

# Women's Farmers Academy: Building Capacity in Agricultural Sustainability & Agri-Business

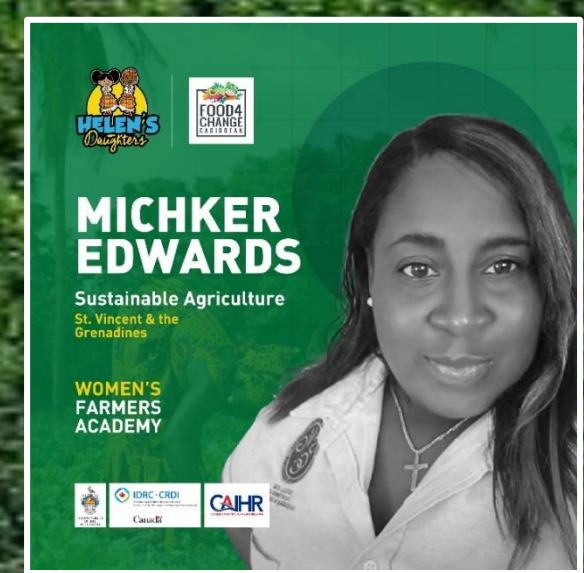
## WOMEN'S FARMERS ACADEMY

WFA is a collaboration between FaN and Helen's Daughters, a St. Lucian NGO focusing on advocacy and capacity building of women in agriculture. There were nearly 300 applications from women in St. Kitts & Nevis (SKN) and St. Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG). This is a fully online (COVID-compliant) programme, implemented between October 2021 and July 2022.

Five course modules are delivered twice weekly over 2 months via Zoom: Sustainable Agriculture; Nutritional Marketing; Food Safety; Financial Literacy; and Market Linkages and Agribusiness.



Founder & President of  
Helen's Daughters, Ms.  
Keithlin Caroo.



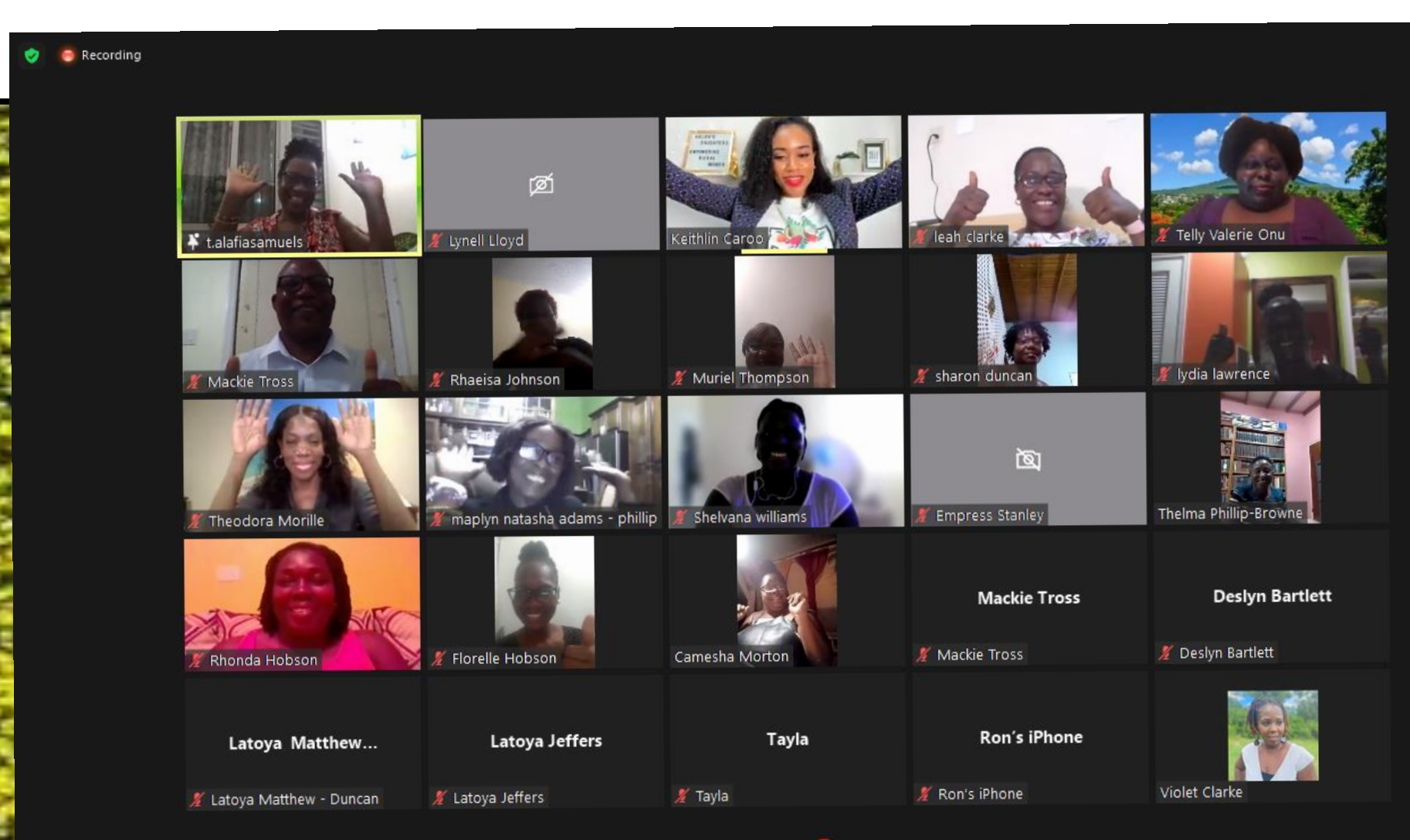
## THE TEAM

Local facilitators in SVG and SKN were recruited and trained on course material, online teaching techniques, empowering others, leading discussions, and building relationships.

## STUDENTS

SKN - 46 students; SVG - 81 students; plus up to 95 additional students for the final training.

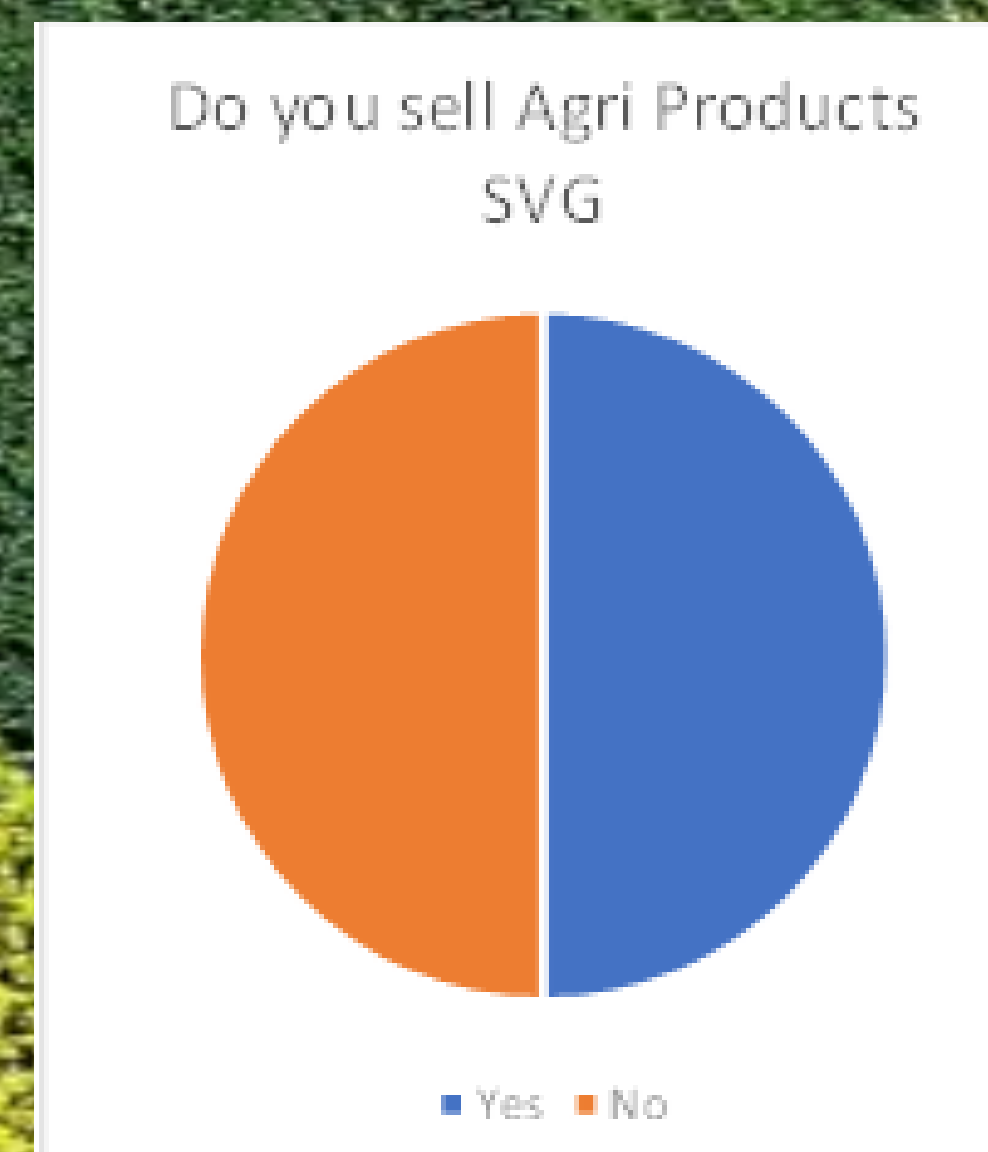
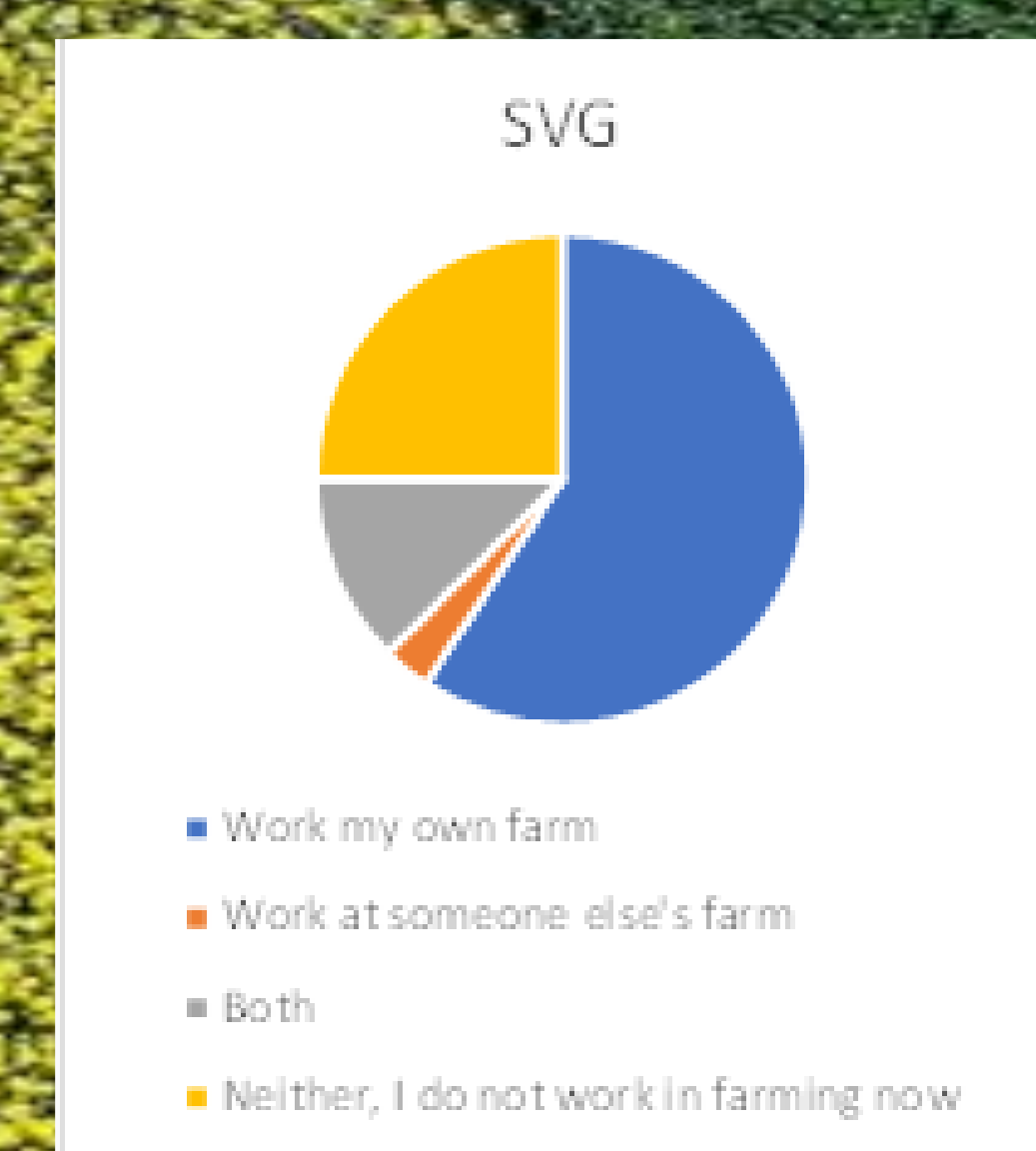
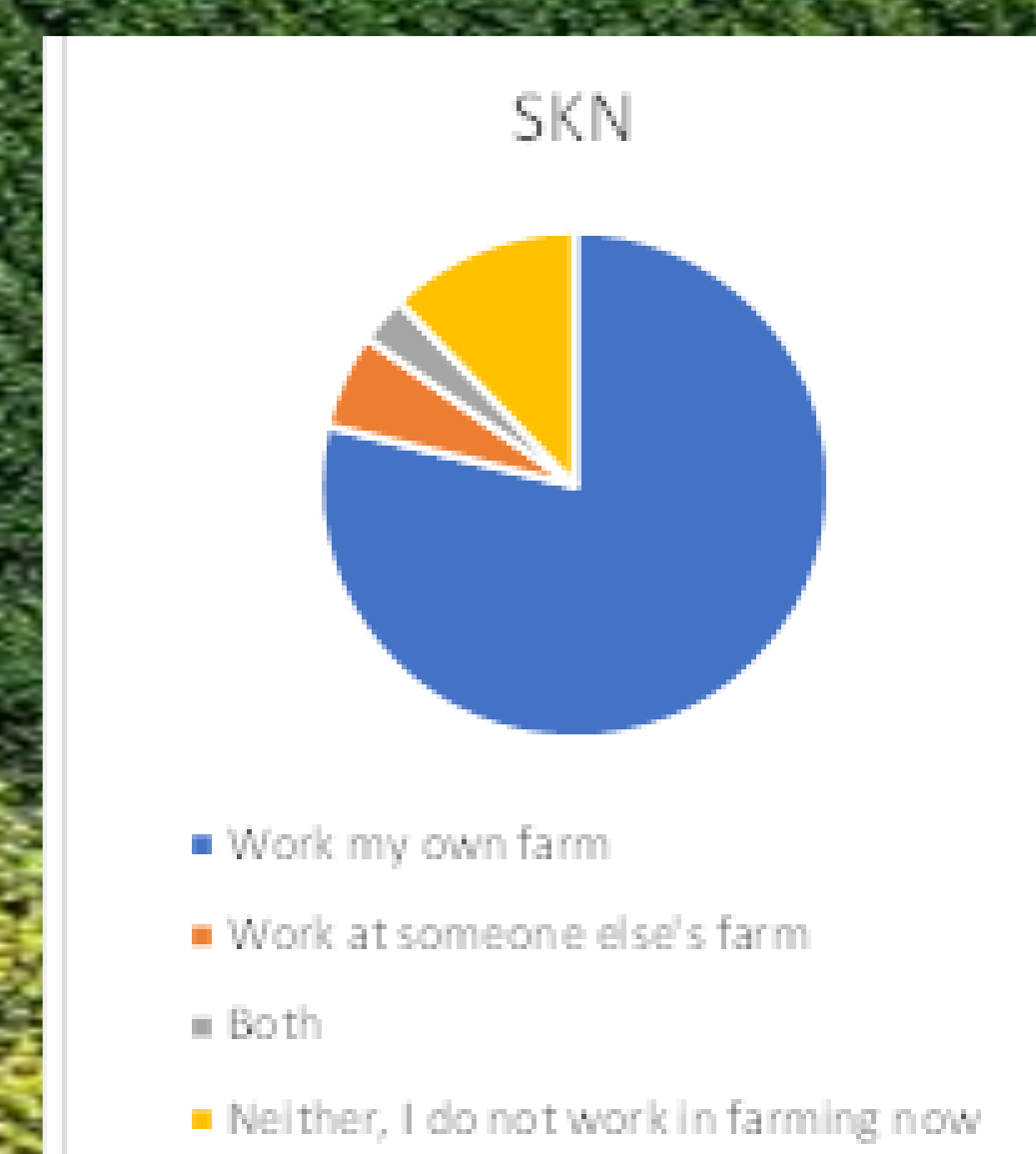
An initial survey revealed participants' attitudes and approach to farming and challenges faced (See findings to the right). Evaluation surveys were also conducted. Virtual graduation ceremonies are held for students who attended 80% of classes.



Virtual graduation ceremony: Cohort 1, SKN (Pg 1).

## CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES

- COVID-19 forced the WFA programme to be virtual, using Zoom and videos. Attendance rates were 90% in SKN and 80% in SVG.
- An open-source digital resource library is being created on the Helen's Daughters website, <https://helensdaughters.org/>.
- The WFA WhatsApp and Facebook groups allow students to access presentations and resources, and create a peer network that fosters sharing of ideas, advice and even partnerships.



Interest in becoming an active member of agricultural/farming groups	Plans to change their farming practices or techniques
Post-programme, most participants reported...	
Plans to change their farming business practices	Thinking of ways to overcome obstacles faced as a woman in farming



## THE FUTURE

Helen's Daughters will continue work with local facilitators. Clusters are being established in SKN and SVG, with 3 facilitators appointed to the WFA Board.

Plans are to expand the WFA across more CARICOM countries.