

## RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

### *"Empowering rural women through improving livelihoods"*

#### *Meeting notes: Sensitisation Meeting with project participants*

26 February 2013

Objectives: To formally introduce and confirm women nominated as participants in the current UN Women-funded CANARI project of the main elements of the project, to introduce participants to one another, and to obtain their input into the scheduling of the second project phase (4 one-day workshops).

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction to CANARI
2. Introduction of participants
3. Project outline: "Empowering rural women through improving livelihoods"
  - Development of criteria and nomination process with stakeholders
  - Sensitisation meeting
  - Series of one-day workshops
4. Way forward: Scheduling of workshop sessions
5. Feedback

### MEETING NOTES

#### **Time and Venue:**

The meeting of women nominated to participate in the project was convened at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, NIHERST/NGC National Science Centre in D'Abadie. It was chaired by Celeste Chariandy, Senior Technical Officer CANARI, who is the Manger of CANARI's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Issue Programme.

## Attendees:

A total of fourteen (14) women participated in the meeting. The list of attendees is given in Appendix 1.

## 1. Welcome

Attendees were welcomed by Celeste Chariandy, who chaired the meeting.

Celeste registered her thanks to the women for coming out to the meeting some of whom came from very far distances. She asked how many persons had heard about CANARI before this project, and only three persons indicated that they knew about the Institute. One person, from Caura Village and another, from Heights of Aripo Village had recently participated in CANARI-led projects. The third person had heard of CANARI before but was not sure what CANARI did.

Celeste then provided an overview of CANARI's work and focused on the specific objectives of CANARI's Rural Livelihoods Programme (see Appendix 2).

## 2. Introduction of participants

Meeting participants each introduced themselves, indicating the organisation to which they belonged and the type of natural resource based business activity in which they are engaged.

This was done in a creative manner, to double as an ice-breaker activity. A ball of wool was given to the first person doing a self-introduction. As this participant ended her introduction, Celeste asked whether there was anyone who was doing similar work or using similar materials. This identified the next person to do an introduction and the first participant was asked to hold the end of the wool and the ball was extended to the next person. After all introductions were completed, the women realised that a network of wool was created, linking one to another.



*Nathisha from Tobago shares information about her work as Cynthia from Heights of Aripo Village looks on*

Celeste noted this symbolised the plan of linking all the participants together to provide support, share ideas and arrive at a common view on issues that impact on each of them as women involved in businesses that use natural resources. During these introductions, the women made several comments which are noted:

- They were not aware of some of the creative uses of natural resources shared by the participants e.g. avocado oil in care of the feet
- They were not aware of the existence of these types of businesses in other parts of the country e.g. in Caura Valley and in Matelot
- Some women never heard about the Mango Festival and the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago
- There was much value in bringing people together to share ideas
- The women would like to have field trips incorporated in the project to be able to see some of the businesses being undertaken by participants



*Yolande from Caura Valley speaks about the work of the Women's Empowerment Group in her community*

A gentleman was present at the meeting; he was invited by one of the nominees to attend the meeting. Celeste however outlined that the project was exclusive to rural women producers who were nominated to participate through observation of specific criteria.

### 3. Project outline: CANARI's UN Women-funded project

Ms Chariandy described the objectives and outlined the activities for the project using a Power Point presentation (see Appendix 3). She emphasised that the project was not an end in itself, but would serve to stimulate sustained linkages among the team of women through the establishment of a network, and sustained practices through expected roll-out of training to other members of their business enterprises.

She also emphasised the important communication elements of the project and the intention to have participants present the outcomes of the training and the impacts of the project on their businesses as well advocacy of their views on areas of support needed by rural women producers.

Participants were asked to give some idea of the relative age of their businesses, using supplied paper cut outs in the shape of leaves - a bright green leaf would represent a business that is one year or less in age, and a darker green leaf would represent a business that is more than one year old.

The participants were then asked to write their name, the natural resources used in the business and the name of the business on the leaf shape and paste it onto a drawing of a tree.



*The group of participants at the meeting*

The drawing had the branches making the shape of a map of Trinidad and Tobago, and the women pasted these leaves in approximate locations of where they live and operate their businesses.

This activity served to document the information provided in the introductions and to demonstrate to the participants the geographical spread of participants as well as the variation in age of business and experience of the women.

Seven (7) women indicated that their businesses were one year old or less. The 'leaf' data is given in Appendix 4.



*The women place 'leaves' on the branches of the tree, denoting geographical spread and age of their businesses*

#### **4. Way forward: scheduling of workshop sessions**

The women were satisfied with the location of the sensitisation meeting, and advised that they would be happy to attend workshops at that venue.

Given their livelihood activities, they felt that the four workshop sessions could take place either twice a week for two weeks or once a week over four weeks. One participant indicated that she would need to carry out tours during a two-week period from March 16th to 30th and would prefer if workshops could be scheduled outside of that period. Celeste said that the participants would be notified by telephone of the dates of the workshops when finalised.

#### **5. Feedback**

Celeste invited participants to give their feedback on their views about the project, now that they have been given more information about the background and planned. They provided this feedback using a simple exercise using cartoon faces, each with a different expression to denote a mood. The participants placed a tick (✓) with a marker next to the expressions which best depicted their feelings (see Appendix 5). Most were "satisfied", "ready to tell their friends about it", "eager; ready to get down to work" and were 'sold' on the project.

The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

### Appendix 1 List of attendees at Sensitisation Meeting

Sharline Alcide Point Fortin	Nathisha Charles-Pantin Tobago
Judy Craig Chaguanas	Claudette Dick La Brea
Celina Edwards Pleasantville	Hilda Fortune Point Fortin
Joanna James Point Fortin	Seandie Jones-Phillip Point Fortin
Beulah Jones-Clunis Matelot	Judie McIntyre Moruga
Jude McIntyre-Paul Moruga	Listra B. Phillip-Quashie Point Fortin
Cynthia Shepherd Heights of Aripo Village	Yolande Youk-See Caura Valley

Map of Trinidad and Tobago showing geographic spread of participants



### Appendix 2

## Introduction to CANARI at Sensitisation Meeting

Slide 1

**Caribbean Natural Resources Institute**  
(CANARI)

Slide 2

**About CANARI**

CANARI is an independent technical non-profit organisation, registered in 1989 (but born out of an initiative started in 1976).

The Institute is registered in Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Croix.

It is a regional non-governmental organisation (NGO) with a geographic focus on the islands of the Caribbean.

Map taken from: <http://www.beachbumparadise.com/maps-jamaica-costarica-caribbean/>

Slide 3

**Mission**


Our mission is to promote and facilitate **equitable participation** and **effective collaboration** in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better **quality of life** and natural resources will be **conserved**, through action learning and research, capacity building, communication and fostering partnerships.



### People with whom we work

CANARI works with a wide range of stakeholders to implement its mission.

Academic institutions		Private sector	
Media		NGOs	Government agencies
Community groups		Donors	
International bodies		Regional bodies	
Resource users: fishers, farmers, tour operators etc.			




### How we work

CANARI carries out its work through various Programmes.

This present project falls within our Rural Livelihoods Programme.

The main purpose of the programme is that sustainable rural livelihoods based on the use of natural resources are established, maintained or strengthened.




### Goal of the Rural Livelihoods Programme

The goal of our Programme is to support rural communities with the development of **sustainable** natural resource-based livelihoods through building **capacity**, catalysing **partnerships** and influencing **policy** to create an enabling institutional environment.





### Other Programmes

- Forests, livelihoods and governance
- Coastal and marine livelihoods and governance
- Climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Green economy
- Civil society and governance
- Communication
- Action Research and Learning
- Capacity Building
- Research



### For more information

**Please contact:**

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Fax: 868-626-1788

Website: [www.canari.org](http://www.canari.org) |  [Caribbean Natural Resources Institute](#) |  [CANARI 2011](#)



**Appendix 3** **Project Outline**  
Slide 1



*Caribbean  
Natural  
Resources  
Institute  
(CANARI)*

UN Women 2012 Project  
Project overview

Slide 2




**“Empowering rural women  
through improving livelihoods”**

Slide 3




**Overview**

This project is funded by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (“UN WOMEN”).



The project will involve:

- working with women from rural communities to assist them in developing or strengthening small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources;
- assisting these women to communicate to policy-makers how to develop or strengthen processes to support rural women entrepreneurs.



### Project objectives

- Identify opportunities to establish or strengthen small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources
- Build the capacity of rural women to develop and manage small businesses, use resources sustainably, and build mechanisms for resilience to climate change into their business plans




### Project objectives (continued)

- Identify mechanisms to support rural women to implement these small businesses
- Support the establishment of a network to share information, and provide one voice to influence policy on food security policy and action plans
- Build the capacity of rural women to share their recommendations and opinions to contribute to policy and action plans which pay attention to gender concerns





### Target audience

- Rural women, small farmers and women entrepreneurs involved in the use of natural resources to maintain livelihoods in Trinidad and Tobago







## Strategies

The project is designed to implement several strategies key to its success, including:

- **Capacity building to:**
  - develop and manage small businesses,
  - to use sustainable practices in the use of natural resources,
  - to incorporate resilience measures to climate change in the management of businesses, and
  - to communicate effectively to influence policy
- **Peer sharing and exchanging** practical experiences among rural women on establishing and operating small businesses.



## Strategies (continued)

- **Advocacy** to bring the voice of rural women to food security policy development and action planning processes.
- **Networking** to bring together women leaders to develop a network of rural women entrepreneurs.
- **Mentoring and coaching** rural women leaders, and encouraging them in turn to act as mentors and coaches of other rural women.



## Strategies (continued)

- **Enhancing awareness** of policy makers and other key stakeholders of recommendations and opinions of rural women about how to develop or strengthen enabling mechanisms to support rural women entrepreneurs.
- **Action research and learning** to engage rural women and their partners in the participatory analysis of enabling mechanisms for rural women entrepreneurs.



### Activities

Key activities:

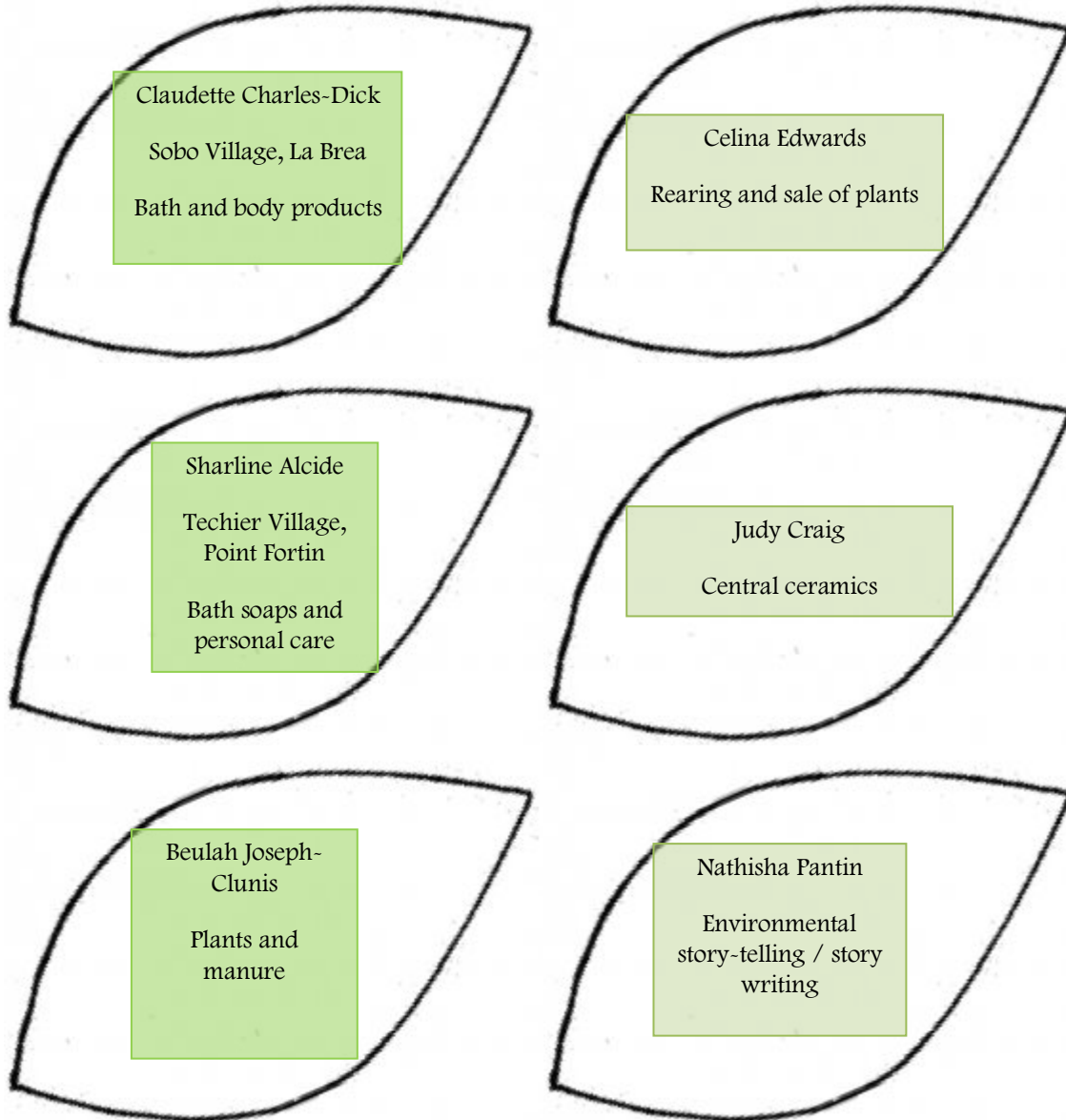
- ✓ Training and facilitation workshops
- ✓ Establishment of a network
- ✓ Mentoring and documentation of 2 case studies of small businesses established through this process
- ✓ Development of a policy brief for sharing with policy makers, highlighting what is needed by women to implement and manage small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources
- ✓ Participation of women leaders in a regional forum for sharing of experiences



### Activities (continued)

- Training and facilitation workshops:
  1. To select and conduct feasibility assessment of potential small businesses
  2. To improve knowledge of sustainable use practices of natural resources
  3. To incorporate resilience measures to climate change in the management of their businesses
  4. To communicate for policy influence
  5. To analyse enabling mechanisms to support rural women to implement and manage small businesses
  6. To initiate the establishment of a 'women in small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources' network

#### Appendix 4 Information provided on leaf shapes by participants



Yolande YoukSee  
Homemade wine

Cynthia Shepherd  
Soaps

Joanna James  
Joanna and Associates  
New Village, Point Fortin  
Craft Making

Listra B. Phillip-  
Quashie  
Nyabingee  
Tie dye and batik,  
Sewing  
Point Fortin




Jude McIntyre-Paul  
Agriculture, Farmer  
Growbox and tutoring  
Sewing, etc

Seanalie Jones-  
Phillip  
Egypt Village,  
Point Fortin  
Chinkets Gift  
Centre cushions,  
teddies, crochet

Hilda Fortune  
Dariah's Secret Oils  
Point Fortin

Judie McIntyre  
(did not complete a leaf)

**Appendix 5 Feedback scores from participants**

Expression	Meaning	Score
	Feeling sad I came	0
	Going to be sick	0
	Too much information!	0
	Angry	0
	Sleepy / bored	0
	Can't wait to get out of here!	0
	Need coffee to wake up	0
	Thoughtful	6
	Eager; ready to get down to work	9
	So hard to say goodbye	0
	Have nothing to say	0
	I am sold on this project!	8
	Ready to tell my friends	11
	Confused	0
	Satisfied	11