

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.

SVG RECIPIENTS

1. GREIGGS PRODUCTION & MARKETING ASSOCIATION



Group of 11 farmers (6 females), belonging to the indigenous Garafuna community (mixed-race descendants of Carib, African and Arawak people).

2. WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (WARD)



Group of 11 farmers (9 females).

3. MESOPOTAMIA POULTRY AND SMALL RUMINANTS ASSOCIATION



Group of 6 members (4 females). The males rear goats and the female members rear poultry broilers and layers.

Members of these two groups own a 0.5 to 6 acre plot each, where they grow dasheen, eddoes and sweet-potatoes, for exports mainly to Europe. They also grow plantain, yam, ginger, turmeric, passion fruit, avocado, hot and flavored-peppers for home-consumption and local sales. These farmers also grade and pack produce from other farmers for sale to the European market. This marketing arrangement is managed by The Eastern Caribbean Trading Agriculture and Development Organization (ECTAD CARIBBEAN).



ACHIEVEMENTS

The Greiggs and WARD groups used their funds to complete their packing sheds; purchase boxes to ship out their produce; purchase fertilizers, pesticides, farming equipment (plastic mulch, diggers, sprayers, etc.); hire day-laborers to clear and prepare land for planting. They harvested 40,000 lbs. (Greiggs) and 11,000 lbs. (WARD) of dasheen, and have already replanted, using profits from their sales. They have also harvested other root and cash crops for home use and for sales in local markets. Both groups have established their investment funds to which members have been making monthly contributions. The Mesopotamia group used funds to build chicken and goat pens, and purchase inputs (chicks, goats, feed, waterers, etc.). Sales of goats are in the early stages, but several batches of chickens have matured, been slaughtered and sold. Eggs have also been harvested and sold. From their profits, two group members have purchased two pigs each to rear as an additional economic activity. Members of all three groups are receiving regular incomes from their sales.

