

# CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction



Progress Report on Implementation of Letter of Agreement for Provision of  
Emergency Response to Farmers Affected by Hurricane Tomas and the  
Retrofitting of a Model School in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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# Progress Report on Implementation of Letter of Agreement for Provision of Emergency Response to Farmers Affected by Hurricane Tomas and the Retrofitting of a Model School in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

## 1.0 Project Overview

### 1.1 Background

Hurricane Tomas affected St. Vincent and the Grenadines on October 31, 2011 leaving EC\$150M in damage and loss with the northern part of the country receiving the greatest impact. All sectors in the economy were affected; however the agriculture sector was the most severely impacted with EC\$86.1 million in damage. This figure includes damage to agriculture crops, farmhouse, farm animals, road infrastructure and forestry.



Figure 1: Map of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines provided some assistance to affected farmers in the form of income support, fertilizers, seedlings, planting material and livestock to assist farmers in rehabilitating their livelihoods following the impact of Hurricane Tomas. Nevertheless, for some, this assistance was not sufficient to enable them to quickly return to some level of economic normalcy.

The recovery of farmers on the Windward side of St. Vincent from the impact of Hurricane Tomas was compounded in April, 2011 when St. Vincent and the Grenadines experienced unusually heavy rainfall, which resulted in extensive flooding in the Windward side of the country. Some of the same areas that were impacted from Hurricane Tomas, were further affected.

The passage of Hurricane Tomas also resulted in significant damage to the housing sector. A number of families whose houses were affected needed to be housed in emergency shelters for some period. Immediately following the hurricane, there were fifteen hundred (1500) persons in forty (40) emergency shelters throughout mainland St. Vincent. Since schools make up the largest proportion of buildings used as emergency shelters in St. Vincent & Grenadines, it is imperative that those designated as emergency shelters have at least the basic amenities to accommodate persons whose houses are destroyed or become uninhabitable after a disaster.

To In October 2010, the Government of Brazil, under the CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme made available financial support for recovery efforts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines following the passage of Hurricane Tomas. The amount of this support is US\$62,500.00.

With this support, the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) and the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Organisation (CDEMA), is undertaking activities related to enhancing the disaster risk management capacity in the agricultural and educational sectors.

## **1.2 Aim of the Midterm Report**

The Progress Report provides an update on the status of implementation of the project activities indicated in the Work Implementation Plan.

## **1.3 Project Activities**

### ***1.3.1 Emergency Response Support to the Agricultural Sector***

#### ***a) Provision of Agricultural Production Inputs to Farmers***

Under this component, the project aims to assist in the efforts of fifty (50) farmers in the rural communities of St. Vincent to rehabilitate their livelihoods which were affected by Hurricane Tomas. Specifically, the assistance is intended to provide agricultural inputs, in the form of fertilizers, to the most severely affected farmers across all three (3) agricultural regions of St. Vincent. The farmers were selected from a listing held by the Ministry of Agriculture of those persons who reported damage to their farms to the Ministry of Agriculture as a result of Hurricane Tomas. The budget allocated to the support to farmers was US\$40,000.00.

**b) Capacity Building Exercise**

The activity is also intended to provide capacity building to the farmers to mitigate against damages that may be caused by future disasters. The budget allocation was US\$6,850.00.

**1.3.2 Living Schools Component**

**a) Provision of Water Tanks**

Under this component, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines proposed to provide one thousand (1000) gallon water tanks for ten (10) schools on the windward side of the island that are used as emergency shelters. Each of these water tanks would provide sufficient water to meet the water supply needs of one hundred (100) persons for approximately ten (10) days. The budget allocated to the provision of the water tanks was US\$5,650.00.

**b) Retrofitting of Fitz Hughes Government School**

Under this component, the Fitz Hughes Government School, which functions as an emergency shelter, was selected to benefit from support from the Government of Brazil outlined in 1.1 above. The school presently has a shelter capacity of one hundred (100) persons during a natural disaster and sixty (60) for temporary housing in the post-disaster phase.

The proposal from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ministry of Education was for the construction of four (4) additional shower units and the installation of one (1) 800 gallon water tank at the school. The budget for the retrofitting works is US\$ 10,000.00. Estimates of the cost of materials and labour for the retrofitting is shown in Annex A.

The proposed scope of works is as follows:

- Construction of four shower units (including plumbing)
- Tiling of shower units
- Painting of shower units
- Installation of electricity lighting
- Installation of three (3) 800 gal. water tanks (including plumbing)

**c) Capacity Building**

Support was also allocated under the available funds to facilitate capacity building exercises within selected schools in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, by adapting and using the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Knowledge Management Toolkit that was developed under Consultancy with financial support made available by the Government of Brazil. The Toolkit is targeted for use by teachers, school-aged children (5-15 years old) and local communities to provide basic notions of DRM and enhance disaster preparedness through awareness promotion.

## **2.0 Implementation Arrangements**

For the implementation of the project, NEMO St. Vincent and the Grenadines liaised with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education, for the identification of the needs of the beneficiary groups and communicated this information in the form of proposals, to the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU), which is managing the project.

NEMO is required to forward original invoices from suppliers/service providers to the CDEMA CU in accordance with the approved budget for each component. The CDEMA CU Finance Unit, after ensuring that documentation is in order, will then prepare drafts in favour of each supplier/service provider. The National Disaster Office will then collect signed receipts for the drafts from the suppliers/service providers and forward these to the CDEMA CU, while retaining copies of the documents for their records.

## **3.0 Project Achievements to Date**

To date, the FAO has disbursed a total of US\$37,500.00 to CDEMA for activities to be implemented in St. Vincent and the Grenadines under this LOA. This represents the total of payments due upon signature of the LOA and approval of the project Work Implementation Plan (WIP).

This section provides an indication of progress to date on implementation of project activities, including funds disbursement.

### **3.1 Emergency Response Support to the Agricultural Sector**

#### ***a) Provision of Agricultural Production Inputs to Farmers***

The Agricultural Input Warehouse (AIW) has made available to NEMO St. Vincent and the Grenadines a total of one thousand four hundred and eighteen (1,418) sacks of fertilizer, made up of nine hundred and ten (918) sacks of NPK and five hundred (500) sacks of urea, one (1) litre gramoxzone for distribution to the beneficiary farmers.

The fertilizers were distributed on an acreage basis. Farmers with farms measuring one (1) acre or less received three (3) sacks of fertilizers consisting of two (2) sacks of NPK and one (1) sack of urea; and those with farms measuring two (2) acres or more received six (6) sacks – four (4) sacks of NPK and 2 sacks of urea.

The amount of the funds expended by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to date on this activity was EC\$125,558.00 (US\$46,502.96). CDEMA has disbursed a payment in the amount of US\$36,000.00 to the AIW as partial payment on the agricultural inputs provided

to farmers as indicated above. Table 1 below shows the funds available for this activity and the funds outstanding to date. A copy of the invoice from the supplier is provided at Annex B.

***b) Capacity Building Exercise***

With respect to the capacity building exercise, a workshop was held in Kingstown, St. Vincent, February 7-8, 2012, facilitated by a Consultant contracted for the project. The aim of the workshop was to bring together rural livelihood stakeholders to collectively identify good practices used by persons in the agricultural sector to mitigate impacts from hydro-meteorological hazards.

To maximise the efficiency of use of resources, CDEMA hosted one workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to fulfill the requirements of the capacity building exercises for the agricultural sector for this state under the two letters of agreement signed between the FAO and CDEMA, for Emergency Response to Hurricane Tomas, and Living Schools Activities. The funds for the capacity building exercise budgeted under the letter of agreement specifically targeting St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was therefore re-allocated to the first activity which provided agricultural inputs to farmers.

The fifty (50) participants of the workshop included representatives of the National Emergency Management Organisation, the Ministry of Agriculture Extension Division, the Department of Forestry, and the Fisheries Department.

The workshop generated a number of good practices that are appropriate for multi-hazard loss reduction, especially in relation to hydro-meteorological hazards. These good practices informed development of a community-based agricultural disaster risk management (CBADRM) plan with facilitation and oversight from the Consultant. The CBADRM plan represents the logical next step in DRM planning throughout CDEMA Participating States as the process transitions from national through sectoral towards community-based plans.

Annex D provides a clipping on the workshop which was printed in a local newspaper, the St. Vincent Searchlight.





Participants of the Capacity Building Workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines



St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Group Session for Good Practice Identification

## 3.2 Living Schools Component

### *a) Provision of Water Tanks*

The Agricultural Input Warehouse (AIW) has made available to NEMO St. Vincent and the Grenadines ten (10) one thousand (1000) gallon water tanks. Funds expended on this activity were in the amount of EC\$ 15,361.12 (US\$5,689.30). A copy of the invoice from the supplier is provided at Annex C.

The water tanks were installed on the windward side of the island as indicated in Table 1 below.



**Table 1: Locations of Installed Water Tanks**

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Water Tanks Installed</b>
Georgetown Community Centre	2
Langley Park Government School	2
Old School for Children with Special Needs	2
South Rivers Methodist School	1
Colonaire Primary School	1
Spring Village Methodist School	1
Parmenus Burke Primary School	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

***b) Retrofitting of Fitz Hughes Government School***

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has sent out requests to local contractors for bids on the materials and retrofitting works at the Fitz Hughes Government School. However, due to the remote location of this school in the north-west of the island, there has been great difficulty experienced in contracting a firm/individual to do the works. NEMO is currently attempting to select a firm/individual from the communities of Fitz Hughes or Troumaca which are in the immediate vicinity of the school to undertake the project. In this regard, NEMO undertook a site visit during early May, 2012. To date, no funds have been expended on this activity.

***c) Capacity Building Exercise***

As in the case of the capacity building exercise related to the support for farmers described in section 3.1 b), the capacity building exercise under the Living Schools Component for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, was twinned with that undertaken in accordance with the letter of agreement for activities in six (6) CARICOM states. This was done to maximize the use of resources.

For this component, a one-day capacity-building workshop was conducted in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on February 6, 2012. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize knowledge management stakeholders with the resources of the Knowledge Management Toolkit and train them in its use. Whilst workshop participants were exposed to all resources in the Toolkit, the ***Disaster Jeopardy Game*** developed by Drs. Balfour Spence and Virginia Clerveaux was selected for the training focus of the workshop. The game can be used to promote disaster awareness and interest in disaster risk management issues among school children ages 5-15 years.

The main outcome of the workshop was the engagement of disaster risk managers and educators in the national adaptation of the Disaster Jeopardy Game.

#### 4.0 Summary of Expenditures to Date

Table 2 shows the summary of project expenditures to date.

**Table 2: Summary of Project Expenditures to Date**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount (\$US)</b>	<b>Expended Amount (\$US)</b>	<b>Balance (\$US)</b>
Income Support for Farmers	\$46,850.00	\$46,502.96	\$347.04
Provision of Water Tanks for 10 Schools used for Emergency Shelters	\$5,650.00	\$ 5,689.31	(\$39.31)
Retrofitting of School	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,500.00</b>	<b>\$52,192.27</b>	<b>\$10,307.73</b>

**Annex A**  
**Budget for Retrofitting of Fitz Hughes Government School**

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<b>Items No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Cost/\$EC</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b>	
	Plant Hire, tools and vehicles	\$1,500.00
	Light & Power	\$ 145.00
	Water for the Works	\$ 200.00
<b>2.</b>	<b>Substructure</b>	
	Material Cost	\$ 2,208.99
	Labour Cost	\$ 1,038.23
<b>3.</b>	<b>Frame</b>	
	Material Cost	\$1,975.28
	Labour Cost	\$ 973.42
<b>4.</b>	<b>Walling &amp; Masonry</b>	
	Material Cost	\$ 932.74
	Labour Cost	\$ 457.04
<b>5.</b>	<b>Roof</b>	
	Material Cost	\$ 2,905.16
	Labour Cost	\$ 1,394.48
<b>6.</b>	<b>Finishes</b>	
	Labour Cost	\$ 503.15
	Material Cost	\$ 2,16.35
<b>7.</b>	<b>Windows</b>	
	Material Cost	\$ 2,264.00
	Labour Cost	\$ 1,018.80
<b>8.</b>	<b>Doors</b>	
	Material Cost	\$ 2,772.00
	Labour Cost	\$ 1,247.40
<b>9.</b>	<b>Plumbing (Provisional)</b>	
	Material Cost	\$ 2,640.00
	Labour Cost	\$ 1,298.80
<b>10.</b>	<b>Electrical (Provisional)</b>	
	All in cost	\$ 500.00
<b>11.</b>	<b>Water Tanks (800 gal.)</b>	\$ 2,400.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$EC 28,590.84</b> <b>\$US 10,590.00</b>

**Annex B**  
**Invoice from Supplier for Provision of Agricultural Inputs for Beneficiary Farmers**



**Agricultural Input Warehouse**  
 Lower Bay Street  
 Kingstown  
 St Vincent & The Grenadines  
 VAT# 0639135  
 Tel#: 456-2117, Fax#: 456-2460

**Credit Sales Invoice**

Date	Invoice #
8/4/2011	T2635C

<b>Bill To</b>
CDEMA Building No.1, Manor Lodge Complex Lodge Hill, St.Michael Barbados W.I

Due Date	P.O. Number	Project
8/4/2011		

Quantity	Description	Price Each	Amount
918	Ferant	104.00	95,472.00
	Subsidy for Fertilizer	-18.26923%	-17,442.00
300	UREA	95.00	47,540.00
1	Gramoxone (litre)	78.00	78.00
		<b>Total</b>	\$125,558.00
Email: agriinput@gmail.com		<b>Balance Due</b>	\$125,558.00



*Deborah*

**Annex C**

**Invoice from Supplier for Provision of Ten (10) Water Tanks for Improvement of  
Emergency Shelters**



**Agricultural Input Warehouse**  
 Lower Bay Street  
 Kingstown  
 St Vincent & The Grenadines  
 VAT# 0639135  
 Tel#: 456-2117, Fax#: 456-2465

**Credit Sales Invoice**

Date	Invoice #
4/18/2011	78510C

Bill To
Ministry of National Security Kingstown St. Vincent NEMO

Quantity	Description	P.O. Number	Project
10	W.TANK (1000 GL) Value Added Tax (VAT)	151944	NEMO
		Price Each	Amount
		1,335.75	13,357.50T
		15.00%	2,003.63
		<b>Total</b>	\$15,361.13
Email: agriinput@gmail.com		<b>Balance Due</b>	\$15,361.13





## Appendix D

### Newspaper Clipping on the Capacity Building Intervention for the Agricultural Sector Convened in St. Vincent and the Grenadines


22 | Tuesday, February 14, 2012. **Local News** SEARCHLIGHT

# Officials seek to stem agricultural losses of farm systems and livelihoods

THE agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has steadily declined, but it still remains a major pillar in the livelihood of many people throughout the Caribbean region.

It also remains one of the more vulnerable sectors, particularly to natural disasters, which is why we have a great responsibility in how we treat the land.

Globalization has moved us to a position where we have ignored the agricultural practices of the past, in which issues such as soil conservation were prominent.



**DR BALFOUR SPENCE**

This was the view expressed by Dr Balfour Spence, Consultant at a two-day workshop on

Capacity Building for the Agricultural Component for the CARICOM which got underway at the Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday, February 7.

It was not too late to recover according to Spence, however.

"But recovery has to take a new direction. It has to be a process that is spearheaded, championed at the community level," he explained.

The workshop was held in an attempt to create more capacity and to seek to stem the losses of farm systems and livelihoods that result from these impacts in the region and was conducted through a joint effort between the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Government of Brazil.

According to Spence, there are many measures currently being employed by farmers in St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Caribbean but there was little sharing of this knowledge.

He said that he anticipated that the workshop would address some of those issues.

The impact of natural disasters on the natural environment or resources was already understood, Fitzgerald Providence, who represented the Ministry of Agriculture, said.


But it was often difficult to assess the impact of a storm, because the impact can last from several months to years, Providence explained.

"So, we see in small island states like St Vincent and the Grenadines, where the environment plays a pivotal role in the livelihoods of individuals and many families and also indirectly, in the social and economic sustainability of our country, that it is important for us to manage our environment in a way to mitigate those impacts," he said.


Providence was also of the opinion that as the agricultural sector has evolved over the years, that most farmers had abandoned the old time practices which had proven crucial in land conservation.

"If we destroy our forests, we in fact destroy our agricultural sector," he said.


"We have to protect the land that feeds us; so, it is important to go back to our cultural practices, especially those that helped us to conserve our soil," Providence continued. (DD)



**FITZGERALD PROVIDENCE**



**JEREMY COLLYMORE**



**MICHELLE FORBES**

