

BACKGROUND

The FaN project provided small grants to groups of 6-14 persons in Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, to implement agricultural activities to generate income, provide own-consumption and/or supplement their own employment. Most of these beneficiaries are female. Local specialists offered technical support, and preliminary training and business plans are complete.

SKN RECIPIENTS

1. CAPISTERRE WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT



Group of 14 women, mostly single mothers. The group has 2 half-acre plots on which they grow cash crops. Also, home gardens were started for 3 members. Project funds were used to fence the plots, purchase supplies (mulch, irrigation, planting materials, etc.), and for land preparation.

2. CHERRY GARDEN LIVESTOCK GROUP



Group of 9 members (2 females). Each group member already owns individual herds of goats. Project funds were used to fence two acres of government-leased pasture land, build animal housing, provide infrastructure to deliver water to the pasture, purchase animals, and to establish several feed-lots to grow grass, vines, and shrubs.

3. NEW RIVER FARMER'S CO-OPERATIVE



Group of 20 members (8 females) who cultivate approximately 20 acres of land. They grow a variety of cash crops, including specialty crops such as honey-dew, water-melons, sweet-peppers, and tomatoes. Project funds were used to purchase plastic mulch, irrigation tubes, planting materials and for land preparation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Both Capisterre Women for Development and the New River Farmer's Cooperative are harvesting produce from their plots. Members are benefiting from consuming their own produce and from sales, reporting significant productivity increases, reduction in water expenses, and labor savings for clearing weeds since the irrigation pipes and plastic mulch were implemented. The members are also making a monthly contribution to an investment fund for group use. The New River group group has secured a marketing arrangement with the Four Seasons Hotel to purchase the group's fresh produce, which is first certified by the Marketing Department of the Nevis' Ministry of Agriculture. The Cherry Garden Livestock Group has completed all infrastructural works and is poised to purchase animals.

