are dried fruits and nuts, processed fruits and vegetables, cocoa, spices, herbs, oil crops and derived products, sweeteners, dried leguminous products, meat, dairy products, alcoholic beverages, processed food and fruit preparations. Non-food items include cotton, horticulture and livestock.

Opportunities exist to tap into export, regional and local tourism markets, but women farmers tend to be isolated from systematic and easily accessible market information, are not producing to organic export standards, do not recognize themselves as entrepreneurs or farming as a business and are thus less likely to translate their interest and farming practice into economic revenue. A number of women farmers would like to make this leap but need support to do so. The market for organic products from the Caribbean is potentially a large one. There are regional opportunities, which could be explored by targeting hotels and the growing ecotourism market. Jungle Bay Resort provided a living case study of farm to hotel connections.

2 The World of Organic Agriculture – Statistics and Emerging Trends, 2005

III. Workshop content and technical issues covered

1. Principles of Organic Farming and Permaculture

Participants were introduced to the fundamental principles that are the foundation for organic and permaculture practices. Time was spent illustrating the organic farm as, ideally, a closed system with all inputs being produced, used and recycled on the farm. This session also addressed soil management, introducing the concept of “green manures”, using common legumes, often termed as “weeds”, to enhance nitrogen fixing. The session stressed the importance of re-thinking inter-cropping and crop rotation patterns, particularly in the shift from conventional to organic production methods and shared examples of how this can be done on individual farms. The session also re-emphasized that “leaving the farm fallow for three years” was a myth promulgated by many who did not understand the concept of the “in-conversion” period.

2. Parallels between traditional farming methods and organic farming: getting back to basics

This session focussed on the positive aspects of traditional farming that can be incorporated into organic farming systems; such as various forms of erosion controls, companion planting for pest control; use of local “weeds” and herbs as nutrients and insect controls and multi-cropping. The major activities in traditional systems which could not be applied in an organic system were identified as burning and clear cutting.



5: Identifying the root of the problem

The FAO reports that “Organic agriculture performs better than conventional agriculture on a per hectare scale, both with respect to direct energy consumption (fuel and oil) and indirect consumption (synthetic fertilizers and pesticides)”. Its 2002 report states that organic agriculture enables ecosystems to better adjust to the effects of climate change and had major potential for reducing GHGs.ⁱ

Other positive factors include:

- Organic soils have better water-retaining capacity which explains why organic production is usually more resistant to climatic extremes such as floods or droughts
- Carbon sequestration in soils is promoted by organic methods due to the addition of compost, mulches, manures and cover crops
- Emissions are 46-66% less than on conventional farms
- Organic farming systems require regular and methodical recording of farming data such as compost production and harvest records for organic farm inspectors to monitor. This

systematized data collection method lends itself to systematic recording of weather-related data for use by local and national meteorological stations

- As organic farming comprises highly diverse farming systems, the diversity of income sources also increases potentially buffering farmers to adverse effects of climate change and variability such as changed rainfall patterns. Coffee planted under forest trees

alongside a lower growing crop less accessible to wind damage for instance, protects the coffee bush from the ravages of a hurricane wind and protects and diversifies the income of the farmer

- Future carbon sequestration programmes that seek to offer farmers environmental fees for stewardship of soil, land and biodiversity may have an easier time of measuring economic value, cost and payments
- Biodiversity of flora and fauna (including birds)
- Organic farming offers a low-risk farming strategy with reduced input costs and lower dependence on external inputs such as fertilizers. By extension, this often means reduced financial risk, reduced indebtedness alongside increased diversity
- Other related benefits - healthy eating, local foods, lower overall food carbon footprint.

Two local presentations by Al-Mario Casimir, Head of the Organics Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; and Bradley Guye, Forestry Engineer, Environmental Coordinating Unit, Ministry of Health and the Environment served to map out the rich biodiversity of the island, as well as the systemic difficulty of establishing organic farming across the country. Mr. Guye highlighted the importance of preserving Dominica's forest heritage and explained how this was managed. He stressed the complementarities of organic farming with on farm tree planting. The Head of the Organics Unit indicated that while there is political will behind organic farming on the island, making the shift from conventional to organic was a difficult process.

3. Farm visit

A characteristic of all Knowing and Growing workshop is the farm visit – in this case the field trip was organized to one of the farms contracted to provide provisions to Jungle Bay Resort. At present there are no certified organic farms in Dominica although many are in conversion and many other follow organic practices but have not applied for certification. The task for the participants was to assess the level of organic production on this farm and to make recommendations to the farmer as to best farming practices.



6 volunteer helps with computer training

Following the technical sessions the group was able to identify several incorrect practices and to recommend to the farmer better composting practices, closer attention to rotation, and choice of seeds and the immediate addition of organic matter to the soil in the greenhouse.

4. Agricultural Diversification Programme presentation

The EU Agricultural Diversification Programme which was funded under the SFA 2001 instrument, of which the Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) is a major component, is specific only to Dominica. Although other traditional banana producers of the Caribbean may have had similar projects funded by the EU, the AIMS was specifically developed to meet Dominica's needs and is not part of any larger EU initiative to collect data from the Caribbean islands. At the national level the

AIMS is a project to address the ongoing issue of poor data management within the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry needed to take a sample of farmers whose production data would give a fairly accurate view of national agricultural production. Based on previous data collection activities it was found that the 'Commercial Farmers' accounted for over 70% of the farming population and these were the farmers surveyed. This suggests that the survey does not reflect the reality of the farming population in the country since many of the small holders are women whose crops were excluded from the data. So opportunities for linkages and visibility of women farmers could be lost entirely.

5. ICTs for farmers

As with all Knowing and Growing workshops there is an emphasis on information which is fundamental to food security and can be made possible through ICTs and participants are given practical experience in "computer labs". This includes the following principles: localised information; data collection, record keeping, and transparency; and networking, cooperation, and advocacy among small farmers. ICT use in the region includes frequency of use of cell, satellite, and land line phones; computer without and with internet; video, film, and DVD; TV or radio; e-conferences; and blog/social networking. Cell phones, TV and radio, and computers with internet are used on a daily basis by more than 50% of the women surveyed by NID in a 2009 study.

Time limitations meant that only one morning was dedicated to ICTs, focusing immediately on individual needs and priorities. Volunteers worked with participants on a range of needs – from setting up email, to downloading and using Skype, to using the web browsers to access information. Participants are offered a list of suggested Web portals on which to advertise, different "tools" that they can use, and how those tools compare with each other.

Given that many of the women in rural areas are more able to access wireless connectivity through cell phones than through computers, the workshop organizers arranged for the country's local wireless provider to meet with the participants. The marketing executive from Digicel made a brief presentation to the conference and was able to address the women's questions and concerns; she encouraged the participants to regard the purchase of a hand-held device as a key part of their business capital investment.

6. Solar drying technology

UNIDO and UNDP collaborated to provide a solar drying expert to attend the workshop. Dr. Georg Hubmer presented information on optimal solar drying equipment which could be used with a range of fruits, herbs, etc. This was of great interest to the participants many of whom are producers of dried products. It was agreed that those in the group with particular interest would follow-up with UNDP and UNIDO and see how funds might be raised to purchase such equipment and begin working in farmer groups to dry and market produce.

7. The realities of business management

A presentation by the owners of Jungle Bay (Glenda and Samuel Raphael) on the vision and realities of running the eco-centre gave the participants a feel for the challenges of running a viable business. They talked about their 'second balance sheet' which values the preservation of the environment, the social and economic development of the local community, and the preservation of culture. Spending money inside the community (as opposed to outside the community) builds local capacity and equity in

the form of networks and trust. Mr. Raphael impressed upon the participants the importance of networking – assuring the women farmers that they are members of many circles (networks) and should recognise them and cultivate them. The session provided an opportunity for the participants to raise a few of their day-to-day challenges. One participant from Antigua mentioned that the hotel she supplied fresh vegetables to rarely paid for her produce in time, and she effectively cash-flowed her vegetable trade until the hotel was prepared to pay. The hotel had a reputation for not paying its suppliers on time. The group had suggestions to offer including getting a line of credit from the local bank and this was further supported by Mr. Raphael who stressed the importance of establishing good business relationships with the local bank.

8. Participant-run public forum

Participants worked together to organise and run the public forum, as a practicum to get the message out to as broad an audience as possible. Unfortunately with the national election day just 48 hours away, the forum was not able to attract the range of policy makers that the workshop organisers had invited (such as from the Ministry of Agriculture). Nonetheless there were participants who came in from the Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement (DOAM) and from the Women's Bureau. These were important connections to make – for continued engagement as the network continues its work in the region. The participants used a combination of documentary screening, role play, poetry and country-based presentations to share their message and learning from the workshop. At the end of the workshop, copies of the JOAM Handbook on Organic Farming were distributed to a representative for each participating country.

IV. Learning methodology

The Knowing and Growing workshops emphasise learning by discussion, demonstration and doing. Internet access allows participants to 'visit' farms in Trinidad (Erle Rahaman-Noronha www.wasamakipermaculture.org), Jamaica (Dorienne Rowan-Campbell www.rowansroyale.com) and to see the benefits of mangrove protection in Haiti or re-greening arid areas such as the "Greening the Desert" documentary.

Documentary films including the locally produced "Organic Composting" video by Mongoose Productions in Jamaica are effective ways to deliver a practical off the field. The farm visit is also a key element in the learning process once the theoretical presentations on both organic farming and climate change are covered. The workshops provide a confluence of interest between women entrepreneurs who need capacity building both in their farming methods and management and in their information and computer skills. There is additional value in bringing dispersed groups together for technical exposure because participants often find common solutions to common problems, explore technical skills together and learn from each other, and the learning process and communication channels offered by ICTs bring them closer together long after the conference ends. NID capitalizes on the dynamics of bringing women together and offering them the space to explore technical know-how and related experiences and always within a socio-economic and political context.

NID continues to improve upon its training methodology, the keystones of which include:

- Ensuring that every participant is brought into the dialogue and discussion right from the beginning of the program as equal and valued contributors of knowledge and experience;

- Bringing in a wide range of local content and local stakeholders to contribute local context and analysis to the overall program, while providing the participants with the opportunity to interact directly with specialists and policy makers;
- Providing some structure to the overall program while allowing for fluidity and changes as determined by the participants and other local stakeholders.

Age range of participants

Under 20 years	0
20 - 30 years	4
30 - 40 years	4
40 - 50 years	6
50 - 60 years	5
Over 60 years	2

In total there were 22 participants, two participants each from Antigua, Barbados, Barbuda and Trinidad, three from St. Lucia, four from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, four from Dominica and two facilitators.

V. Evaluation results, lessons learned and recommendations to be applied in the future

A lot of ground was covered in a relatively short period of time and while much of the dialogue and demonstration sessions were vital to developing specific awareness about issues and ICT processes [skill building], on a parallel level, individuals were learning and comparing from and with each other. Participants conducted a review of the previous day each morning, and had the opportunity to share their perspectives on the discussions and discourse from the sessions. At the end of the workshop, each pair of participants was provided with an open-end questionnaire to discuss and evaluate the workshop with.

Nine evaluation forms were returned to the organisers, they were generally positive about the intensity and quality of information and discussions and several participants recommended that more workshops of this nature be delivered for women in the region, and that they provide more opportunity for hands-on practice, not just observation. (This would require a longer workshop – more in keeping with the six day workshops we held in Guyana and Grenada). Many acknowledged the importance of networking, but requested more systematic and regularised information to be sent to them. Some requested information on how to access funding for projects, on and off farm as well as more training on how to influence national leaders and local authorities to support organic farming. Since the workshop there has been continuing e-exchanges between facilitators and certain country groups as the women seek to implement on the ground lessons learned at the workshop.

NID's self-evaluation is that we need to be more effective in enabling the women to incorporate hard data and scientific language into their understanding and articulation of the issues. The briefing notes given to participants need to be worked through more comprehensively (again this means more time). The use of audio-visual materials is effective, particularly materials sourced from within the region, and again, we need to support more development of materials that showcase organic and permacultural production.

NID and JOAM anticipate continuing this work with women farmers over the next few years because the impacts of the training are positive and immediate, and more and more women are demanding this kind of hands on practical training. As the network of Knowing and Growing participants grows, we are able to visit farms of past participants, and past participants often recommend others to attend subsequent regional meetings. In this way, women entrepreneurs who have participated in these meetings grow and support each other in this sector of agricultural development.

There is still more work to be done at the policy level and creating the space for some engagement with policy makers might be the next important step in the Knowing and Growing network's work in the region.

Appendices

Appendix I: Conference schedule (final)

Appendix II: Workshop facilitator bios

Appendix III: List of participants



7: Newly installed Greenhouse at the farm visit

Appendix I: Workshop program

ORGANIC FARMING, ECO-TOURISM and CLIMATE CHANGE REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR KNOWING AND GROWING FARMERS: JUNGLE BAY, DOMINICA					
	Friday 11 th	Day I: Sat 12 th December	Day II: Sun 13 th December	Day III: Mon 14 th December	Day IV: Tues 15 th December
8.45 - 10.30 am		Presentation & group discussion: The Future of Food Farming and eco- livelihoods in a context of climate change – what farmers need to know, links with eco-tourism.	Human development challenges in small traditional communities <i>Jungle Bay Resort Samuel Raphael</i>	Computer room training Email set up for those who need it Relevant on-line sources and information for seasoned surfers The value of social networking	Public Forum: 9:00 to noon Screening of Burning Agenda. Participants will share their conclusions about the most critical issues which need to be addressed and some of the optimal ways of so doing. There will opportunity for lively discussion and we hope that you will be able to join us.
11.00 - 12.30 pm		Climate change impacts in the Caribbean & potential responses Permaculture, promoting marine health, conserving local bio-diversity, organic farming, knowledge not myths	Local farm visit <i>Elias St. Jean (aka Tony of LaPlaine)</i>	Computer room training Introduction to Skype, Google maps and Facebook Signing up for e-newsletters Other requests	
Lunch					Close of workshop
2.00 - 4.30 pm		Organic farming vs. Traditional farming An introduction to the principles of organic farming - drawing the links to ecological health	Virtual farm visits Permaculture in Trinidad <i>Erle Noronha</i> Organic coffee in Jamaica <i>Dorienne Rowan-Campbell</i>	Presentation & group discussion Digicel Followed by DVD screenings on eco-tourism, hurricane architecture and mangrove protection	Farewells & departures
4.30 – 6.00 pm	Arrivals & registrations	Presentation & group discussion Some technical responses <i>Agricultural info. management systems: Liam Laurent</i> <i>Solar dryers for farmers: Georg Hubmer</i>			
Supper	Opening & intros		Small Group Discussion Observations and lessons from field trips – drawing the links	Small Group Discussion How we can follow up - preparing for, during & post climate disasters	
EVE	DVD & group discussion “Burning Agenda”	Presentation & group discussion Forestry and climate change <i>Bradley Guye, Forestry Engineer, Environmental Coordinating Unit</i>	DVD screening & group discussion Organic farming benefits for biodiversity and climate –taking the message home	Workshop certificates, evaluation exercise and thanks and preparation for public event	

Appendix II: Bios of facilitators and resource persons

Brad Guye

Biodiversity Officer/Assistant Coordinator for a Sustainable Land Management project

bguye2309@yahoo.com

Brad obtained his B. Sc. in Forestry Engineering from the University of Pinar Del Rio in Cuba (1999-2005). He has worked for a number of years with the Forestry Department (Ministry of Agriculture) gaining knowledge and skills in Environmental Education, Forest Management and Silviculture, Forest Protection, Forest Research, and Endangered Species Research. Presently, Brad is employed with the Environmental Coordinating Unit (Min. of Health and Environment) as a Biodiversity Officer and Assistant Coordinator for a Sustainable Land Management project. Additionally Brad has experience in: Physical landscaping, Plant Production and Trail Construction and Maintenance techniques; with skills in Aerial pruning, use of chainsaw, brush-cutter, and their basic maintenance. Brad has taught basic landscaping techniques to varying age groups, and has a great interest in hiking and photography.

Dorienne Rowan-Campbell

Senior consultant and trainer – Networked Intelligence for Development, Jamaica

Farmer – Rowans Royale Jamaica Blue Mountain Organic Coffee

Dorienne@networkedintelligence.com

Dorienne Rowan-Campbell has been working on a wide range of women, gender and development issues for more than 30 years. Her organic farming experience has widened the emphasis to include questions of export, access, business management, ICTs and organic production. Based out of both Canada and Jamaica, which affords a useful “bifocal” world vision; she works as an independent development consultant. Dorienne owns and manages a small, certified organic farm and produces Rowan’s Royale Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee. Her farm is certified internationally to EC, NOP and Japanese standards. She is a qualified organic crop inspector and Board Member of the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement.

In thirty years of committed effort, Dorienne has provided institutional strengthening, capacity development, training, policy and programme analysis, networking advocacy, visioning, strategic planning and alliance building and technical inputs to a wide variety of government, NGO, private sector, academic and donor clients, always adopting a participatory, change management approach.

Erle Rahaman-Noronha

Owner – Wa Samaki Ecosystems, Trinidad

wasamaki@tstt.net.tt

Erle was born and grew up in Kenya, has lived in Canada and now makes Trinidad his home. Erle teaches and practices Permaculture and is the owner of Wa Samaki Ecosystems (established 1997), a 33 acre, formerly citrus, estate undergoing a Permaculture restoration while producing cut flowers, tropical fish and indigenous food crops. Erle’s farm has won agricultural entrepreneur awards for forestry, aquaculture and horticulture and he is the current national winner of the Agroforestry division and national runner up in the Horticulture division for the National Agricultural Entrepreneur of the year 2009.

Erle has a BSc in Applied Biochemistry and an MSc in Zoology from the University of Guelph, has completed two Permaculture Design Courses in Trinidad (07) and Belize (09), as well as short

courses in Intensive Aquaculture (Cornell University), Dendrology (Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry) and Tropical Landscaping (University of the West Indies). An active director of Caribbean Permaculture Consultants Ltd (CPC) which is currently involved in installing forest buffer zones around industrial estates, rehabilitating degraded lands, and teaching school children (40 schools in the South West Peninsula, Trinidad) about Permaculture, planting trees in schoolyards and connections to and conservation of the environment.

Georg Hubmer

Geschäftsführer / Director Ejecutivo, Austria

CEO of CONA

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Georg has extensive international development and cooperation experience in Latin America. He has widespread knowledge on solar energy especially for drying processes, as well as on the development of solar air panels and drying systems. He has provided technical assistance and training in several countries for the past 14 years. He was the Coordinator of the Austrian Development Cooperation OED program in Nicaragua and was responsible for the international cooperation program for the diocese of Linz. He was part of the founding of CONA and has held the title of CEO of CONA since 1994.

Liam Laurent

IT Project Coordinator – Ministry of Agriculture, Dominica

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Liam is an IT Project Coordinator with the Agricultural Information Management Systems, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in Dominica, under an EU funded Project. Born and raised in Dominica, Liam's background is in Information Systems Engineering. Liam has been working in the field of Information Technology Management and Management Information Systems both in the Public and Private sector since 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Information Systems and is in the process of completing a Specialist MBA in IT Management. Liam also works as a tutor in Management Information Systems at the University of the West Indies (U.W.I) Open Campus in Dominica.

Nidhi Tandon

Founder and Director – Networked Intelligence for Development, Canada

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Nidhi is originally from East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) and now works out of Toronto, Canada as an independent development consultant. Nidhi is a social activist working with marginalized communities to raise their voices in a digitized world. She has been specialising in digital media, information and communication technologies and applications that enhance women's livelihoods in developing countries. She designs and runs grassroots training workshops for women's organizations, small business and farmer communities in East and West Africa and in the Caribbean, enabling women to organize and articulate their priorities around what is important to them. Much of her work revolves around the relationships between women and water, energy, natural resources and policy decisions. She has recently published critical articles on climate change and its impact on water, and on the negative implications of biofuel monoculture on women's land use options. Nidhi holds an MA in Agrarian Economics from Sussex University, UK and worked for Africa Service, BBC before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat's Women and Development Program in London, England.

Appendix III: Participant details

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Jungle Bay Resort & Spa, Dominica
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