

Community Expo: Developing community livelihoods based on the sustainable use of natural resources



Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project

St. Anns Valley

Port-of-Spain

Trinidad

Friday May 20, 2011

1 Introduction

The Community Expo is part of a project called “***Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources***” funded by the **JB Fernandes Memorial Trust**. The purpose of the



Figure 1 Communities and invited agencies applauding a presentation

project is to improve people’s quality of life in six rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago through facilitating and supporting the development of small and micro-enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources.

For this project, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) identified six communities in Trinidad and Tobago who were interested in developing small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. forests, fisheries, etc.). The project targeted the communities of

Blanchisseuse, Brasso Seco, Heights of Aripo, Lopinot, Plum Mitan and Speyside.

CANARI is assisting communities in identifying their income generating project ideas, and helping them work through the next steps, linking them up with agencies that can assist in making their ideas a reality. Through creating and supporting these business opportunities the livelihoods and income of community members may be improved.

Mobilisation visits and two workshops were held with each community (with the exception of Plum Mitan where only the first workshop was held) to orient communities to the project, confirm their interest, conduct an assessment of the community, and identify natural resources and the potential for developing sustainable small businesses.

2 Objectives

The objectives of the Community Expo were to:

- a) bring together communities participating in the Fernandes project and other communities to



Figure 2: Representatives from the invited organisations, target communities and mentor CBOs in the amphitheatre

share ideas and experiences about developing businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources;

- b) catalyse continued communication and collaboration among communities;
- c) spotlight established community businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources to motivate communities now starting to work in this area;
- d) link communities with organisations that can help them to develop businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources;
- e) introduce communities to existing and potential markets for their natural products and services; and
- f) empower six rural communities to better network with technical and financial support agencies



Figure 3: Akilah Jaramogi, Director of FACRP (mentor), welcomes all to Fondes Amandes

The full concept note is in Appendix 1.

3 Participants

Targeted communities: The Expo featured five representatives from each of the communities of Blanchisseuse, Brasso Seco, Heights of Aripo, Lopinot, and Speyside. These were selected by each of the communities after CANARI facilitated the second workshop. Despite CANARI's invitation to attend the Expo to showcase the village and network with invited agencies and other community based organisations (CBOs), no representatives from Plum Mitan attended the event.



Figure 4: Representatives from Brasso Seco (target community)

Agencies providing technical and financial support: CANARI invited 30 agencies in Trinidad and Tobago with a mandate to provide technical and financial support to communities developing natural resource-based businesses. These include government agencies, embassies, and inter-governmental technical agencies. Of these, 22 organisations attended the Community Expo.

Mentor CBOs: Nature Seekers, Tobago Cocoa Farmers' Association and the Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project (FACRP) are CBOs that have successfully

developed small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources. They were also present to act as mentors to the featured communities.

Other CBOs: Five CBOs that CANARI has been working with in other projects were also invited. Only three attended- Mitugal Unified Community Development, Paramin Development Company and Anse Fromager. They have not been fully exposed to the analysis of potential small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources but are interested.

General public: The general public was invited to attend the Expo from 2:00 p.m. to view the work being done by communities and purchase their products. This was advertised through flyers distributed to organic groceries and souvenir shops around Port of Spain, the Sangha Yoga Centre, schools in the St. Anns area, as well as a notice in the St. Anns Church weekly newsletter. An estimated ten to fifteen people attended.

Wholesale and retail organisations and buyers of natural products and services: CANARI targeted via flyers organic supermarkets and souvenir shops, as well as associations interested in promoting local goods and services such as the Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturer's Association and the Trinidad Hotels Restaurants and Tourism Association, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago. None of these attended.

Media: The media was also invited to attend and one representative of Newsday attended the morning session before the presentations.



Figure 5: Onella and Andrenette from Heights of Aripo giving a presentation on their community.



Figure 6: Jace from Speyside and Keith (resource person) talk with a representative from the Community Development Fund

The full list of participants and invitees is in Appendix 2.

4 Methods

Prior to the Expo, with support from CANARI, each targeted community prepared for the Expo by developing presentations and displays to highlight their community assets, natural resources, potential businesses, and needs for support. CANARI provided a template for the slide presentations to help communities structure the information they wanted to highlight. CANARI helped the communities to finalise their presentations on the morning of the Expo before the official start.



Figure 7: Networking: In the fore: Mr. Salina from Brasso Seco talking with Ms. Walker from Anse Fromager (invited CBO). In the back: Mr. Pereira from Brasso Seco talks with the Green Fund representative.

CANARI also gave each of the agencies attending a list of potential businesses in which the targeted communities wanted to engage (Appendix 3).

The Community Expo agenda is in Appendix 4. After set up of booths and finalisation of their slide presentations, the formal programme began with a welcome from Akilah Jaramogi on behalf of the Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project, which was hosting the event.

First the five targeted communities presented their business ideas to the invited agencies in a plenary session and answered general questions. The other

CBOs present also introduced themselves and their work.

This was followed by lunch prepared by the five targeted communities and featuring their local specialty dishes.

The agencies met with the targeted communities and other CBOs, including the mentor CBOs, in one-on-one sessions to discuss specific areas where they could potentially provide support. In some cases they provided materials on the support they provide, which was distributed by CANARI.

Interaction and informal networking among participants took place throughout, and especially during and after lunch.

In the afternoon, the communities and other invited CBOs were given the opportunity to showcase and sell their natural resource-based products to the invited agencies and the general public.

5 Findings

The presentations given by the five targeted communities are in Appendix 5. These highlighted:

Strengths of the communities:

The five targeted communities believed that the health of their natural resources and their willingness to become involved in businesses to improve their community were strengths. One of the communities pointed out that the crime rate was low so it was attractive to investors.

Natural resources found in the communities:



Figure 8: Mr. Bobb from Tobago Cocoa Farmers (mentor) talks with the FAO representative



Figure 9: Mr. Pereira from Brasso Seco presenting his community

The five targeted communities had many natural resources. Most of resources were similar in each of the communities. The natural resources included fruits, trees and birds. Speyside was the only community that identified marine-based natural resources such as coral reefs and lobsters as it is a known dive destination. The communities identified the natural resources by mapping their communities and the location of the resources in the communities at the first workshop.

Potential small businesses:

Many of the participants believed that the natural resources were not being fully utilised within the five targeted communities. Some of the potential businesses identified within the communities used the natural resources in traditional ways (e.g. making homemade jams and jellies from fruits) but the communities believed that there were potential commercial applications for the products. Eco-tourism was common to all the targeted communities. The list of potential businesses in each of the communities is shown in Appendix 3.

Needs for support:

The targeted communities identified financing as one of the crucial needs for the businesses. All the targeted communities were poor communities so the funds to start the identified potential businesses were limited. Most of the communities identified the need for training in various aspects of business management as one of the needs going forward with their business ideas. Another common need was for information on land tenure in the various communities as the participants were uncertain of their access to the government-owned land.



Figure 10: Evon and Shane from Heights of Aripo having a long chat with the representatives from FAO

All the targeted communities had booths displaying a range of natural products, including food items (cocoa products, cassava juice, seasonings, pepper sauce, etc.), jewellery, shoes, as well as paintings. Nature Seekers from Matura brought information on their ecotourism product based on the leatherback turtle as well as the beach, river and forest resources. Akilah’s Jewellery of Fondes Amandes, displayed a range of unique jewellery made from materials collected from the forest. Tobago Cocoa farmers brought a



Figure 11: Tobago Cocoa Farmers Expo display: locally made soaps, cocoa balls, juice concentrates and a whole lot more for sale.

range of products made by their members, including cocoa products but also soaps, bread and local fruit juice concentrates.

An article appeared in Newsday on the Community Expo. CANARI also issued two news releases about the event, hosted pictures of the Expo on its [Facebook](#) page and posted interviews with attendees and participants on its [Youtube](#) page. See Appendix 6 for Newsday article and CANARI's news release.

6 Results

The Expo successfully brought the five communities together in an informal setting which allowed them to share their ideas,

experiences and their plans for the future. As many of the groups are interested in similar fields there was lively discussion among the groups, and many representatives expressed a desire to make further attempts to collaborate with the other communities.

The communities were able to make linkages with each other to share ideas about similar businesses and learn from each other. Speyside and Blanchisseuse representatives were able to briefly discuss organic farming techniques. One Heights of Aripo representative commented that she realised that they were “all in this thing together”. Heights of Aripo is planning a session in early June with the Community Development Fund (CDF) at their village and plans to invite all the communities so they could learn more about funding possibilities for various projects and to learn about all their experiences. The targeted communities expressed the desire to continue to work together especially as there were many similar businesses in the targeted communities.

The communities were also able to observe some successful businesses based on natural resources to motivate them to develop their own businesses. Both the FACRP and Nature Seekers have established successful natural resource-based businesses in their communities. By hosting the Community Expo in Fondes Amandes, the targeted communities were also able to observe a successful model of a community using natural resource-based businesses such as eco-tours and jewellery-making to improve the quality of life in the community. They also saw the FACRP's sustainable use of space by creating environmentally low impact event facilities. Representatives from the mentor CBOs, Fondes Amandes, Nature Seekers and Tobago Cocoa Farmers made linkages with the targeted communities. One representative from Heights of Aripo commented that their



Figure 12: Keydell Kerr and Rupert 'Smockey' McKenna from Speyside happy to be there.



Figure 10: Representative from Community Development Fund seems to be enjoying the variety of locally made items brought by the communities.

group was now “on fire” to continue developing their business ideas.

The Expo created an atmosphere for collaboration and cooperation for all participants. The communities had an opportunity to meet key agencies and individuals who could assist them in developing their businesses. The invited agencies learned about ventures that they may not have been aware of and were able to educate the communities about the opportunities they offer. The Heights of Aripo representatives indicated that they were able to make tentative arrangements with the Cocoa & Coffee Industry Board of Trinidad and Tobago (CCIBTT) to visit the Tobago

Cocoa Farmers Association to learn about some of the products being made from cocoa there. The CDF representative was able to speak to all the communities about funding for some of their business needs that were identified in the presentations. One community representative commented that the Expo was the “best day of [her] life” because she was able to meet people that she would not have known about nor had an opportunity to interact with.

The only objective which was not well achieved was introducing the communities to existing and potential markets as wholesale and retail buyers did not attend. However the great interaction among the communities, the various agencies and mentors, as well as the level of motivation among the representatives, is a good indicator that these communities can look forward to increased exposure to new and existing markets in the near future.

The five communities were able to build their capacity to interact with organisations that can assist them to develop businesses in their communities. The process of developing presentations and discussion points enabled the communities to clearly express their business needs. This gave the representatives confidence in their ability to interact with the agency representatives and further motivated and empowered them to develop their businesses. Unfortunately, the representatives from Lopinot continually expressed their uneasiness in participating, feeling that they were not ready to develop businesses at this point in time.



Figure 14: Mr. Salina from Brasso Seco and CANARI's Executive Director enjoying the Expo.

One additional benefit of the Expo was that CANARI was also able to network with agencies that can assist in later phases of this project and more broadly in CANARI's work facilitating participatory natural resource management and the development of sustainable livelihoods..



Figure 15: Arveon from Blanchisseuse smiling after the Expo

above. The five Fernandes communities presented to the agencies and mentor CBOs and were able to communicate their vision and share their experiences with the invitees. The communities were able to form strategic partnerships and linkages with the invited organisations and the mentor communities that can assist them with the development of their business ideas. It also catalysed communication and collaboration among the featured communities themselves. It was abundantly clear that the meetings between the communities and the invited agencies were quite fruitful.

The pre-Expo preparations with the communities were very useful in helping to structure how the communities presented themselves, their ideas and their needs. **Developing these ideas into full business plans is still needed.**

Unfortunately, not all communities were able to fully benefit from the event. The Lopinot representatives left during the individual meeting segment. The representatives felt that they lacked organisational and business management skills in particular which can lead to a lack of confidence in their ability to manage businesses in their community. **Additional capacity building of the communities is needed for them to take the next steps in developing their businesses.**

The group from Speyside did not bring many items for sale in the public Expo session, but due to the limited attendance by the public this was not a major setback. The Plum Mitan community did not attend. One factor was that CANARI was unable to hold the second workshop there to engage the community and prepare them for the Expo as there was great difficulty in getting the community to agree on a date and finally on the date agreed

CANARI was also able to test the Community Expo as a networking tool. It proved to be a cost effective measure of enabling organisations to interact with each other. Many of the invited agencies commented that the Expo was something that they would try themselves. The Tobago Cocoa Farmers Association plans to adapt this to host an Expo for CBOs in Tobago. Many participants urged CANARI to repeat and expand the Expo.

7 Conclusion

The Community Expo was successful at meeting many of the stated objectives as discussed



Figure 11: Pure joy on the face of Andrenette from Heights of Aripo.

just two days before the Expo, road works isolated the community so CANARI could not visit. When this workshop was conducted in June, only two community members attended and they said that they were not aware that they were invited to the Expo. **Internal communication, mobilisation and capacity within the communities need to be built.**

CANARI was very successful in engaging the agencies. **Follow-up with the agencies is needed to track how they engage with and provide support to the communities.**

Apart from the mentor CBOs, the community booths did not have a large quantity and range of items for sale. **If this is to be marketed to the general public and potential buyers in the future, more work needs to be done with communities to help them to prepare strong booths. More effective mobilisation of potential wholesale buyers is also needed.**

CANARI will visit each of the communities to gather feedback about the effectiveness of the project, and suggestions for improvements and next steps. CANARI will also seek funding to further support the communities to develop their natural resource-based businesses.



Figure 12 Smokey from Speyside (left) and Helen from Brasso Seco (right) smiling at the end of a great Community Expo



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources.

Project Purpose

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a non-governmental organisation working in all of the islands of the Caribbean to promote and facilitate the involvement of people in the management of natural resources so that people's livelihoods are improved and the natural resources are conserved.

For this project, CANARI will identify and work with six communities in Trinidad and Tobago who are interested in developing small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. forests, fisheries, etc.). We will assist communities in identifying their income generating project ideas, and help them work through the next steps, linking them up with agencies that can assist you in making their ideas a reality.

Through creating and supporting these business opportunities the livelihoods and income of community members may be improved.

Project overview and coordination

With funding from the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, CANARI has been asked to lead this process by identifying and supporting six community groups for this project. This will be done through a series of workshops that encourage dialogue that will assist groups in planning for their future by visioning and preparation of strategic plans. Small business and income earning ideas will be a part of the planning workshops. A feasibility assessment of potential small businesses will also be conducted to select the top choices.

Project Objective

Each selected community group will have the opportunity to discuss and plan for the future of their group/community through workshops by expert facilitators from CANARI. During these sessions, ideas for small businesses will be explored and developed for their income generating potential. These business ideas must be based on the sustainable use of natural resources in and around the selected community.

Project Results

At the end of this phase of this project, communities:

- will have jointly developed a vision and strategic plan for your community group;
- will have made a short list of ideas that may be further developed into business plans for the next phase of this project;
- will have built up connections with important agencies that can support your small business development ideas;
- will be ready for the next phase which will be networking with agencies that can assist you to develop detailed project ideas and business plans and steer you through planning and application procedures.

May 2010

For more information contact: Nicole Leotaud, 626-6062

CANARI Community Expo

**Participant List
Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project
May 20th 2011**

Agencies:

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Ms. Michelle Laifook
Community Development Fund
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Mr. Koji Fujimura
Japanese Embassy
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Mr. Gary Tagalie
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Ms. Rawtee Rambocas
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Mr. Mitra Ramdial
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**CANARI Community Expo
Participant List
Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project
May 20th 2011**

Agencies:

Mr. Eustace Philip
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35 Cipriani Blvd

Ms. Rene Deane
Tourism Development Company
Maritime Plaza
Tel: 675-7034 ext.308

Ms. Nadia Nanan
Environmental Management Authority
8 Elisabeth St.
St. Clair
Tel: 628-8042

Mr. Clyde Watche
Town and Country Planning

Mr. Joclyn Lee Quay
Seafood Industry Development Company
Blanchisseuse representative

Other CBOs:

Mr. Clement Bobb
Tobago Cocoa Farmers

Mr. Dale Lovelace
Tobago Cottage Association

Mr. Dennis Sammy
Natureseekers
Matura

Ms. Akilah Jaramogi
FACRP

Mr. Gregory Romaine
Paramin Development Company

Ms. Lyris Walker
Anse Fromager
Tobago

Mr. Winston Arnold
Mitugual Unified Community Development
Tel: 395-8527

Mr. Brandon Francis
Mitugual Unified Community Development

**CANARI Community Expo
Participant List
Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project
May 20th 2011**

Target Community Participants

Blanchisseuse:

Ms. Anna Sandy
Ms. Arveon Debisette
Mr. Philip Radix
Ms. Makesha Debisette

Brasso Seco

Mr. Urban Salina
Mr. Raymond Pereira
Ms. Helen Fuller
Ms. Lisa Janette

Heights of Aripo

Mr. Evon Ramoo
Ms. Andreanette Blackburn
Mr. Shane Valentine
Ms. Onella Durity
Mr. Emile Tennia
Mr. Ricky Tennia

Lopinot

Ms. Pauline Samaroo
Ms. Patrina Benjamin
Ms. Theresa Lynch
Mr. Terrence Borneo
Mr. Wesly Cristo

Speyside

Mr. Jace Bishop
Mr. Rupert 'Smokey' McKenna
Mr. Keydell Kerr
Mr, Shurn Melville

Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources

Businesses selected by the five communities

Using a feasibility study, each of the communities identified a list of potential natural resource-based businesses that would improve their quality of life. The communities are:

- Blanchisseuse;
- Brasso Seco;
- Heights of Aripo;
- Lopinot; and
- Speyside.

The businesses are listed below.



Blanchisseuse

- Commercial growing of flowers
- Agouti farming
- Cocoa farming
- Fruit farming
- Vegetable farming
- Coffee farming
- Fish farm (red tilapia)
- Jewellery (seeds and shells)
- Furniture (bamboo)
- Turtle tours and conservation
- Nature tours
- Nature parks
- Agrotourism
- Seamoss products (gels, drinks, mousse)
- Fish processing
- Fruit preservation
- Traditional (bush) teas
- Restaurant
- Bakery
- Shopping complex
- Herb shop



Brasso Seco

- Ecotourism: tours, host homes
- Selling of preserved fruits for supermarkets
- Bottled local juices for sale
- Ceramics
- Selling of flowers to provide interior decorators
- Processing of cocoa and coffee
- Bamboo and seeds craft
- Aqua farming
- Seasoning (spices, etc.)
- Organic farming



Heights of Aripo

- Ecotourism
- Drying and packaging medicinal herbs
- Chocolate factory, packaging cocoa ball/ bars
- Preserves, juices
- Packaging watercress
- Handicraft (jewellery, baskets, weaving)
- Bamboo furniture
- Cuisine tours
- Water bottled in Heights of Aripo



Lopinot

- Ecotourism (nature trails/ rivers)
- Processing plantain/ cassava/ corn
- Fruit preserves (mango, sour cherries)/ mango jam/ makeup from mango
- Healing oils from carapa plant
- Bottling spring water
- Processed cocoa products
- Handicraft (bamboo baskets, maracas)



Speyside

- Craft making
- Organic farming
- Market for selling local products
- Fishing
- Fish processing
- Information centre
- Tours (reef, turtle, dive, hiking, bird- watching, forest, island, etc.)
- Diving centre
- Food court
- Museum
- Local bed-and-breakfast
- Fruit processing (preserves, jams, etc.)
- Flour processing from cassava and breadfruit



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Community Expo


May 20, 2011

Agenda

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 – 10:00 | Welcome, introductions, open house view of community exhibits, refreshments |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | CANARI briefing of technical and financial assistance organisations |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | Community presentations to technical and financial assistance organisations |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | Individual meetings between communities and technical and financial assistance organisations and view of community exhibits |
| 2:00 – 5:00 | Open house to retail and wholesale buyers and the public |

Blanchisseuse

In collaboration with
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute



With Funding from JB Fernandes Trust

Welcomes you to our:

COMMUNITY EXPO

Developing rural livelihoods through
sustainable use of natural resources

**About Blanchisseuse
(Washer Woman)**

- Blanchisseuse is situated on the rocky North Coast of Trinidad
- Established sometime after 1783 by the French settlers who were brought in by Chacon
- Blanchisseuse is blessed with lots of fresh as well as salt water reserves and an abundance of wild life, nature scenes, wild flowers
- Remains one of the main fishing villages of Trinidad and Tobago
- Population less than 1000 people

Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Vision

- Our plan (vision) for Blanchisseuse is to establish a chain of businesses that will help in the sustainability of our natural resources as well as to create employment for our fellow villagers for years to come.

Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Natural Resources



Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Current uses

- Turtle watching
- Nature tours
- Creating home made jams, juices, dishes and ice cream for home and retail purposes.
- Preservation of our natural resources

Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Potential business ideas

- In Blanchisseuse we will like to create and establish a chain of businesses which will help in the sustainability of our natural resources.
 - Turtle watching tours
 - General tours (forest, waterfall, hiking, etc.)
 - Bakery
 - Seamoss products
 - Art and craft
 - Agriculture
 - Local restaurants

BlanchisseuseCANARI Community Expo 2011

Turtle Watching Tours





The community has:

- BECO: This group is currently involved in the turtle conservation from extinction
- An abundance of turtles every season

The community needs:

- Centre to coordinate visitors and tours
- Training in habitat management and animal rescue
- Assistance in paving access road

BlanchisseuseCANARI Community Expo 2011

General tours




The community has:

- BCC: The community council recently completed a tour guiding course and is interested in ecotourism related tours

- Forests, trails
- Waterfalls


The community needs:

- Financial and business management skills



BlanchisseuseCANARI Community Expo 2011

Processing seamoss products




The community has:

- BEAT: This group is trained in the sustainable use of seamoss products
- Seamoss

The community needs:

- Funding for the continued management of seamoss in Blanchisseuse
- Funding for processing seamoss to make gels, mousse and drinks for sale

BlanchisseuseCANARI Community Expo 2011

Art, craft museum and sale

The community has:

- BEAT: This group's members are all concerned with the use and sale of art and craft native to the community
- Forest resources for raw materials
- Many artists and craftsmen in the community



The community needs:

- Funding for the House of BEAT to host the arts and crafts made from natural resources

BlanchisseuseCANARI Community Expo 2011

Local restaurant

This restaurant will be based mainly on the use of local foods and produce. The aim is to also create dishes that can meet the pockets of our local people



The community has:

- Many trained cooks
- Access to local agricultural produce (fruits, vegetables, etc.)

The community needs :

- Funding to purchase
 - materials for the completion and enhancement of the structures
 - equipment and local products.
- Training is also needed for
 - networking skills
 - business and financial management skills



BlanchisseuseCANARI Community Expo 2011

Bakery

This bakery is based on the use of local products such as coconut, cassava and also the use of local home made fruit jellies and vegetables

The community has:

- Access to locally grown coconut, cassava, etc.
- Trained bakers

The community needs:

- Finance to purchase
 - materials for the construction of a building
 - equipment such as ovens, dough dividers, bread slicers, bakers pans and trays.
- Training in
 - Business and financial management
 - Networking



Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Agricultural Farming

Cassava farming is one of the main types that we will like to reintroduce to Blanchisseuse on a larger scale.

The community has:

- Persons trained in farming techniques
- Available space for farming

The community needs:

- Information on land tenure and land acquisition in Blanchisseuse
- Training in organic farming techniques
- Funding to purchase material and equipment



Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Fish processing

Salting, filleting, smoking of local, fresh fish

The community has:

- Abundant fish
- Experienced fish processors

The community needs:

- Information on access to markets
- Funding to purchase equipment and material
- Financial and business management skills

Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Needs

- Financial assistance to purchase material and equipment and to enhance or construct buildings for the businesses
- Training in
 - Business and financial management
 - Networking
 - Quality and quality control of food
 - Health and safety of food preparation

Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

Thank you

If your organization can assist us in any way please see us after to set up a meeting

Blanchisseuse CANARI Community Expo 2011

BRASSO SECO

In collaboration with
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute



With Funding from JB Fernandes Trust

Welcomes you to our:

COMMUNITY EXPO

Developing rural livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources

About Brasso Seco

- Community established since before 1956
- Located in Northern Range, 22 miles to Matelot
- Population of 255 persons
- Home of the Pawi
- Site of the First Plane Crash, piloted by Arthur A. Cipriani.

Brasso Seco CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Vision

- Brasso Seco Protected Area: with organized community controlled eco tourism experience.
- Farming: Cocoa/Coffee/ Christophene.
- Brasso Seco Brand: Spices and Seasonings
- Brasso Seco Fish Farming

Brasso Seco CANARI Community Expo 2011

Current uses

- Tours and hikes organized by outside groups
- Farming Cocoa/Coffee/Christophere/ Citrus/ Bananas/ Root crops
- Tourism Centre
- Seasoning and spices packaging (in Community centre)
- Cocoa Processing domestically or in community centre

Brasso Seco CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Natural Resources

- Pristine Forests: Vines, seeds, beads: Craft Items
- Waterfalls/Rivers: Eco Tours
- Flora and Fauna: Bird Watching e.g Pawi
- Nature Trails: Eco Tours
- Fertile soil: Agriculture, Agro-tourism (cocoa/coffee)

Brasso Seco CANARI Community Expo 2011

Brasso Seco Protected Eco-Tourism Area



Needs

- Clarity on land tenure
- Re-Training: (hospitality, first aid, tour guiding)
- Seminars on environmental awareness
- Infrastructure for community centre

Vision

- Brasso Seco protected area to control and coordinate visitors to the area:
- Ensure sustainable use the environment
- Keep in income in the community, to help build the community
- Community council through information centre to coordinate tours, food, accommodation (host homes)

Brasso Seco CANARI Community Expo 2011

Farming

Vision for Organic Farming:

- Community self sufficient
- Providing quality produce to visitors.
- Ensuring sustainability of the environment (clean water supply, healthy soil)

Organic Farming Needs:

- Training in organic alternatives
- Seminars on environmental awareness and the benefits of organic
- Training in soil preparation and post- harvest technology
- Clarity on requirements for organic labelling

Brasso Seco

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Cocoa and Coffee Processing

Vision:

Brasso Seco brand Cocoa and Coffee

Community has:

- Plenty raw cocoa and coffee available
- Skills to process: cocoa bars and cocoa and coffee powders

Assistance required:

- Tools for milling and baking processes
- Marketing the products (Brasso Seco Brand)
- Obtaining Purchasing and buying agent licenses

Brasso Seco
CANARI Community Expo 2011

Spices and Seasoning

Vision:
Brasso Seco Brand Seasoning and Spices

Community has:

- Seasoning and spices in abundance
- Training in food processing
- Knowledge of the packaging process

Assistance required for:

- Requirements for proper labelling
- Space and equipment to package
- Training in sustainable farming practices

Brasso Seco
CANARI Community Expo 2011

Aqua- farming

Vision:

- Brasso Seco sustainable fish farming
- Self sufficient community

Community has:

- Working relationship with Agricultural society to get necessary equipment and fish
- Necessary space for ponds and aquariums

Assistance Requirements:

- Assistance constructing ponds and other infrastructure.

Brasso Seco
CANARI Community Expo 2011

Needs

- Help creating and maintaining a protected zone to limit the number visitors.
- Help regularizing land tenure
- Proper working environment (spices/seasoning; cocoa and coffee)
- How to properly label food items
- Assistance for packaging materials: bottles/sealants
- Help with marketing agricultural and tourism products
- Assistance the getting various training: hospitality/first aid/ organic farming alternatives and safe chemicals etc.

Brasso Seco


CANARI Community Expo 2011

Thank you

If your organisation can assist us in any way please see us after to set up a meeting

Aripo Youth Development Organization

In collaboration with
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute



With Funding from JB Fernandes Trust

Welcomes you to our:

COMMUNITY EXPO

Developing rural livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources

About (Community)

- Community was established in the year 1942
- Population of approximately 750

Other interesting facts:

- El Cerro Del Aripo; This is the highest mountain in Trinidad and Tobago and have an elevation of 3084 feet (940m).

(Heights of Aripo) CANARI Community Expo 2011

About (Community)

- Aripo is one of the two Watercress site in Trinidad which supplies both isles
- Way of life are influence by the French Creole and Amerindians
- Statistics has shown that Aripo produces the richest Cocoa beans worldwide

Our Vision

Our plan for the long term of our community:

- To transform the entire community into an eco-agro tourism attraction
- To build a tower on El Cerro Del Aripo
- To beautify river sites for recreation

Heights of Aripo CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Natural Resources

List of resources:



- Rivers
- Land
- Caves
- Birds Wildlife
- Different species of plants
- Two head pond (river)
- Cocoa
- Watercress Farm
- Cristophene Farm
- Rain Forest
- Mountain trails (El Cerro Del Aripo)

Heights of Aripo CANARI Community Expo 2011



Oil Birds (Jabloteh or Devil Bird)
Wildlife (Oil Birds)






Land and River

- Land 
- River 

Plants and two ponds

- Rain forest 
- Ponds 

Cocoa, Watercress and Cristophene

- Cocoa 
- Watercress 
- Cristophene 

Current use of Resources

- Resources being used within the community are:
- Land–used by farmers
Small businesses based on the use of the resources are:
- Tenniafarms Ltd. (pepper source, green seasoning etc.)
- Cocoa estate owners
- Watercress farmers etc.

Heights of Aripo CANARI Community Expo 2011

Potential business ideas

- River – build carrot sheds along river banks and make it comfortable for recreation.
- Land– build a visitors centre/Bed & breakfast to house history information about Aripo and to facilitate overnight guest, also a reception area.
- Tour guides to the caves and El Cerro Del Aripo (Flag hill)

Heights of Aripo CANARI Community Expo 2011

The Community has

- The worlds best cocoa
- One of two largest Cristophene farm
- One of two largest Watercress farms
- Pollution free flowing rivers
- Flora and Fauna
- Different species of birds and butterflies
- Our soil is so fertile almost anything grows in it.

Community Needs

- Centre to coordinate visitors and tours
- Training in cutting trails, business management, public speaking, first aid, financial management and
- Equipment to carry out tours such as digital cameras, flash light, ropes, boots etc.
- Further training in home management and food preparation alongside kitchen utensils.
- Bins along the road way and rivers
- SO MANY OTHER THINGS, TOO MUCH TO MENTION

Thank you

If your organisation can assist us in any way please see us after to set up a meeting

Heights of Aripo

CANARI Community Expo 2011

LOPINOT

In collaboration with
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute



With Funding from JB Fernandes Trust

Welcomes you to our:

COMMUNITY EXPO

Developing rural livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources

About Lopinot

- Located in the Northern Range, approximately 8miles from Piarco International Airport
- Population of roughly 5000 persons from Surey to La Pastora and beyond
- Lopinot is known for its Spanish heritage and home of Parang. It is mostly Spanish-oriented
- The main attractions: Lopinot Historical Site, the caves, Lopinot river

Lopinot

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Vision

- To use the existing natural resources in a sustainable way to make Lopinot one of the first eco-tourism destinations in Trinidad and Tobago
- Creation of jobs
- Nature trails, the caves, enhancement of the Lopinot Historical Site

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our natural resources

- Water resources: watershed, river, riverside savannah
- Agricultural land
- Forests
- Cave
- Corn, plantain, other ground provisions
- Mangos, sour cherries

Brasso Seco

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our resources cont'd

- Balisier /other flowers
- Carapa (oil), Zeb a pique
- Cocoa and coffee estates (private, but of public use)
- Birds (parrots), wild life (agouti)
- Watermelon

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Current uses of the natural resources

- Production of food crops for subsistence and sale in the market – crops include tomatoes, sweet pepper, provisions
- Small scale selling of mangoes and mango preservatives
- Cocoa House (tourist attraction)
- Hunting for domestic use and sale (agouti, birds, wildlife)

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Potential small businesses in Lopinot

- **Processing of plantains, cassava, corn** for production of chips, corn flour
- **Preserving of mangos and sour cherries** to produce juice, , mango jam, provide groceries, produce make up
- **Eco-tourism:** nature trail, tour guiding

Brasso Seco
CANARI Community Expo 2011

Food processing

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>What we have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Raw products : plantains, cassava, corn •Mangos and sour cherries •Seasoning (chadon benit, pimento, hot peppers, celeri etc.) | <p>What we need :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Machinery •Packaging material such as labels, containers, bottles ... •Training in the use of the machinery •Training in food processing • Management skills: how to run a small business |
|--|--|

Eco-tourism

What we have :

- Nature trails, river, caves
- Watershed, river side savanah
- Tour guiding skills

What we need:

- Health center, security for tourists
- Infrastructure (Information booth)
- Financial assistance

Brasso Seco
CANARI Community Expo 2011

Needs

- Nature trail to become a protected area, for it to be managed and protected


CANARI Community Expo 2011

Thank you

If your organisation can assist us in any way please see us after to set up a meeting

Speyside

In collaboration with
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute



With Funding from JB Fernandes Trust

Welcomes you to our:

COMMUNITY EXPO

Developing rural livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources

About Speyside

- Rural settlement
- NE Tobago
- Fishing village
- ~1200 persons
- Largest brain coral in the western hemisphere
- 2 offshore islands

Speyside
CANARI Community Expo 2011

Our Vision



- Use natural resource-based businesses to improve the quality of life in Speyside

Speyside

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Natural resources

- Fish in the sea
- Coral reefs
- Marine environment (Batteaux Bay)
- Birds
- Forest (trails)
- Wild animals in the forest
- Turtles
- Bamboo
- Wetland birds
- Fruit trees
- Crayfish
- Small river fish
- Coconut trees
- Wood from forest (not the forest reserve)
- Lobster and conch

Speyside

CANARI Community Expo 2011

Potential business ideas

- Market for selling local products, information centre, food court
- Tours (reef, turtle, dive, hiking, bird-watching, forest, island, etc.)
- Fruit processing (preserves, jams, etc.)

Speyside

CANARI Community Expo 2011



Speyside CANARI Community Expo 2011

Thank you

If your organization can assist us in any way please see us after to set up a meeting

Speyside

CANARI Community Expo 2011

CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE
WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF
BLANCHISSEUSE, BRASSO SECO, HEIGHTS OF ARIPO,
LOPINOT, PLUM MITAN, AND SPEYSIDE



COMMUNITY EXPO

COME AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO

*Food, craft and other
products for sale!*

*Community ecotourism
and other businesses on
display!*

*Meet people from
community organisations!*

VENUE:

*FONDES AMANDES
COMMUNITY REFORESTATION
PROJECT, FONDES AMANDES ROAD
ST. ANN'S*

DATE: *MAY 20TH, 2011*

TIME: *2:00 - 5:00 PM*

CONTACT: *626-6062*

RURAL PEOPLE IMPROVING THEIR LIVELIHOODS



Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

COMMUNITY EXPO

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS BASED ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), with funding from the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, is implementing a project to improve people's quality of life in six rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago, through supporting the development of small businesses based on the sustainable use of the natural resources. As part of this project, a **Community Expo will be held on Friday 20th May 2011**, at the **Fondes Amandes Community Re-forestation project (FACRP)**, in **St. Anns**, from **9:00 am**, and will be open to the public from **2:00pm to 5:00 pm**.

The Community Expo aims to bring together the six rural communities of Blanchisseuse, Lopinot, Brasso Seco, Heights of Aripo, Plum Mitan and Speyside, participating in the Fernandes project, as well as other communities, to share ideas and experiences about developing businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources. Other similar established community businesses will also be featured. The Expo will link communities with organisations and agencies that can provide technical and financial assistance, and help them develop their business ideas.

Representatives from the rural communities will also have an opportunity to sell their products and services to retail or wholesale buyers, and to the general public.

For more information, contact us at 626 60 62, or info@canari.org.

[About CANARI](#)

Appendix 6

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 20 years. Our mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, capacity building and fostering regional partnerships.



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE (CANARI)

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Danielle Mayers

Tel: (868) 626-6062

Fax: 868-626-1788

Email: danielle@canari.org

COMMUNITY EXPO

COME AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO!

EVENT: COMMUNITY EXPO

With funding from the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, CANARI is implementing a project to improve people's quality of life in six rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago through supporting the development of small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources. A Community Expo is held as part of this project, and is going to be open to the public from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

DATE: Friday 20th May 2011

TIME: 9:00pm -5:00pm

LOCATION: Fondes Amandes Community Re-forestation Project, St. Anns, Trinidad

For more information: danielle@canari.org 626-6062



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Fernandes Industrial Centre • Administration Building • Eastern Main Rd. • Laventille • Trinidad W.I.
Tel: (868) 626 6062 • Fax: (868) 626 1788 • Email: info@canari.org • Website: www.canari.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago dazzle international and local agencies

Port-of-Spain (CANARI) 25 May 2011 – Five rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago presented their ideas for small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources to seek assistance from invited international, regional and local organisations on Friday May 20th, 2011 at a Community Expo held at the Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project, St. Anns. The communities of Blanchisseuse, Lopinot, Brasso Seco, Heights of Aripo and Speyside, with support from CANARI and funding by the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, presented small business opportunities related to community-based ecotourism, craft-making, and processing of food products.

Throughout the day's event, members from these communities met with representatives from various organisations such as the Community Development Fund, the Green Fund, the Japanese Embassy and the United Nations Development Programme to seek technical and financial support in developing their business ideas. They also had an opportunity to interact with community entrepreneurs from Nature Seekers, Tobago Cocoa Farmers, and the Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project who have already developed successful businesses based on the sustainable use of the natural resources in their communities.

It was a day for rural communities to show their individuality, pride and determination to see their communities' develop. One of the participants from Blanchisseuse declared that "today [the Expo] is the best day of [her] life". Several agency representatives were impressed by the work the communities had done in developing potential businesses and assessing the needs for these businesses. All of the communities reported that they made meaningful contact with the agencies present.

CANARI would like to thank all those who participated in the Community Expo for making the event a success and to welcome partners interested in collaborating with CANARI to continue to provide rural communities with sustained and targeted support to help them to build sustainable livelihoods while conserving their natural resources.

For more information

Contact: Nicole Leotaud, 626-6062, or nicole@canari.org

END



Local communities boosting livelihoods using Natural Resources

By VERDEL BISHOP Thursday, May 26 2011

This country is rich with natural resources, so when rural communities throughout the country came together to showcase their products, it was no surprise that there were many unique products on display. Various local communities are making use of the environment and are coming up with products to boost their livelihood through an initiative of the Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Recently, six communities, including Blanchisseuse, Plum Mitan, Aripo, Braso Seco, Lopinot and Speyside, were able to showcase their creativity using their natural resources through an initiative of CANARI, with funding from the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust. Speaking at the launch of the project, at the Fondes Amandes compound in St Ann's, CANARI Executive Director, Nicole Leotaud said through supporting these communities their livelihoods and incomes can be improved.

The communities are set to gain economic boost through a series of workshops which will encourage them to develop a strategic plan for their natural resources and connect with important agencies that can support their small business ideas.

According to Leotaud: "CANARI will assist communities in identifying their income generating project ideas and help them work through the next steps, linking them with agencies that can assist in making their ideas a reality; this is what this project is about," Leotaud said. "It's all about building sustainable livelihood in rural communities," she added. displays on the Fondes Amandes compound featured jewelry made of recycled glass, beads, seeds, pods, stems, grass, bone and shells; there were also cloth and food.

According to CANARI, throughout the Caribbean, initiatives are underway to encourage communities in co-management of natural resources. CANARI believes that community involvement can help to reduce the degradation of marine and terrestrial bio-diversity, address resource use conflicts, improved the community's quality of life and provide opportunities for economic activity.
