

Goal of Approach:

Though agriculture comprises just 5% of Jamaican GDP, it provides employment for 20% of the labor force, and 73% of those living below the poverty line reside in rural areas. Increased temperature, rising sea levels, more intense storms, and longer dry spells threaten to increase soil erosion and pest outbreaks, decrease crop yields and water supply, and damage infrastructure.

USAID/Jamaica has an approved Country Assistance Strategy (for 2010-2014) with a Priority Goal of "Promoting Economic Prosperity and Sustainable Development," which will be directly impacted by climate change. Until now, USAID mostly focused its adaptation activities in the agriculture sector, in particular through the MAJIC (Marketing and Agriculture for Jamaican Improved Competitiveness) project. The goal of this USAID-supported project, implemented by ACDI/VOCA, is "To protect rural lives, livelihoods and ecosystems in targeted Jamaican communities affected by climate change through interventions that drive adaptation and build resilience." Activities will be organized into two objectives:

- To improve the adaptive capacity of Jamaican partners and institutions to promote livelihoods and natural systems that are resilient to climate change and its impacts
- To strengthen local and national institutions to support the processes of adaptation and sustainability

These activities will help avert loss and damage related to climate change impacts in Jamaica's rural communities and by extension the agricultural sector.

Future climate change activities supported by USAID/Jamaica over the next strategic period 2012-2017 will broaden focus to other sectors in the areas of:

1. Increasing resilience of targeted livelihoods and ecosystems to the negative impacts of climate change.
2. Improving risk management planning, especially through community-based approaches.
3. Increasing institutional capacity to reduce emissions and mitigate and manage GCC impacts through policy and planning.

Input provided by: United States (USAID/Jamaica)

Main elements of the implementation strategy

The main activities of the future climate change adaptation programming include, but are not limited to:

- *Development of a climate change awareness strategy:* ACDI/VOCA has initiated a Knowledge Attitude and Awareness (KAP) assessment for a community members and farmers. The findings have been used to develop a series of awareness building posters for the agricultural sector.
- *Award and monitoring of grant activities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction:* Grants will support livelihood risk assessments, crop suitability modeling, and water harvesting. The risk assessments and suitability maps will provide farmers with a better understanding of how climate change is likely to impact key crops and what geographic areas will be most suitable for growing particular crops under different climate change scenarios.
- *Capacity building:* Extension officers will be trained to deliver a curriculum on climate smart agriculture to community groups. In addition, agricultural extension officers will be trained on agro-meteorology, in order to build capacity for agro-meteorological forecasting within the extension agency. This will be complemented by support for upgraded equipment for select weather stations.
- *Monitoring and evaluation* of project activities, including GIS mapping of project sites and vulnerabilities faced by farmers.

ACDI/VOCA will implement CEDAR (Communities Engaged to Drive Adaptation Responses), a method which engages local stakeholders in participatory activities that identify, prioritize and lead sustainable responses to climate change. The project also uses participatory, discovery-based adult learning methods such as Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

Grant funding to the University of the West Indies will continue to provide baseline information for decision-making. Additional

linkages to local stakeholders such as the Meteorological Office, technical specialists and insurance providers have been made.

USAID also supported the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) in convening a National Climate Change Workshop in July 2012 to develop an integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation policy framework. The workshop brought together key Ministers, government representatives, NGOs, and development partners. It was attended by more than 150 individuals. An important feature of the climate framework is that it is being mainstreamed into the country's existing long-term national development plan, *Vision 2030 Jamaica*. USAID will continue to support the Government of Jamaica as it develops this policy framework. A National Policy Framework on Climate Change is expected to be submitted to Cabinet by December 2012 in the form of a green paper.

Targeted beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries are vulnerable farmers and agricultural value chain members. The activities help reduce the risk of loss and damage from climate change impacts in Jamaica's agricultural sector.

By building resiliency in the agricultural sector, this project also helps support the Jamaican Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF) priority goal of "*assisting Jamaica's agricultural sector to become a market-driven, profitable and competitive industry.*"

Any significant lessons learned

- The process of programming change must be carefully managed within the context of a 4-year development assistance program to ensure effective use of resources and sustained impacts of the interventions supported.
- Adaptive management is critical in a complex project implementation environment where programming approaches are continuously changing along with programming focus, funding sources and priorities.
- Site specific vulnerability assessments are required for a more targeted adaptation/mitigation intervention.

Resource requirements

USAID support for Adaptation in Jamaica totaled \$1 million in fiscal year 2010, \$3 million in fiscal year 2011, and \$2 million in fiscal year 2012.

The project has identified and is currently addressing key capacity needs, including among agricultural extension agents, farmers, and rural communities.

Potential for replication or scaling-up

The Farmer Field School extension methodology has successfully contributed to adoption of best practices and transfer of technologies. The method has also been successful in building cohesiveness among members of producer groups. It also demonstrates the benefit of group-focused technical assistance delivery and has relevance for application to address capacity building needs in other sectors.

Any additional information

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