

**Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by
developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of
natural resources**



Plum Mitan Community Centre

Plum Mitan, Nariva

April 2nd 2011

1 Introduction

The workshop is part of a project called “***Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources***” funded by the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust. The purpose of the project is to improve people’s quality of life in six rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago through facilitating and supporting the development of small and micro-enterprises based on the sustainable use of natural resources.

For this project, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) identified six communities in Trinidad and Tobago who are interested in developing small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. forests, fisheries, etc.). CANARI assisted these communities in identifying their income generating project ideas, and helped them to work through the next steps. Through creating and supporting these business opportunities the livelihoods and incomes of community members may be improved.

The project is targeting the communities of Blanchisseuse, Brasso Seco, Heights of Aripo, Lopinot, Plum Mitan and Speyside.

2 Workshop goal and objectives

The goal of the workshop was to conduct a preliminary assessment with the community on the potential for developing small businesses to improve community livelihoods based on the sustainable use of natural resources. The workshop objectives were to:

- a) identify natural resources with potential to be sustainably used for small businesses;
- b) identify existing and potential community small businesses based on sustainable use of natural resources;
- c) identify key issues for management of natural resources; and
- d) identify other relevant initiatives

3 Methods

The workshop was highly interactive and participants were involved in several group exercises to create a map of the natural resources in their community, as well as to analyse their community from the perspective of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. They also had to consider the potential for the development of small businesses based on the sustainable use of the natural resources. The workshop agenda is attached as Appendix 1.

4 Participants

Three groups were represented, namely Preservers of the Environment, Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE) and the Plum Mitan-Biche Farmers Association. Even though only 10 participants did attend, each and every one of the participants took an active part in the proceedings, which made this first workshop very interactive. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 2.

5 Selection of Plum Mitan community

Participants were presented with a list of pre-selected criteria based on which the communities were selected for the purpose of this project. They were then asked to stick two different coloured dots next to the criteria, depending on whether they agreed that they could be applied to their community or not. Overall, participants shared similar views. The discussions focused on four of the criteria, namely:

- *High degree of collective commitment to community development*

Participants actually took this workshop and its low turnout as an example, saying that hours prior to the workshop people had said they would be coming, but eventually did not. They further stated that most people within the community would not get involved in any given activity or project at its inception. They would rather jump on the band wagon once the process has already started. Participants also added that if flyers offering employment or any revenue generating activities had been distributed, the turnout would have been greater.

- *Marginalisation*

Only one participant was of the view that the community of Plum Mitan is marginalised, arguing that existing basic services and infrastructures should not be considered to measure the degree of marginalisation. Participants did not all have the same perception of how marginalisation should be measured, some mentioning “the number of high rise buildings”. The majority of participants did not think that Plum Mitan was marginalised, though all agreed that there was room for improvement, in terms of the state of some of the infrastructures, for instance.

- *Ability to replicate and adapt approaches in other communities*

All participants disagree that this was a criterion that was applicable to their community, arguing that they have not yet reached the point where their achievements could be used as examples in other communities.

- *Ethnic diversity*

This criterion generated a very interesting discussion, and it appeared that participants had different understandings of the meaning of ethnic diversity. Only one however, disagreed that Plum Mitan was ethnically diverse. All agreed that the population of Plum Mitan is indeed mostly of Indian descent. Additionally, they

argued that there is a great level of ethnic diversity, since even though most are of Indian descent, Hindus, Christians and Muslims are all very respectful of each other's faith and religious beliefs and practices. So even though Plum Mitán may not be, strictly speaking, ethnically diverse, it is from a religious and cultural perspective.

When asked whether they wish to add to the list of criteria, any other reason(s) why Plum Mitán was a suitable community for this project, participants wished to add the following:

- High level of tolerance for religious/cultural differences
- Plum Mitán is a very safe and virtually crime-free community
- Hospitality of the community

6 Findings:

6.1 Key natural resources in the community

The table 1 below compiles the matrices prepared by the groups in which they had to identify the existing natural resources, their current uses, as well as potential uses of these resources.

Table 1: Key natural resources in Plum Mitán

Natural resources	Existing uses	Potential uses
Fruits and vegetables: watermelon, cucumber ochros	Gardening, marketing, vegetable stall	Replanting, exporting, selling of vegetables (outside of Plum Mitán)
Rice	Rice farming	Safe gardening
Fish, conch	Fishing, conch catching	Fish rearing
Iguanas	Limited amount of poachers, hunting, forest project	Introducing forest rangers

Birds: blue and gold macaw Sand hills: monkeys, manatee		Tour guiding services, monkey watch, bird watch
Nariva Swamp	Sightseeing	Reforestation (temporary employment)
Spring	-	
Natural habitat		

6.2 Key issues for management of natural resources

Participants noted the fact that some, within the community, do not seem to understand that natural resources have to be used in a sustainable way, and their actions tend to undermine the livelihoods of others.

6.3 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis (SWOT) of Plum Mitan

For the purpose of the SWOT analysis, participants had to volunteer to play the role of TV reporters asking each other questions pertaining to each category. The table 2 below summarises the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that participants perceived to be specific to their community. Participants were also asked to identify which one of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were the most relevant and/or significant to them. These are highlighted in bold in the table below.

Table 2: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis of Plum Mitan

<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local or traditional knowledge • Fishing/Farming • Skills • Cricket • Agro shops, bars, market stalls, chicken & chips small business • Construction/mechanic skills • Some persons willing to come together • Potential partners– CANARI, UWI EMA, NEDCO, PAHO • Cooperation/Tolerance • Hospitality • Nariva Swamp 	<p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Communication • Not all persons were able to set up businesses • Need for increased skills for enterprise development • More information/education required about wise use of natural resources • Need stronger/more vocal responses to problems of communication • Lack of commitment to communicate development
<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of nurseries • Vegetable stalls for sale • Help from NEDCO, using other small businesses as examples • Eco Tourism • Cooperative for agriculture/transportation • Fish farms – markets • Horticulture 	<p><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice farming by external businessmen • Persons from outside community come to establish/make use of existing business opportunities • Use of chemicals in agriculture/poachers • Wood fire • Tour guides from outside • Over harvesting of fish, conch, alligator (caymans) iguanas etc. • Praedial larceny

“Wild card”

- A number of cultural and religious activities as well as sporting events bring the community together and motivate its members, such as:
 - Fairs
 - Social excursions – fishing and field trips
 - Cricket games
 - Easter week-end kite flying
 - Carnival – J’Ouvert, ole mas competition
 - Indian Arrival Day, Divali, Eid, Phagwa, Carnival, Christmas (Parang)

Participants further added that any training or employment opportunities would be welcome by members.

- In terms of the changes or new activities they would like to see happening in their community, the interviewees responses all related to improved infrastructure, and better access to services:
 - Water pipe borne
 - Pharmacy
 - Police post
 - ATM machine
 - Sporting and recreational facilities (basketball court, youth club, boys and girls scouts)

A greater awareness and appreciation of the environment and the need to preserve it, as well as greater employment opportunities were also listed as needed by participants.

- The most urgent needs to be dealt with as identified by participants were:
 - The refurbishing of old buildings, for which assistance is needed.
 - The creation of a nursery shed, for which financial resources would be needed, while the manpower is already available.

6.4 Recommendations for next steps in the project

Participants did show interest in the project and its potential for them and the community of Plum Mitan. In closing, CANARI announced the date of the second workshop under this project, which allowed participants to leave the workshop knowing that the work they had done would be shortly followed up on.

7 Evaluation and overall results

At the end of the day, as an evaluation of the workshop, participants were asked to go and sign/put their names next to the faces that reflected the most how they felt. Most of them chose the face with a beaming smile and the one holding a glass of champagne. Participants were overall thankful and seemed to have grasped the main objectives and goals of the project.

Based on the responses of the groups during the various activities of the session the following can be concluded as regards the objectives of the workshop:

- a. The group has a clear understanding of the key terms used, including natural resources, sustainable use, livelihoods, though some may however have some challenges in finding the language to clearly articulate the meanings verbally.
- b. The group understands the key intention of the project as being to assist in the establishment of community/ individual enterprises towards the improvement of their income and by extension how that impacts on their livelihood which they

understand in the broadest sense. They are aware of and appreciate the livelihood assets provided by their community.

- c. The group understood and agreed with all of the criteria presented for their selection except one. They were also able to identify additional appropriate criteria.
- d. The group was well able to identify the natural resources within their community, the few efforts at micro enterprises based on the use of natural resources which exist and potential enterprises, they were also aware of other initiatives related to natural resource management.
- e. The group demonstrated a general appreciation of the project and its intent and what is required from them in order for it to be successful.
- f. The group was comfortable with the facilitators and the majority of the participants participated actively particularly in the group exercises.

Appendix 1



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Fernandes Industrial Centre • Administration Building • Eastern Main Rd. • Laventille • Trinidad W.I.
Tel: (868) 626 6062 • Fax: (868) 626 1788 • Email: info@canari.org • Website: www.canari.org

Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources

**Plum Mitán,
2nd April 2011**

Workshop agenda

9:30-10:00	Registration and snacks
10:00-10:45	Welcome and introductions
10:45-12:15	Identification of natural resources in the community and businesses that make use of them
12:15-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Identification of natural resources in the community and businesses that make use of them (cont.)
1:30-2:00	Identification of existing and potential enterprises within the community based on the sustainable use of natural resources
2:00-3:15	Analysing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and deciding which are the most important
3:15-3:45	Validation of community selection criteria and next steps in the project (with working break)
3:45-4:00	Evaluation and workshop closure

Appendix 2

List of Participants

Name	Organisation	Occupation	Address	Contact number
Deokie Dookharan	Preservers of the environment	House wife	P.O. Box 1047 Plum Mitan	668-9863 292-0372
Cintra Maraj	Preservers of the environment	Business woman	Settlement Road, Plum Mitan	362-0772
Dolly Singh	Preservers of the environment	House wife	Plum road, Plum Mitan	668-9739
Madoorie Ramdass-Singh	Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE)	Reforestation labourer	8 ¾ Mile Mark, Plum Mitan	668-9970 292-9199
Harripersad Singh	Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE)	Driver	8 ¾ Mile Mark, Plum Mitan	668-9970 394-5399
Visham Seunarine	Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE)	Labourer	LP #1, Genda road, Fishing Pond	488-0278
Samadaye Gobin	Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE)	Housewife, labourer	Plum Mitan	387-3262
Kamaney Ragbir	Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE)	Housewife	Plum Mitan	395-5275
Kalian Deonanan	Villagers organised in conserving the environment (VOICE)		P.O. Box 1129, Plum Mitan Main road, Plum Mitan	359-8000 668-9534

Name	Organisation	Occupation	Address	Contact number
Madan Rooplal	Plum Mitan/Biche Farmers Group	Farmer	10 Caltoo Trace, Plum Mitan	380-2057

**Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by
developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of
natural resources**



Plum Mitan Presbyterian Primary School
Plum Mitan
Trinidad

Tuesday June 14, 2011

1 Introduction

The Plum Mitan workshop is part of a project called “***Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources***” funded by the **JB Fernandes Memorial Trust**.

For this project, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) identified six communities in Trinidad and Tobago who are interested in developing small businesses based on the sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. forests, fisheries, etc.). CANARI assisted these communities in identifying their income generating project ideas, and helped them to work through the next steps. Through creating and supporting these business opportunities the livelihoods and income of community members may be improved.

2 Workshop objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- a) develop a vision for enhanced quality of life in the community;
- b) identify a comprehensive list of potential sustainable natural resource-based businesses;
- c) apply feasibility criteria to choosing most feasible micro-enterprises that can be done by an individual, existing CBO, or collective group; and
- d) to validate what was the existing capacity of the community in being able to develop micro-enterprises.

3 Participants

Only two persons attended the workshop on June 14, 2011. One participant represented Villagers Organised in Conserving the Environment (VOICE), a community-based environmental group. The other participant represented the farmers’ association. See Appendix 1 for the participants list.

4 Methods

The workshop was highly interactive and participants were given an opportunity to share experiences and ideas with each other. The participants discussed their vision for the community. Participants determined the most feasible businesses for the community, as well as, the capacity needs to develop these businesses through discussion between themselves and the facilitators. See Appendix 2 for the agenda.

5 Findings

5.1 Recap of Workshop 1

Participants identified new points to add to the SWOT analysis:

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People have skills from various training courses• Some business training in tour guiding	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited access to finance, especially for the start up phase• Access to land• Limited motivation, cooperation and support by community members in start up
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value added agricultural products• Selling agricultural products retail	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Area is remote and not easily accessible.</p>

5.2 Visioning

Participants discussed their vision for Plum Mitan in the future.

The vision for Plum Mitan

- Many businesses owned and operated by residents which provide services for Plum Mitan and outside
- The needs of the community being fulfilled by the citizens of the village
- Tourists coming to the area to visit the swamp, monkeys, bird-watching etc. guided by and provided for by residents.
- Laws to protect the resources and enforced by the community members
- People are more aware and more involved in protecting their resources
- Agriculture prospering in the area, farmers bringing in higher income with agriculture.

Participants discussed factors which would hinder the process of making the vision a reality. The participants said that people in the community always know what is going on, but they don't want to get involved until a project comes off the ground or starts to bear fruit. Also while discussing groups working together, the two participants were conflicting in their opinions. One was saying that groups would collaborate on business ideas, while the other was not sure that collaboration would be something groups would accept.

“People like to wait till things get off the ground and then they come to help, but they don't want to come and help in the beginning.”
Workshop participant

5.3 Identifying potential businesses

Through participants' discussion about the vision for the community the following list of potential businesses emerged.

- Horticulture and floral arranging
- Seedling nursery
- Forest nursery
- Locally controlled retail selling of Plum Mitan produce at the market
- Locally controlled retail selling of cascadu and conch
- Hunting iguana
- Tour guiding and tourist services (accommodation, food etc.)

5.4 Feasibility of businesses

The above list of potential businesses was ranked by the participants, using a table and scoring each business based on several important criteria. See Appendix 3 for the feasibility matrix.

During the feasibility assessment the participants analysed all the potential businesses by asking several important questions relating to seven categories. All businesses scored high in the natural resource category, with the participants agreeing that there would be no threats to the sustainability of the resources in pursuing these businesses. The participants were only unsure about sustainable methods for fishing cascadu and conch. Otherwise all resources in the area were thought to be healthy and could be used sustainably.

Under the availability of resources category, access to finance was a major short fall in the potential of most businesses, except in the agriculture, fishing and hunting retail businesses which could be done in a more collective arrangement. Another factor which scored poorly was space and tools, due to uncertainty about where and how to get land for the nurseries and getting the necessary infrastructure in place for the businesses. However the tools needed are not hard to get for example for the agriculture and fishing retail the community needs a truck to transport the goods to the market. For the forest nursery the major problem is getting land to build the shed. The tour guiding and tourist services business was shown to be severely lacking in terms of the access to resources, in that the participants could think of no ways to access finance. Participants stated that the community has no land, facilities or the necessary equipment to carry out the business and they do not have the adequate infrastructure to support this particular business, such as telephone and internet access.

All businesses except tour guiding/ services and horticulture/ floral arranging did well in the market category. All businesses have existing markets however access to and competition in the market are the reasons why the two previously mentioned businesses did not do well. Participants believed that for all the other businesses however, the community will have no problem accessing the existing market and also creating a market for their products and services.

Participants agreed that the community has the capacity to support all the potential business ideas. In the community, there are individuals with existing business skills, businesses in the area that can support and link with the potential businesses identified, except for horticulture and hunting. People in the area have the skills needed in the potential business areas. The participants also believed that there are individuals who are willing and confident to be involved in developing the businesses.

In the contribution to the community category the participants were confident that all businesses would benefit the wider community, either by providing employment, or by providing services in

the community which they would previously have had to travel quite far to get. The participants believe also that because of the benefits to the community the members of the village would support all the business ideas. The participants felt that the agriculture and forestry nurseries would cause some conflict as many groups within the community want to implement similar ideas.

In terms of external support, the participants were generally aware of where to seek external support for most of the businesses, except for tour guiding/ tourist services, which once again scored very low, with the participants present not really aware of who they could get support from. They seemed very aware of the fact that potential conflict from outside the village may occur, especially from outside tour guides who come into the area.

Finally, participants agreed that there are models which the community can follow, or learn lessons from, for all the potential businesses.

The following table is the ranked list of businesses and some important points regarding each business.

Table 1: Prioritised list of potential businesses

Potential Business	Score	Key Point
Locally controlled retail (agriculture)	56	Agriculture development bank (ADB) assists farmers with accessing finance
Agriculture nursery	54	Marketing within Plum Mitán and outside
Locally controlled retail (cascadu/conch)	53	There is a sure market outside Plum Mitán; help is needed in sustainable fishing practices
Forest nursery	52	Market exists for agro-forestry seedlings, but participants not sure about forest species seedlings needed
Horticulture/floral arrangement	50	Marketing intended for Plum Mitán and outside
Hunting iguana	50	Iguanas are plentiful in the restricted area of the Nariva swamp where you cannot hunt, so the sustainability of this activity is questionable
Tour guiding/services	38	There is potential to partner with other communities to share the eco-tourism market, instead of competing with one another

5.5 Capacity needs

Based on the prioritised list of businesses the participants were able to identify which businesses were the most feasible to develop in the short to medium term. They then compiled the following list of specific needs to be addressed in order to move forward with the businesses.

- Assistance needed in getting into the businesses (how to start up, etc.)
- Business start up skills
- Making contacts with various agencies who can provide support
- Help in planning out the business ideas

6 Evaluation

Despite poor attendance all the objectives for the second workshop in Plum Mitan were met. The participants developed a vision for Plum Mitan, they identified and prioritised a list of potential small businesses, using the established feasibility criteria and they identified the capacity needs which must be addressed in order to develop the potential businesses.

The participants found the workshop interesting and they found the activities to be very useful. They were eager and enthusiastic to move forward with their business ideas. The participants found the feasibility exercise quite useful. One participant commented that since she had done many training courses and she wants to start up a business, it was an extremely helpful exercise for her to know what questions need to be asked when thinking of starting a business.

The participants were eager to go back to their individual groups to report on what took place at the workshop and ten follow-up with CANARI.

7 Conclusion and next steps

At the end of the day the participants realised that many of their business ideas did not require much effort to get off the ground. The most feasible business, locally controlled retail of agricultural produce, only requires the farmers to meet and discuss how to structure the collaboration, as well as the acquisition of a truck for transport. Many of the potential businesses have relatively low start up costs but they require the people in the community to be more involved. The businesses with higher cost, namely the nurseries and the tour guiding, need much more organisational development, as well as, community involvement.

The next step in this project for Plum Mitan is linking the community with technical and financial support organisations that can assist in developing the business ideas. No representatives from Plum Mitan attended the Community Expo and as such special arrangements have to be made to help them in their networking efforts.

Appendix 1

Plum Mitan Participants List

Fernandes Workshop 2

June 14, 2011

Name	Group	Telephone
Samadaye Gobin	Villigers Organised In Conserving the Environment (VOICE)	387-3262
Madan Rooplal	Plum Mitan/Biche Farmers Group	380-2057

Appendix 2

Agenda

10:00 – 10:30	Welcome, introductions, overview of first workshop
10:30 – 11:30	Visioning – introduction, small group
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:45	Small group report, development of common vision
12:45 – 1:15	Develop comprehensive list of potential sustainable natural resource-based businesses
1:15 – 2:00	Lunch (group businesses and participants)
2:00 – 2:45	Introduce feasibility criteria to choose most feasible micro-enterprises Apply to one business
2:45 – 3:45	Small group work to apply feasibility criteria
3:45 – 4:30	Small groups present Select most feasible for development in the short-term
4:30 – 5:00	Summary of capacity needs of community Wrap-up and next steps for Community Expo



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Appendix 3

Feasibility matrix

Potential businesses	Natural Resources			Access to other resources			Market				Capacity				Contribution to the community			External support		Model	Total	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(a)		
Locally controlled retail agriculture	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	56
Nursery for agriculture	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	54
Locally controlled retail fish	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	1	3	3	53
Nursery for forest species	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	52
Horticulture and floral arrangement	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	50
Hunting iguana	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	3	1	3	3	2	3	3	0	3	3	3	50
Tourguiding and tourist services	3	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	3	38



Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by developing small business ideas based on the sustainable use of natural resources

Feasibility criteria for potential businesses

(Highlighted are most important that can exclude a business)

1. **Natural resources:**

- a. Is there legal (formal or informal) access to these resources?
- b. Are the resources “healthy” enough to be sustainably used?
- c. Is there a sustainable method of extraction that can be applied?

2. **Access to other resources (physical, financial, material):**

- a. Do individuals, groups, or CBOs have access to finance?
- b. Do individuals, groups, or CBOs have the physical (e.g. space, a building) and material (e.g. tools) resources needed?
- c. Is there appropriate infrastructure (e.g. roads for transportation, internet services, telephone, access to banking, electricity, water)?

3. **Market:**

- a. Is there evidence of an existing market for the products or services?
- b. Is there access to this market?
- c. What is the competition?
- d. Can a market be created?

4. **Capacity of community:**

- a. Do individuals, groups, or CBOs have existing business skills (e.g. financial management, marketing, people management and communication)?
- b. Are there existing successful small businesses in the community that can contribute to / link with this business?
- c. Do individuals, groups, or CBOs have existing skills, knowledge, and/or experience in this particular business?
- d. Are those individuals, groups, or CBOs willing / “ready” / confident to get involved in this business?

5. **Contribution to the community:**

- a. What would be the contribution to the wider community?
- b. Is there likely to be wider support from within the community?
- c. Is there likely to be conflict and opposition from within the community?

6. **External support:**

- a. Are there existing and/or potential avenues of support (from external agencies, other CBOs, other)?
- b. Is there likely to be conflict and opposition from outside the community?

7. **Models:**

- a. Are there existing relevant models from other communities with respect to this particular business?



**Improving livelihoods in rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago by
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resources**

Final visit – Plum Mitan

Tuesday 14th June, 2011

Objectives

1. To get feedback from the community on the whole project – workshops and Community Expo
 - a. Results – benefits
 - b. Lessons
2. To identify specific and concrete actions for next steps by the community
3. To identify any specific future support needed from CANARI

Agenda

1. Review the project – objectives, what was done
2. Ask evaluation probing questions:
 - a. What do you think was the most important thing that the project achieved?
 - b. How did the project impact on you personally?
 - c. What do you think could have been done differently / better?
3. Help the community to develop a workplan for their next steps: what is the task, who will be responsible / lead, who will help, when will this be done
4. Ask them what support they need from CANARI, if any, in taking their ideas forward (will be different for different communities).
5. Closure – note that we will submit reports to them on their workshops, the Community Expo, and the whole project

Attending

Participants

Samadaye Gobin

Madan Rooplal

Facilitator

Nicole Leotaud, CANARI

Co-facilitator

Loiza Rauzduel, CANARI

Rapporteur

Danielle Mayers, CANARI

Results

- a. Most important thing that the project achieved:
 - The visioning exercises helped the participants to think about what they really want for the future of the community.
 - CANARI coming into the community to help the participants develop themselves and their community, helping them to organise their ideas.
 - The project gave them more confidence in their ideas.
 - b. Impacts on individuals:
 - The project helped the participants learn something new, gave them new ideas about how to better their lives.
 - It helped the participants gain the confidence to move forward with their business ideas, especially after the feasibility analysis.
 - c. Recommendations for improvements:
 - The participants felt that more visual advertisement of the event, such as flyers and invitation cards, may have helped.
 - Participants suggested that CANARI should have met with all groups individually and let them know who they are and what they were trying to do.
2. Further support needed from CANARI in taking their ideas forward:
 - Participants want help in finding and meeting people from technical and funding agencies who can potentially assist them in their push to develop their business ideas.
 - One participant also expressed a desire to have a planning session with CANARI and her collective to develop a business plan and next steps for the collective.
 3. Community work plan for their next steps:
 - Because there were so few participants, they had to return to their groups to discuss what was done in the workshop. Once they organise themselves CANARI will be contacted for advice and assistance.

Conclusion

The participants were apologetic and disappointed that more people did not come out to the second workshop and closeout session. They indicated, as previously mentioned, that projects in Plum Mitan are never given much community support until they start to bear fruit. Therefore the burden of start up falls to the willing and motivated few. However the participants who attended seemed motivated to move forward in businesses collectively with members of their respective groups.