



MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE PROJECT BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2022

The meeting commenced at 1:25 p.m.

Attendees:

No.	Name	Title/Organization
1	Dr. Mohammad Nagdee	Cluster Head SSECC, UNDP
2	Ms. Maxine Welsh	Project Coordinator a.i., UNDP
3	Ms. Renata Blair	Finance & Administrative Assistant, UNDP
4	Mr. Aden Forteau	Sustainable Land Management Specialist, UNDP
5	Ms. Amana Hosten	Digital Challenge Monitoring & Coordination Assistant, UNDP
6	Mr. Aaron Francois	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
7	Mr. Joseph Noel	Land Use Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives
8	Mr. Isaac Bhagwan	Senior Officer, Department of Technical & Economic Cooperation (DETC)
9	Ms. Delysia De Coteau	Senior Technical Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Climate Resilient & The Environment

Rapporteur: Ms. Renata Blair

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Mr. Aaron Francois
Dr. Mohammad Nagdee
2. Overview of critical project actions
 - o Key MTR findings
 - o Management Responses & Actions
 Ms. Maxine Welsh
3. Discussion on proposed project workshop
Ms. Maxine Welsh
Dr. Mohammad Nagdee
4. Presentation on current and upcoming project activities
Ms. Maxine Welsh
5. Presentation on Digital Challenge
Ms. Amana Hosten
6. Next Steps and Meeting Wrap-Up
Mr. Aaron Francois
Dr. Mohammad Nagdee



1.0 Welcome and Opening Remarks

- 1.1 Mr. Francois welcomed members to the meeting and highlighted the importance of the Project to Grenada noting that the Government has identified the agriculture sector as a priority sector to transform the national economy and the importance of the sector especially to the rural communities. He also reassured his commitment and that of the Ministry to support and prioritize Project implementation as the Project will have a major impact on the Agriculture Sector.
- 1.2 Dr. Nagdee welcomed members to the meeting and emphasized the need for accelerated Project implementation to keep the Project viable. He also expressed UNDP's commitment to further support the Project and the Government of Grenada. Dr. Nagdee also noted there is an ongoing micro-assessment of the IP - Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives and the need to complete same as this is currently impeding Project Implementation as the IP will not be able to receive funds in country.

2.0 Overview of critical project actions

- 2.1 A presentation was made by Ms. Welsh on Key MTR findings and management responses/actions. These are outlined below:

	MTR Recommendations	Key Actions
A	Category 1: Ensuring Impactful Results	
A.1	Review the log frame and simplify several outputs including at least deleting certification-related activities	Project team to identify activities that can be completed within project lifespan.
A.2	Push for quick-win SLM/CSA techniques or long-term land improvement with a high return on investments within a conventional farming system	Develop one-pager highlighting quick win actions to support high return on investments
A.3	Consider watershed management interventions decentralisation with the support of on-site non-State actors for both watershed management plan formulation and (future) implementation	Organize meeting with IP to discuss watershed management interventions May 2022
B	Category 2: Accelerating Implementation	
B.1	Make PMU more effective with either team removal or CTA additional support	MCO will hire a new Project Coordinator by Q3 2022. A decision on hiring new CTA will take place in Q4
B.2	Prioritise the finalisation of agreement with complementary interventions	A review of existing projects which align with CRA's goals will be executed by June 2022
B.3	Consider NGO/non-State actors for CSA/SLM demonstration sites and farmers' follow-up (adoption)	Organize meeting with IP to discuss watershed management intervention



	MTR Recommendations (Cont'd)	Key Actions (Cont'd)
C	Category 3: Improve the project governance system	
C.1	Create a project Technical Committee to facilitate project's activities' operationalisation and ensuring project's outputs quality control	Project technical committee has been approved by the PSC.
C.2	Review and amend the stakeholder's engagement plan following up Government's institutional changes	To execute through dedicated consultancy.
C.3	Enlarge PSC membership (observatory role) with non-State actors to boost local ownership	UNDP to communicate new membership with invitation to sit on PSC and background. Additional stakeholders to be invited in keeping with Project document.
C.4	Reassess the role of civil society with a view to more project inclusion (PSC, Technical Committee, activity delivery)	The role of civil society organizations will be raised with the PSC for consideration and inclusion.
C.5	Make use of existing Ministry of Agriculture's expertise with closer collaboration with division for specific activities (e.g., on bamboo control and Forestry Division)	List of potential collaborative activities will be developed for input from MoA by May 2022. Discussions are ongoing.
C.6	Support the (re-)designing of an SLM database with GIS information with a stronger alignment with the Physical Planning Unit	PMU to discuss possible collaborations on re-design with a re-assessment of Physical Planning Unit as collaborator. To be discussed further at Project Workshop.
C.7	Reconvene within 6 months an extraordinary PSC session to assess progress made on A, B, C recommendations and decide whether to close or not the project	PMU to convene meeting of PSC

3.0 Discussion on proposed project workshop

- 3.1 A Half-Day Project Workshop will be held by the Project Management Unit in collaboration with the Implementing Partner - Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives to discuss Project elements to streamline project in November 2022.
- 3.2 During the workshop, the Project Steering Committee Members will review the Project Document and provide suggestions/feedback on what is still viable and areas that should be modified.
- 3.2.1 Between the PSC and the workshop, the PMU will identify the easily achievable activities that can be implemented swiftly as quick wins and priority focus to be presented at the workshop
- 3.3 Project Workshop is tentatively scheduled for the third week of November 2022.

4.0 Presentation on current and upcoming project activities

Current Activities – Implementation of activities through Outcomes 1 - 3



4.1 Mr. Aden Forteau has been conducting Capacity Development Training for the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs in the areas of Dendrology, Sustainable Land Management Practices, and use of CR Crops. Rangeland Management activities are also being conducted in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

4.2 The project is supporting the rehabilitation/refurbishment of agricultural facilities and procuring equipment for divisions within the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives.

4.3 Development of partnerships with other agricultural projects including SoilCare are ongoing.

Upcoming Activities:

4.5 Request for Proposals for the Development of Watershed and Biodiversity Management Plan will be launched in the coming weeks.

4.6 A Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and a Monitoring Officer will be recruited to support the Project and Implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

4.7 Partnerships between IICA – Backyard Gardener’s Initiative and Soil Care Project.

4.8 The Project will be partnering with Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator and SONY to execute the “fit for purpose aquaponics system”.

5.0 Presentation on Digital Challenge

5.1 Ms. Amana Hosten provided updates on the ongoing Digital Challenge.

5.2 USD\$30,000 Digital Challenge was launched in 2021 at the National Farmer’s Symposium and social media.

5.3 Over 60 applications were received. UNDP technical review group compiled, and shortlisted applicants based on eligibility and fit.

5.4 Four (4) shortlisted applicants prepared full proposals for review, three (3) of these proposals were approved and will be receiving US\$30,000.00 each.

5.5 A second call for applications will be launched on October 21, 2022.

5.6 A half-day workshop will be held for applicants to streamline the application/proposal process.

5.7 Dr. Nagdee thanked Ms. Hosten for the great work in managing the digital challenge on the ground under the guidance of Miss. Laura Hildebrandt. He requested the Ms. Hosten consider staying on until June 2022 to expense the remaining US\$210,000.00 in grants for farmer under the CRA project. Ms. Hosten agreed to meet and discuss.

6.0 Next Steps

6.1 Dr. Nagdee to re-send the email placing the Auditors in contact with PS Francois to initiate the micro-assessment PS Francois has agreed to appoint a focal point to liaise directly with the Auditors to provide the requested documentation.



6.2 Ms. Welsh to identify and circulate key actions for implementation, highlight areas in log frame for revision and develop monthly project targets to PSC for review before workshop

6.3 Project Management Unit to plan project workshop.

7.0 Next Meeting

7.1 The next Project Board meeting will be in January 2023 to approve the AWP.

7.2 A recommendation was made by Mr. Isaac Bhagwan that following the workshop in November and identification of priority activities, the PSC meet for 30-minute sessions monthly to discuss progress and proposed actions for the upcoming month.

8.0 Conclusion



8.1 It was noted that the position of Chief Agriculture Officer is now vacant and is to be filled in the coming months.

8.2 Ms. Welsh proposed the dissemination of regular progress reports to inform PSC members of project activities.

8.2 Both Co-Chairs expressed their gratitude to everyone present and reiterated their commitment to working together to ensure the Project's success. They also indicated that they are encouraged by the energy amongst members as there is a lot of work to be done to move the Project forward.

8.3 Meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.



Name	Title and Organization	Signature
Dr. Mohammad Nagdee	Cluster Head SSECC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	DocuSigned by:  C8BF830D847946D...
Mr. Aaron Francois	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives	 Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Lands