

**UNDP/GoSVG POVERTY REDUCTION PROJECT  
STV/98/001/01/99**

**REPORT OF THE  
TRIPARTITE REVIEW MEETING (TPR)**

**Held On  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2007**

**At The  
FISHERIES COMPLEX, CONFERENCE ROOM**

*Prepared by  
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**UNDP/GoSVG POVERTY REDUCTION PROJECT**  
**TRIPARTITE REVIEW MEETING (TPR)**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2007**  
**Fisheries Complex, Conference Room**

**Objectives:**

To bring together all the stakeholders involved the UNDP/GoSVG Poverty Reduction Project SVG /98/001

- i. For a final update of the activities in the select communities.
- ii. To identify remaining outstanding matters
- iii. To review the end-of-project Draft Evaluation Report and its recommendations..
- iv. To chart the way forward particularly regarding the **Community Resource Internet Centers (CoRICs ) Initiative** and the **Agriculture and Rural Support Programme.**

**Process**

The Meeting was chaired by Mrs. Rosita Snagg, P.S. Ministry of National Mobilisation, and Social Development.

Persons present included representatives of two of the three Communities – Coulls Hill and Orange Hill; of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines – CPD, Min of SD (CDD); National Institute of Technology; and of the UNDP, Chanda Davis, local representative and Ms. Leisa Perch, *Programme Manager - Poverty Reduction/HIV-AIDS Focal Point, UNDP/SRO Barbados & the OECS.* (Complete list of attendees attached).

**Status Update**

Mr. Roger Young, Community Development supervisor presented an “Overview of Project Activities in the UNDP/GoSVG Poverty Reduction Project in Coulls Hill, Rose Place and Orange Hill post 2004.”

The last related Tripartite Review meeting followed on the Monica Williams Evaluation in December 2004. In addition to the recommendations in the Williams report a number of decisions were taken for immediate follow up.

Mr. Young’s two-part status report on February 14, 2007 a) covered those critical decisions with the follow-up responses and b) provided an updated status report on the projects in the three Communities. These are here summarized with some analysis by the present evaluator:

**a) Critical Decisions taken at the 2004 Tripartite Review and Responses**

Following is a Table which outlines the decisions and responses. It may be noted that several of these decisions that were not followed through, are reflected in the 2006 Evaluation Report as delays or unresolved matters that affected the effective and efficient implementation of the Project.

## Overview of Project Activities in the UNDP/GOSVG Poverty Reduction Project in Coulls Hill, Rose Place and Orange Hill post 2004 Review

**Table 1. Thirteen (13) critical decisions were reported to be taken in relation to the projects. The following Table indicates nine (9) are still not complete or resolved.**

	<b>2004 Decisions</b>	<b>Coulls Hill</b>	<b>Orange Hill</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	The water and electricity at Coulls Hill and Orange Hill should be connected by 30 January 2005.	Water and electricity was never connected to the Coulls Hill Production Centre:	Water and electricity were subsequently connected at Orange Hill.	No finalized lease to facilitate the connection of Utilities at Coulls Hill, despite UNDP funds spent on renovating the house.
2.	Ms Jemma Mars of Coulls Hill will discuss the use of the Methodist Church to host the CoRICs Programme. She will thereafter report the decision of the Methodist Church with Ms Pat Fraser and Mrs. Rosita Snagg by 17 December 2004.	The project was given a verbal commitment from the church to occupy an area in their building to accommodate the programme, with an understanding that they were to have drafted an agreement outlining the conditions for usage.		This matter remains Outstanding.
3.	Mr. Young and Mr. Black are responsible for holding discussions with Internet Providers to decide on the most suitable (ADSL & Dial-up) service needed in the three (3) communities. This is due on 4 January 2005.			Internet connections not complete.
4.	Mr. Rodney Grant has agreed to facilitate a training programme for the Rose Place Management Team. This is due on the 21 December 2004.			A Training Plan was drawn up, but the training was never conducted.

	<b>2004 Decisions</b>	<b>Coulls Hill</b>	<b>Orange Hill</b>	<b>Status</b>
5.	Training Area: Five categories of Training was organized for the Communities.			One area was completed; two were partially done; two “never came off”.
6.	Other training – technical training for farmers involved in pig-rearing			Conducted by the ministry of Agriculture
7.	The CoRICs operational training programme for Orange Hill will commence on 10 January 2005.			Eventually done between December 2005 and March 2006. (One year later).
8.	The Committee agreed that the roles and responsibilities of the Management Teams should be fully established and specified.			Discussions were held; documents drafted but not yet finalized.
9.	The different communities will determine the launch of the project as part of their Operational Plans, which is due on 15 January 2005			None of the projects were however launched, as they were never thought to be at required stage.

**b) Present status of the Project in the three selected communities**

**A. Coulls Hill**

**The Agro Processing** component continues to be at a stand still. Issues relating to the leased premises with Mrs. Allen remain unresolved. It appears that two new options now exist

- i. to use the facilities of the Westwood Government School that is likely to be closed in September 2007;
- ii. utilizing available state-owned lands to build a permanent operation facility.

**No definitive decision was made by the Tripartite Review meeting. The preference appears to have been to utilize the School. Space may be available for use immediately.**

**Pig Rearing** continues to go reasonably well in that the farmers continue to rear their pigs. **However management items still remain outstanding:**

- i) The project still owes farmers pigs
- ii) The document to institute the revolving scheme whereby the piglets would be distributed for the use of other farmers or the community in general is still not finalized or signed by parties involved.

**No definitive decision was made by the Tripartite Review meeting.**

**B. Rose Place**

The attempted community projects at Rose Place have not materialized. The Management Committee is inactive or non-existent. Rose Place was not represented at the Tripartite Meeting. The Community Heritage Park is still being pursued by other interested stakeholders e.g. the Ministry of Urban Development. The CoRICs programme is in progress.

**C. Orange Hill**

**Agro Processing** in Orange Hill is back on track and progressing well. Issues of utilities and labels have been resolved. Production levels have increased and steps have been taken to improve the management of the entire project. The plantain chip product meets the bureau standards, and consumer tastes.

**Issues that remain and require monitoring or further assistance by the CDD:**

- Management and marketing need to be strengthened.
- Production levels require to be monitored for consistency; production workers require closer supervision and motivation.

- The issue of cost-effectiveness of the operation is being revisited since available data indicates that the cost of producing one bag of plantain chips is \$1.42, and the maximum price sale per bag is \$1.00. Mr. Billingshy assured the group that they were taking serious steps to strengthen the entire operation.

### **Pig Rearing**

The pig rearing in Orange Hill is going well in that farmers' sows have all begun to reproduce. **Several issues remain however:**

- i) The contract outlining the terms and conditions of the pig rearing project are still not finalized after being discussed and drafted since the inception of the project. This means there is no contractual or clear agreement to share the proceeds from the project that was given to any individual farmer.
- ii) Expansion of pig pens is now required as the litters increase. In actuality the UNDP/GoSVG project provided seed funding – in pigs, pens and start up facilities, any expansions should now be the responsibility of the farmers. However since there is no written agreement to this effect, CPD and CDD were to assist the Management teams in accessing funds from the Diversification Project under the Ministry of Agriculture. **This was not done.**
- iii) Accountability and monitoring systems were not clearly in place, by the Management Committee and the CDD.

As of January 2007 all direct funding for the UNDP/GoSVG (SVG/98/001/01/99) has ended. Nevertheless, the CDD has committed to continue assisting the communities. This assistance is essential as the capacity strengthening of the implementers is still required. The Evaluation states that more time is required before impact – long term outcomes, can be really assessed or manifested.

Continuous assistance is still required by the CDD in order to ensure sustainability of the outcomes and the realization of the general objectives of poverty alleviation in the Communities and subsequently in SVG. Besides, since according to Mr. Young's status report "None of the projects were however launched, as they were never thought to be at required stage", there may be a moral obligation by all parties concerned to provide more specific support to get the projects to a required stage of sustainability.

#### **D. Presentation of the Evaluation Report (Power Point presentation attached)**

The evaluator presented and discussed a synopsis of the Evaluation Report. Several of the issues raised above were reiterated in the Report. The Findings, Lessons Learned and Recommendations recognized the value and relevance of the project to the Communities. Although there was some improvement over the ratings made by Williams in 2004, the report made a case for continuing support by the CDD.

## **E. Sustainability**

Sustainability is an issue of serious concern. Not simply the fact that substantial funds were expended, and no one would wish to see little come of the project, but because of the timeliness and relevance of the project, meeting its objectives for the communities is most desirable. However questions remain about of the capability and ability of the Orange Hill and Coulls Hill Communities to maintain the projects without further focused assistance.

## **F. Recommendations**

1. It is imperative that the CDD continue active support of this project. Lessons learned have identified the possible risks inherent in not seeing a project through to a significant realization of its goals and objectives. E.G. creating divisions within the community; creating unequal benefits to the stakeholders of the community.
2. The CDD Director, the CD Supervisor and the related field officers need to sit together, review items and activities still outstanding and develop a practical plan / system for the continual specific support of the implementation of the Project. This speaks to the further realization of gains made in meeting the original objectives, which are still relevant and useful for community development; poverty alleviation; and CDD capacity strengthening. (See sample in Table 2)
3. The CDD explore and assist the management Committees in accessing funding and utilizing opportunities for continued support from programmes such as the UNDP/GoSVG Agriculture and Rural Support, the Diversification Project under the Ministry of Agriculture., and non-governmental agencies such as Centre of Enterprise Development (formerly SEDU).
4. The Contracts with the Farmers need to be completed urgently. Since the project has ended, it may already be too late. The Implementing Agencies (CPD and CDD) should get some legal assistance to mediate and settle the differences. The TPR articulated the possible deleterious effects if the issue is not resolved:
  - a. The intent of the project for community development is undermined.
  - b. The project becomes a private enterprise, with individual farmers being the sole beneficiaries.
  - c. The creation of divisions in the society – of some utilizing project resources and others not.
5. The lessons learned in maintaining sustainability; accountability; human resource development need to be reviewed and systems established to prevent reoccurrences in other projects.
6. The need for written and verbal formalization of relationships with other government partners at both top administrative, and implementing levels. . For example the Ministry

of Agriculture has not performed as a member of the Steering Committee. The CDD has had to pay the Ministry of Agriculture for their services to the farmers /project which should really have been under their purview and portfolio.

<b>Table 2</b> <u><b>SAMPLE PLAN FOR THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE UNDP/GOSVG (SVG/98/001/01/99) PROJECT</b></u>					
<b>Objectives:</b>					
(i) to ensure that gains made through the UNDP/GoSVG (SVG/98/001/01/99) be not lost or create friction or frustration in the communities.					
(ii) to ensure that the Project objectives for CDD capacity strengthening continues. That is: “the creation on an enabling environment for poverty alleviation in SVG through building on past efforts at capacity enhancement and management development in the CDD.....that CDD attains the ability to quickly execute and monitor projects” in these and all communities in SVG.					
ACTIVITIES	ACTION	BY WHOM	BY WHEN	EXPECTED RESULT	STATUS & DATE
Complete Contracts with Farmers	Retain Legal Help	Director CDD	March 19/07	Workable Contract	Draft Handed over March 26/07
	Meet with MC & Farmers	Roger Young	March 28/07	Signed Contract by all parties	Contract process fully in place April 15/07
CDD Training	Monitoring Training	?	March /07	Monitoring system for OH & CH	

## G. CoRICs

**The CoRICs project at Coulls Hill and Orange Hill** have a similar status where the basics of computers set up and networking have been completed. The exception is that the locale arrangements for the Coulls Hill location at the Methodist Church building are still being worked out, while the Orange Hill location is settled at this point – in the same facility with the Agro Processing group.

- Telecentres have been set up
- Computers installed
- Other supplies purchased

### **Outstanding issues include:**

- i. Finalizing of issues (including rental) relating to the usage of the Methodist Church premises for the housing of the project
- ii. Other Outstanding issues for Coulls Hill include:
  - Internet installation
  - Telephone Installation
  - Identify three (3) persons for and conduct TOT training



- Identify Tele-coordinator / trainer
- Procurement of Printers

**The CoRICs at Rose Place** is less advanced compared to the other two projects. The Tele-centres are not yet established. Facilities are still being negotiated.

### **Next Steps**

The Manager of the National Institute of Technology, Mr .Colin Bacchus, who was present at the TPR restated his commitment to provide technical assistance to the Community Resource Internet Centers Initiative (CoRICs) project. This intervention is very welcome.

The expectation is that Mr. Bacchus' involvement will facilitate faster implementation of all the CoRICs, and at the same time provide necessary ICT technical assistance in training. Since the NIT falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communication and Technology, it is essential that links and commitments are formalized in writing between that Ministry and the Ministry of Social Development at the highest levels. This will ensure eligibility of CoRICs for facilities offered to other government IT resources, such as the Learning Resource Centres which are being computerized. Mr. Bacchus emphasized the need to retain maintenance for the IT equipment from sources outside of the government.

The benefits of working closer with the other UNDP CoRIC projects in the Windward Islands were discussed and actions to make this a reality were explored.

The next step in the CoRICs process is for Mr. Bacchus and Mr. Young to meet – possibly with Ms. Leisa Perch to plan the way forward. The retaining and training of the Telecentre Coordinators is the primary need.

In keeping with the key lesson learned about the critical use of proper planning, it is imperative that some type of Logical Framework Approach be taken. Clear goals and objectives; outcomes and results need to be established at the beginning. Simple tools to measure use of computers and for what they are being used. CoRICS was intended as a means of closing the digital divide between the “haves” and “have-nots”. Thus it is important to verify for example links to the three existing UNDP/GovSVG projects. Is the Management Committee using the computers to enhance their record keeping? Are farmers trying to do research on issues of pig-rearing? Are production managers attempting to source markets for their products, or simply increasing their knowledge of product and production methods?

Ms. Leisa Perch articulated the commitment of the UNDP to continue to partner with St. Vincent and the Grenadines in efforts of alleviation of poverty and community development. Government officers will be apprised as developments are further concretized with regards to CoRICs and the Agriculture and Rural Support Initiatives.

**List of Attendees at the Tripartite Review Meeting**  
**February 14, 2007**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>ORGANISATION</u></b>	<b><u>CONTACT NUMBER</u></b>
Adam Billingsy	Orange Hill	530-8255
Monica Browne	Orange Hill	530-9975
Jimmy .S. Black	Community Development	527-1116
Roger Young	Community Development	528-8236
Monica Woodley	Consultant	456-1196
Leisa Perch	UNDP	246-467-6005
Decima Corea	Central Planning Division	457-1746
Berisford George	Central Planning Division	457-1746
Jennifer Woods	Coull's Hill	531-5852
Colin Bacchus	National Institute of Technology (Director)	531-5852
Ro-Anne Quashie- Harry	Central Planning Division	457-1746
Evelyn Stapelton	West Hill Development Organisation	532-7105
Chanda Davis	UNDP / Central Planning Division P.S. Ministry of National Mobilization, Social	457-1746
Rosita Snagg	Development, etc.	456-1111, Ext 502/398