



THE NATIONAL  
FOREST PROGRAMME  
**FACILITY**



**Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)**

**Report of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Forest and Livelihoods Workshop**

*October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Forestry Conference Room,  
Campden Park, St. Vincent.*



Fig1: Workshop participants and host, Keepers of the Environment, at Montreal Watershed.

## 1. Background

This workshop is part of a regional programme on Forests and Livelihoods currently being conducted in Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago under CANARI's **Forests and Livelihoods Programme**.

CANARI's **Forests and Livelihoods Programme** seeks to enhance the contribution of forest goods and ecological services to sustainable livelihoods of the rural poor in the islands of the Caribbean. The programme encompasses research and analysis as well as building capacity at local, national and regional level for equitable participation and effective collaboration of stakeholders in the management of forest resources.

## 2. Funding

The workshop was funded by a grant from the European Commission's Programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries and by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) under its National Forest Programme Facility (nfp-Facility).

## 3. Participants

The workshop targeted non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) involved in the use of forest and forest products in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 1.

## 4. Goal/Objectives

The **goal of this workshop** was to build the capacity of CBOs and NGOs for participatory forest management that enhances the contribution of forests to sustainable livelihoods.

**Objectives of the workshop** were to:

- (a) build understanding and appreciation of how forests can benefit livelihoods;
- (b) assess relevant and feasible potential opportunities for strengthening or developing projects that can benefit livelihoods;
- (c) build capacity to effectively design projects on forests and livelihoods;

- (d) identify existing initiatives and opportunities for increased coordination and collaboration among stakeholders with particular emphasis on opportunities for funding and technical assistance for forests and livelihoods projects.
- (e) identify gaps in institutional arrangements relevant to sustainable forest-based livelihoods;
- (f) contribute to the development of a consensus on applicable tools to address national needs and priorities.



Fig 2: Workshop participants and members of Keepers of the Environment on the trail at Montreal Watershed.

## 5. Key Outcomes

Key outcomes of the workshop included:

- enhanced capacity of participants to identify and analyse the relevance and

feasibility of strategic opportunities for their group to implement projects that benefit forests and livelihoods, with groups identifying opportunities that focused on encouraging local use and local consumption of the products (e.g. “Vincy Sun” organic local fruit juices);

- a recognition that in project implementation, on the way to achieving the project goal, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate milestones as they can serve as incentives to complete the project;
- analysis of institutional arrangements elicited discussion concerning the development and evolution of the Integrated Forest Management and Development Programme (IFMDP) and revealed a need for a review of the original vision, goal and roles of key individuals in the programme.

## 6. Methods

The workshop was participatory and interactive and used a combination of methods including whole group discussion, small group work, presentations and field visits. This served to familiarise participants with key definitions and concepts, to analyse lessons from forest-based livelihood initiatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and to stimulate ideas for development of projects that contribute to sustainable livelihoods. Institutional arrangements for forest management in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were analysed using participatory mapping. The programme is attached as Appendix 2, the PowerPoint presentations for all of the sessions are in Appendix 3 and the handouts are in Appendix 4.

## 7. Lessons and recommendations from analysis of forest-based opportunities and field visit.

Lessons
Local authorities must invest more time and resources to catalyse transition of rural communities from marijuana cultivation in forested areas to alternative forest-based livelihoods.
Volunteerism can be tainted by politics.
Co-operation and consensus development among stakeholders contributes to effective management of natural resources.
Empowerment of rural people to be able to clearly voice their opinions and offer



solutions to their needs and requirements is essential in designing and implementing successful projects in rural communities-
Stakeholders need to clearly identify and associate themselves with the benefits of a project before there is buy-in.
In monitoring and evaluating projects, acknowledgement should be given to milestones along the way to achieving the main project goal.
Local management committees for protected areas must include key people from the community.
Forest-based livelihood projects have many benefits such as opportunities for enhancing livelihoods by drawing on lessons learnt, conserving the environment and exchanging knowledge, technical skills and training.

## 8. Analysis of institutional arrangements for forest-based livelihoods.

The exercise attempted to analyse the relationships of stakeholders in forest-based livelihoods in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The discussion was lively and participants were able to identify stakeholders, describe how they use the forest, and identify needs and areas of conflict. The key points and recommendations emerging from the analysis are listed below.

<b>Key points and recommendations</b>
There needs to be a strengthened link between Lands and Surveys Department and Forestry Department to hasten the completion of surveys needed to finalize agreements for the use of state lands by CBOs for forest-based livelihood projects.
The Ministry of Rural Transformation needs direct links with CBOs to significantly contribute to the development of sustainable forest-based livelihoods.
Forest-based livelihood projects on Union Island need more direct support from key Ministries in the government.



Fig 3. Map of relationships with the forest-based livelihoods in St. Vincent.

## 9. Evaluation

Daily interactive evaluations were done and a final written evaluation was completed by all participants. All participants found the workshop useful in providing guidance on development of sustainable forest-based livelihoods in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Of special note is the following poem, “Environmental Call”, composed by Peter Pompey of Rawacoo Development Council, and shared in the concluding session of the workshop to summarise his impressions.

Yes Vincy has great forest.

Indeed we are blessed.

We can meaningfully utilize the forest.

Use what we need and leave the rest.

The forest provides food and fresh air

Look at our rich fertile soils everywhere

We can grow anything, anywhere.

No one should starve here in VG

If we do the things we should

We can gain a meaningful livelihood.

Come one, come all

Listen to the environmental call.

## **10. Conclusion**

The workshop provided an opportunity to provide useful information on forest-based livelihoods in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to all participants. Participants from the Grenadines welcomed the opportunity to share their work on the Ashton Mangrove Forest Tourism Project and the members of IFMDP were able to initiate the review and analysis of the programme.

**Appendix -1 - List of Participants****Mr. Inga Harry**

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**Appendix – 2 – Agenda**

## CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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**Workshop on Forests and Livelihoods**  
***Forestry Conference Room, Campden.***  
***Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009***

**OBJECTIVES**

- (a) Build understanding and appreciation of how forests can benefit livelihoods.
- (b) Assess relevant and feasible potential opportunities for strengthening or developing projects that can benefit livelihoods.
- (c) Build capacity to effectively design projects on forests and livelihoods.
- (d) Identify opportunities for funding and technical assistance for forests and livelihoods projects.
- (e) Identify gaps in institutional arrangements relevant to sustainable forest-based livelihoods.
- (f) Contribute to the development of a consensus on applicable tools to address national needs and priorities.

**AGENDA*****Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October***

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, introductions, ice breaker, participant expectations, workshop overview
	Break
	Participant presentations and discussions on what groups in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are doing in the area of forests and livelihoods
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Forest types and uses in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, defining key concepts, identifying forest-based livelihoods in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
	Preparation for field trip
4:00 p.m.	Close

***Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October***

8:00 a.m.	Meet at Forestry Conference Room for transport to Montreal Watershed
	Field visit to Montreal Watershed and discussion with staff and community members
	Lunch at Montreal Watershed
	Small group discussion on forests-based livelihoods in Montreal Watershed
4:00 p.m.	Close

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

8:00 a.m.	Participants work in pairs to discuss ideas for developing sustainable forest-based livelihoods Group discussion
	Analysis of what is required for developing sustainable forest-based livelihoods.
12 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Panel presentations by technical assistance and funding agencies on opportunities to get assistance with developing projects on sustainable forest-based livelihoods Questions and group discussion
4:00 p.m.	Workshop evaluation, close and thanks


**Appendix-3- Presentations**

## Forest & Livelihoods Workshop



In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

October 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Forestry Conference Room, Campden Park, SVG



## Purpose of workshop & Overview of project



## Workshop goals

- Build understanding and appreciation of how forests can benefit livelihoods



Community reforestation project in Trinidad



## Workshop goals

- Assess relevant and feasible potential opportunities for strengthening or developing projects that can benefit livelihoods;



Training of Trainers Workshop in Trinidad



## Workshop goals

- Build capacity to effectively design projects on forests and livelihoods;



Wamiae Letang, Dominica  
Credit : Panman



## Workshop goals

- Identify opportunities for funding and technical assistance for forests and livelihoods projects.



Action Learning Group Meeting, St. Lucia





### Workshop goals

- identify gaps in institutional arrangements relevant to sustainable forest-based livelihoods;



Mapping in Grenada National Workshop



### Workshop goals

- develop a consensus on applicable tools to address national needs and priorities



National Workshop in Tobago



### Overview of the project



### Forests & Livelihoods Programme

- To enhance the contribution of forest goods and ecological services to sustainable livelihoods of the rural poor in the islands of the Caribbean.



Charcoal pit in Saint Lucia

Research Capacity building



European Commission (EC)	FAO National Forest Programme Facility
“Practices and policies that improve forest management and the livelihoods of the rural poor in the insular Caribbean”	“Participatory Forest Management: Improving policy and institutional capacity for development”
2007-2009	2006-2008/9



### Project countries

1. Dominica
2. Grenada
3. St. Kitts and Nevis
4. Saint Lucia
5. St. Vincent & the Grenadines
6. Trinidad & Tobago
7. Jamaica



Mountains of St. Vincent  
Credit: Fitz Providence



## FAO project activities

- Country reviews of PFM
- Regional workshop on PFM
- Regional forest policy review
- Concept notes for national forest policies
- Training of Trainers
- 4 Action Learning Projects
- Country training workshops
- Small grants programme for NGOs and CBOs
- Regional conference



Sundew Tourguiding Services  
Aripo Savannas Scientific Reserve  
Trinidad  
ALP recipient



## EU project activities

- Review of status of forest policy & institutions
- Action Learning Group (ALG)
- Case studies to quantify socio-economic benefits derived by rural poor from a range of forest management arrangements
- Development and dissemination of recommendations for forest institutional arrangements that optimise socio-economic benefits to rural poor
- 8 exchange visits
- Regional conference




Action Learning Group  
Bon Aire community visit  
Trinidad



## Benefits to participants

- enhanced capacity to identify strategic opportunities for their group to implement projects;
- analysed the relevance and feasibility of specific project opportunities;
- enhanced skills in project planning;
- built partnerships with other CBOs and NGOs;
- identified potential partnerships with national and regional partners who can provide funding and technical assistance;
- identified relevant options for funding and assistance of their current or proposed projects.



## Thank you

- Any questions ???



## Definitions of key concepts



## Key terms & concepts

- Forest
- Forest management
- Stakeholder
- Participation
- Livelihoods
- Sustainable livelihoods



Reforestation of ganga clearing  
St. Vincent  
Credit: Fitzgerald Providence



## Forest?



## Forest

- Presence of trees
- Other biodiversity
- Not used any other primary purpose (e.g. housing, agriculture)
- Areas of degraded / destroyed forest
- Areas of recovering / planted forest



Secondary forest, Trinidad



## Forest management?




## Forest management

- Active purposeful intervention
- Impacts on forest and use of forest



Community-managed secondary forest,  
Trinidad



## Management roles

Planning	Facilitating
Research	Enabling
Education / Communication	Mobilising
Coordination	Mediating
Implementing	Driving
Evaluating	Catalysing
Directing / controlling	Following
	Observing



## Stakeholder




## Origin of the term


- From betting
- 16<sup>th</sup> century England
- Wagers were posted on wooden stakes
- “Stakeholder” was one who supervised betting!!!
- Sentiments still remain??



## Participation?



## Spectrum of participation



Top-down decision making – most powerful stakeholders inform some of the other stakeholders of some decisions	Most powerful stakeholders “sell” the decision to some stakeholders	Most powerful stakeholders present tentative decision for discussion	Joint analysis but final decision still with most powerful stakeholders	Inputs, analysis and decisions made with equitable involvement of all stakeholders
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## Livelihoods?

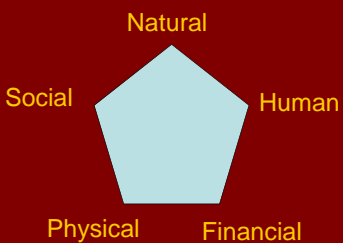


## Livelihoods

- The capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living.
- Includes concept of well-being and quality of life.



## Capital assets for sustainable livelihoods




## Livelihoods are sustainable when they...

- are resilient to stresses and shocks
- do not depend on external support
- do not compromise the productivity of the resource base
- do not undermine the livelihoods of others



Banana farm, Saint Lucia



## Thank you !





### The Geology

- The origin
  - Volcanic
  - Caribbean Island Arc
- The Grenadine Bank
  - A continuous shallow bank between the Grenadines and Grenada
- Approx. 34 Islands and Cays
- 8 Islands inhabited

### Climate

- Small Islands; Islets and Cays
- Two distinct seasons (Wet and Dry)
- Rainfall on mainland 3000 to over 7000mm per annum
- Rainfall averages approx. 1000mm per annum.
- Winds are the North East Trade Winds

### The Forest types

- What is a Forest?
  - A complex community of plants and animals interacting both biotic and abiotic components

### Forest Types

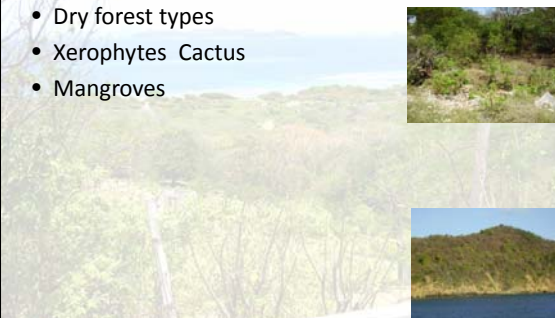
- Coastal
- Littoral
- Interior
  - Lower Montane
  - Upper Montane
  - Elfin Woodland
- Forest

### Montane Forest

- Dense vegetation
- Three or more layers of vegetation
- High diversity of plants and animals
- Endemics

### Vegetation of Dry Forest

- Dry forest types
- Xerophytes Cactus
- Mangroves



### Kings Hill Forest Reserve

- Established 1791
- 20 hectares (52 acres)
- Oldest Environmental legislation



### Kings Hill Forest Reserve





### Unique Habitats

- Rocky shores and cliffs for nesting birds
  - Battowia nesting site for Frigate Bird
- Rich birdlife
- Wetlands for migratory bird species




### Reptiles and Amphibians

- Reptile 14 sp
- Amphibians 3sp



*Gonatodes duadini*  
(2005)



### Coastal & Marine Habitats

- Beach and Coastal Habitats
- Mangroves
- Tidal Pools
- Sea grass beds
- Coral Reefs
- Sandy Bottoms



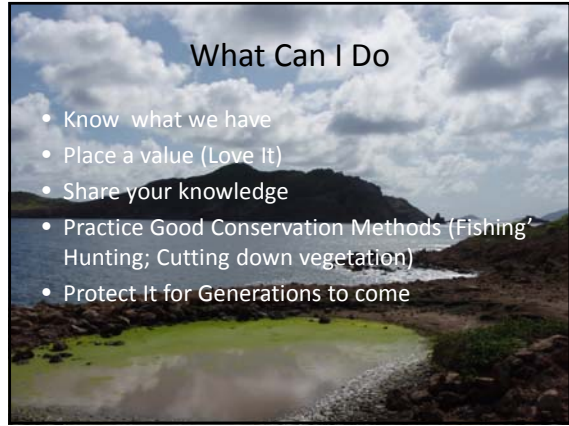
## Threats

- History of development
  - Agriculture
- Conflicting land use
- Thrust in Tourism Development



## What Can I Do

- Know what we have
- Place a value (Love It)
- Share your knowledge
- Practice Good Conservation Methods (Fishing, Hunting; Cutting down vegetation)
- Protect It for Generations to come



Thank you



## Appendix -4- Hand outs

### 4.1 Definitions handout



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### USEFUL DEFINITIONS

**BIODIVERSITY:** means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (Source: *Convention on Biodiversity*)

**FORESTS:** (FAO and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity *in situ*. A forest may consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground, or open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 per cent. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes which have yet to reach a crown density of 10 percent or tree height of 5 m are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest. **Includes:** Forest nurseries and seed orchards that constitute an integral part of the forest; forest roads, cleared tracts, firebreaks and other small open areas; forest in national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas, such as those of special scientific, historical, cultural or spiritual interest; windbreaks and shelterbelts of trees with an area of more than 0.5 ha and width of more than 20 m; plantations primarily used for forestry purposes, including rubberwood plantations and cork oak stands. **Excludes:** Land predominantly used for agricultural practices. **Other wooded land:** Land either with a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of 5-10 percent of trees able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity *in situ*; or a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent of trees not able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity *in situ* (e.g. dwarf or stunted trees); or with shrub or bush cover of more than 10 percent. (Source: FAO (1998). *FRA 2000 Terms and Definitions. Forest Resource Assessment Programme Working Paper number 1, Rome, Italy*)

**FOREST PRODUCTS:** The term “product” corresponds to goods that are tangible and physical objects of biological origin such as plants, animals and their products. (Source: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/nwfp/en/>. Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007).

**LIVELIHOODS:** A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. (Source: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org))

**NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS (NWFP):** NWFP are products of biological origin other than wood derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests. NWFP may be gathered from the wild, or produced in forest plantations, agroforestry schemes and from trees outside forests. NWFP include products used as food and food additives (edible nuts, mushrooms, fruits, herbs, spices and condiments, aromatic plants, game), fibres (used in construction, furniture, clothing or utensils), resins, gums, and plant and animal products used for medicinal, cosmetic or cultural purposes. (Source: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/nwfp/en/>. Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007)

**PARTICIPATION:** is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them. (Source: [www.worldbank.org/afr/particip/keycon.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/afr/particip/keycon.htm))



## 4.2 Exploring forest-based livelihood opportunities handout



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### Forest and Livelihoods Workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

#### Some things to consider to get started...

##### Feasibility- Can it work?

*What do you know about the theme (global and island specific information)?*

*Is this an economically feasible idea – is there a market in St. Vincent and the Grenadines ?*

*Is this ecologically/environmentally feasible – can it be sustainable?*

*Can this product be provided in a sustainable manner from the forest? How will you know that you are extracting at a sustainable level?*

*Is this socially feasible – will it be supported by government, communities, etc?*

*Do you know about this activity – do you have the knowledge and skills? Do you have the tools (physical)?*

*What other resources do you need? Do you have them? If not, do you know where you can get them or how they can be made?*

##### Beneficiaries

*Who will benefit? (one person? the group? The village? Others?)*

*How will it benefit livelihoods? (natural, physical, human, economic, etc)*

##### Relationships

*Are these products drawn from state or private lands?*

*Do you have permission to access and extract?*

*Are there any laws applicable/ or permits required for the activity?*

*Who do you need to work with to make this happen?*



### 4.3 Proposal Writing Handout

**Forest and Livelihoods Workshop in Forestry Conference Room, Campden Park, St. Vincent  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009**

#### **First Steps in PROPOSAL WRITING**

##### ***What is a proposal?***

***A proposal is “an act of putting forward or stating something for consideration”- Merriam- Webster online dictionary.***

*Proposals are commonly submitted with the following information.*

#### 1. What do you want? - **GOALS AND RESULTS**

What do you want to achieve with the project?

What specific action do you want to achieve?

What things will have changed or will have been influenced through this project?

What will be different as a result of this project?

#### 2. Why do you need to do this? - **NEEDS PRESENTATION**

Why are you implementing this project?

Why are you undertaking this project?

Why is this the best method?

What problems and needs will be met?

Who will be the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project?

#### 3. Who are you? - **ORGANISATION BACKGROUND**

Why your organisation? Are you in the best position to lead this project?

What have you or your organisation done before?

What are your resources, strengths, reputation, experience, etc?

#### 4. How are you going to do this? - **ACTIVITIES**

What, When, Where, Who?

What are/will be the main project activities?

<b>Main activities</b>	<b>Partial results</b>

How is the project going to be administrated? /Who is going to carry out the project? (Staff, responsible persons, outside support, etc.)

When and where will activities be developed and what are the key dates during the project cycle?

Main activities	Dates	Type of support	

When and how will the organisation/the responsible group coordinate the activities with mentors, donors, partner agencies, other organisations, beneficiaries?

What are the expected contributions?

Which people/organisation are/is needed for implementing the activities and what are the specific responsibilities for the implementation and execution.

Persons/organisation responsible	Responsibilities

What material resources/financial resources are needed for the project activities?

#### 5. How will you know you are doing what you said you will do? - **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTS**

How will project implementation be monitored? Who will be responsible?

How will you measure effectiveness?

How will you record the lessons learned (for example good experiences, unexpected results or problems etc.)?

6. How much money will it cost? - **BUDGETS**

How much will the project cost?

What financial resources are needed for each project activity?

7. How will you ensure that the benefits of your good work continue after this project?  
- **SUSTAINABILITY**

What next? What will happen once the initial project is completed?

How will the project continue maintaining itself?

What will happen once the project funded activities have been carried out?

How will the project be managed after completion of funded activities?

How will the project be funded in future?

How will the beneficiaries be able to continue to work?

## 4.4 FAO Telefood Handout

# FAO TeleFood Programme

(FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

### About the Programme

- Launched in 1997, the TeleFood Special Fund (TSF) funds small projects in developing countries and countries in transition.
- The programme raises awareness of the problem of hunger and collects funds to finance projects that provide sustainable and environmentally safe solutions.
- TeleFood was established as annual campaign of broadcasts, concerts, sporting events and other activities to harness the power of media, celebrities and concerned citizens to help fight hunger.

### TeleFood Projects

- The goal of TeleFood projects is to support disadvantaged families and small-scale farming communities.
- Donations to the TeleFood Fund go directly to poor farmers, especially women and young people, to pay for tools, seeds and other essential supplies required to grow the food their families and communities need.
- Not a penny is spent on administrative costs.
- The budget of each project does not exceed US\$ 10 000 and a duration of 12 months.
- Projects categories range from crop production to fish and animal production, including support to school garden initiatives and apiculture.

### Examples

**Crop Production** (cereals, roots and tubers, vegetables, fruits and others, e.g. agroforestry, small irrigation, apiculture, agroprocessing): inputs include seeds and planting materials, fertiliser required for one or maximum two seasons, and hand tools. Heavy equipment is not provided by TSF. Some 55% of TeleFood projects funded to date have been of this category.

**Small Animal Production** (chicken, geese, ducks, guinea fowls, rabbits, small ruminants, pigs): inputs include start-up stock (day-old chicks, sheep, piglets, etc.), animal health supplies, feed resources in quantities sufficient to cover the first rearing period, and hand tools. Small animal production projects have comprised 33% of TeleFood projects.

**Fish Production** (Small-scale fish culture and improved artisanal fisheries): inputs include fry for water stocking, fishing gear (but no boats), products for fish feeding, and hand tools. This category has accounted for 12% of all TeleFood Projects.

### Key elements of successful applications

- Low-income persons in rural communities
- Group participation and sustainability

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