JAMAICA RURAL ECONOMY AND ECOSYSTEMS
ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE II PROJECT
PROGRESS REPORT
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Prepared for: USAID/Jamaica

Prepared by: ACDI/VOCA

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# CONTENTS

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** ......................................................................................................................... 1
2. **INTRODUCTION** ......................................................................................................................................... 3
   - Project Overview ........................................................................................................................................ 3
3. **IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE** ..................................................................................................................... 5
   - Major Project Highlights .......................................................................................................................... 5
   - Major Challenges & Constraints ............................................................................................................... 6
   - Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation .................................................................................................... 6
4. **RESULTS NARRATIVE BY RESULT AREAS** .......................................................................................... 8
   - Result Area 1.1. Increased Investment in Climate-Smart Agriculture ......................................................... 8
     - 1.1.1 Increased Incentives for Investments Which Support CSA .............................................................. 8
     - 1.1.2 Increased Access to Information on CSA and Related Services ..................................................... 13
   - Result Area 1.2. Increased Adoption of Natural Resource Management Best Practices ........................... 18
     - 1.2.1 Increased Knowledge on NRM and Agroforestry Systems ............................................................. 20
     - 1.2.2 Local and National NRM Governance Frameworks Strengthened ............................................. 26
   - Result Area 2.1. Improved Global Climate Change Policy and Planning Coordination Structures ......... 29
     - IR 2.1.1 Local and National Response and Mitigation Measures Strengthened .................................... 29
     - IR 2.1.2 Increased Public Awareness of Climate Change Risks and Adaptation .................................... 31
5. **YEAR TWO PERFORMANCE INDICATOR UPDATE** ............................................................................. 33
6. **PROJECT ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT** ......................................................................................... 36
   - Technical Assistance ................................................................................................................................. 36
     - Volunteer Update .................................................................................................................................... 36
   - M&E Administration .................................................................................................................................. 36
     - Data Collection Highlights .................................................................................................................... 37
     - Project Learning ....................................................................................................................................... 37
     - Data Management & Analysis ................................................................................................................ 37
   - Gender Mainstreaming ............................................................................................................................... 38
     - Gender Sensitization of Partners/Extension Personnel ........................................................................ 38
     - Gender Staff Sensitization ...................................................................................................................... 39
   - Environmental Compliance ....................................................................................................................... 39
   - Marking and Branding ............................................................................................................................... 41
   - Grants Update ............................................................................................................................................. 44
7. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT** .................................................................................................................. 45
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Conservation and Climate-driven Challenges Faced in the Swift River Watershed ............................................. 20
Table 2. EbA-FSS Modules Delivered to Date .................................................................................................................. 21
Table 3. Proposed Legal Group Structures for Swift River Community Groups ................................................................. 27
Table 4. Primary Hazards, Impacts and Resources Impacted ............................................................................................ 27
Table 5. Ja REEACH II Semi-Annual Performance Data ................................................................................................. 33
Table 6. Persons Impacted by Volunteer Consultants ................................................................................................... 36
Table 7. Update on Ja REEACH Year Two mitigation measures ......................................................................................... 40
Table 8. Status of Ja REEACH II grant applications ....................................................................................................... 44
Table 9. Obligations Received as of March 31, 2017 .......................................................................................................... 45
Table 10. Cumulative Project Expenditure as of March 31, 2017 ....................................................................................... 45

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Ja REEACH II Results Framework .................................................................................................................... 4
Figure 2. Planned market facilitation strategies that address systemic constraints and focus on multiple relationships for resilient agricultural VCs (RFA Responses) .................................................................................. 10
Figure 3. ACDI/VOCA staff and consultant interview NPCB borrower at his farm .......................................................... 11
Figure 4. received crop insurance premium from GK Insurance at one of the climate services forum ............................................................ 14
Figure 5. PROPEL Extension Lead Makes Presentation During TOT Workshop ............................................................. 16
Figure 6. F2F Volunteer interacting with Participants During the CASE Curriculum Development Workshop .................................................. 17
Figure 7. Communities reached by Ja REEACH II in the Swift River watershed EbA program ........................................ 18
Figure 8. Individual Basins on Plot Shows its Benefit for Trapping and holding Water for Future Uptake by The Plant ........................................................................................................................................... 21
Figure 9. Swift River United Farmers' Group - Agroforestry Farm Plan .............................................................................. 22
Figure 10. CASE Students Establishing Pineapple Barriers on The Agroforestry Learning Plot ............................................. 23
Figure 11. Day-old Chickens in the Fruitful Vale Primary School Poultry Unit ................................................................. 24
Figure 12. Participants at Constitution Development Workshop ........................................................................................ 26
Figure 13. Gap Analysis for Municipal Corporations’ Climate Risk Assessment ............................................................... 30
Figure 14. Students at a Youth Xchange Session .................................................................................................................. 32

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Ja REEACH II Resilience Framework ............................................................................................................. 46
Appendix 2. Analysis: Grant Proposals Received to Support CSA Upgrades and Innovations ........................................ 47
Appendix 3. Red Stripe Project Grow - Summary of Areas of Collaboration (based on University Responses) ........................................................................................................................................ 51
Appendix 4. Ja REEACH II SAR Indicator Targets and Actuals as of March 31, 2017 ..................................................... 54
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABBREVIATIONS</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARDI</td>
<td>Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE</td>
<td>College of Agriculture and Science Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAR</td>
<td>Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIB</td>
<td>Coffee Industry Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLA</td>
<td>Collaborating, Learning and Adapting</td>
</tr>
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<td>CLR</td>
<td>Coffee Leaf Rust</td>
</tr>
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<td>CSA</td>
<td>Climate-smart Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSWG</td>
<td>Climate Services Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>DBJ</td>
<td>Development Bank of Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSU</td>
<td>Delaware State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>EbA</td>
<td>Ecosystem-based Adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETD</td>
<td>Environmental Threshold Determination</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMMP</td>
<td>Environmental Mitigation and Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2F</td>
<td>Farmer-to-Farmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>FaaB</td>
<td>Farming as a Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFS</td>
<td>Farmer Field School</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>Grace Agro Processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>GK Insurance</td>
<td>Grace Kennedy Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>ACDI/VOCA Head Quarters Office (Washington D.C.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR</td>
<td>Intermediate Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAP</td>
<td>The International Research and Applications Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>J-CCCP</td>
<td>Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>JDDDB</td>
<td>Jamaica Dairy Development Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja REEACH II</td>
<td>Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change II project</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMA</td>
<td>Jamaica Manufacturer’s Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIPPCO</td>
<td>Mid- Island Packaging &amp; Processing Company Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOEYI</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Youth and Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLGCD</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government and Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICAF</td>
<td>Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSJ</td>
<td>Meteorological Service, Jamaica</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environment and Planning Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRM</td>
<td>Natural Resources Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPCB</td>
<td>National Peoples Cooperative Bank</td>
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<td>PED</td>
<td>Participatory Extension Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSUAP</td>
<td>Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safe Use Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>PISCA</td>
<td>Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMELP</td>
<td>Performance Management Evaluation and Learning Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPEL</td>
<td>Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages</td>
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<tr>
<td>RADA</td>
<td>Rural Agriculture Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFA</td>
<td>Request for Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATIN</td>
<td>Statistical Institute of Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STECCUL</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Cooperative Credit Union Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOT</td>
<td>Training of Trainers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMES</td>
<td>University of Maryland Eastern Shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWI</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC</td>
<td>Value Chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMO</td>
<td>World Meteorological Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>YCCC</td>
<td>Youth Climate Change Conference</td>
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the second semi-annual report for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) associate award no. AID 532-LA-15-00002 with ACDI/VOCA in Jamaica. Through the agreement, ACDI/VOCA is implementing the Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change II (Ja REEACH II) project. The goal of the four-year project is “increased climate change resilience for targeted livelihoods and ecosystems.” Ja REEACH II anticipates increased resilience as beneficiaries are equipped, through training and technical assistance, to take actions and make investments that protect them where the lives and earn an income. This report provides an update on the activities implemented and results achieved, from October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017; based on the approved FY 2017 work plan.

The project made significant progress, having implemented most of the work plan activities planned for the six-month performance period. Two of the three semi-annual performance indicators exceeded fifty percent of the annual target, and the project anticipates meeting the targets for all seven revised performance indicators by September 2017 (see section five). The project achieved a balance in gender participation with an almost equal representation of women and men being supported and trained over the semi-annual period. This ratio of project beneficiaries is close to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) reported labor force average where there is 55 percent male and 45 percent female participation.

The results were achieved through the training and technical assistance activities delivered to 1,103 project beneficiaries including value chain members, youth, community groups, and government organizations. Training covered topics such as: climate-smart adaptation and mitigation best practices, planting and protecting seedlings, teaching climate change in the grade four curriculum, and using climate service products and tools. Technical assistance activities for the period centered around the drafting of the Rock Hall climate action plan and the implementation of institutional strengthening plans for four Swift River watershed groups (Rock Hall, Shirley Castle, United Farmers, and the Swift River Re-United Producer group). Sixty-one percent of the year two obligation was expended. Ja REEACH II delivered training and technical assistance improved the capacity of ten institutions working with the project is the Swift River watershed, and nationally. Forty-eight institutions were supported which included a mix of schools (primary and tertiary), farmer and community groups, financial institutions, government and other donor projects. Three F2F volunteers provided technical assistance support to the field implementation team, contributing a combined 42 volunteer days of technical assistance that impacted 197 persons directly and an additional estimated 600 persons indirectly. Areas of technical support included climate change curriculum development training and agro-enterprise planning for educational institutions.

The project also forged several alliances that expanded project impact and leveraged funds that complemented donor resources. A total of US$13,653 of non-donor funding was leveraged in the reporting period through the joint execution of training activities, in-kind grant beneficiary
contributions, and beneficiary sponsorship. Of note was US$5,773 raised through GlobalGiving to support a youth climate camp in summer 2017 and US$3,073 in livelihood protection insurance for farmers provided by Grace Kennedy (GK) Insurance. Negotiations are advanced for new private and public alliances that will mobilize additional non-donor funding, during the next performance period. The leveraging of additional non-USAID donor resources not only helped to expand the project’s reach but also provided access to additional technical expertise that complemented Ja REEACH II technical strengths.

The project expanded the use and replication of the Farmer Field School (FFS) farmer training approach by partnering with government and non-government partners, including educational institutions. Three new FFS initiatives were launched through these alliances, with Ja REEACH II providing support for program design and the integration of climate-smart innovations. These FFS will be led and managed by the project partners. Another major highlight was the completion of a comprehensive organizational assessment for the National People’s Cooperative Bank (NPCB) that presented the bank with recommendations on the actions and upgrades necessary to address operational and governance gaps and improve the bank’s market position. The organizational assessment is timely as the operations of the NPCB is undergoing review. The project also engaged with six lead firms who will be working with market actors in the onion, hot pepper, cassava and pineapple value chains to improve the resilience of these value chains. The partnerships facilitated by the lead firms between market actors will allow for financing for water management innovations, crop production improvements, improve supply chain management, and research and development support for the hot pepper, onion, pineapple, and cassava value chains.

The project’s pending approval to allow small-scale construction (in accordance with ADS 303 MAW) delayed the awarding of six additional grants that would have increased the number of persons supported significantly. A letter requesting construction approval was submitted by ACDI/VOCA to USAID in December 2016. This request was revised in January to address the USAID agreement office’s feedback, and most recently in March 2017 to respond to additional revision requests. Planned support for the mainstreaming of resilience considerations within the local government planning processes and the agriculture sector plan also met delays. Timing and availability of key technocrats, despite high level agreement on the cooperation element, continued to be a challenge. At the time of the drafting of this report, Ja REEACH II reached agreement for a workshop to develop the terms of reference and process for the agriculture sector plan. The Ja REEACH II team is still awaiting directions from the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) regarding the process and tool improvements for local planning and development, being led by municipal corporations. In the interim we are working with two municipal corporations (Portland and Clarendon) to refine a process for risk analysis that can be adopted by other municipal corporations.

Several actions were taken to highlight program success and the donor’s contribution in the program outcomes. These included the production and dissemination of print and electronic copies of the project’s newsletter (“The REEACH”) to partners and stakeholders, newspaper features and radio interviews, social media engagement and the distribution of over 732 donor-approved branded promotional items including tote bags, pens, notebooks, stress balls, and T-shirts.
2. INTRODUCTION

The Ja REEACH II year two semi-annual report USAID F2F associate award no. AID 532-LA-15-00002 provides an update on the resilience-building activities implemented, and results achieved, from October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017; based on the approved FY 2017 work plan. The sections that follow report on: the approved work plan activities, the project performance indicators as defined in the project’s Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (PMELP), and cross cutting themes. Each section highlights major achievements and constraints faced. The report concludes with a financial report on expenditures for the period.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The four-year Ja REEACH II project, with the goal of “increased climate change resilience for targeted livelihoods and ecosystems,” is in its second year of implementation. The project is structured into two components that reflect the project’s objectives (see Figure 1 and Appendix 1 for the project’s results and resilience frameworks, respectively):

- Objective 1. Agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods protected and sustained
- Objective 2. Institutional capacity to mitigate and manage the effects of climate change improved

and three associated result areas:

- Result area 1.1 Increased Investment in Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)
- Result area 1.2 Increased Adoption of natural resource management (NRM) best practices
- Result area 2.1 Improved Global Climate Change policy and planning coordination structures

Result areas 1.1 and 1.2 reflect the interdependence between people (men and women), their livelihood activities, the environmental resources, and the increasing need for actions that build resilience and improve overall operations. Three levels were considered in the component design - the farm level, the landscape level, and the market system level. Under result area 1.1, Ja REEACH II facilitates market systems partnerships with value chain (VC) actors who have the interest and capacity to support climate proofing investments. These investments are designed to encourage others to copy and adopt similar climate-sensitive business models. Result area 1.2 interventions use the landscape approach to expand climate-smart best practice adoption (livelihood and natural resource protecting) within a geographic area. Under this result area, Ja REEACH II is piloting its Ecosystem- based Adaptation (EbA) strategy within the Swift River watershed in Portland. The EbA strategy implements interventions that address livelihoods, NRM governance, and ecosystem conservation. Under result 2.1 the project focuses on improving the enabling environment for resilient development by improving the capacity of institutions, VC members and service providers to evaluate risk, design resilience building improvements, and support knowledge transfer. These efforts are complemented by efforts to improve the policy and regulatory processes and the framework for resilience action within target sectors, namely agriculture and local development.
Through these interventions, Ja REEACH II anticipates increased beneficiary and partner knowledge, innovation, and alliances as the project makes investments in training, technical expertise, and grant funding. This increased knowledge on the benefits of climate-smart innovations, and how they should be applied, will facilitate the adoption and implementation of resilience building practices that lead to natural resource quality improvements and sustained livelihoods. This change will be complemented and facilitated by improvements to the enabling environment from climate-resilient development reflected in stronger institutional and beneficiary capacity, adoption and utilization of new decision-making processes, and tools, and enhanced organizational governance.

Figure 1. Ja REEACH II Results Framework
3. IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The project made significant progress, having implemented most of the work plan activities proposed for the six-month performance period.

MAJOR PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Major highlights:

- **Continued demand for the FFS approach** – Following the introduction of the FFS approach by USAID and ACDI/VOCA in 2010, there is a growing demand for its use by farmers, extension leads, private sector, and other donors. The project partnered with the Rural Agriculture Development Authority (RADA) to address three such requests in year two - from the Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) onion, pepper and Irish potato value chain development project, the Coffee Industry Board coffee leaf rust response program, and the Red Stripe Grow project for cassava expansion by small farmers. During the reporting period, over 300 persons benefited from FFS training.

- **Catalyzed new and strengthened alliances between targeted market actors** – Ja REEACH II issued a request for applications (RFA) for firms willing to take a leadership role in strengthening targeted value chains (onion, hot pepper, cassava, and pineapple value chains) through CSA investments and upgrades. Six lead firms were shortlisted from the 25 RFA responses received. These firms together defined partnerships with some 17 market actors in the onion, hot pepper, cassava, and pineapple value chains. These partnerships leverage financing for CSA innovations, training and development, and research and development for resilient crop production, while securing supply chain improvements (see Appendix 2 and Figure 2).

- **Critical organizational assessments conducted for key implementing partners** – Five organizations (of varying sizes) benefitted from assessments that created institutional strengthening road maps including the completion of an organizational assessment for NPCB. This assessment will be used by the bank and its supporters, as it works through major organizational restructuring. The NPCB, with national reach into rural Jamaica, is one of the critical providers of credit to small farmers in Jamaica.

- **Adoption of ACDI/VOCA Profit Planner© tool for credit risk assessment** – Following introductory training on the Profit Planner© tool by Ja REEACH II in year one, partners such as RADA, NPCB and the Jamaica Manufacturer’s Association (JMA), are interested to use the tool for agricultural credit risk assessment, but have identified several pre-requisite steps to do so (and ultimately to expand their agricultural lending). Ja REEACH II facilitated an assignment by banking, microfinance and economic development technical experts and Nadia to support NPCB address broader credit risk management and governance issues. RADA expressed an interest to expand the number of crops that can be assessed by the tool and to train its extension officers to use the Profit Planner© in working with farmers to develop loans going to financial institutions. RADA will input its crop data to facilitate this. The JMA has gone further and is collaborating with the designer to fully adapt and transition the tool with data on food processing; for use by its over 300 association members to better facilitate loan
applications for members.

- **Transfer of the climate service tools such as the drought prediction tool** - The Ja REEACH II continued its contributions to the Climate Services Working Group (CSWG)’s efforts to refine the drought prediction tool and expand its utilization. The tool’s success is indicated by its continued adoption by countries in the Caribbean and Central America, and most recently a request by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the Meteorological Service, Jamaica (MSJ) to present on the tool in a conference in Germany later this year. Over 200 farmers and extension leads were trained during the reporting period on the use of the tool’s information in farm-level decisions. Additional support is also being planned get technical support from the US Forest Service to expand the Fire Danger Rating Index, developed by the MSJ. This expansion will allow the tool to include bio-physical parameters such as fuel loading.

### MAJOR CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS

As the project awaits donor approval for construction in accordance with ADS 303 MAW, Ja REEACH II continued to experience delays in the expanded rollout of its grant – funded activities that will increase beneficiaries’ application of risk reducing actions. A letter requesting construction approval was submitted by ACDI/VOCA to USAID in December 2016. This request was revised in January to address USAID agreement office’s feedback, and most recently in March 2017 to respond to additional feedback requests.

Other delays were encountered for the two major activities being implemented with the host country partners. These are the efforts to mainstream resilience considerations with the local government planning processes and the agriculture sector plan. Timing and availability of key technocrats despite high level agreement on the cooperation element continued to be a challenge. At the preparation of the report, we have agreement for a workshop to develop the terms of reference and process for the agriculture sector plan. We are still awaiting directions from the MLGCD regarding the process and tool improvements for local planning and development being led by municipal corporations.

### COLLABORATION, LEARNING, AND ADAPTATION

- Strategic partnerships (for example with MSJ, GK Insurance, RADA) were useful in expanding and scaling project impacts in the areas of livelihood development and resilience information dissemination. This was seen in the expanded use of farmer training methods and training materials developed through Ja REEACH II, the leveraging of additional non-USAID donor resources for youth programs and access to additional technical expertise to complement Ja REEACH II technical strengths.

- From the interaction with climate services end users, there are continued areas of technical gaps. For example, requests for climate services products that inform users on the length of dry spells, onset and closure of rainy seasons and seasonal temperature forecasts. Since these are not currently offered by MSJ, these requests will be assessed by the CSWG for integration in future workplans.

- In new technical areas, such as 1.1’s facilitation work within market system, there is need for a more structured assessment of entry points for gender mainstreaming. Thus, the project will be
undertaking the development of an updated gender action plan that defines and operationalizes the result area-level gender actions.

- The strength of community groups continues to be an area of challenge for Jamaica. The project’s assessment has determined that where groups are established exclusively for an NRM-specific mandate with limited economic or livelihood benefits they often face numerous sustainability challenges. Since these groups are essential to the project’s NRM governance outcomes the project will continue to work with existing local and national-level groups and associations to build capacity, strengthen governance, and improve livelihood benefits while transferring stewardship and conservation objectives within the groups’ mandates.

- Where the project’s activities dependent on the leadership of government and other external partners, the planned implementation can be limited by factors external to the project. This requires the project team to be proactive in anticipating these constraints in planning, and acting as a facilitator to keep implementation going. The experience has shown that by taking the time to define the approach with both senior management and line staff, identifying alternate entry points where there are significant delays and bottlenecks, and ensuring mechanisms for communicating delays and challenges to senior management are in place – defined challenges can be averted.

- There is need for greater alignment between youth focused awareness building efforts and the other project result areas. This will be reflected in the year three work plan, however, for the remaining year two performance period communication efforts will target both youth and adults in the EbA target area. Youth will be engaged to lead awareness efforts for fire and solid waste management.
4. RESULTS NARRATIVE BY RESULT AREAS

This section provides a detailed narrative on the planned activities associated with each of the three result areas, highlighting implementation challenges and overall learning.

RESULT AREA 1.1. INCREASED INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

The project worked with market actors in the select VCs (prioritized in year one of the project) to catalyze, and facilitate new, or strengthen existing relationships and linkages between market actors (producers, buyers, financiers) and supporters (government, and educational institutions). The Ja REEACH II team disseminated climate information through collaboration with the MSJ and members of the CSWG. Expected outputs and outcomes included:

a) New and strengthened linkages and alliances for increased investment in resilience building technology and innovations.

b) Increased capacity through decision support tools and processes for agricultural credit risk assessment.

1.1.1 INCREASED INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENTS WHICH SUPPORT CSA

Informed by the findings of the value chain assessment completed in year one, the project invited market actors to submit proposals that reflected a systemic response to constraints they faced, especially at the producer level. The outcomes of three major activities are being reported during this performance period:

1 - Issue RFA to identify public-private partnerships to facilitate investments in CSA innovations/upgrades

At the beginning of year two, Ja REEACH II issued a call that invited value chain actors, agribusinesses, financial institutions, and service providers, acting as lead firms, to submit investment proposals for financially viable projects, that protect and sustain agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods from climate change impacts. Anticipated proposals would increase agricultural productivity, expand access to financing for technology upgrades, and improve market access for value chain actors.

Six project proposals were shortlisted from 25 concept notes received. At the time of this report, two of the six proposals are with the grants committee for review. A

CROSS-CUTTING INTERVENTION RECOMMENDED BY THE VALUE CHAIN ASSESSMENT

1. Boost productivity through improved planting material, irrigation and management
2. Expand aggregation (group sales contract/oungrower), leverage for planting material and credit provision
3. Facilitate financing for water management and use efficiency improvements (catchment and drip irrigation) with key lenders to the agricultural sector
4. Pilot smallholder irrigation credit with local partners
5. Leverage the DBJ for value chain financing for supported crops
6. Leverage Ex-IM Bank for value chain financing, and bank loans, export crops
7. Work with lead firms to Leverage training for producer groups on seedling production and post-harvest handling for crops such as onion
third proposal will not involve any transfer of funds but would be executed using a multi-partner technical cooperation agreement. The emerging market facilitation strategies reflected in the six proposals are summarized below (with details in Appendix 2) and are represented visually in Figure 2:

- **Strategy #1** – Catalyzing the adoption of agricultural technologies by smallholder farmers through new and strengthened input supply market alliances

  **Summary**: Through the RFA, the six lead firms presented pre-negotiated partnership arrangements with one or more of the following market actors: producers, buyers, financial institutions, processors, educational institutions and researchers to agree on the partnerships presented in the six proposals. The alliances once finalized will lead to produce quality improvements and increased availability of resilient planting material to producers in the cassava, hot pepper and pineapple value chains. The adapted planting material reflects improvements to increase yield, compliance with market requirements, drought and pest tolerance.

  **Market Actors**:
  **Lead firms** - Grace Agro Processing (GAP) (hot pepper), Red Stripe Limited (cassava), the Jamaica Dairy Development Board – Jamaica Dairy Development Board (JDDB) (drought tolerant grasses), and the College of Agriculture and Science Education (CASE) for pineapple.
  **Alliance members**– GAP | NPCB, RADA, Jamaica Agriculture Society
  Red Stripe | Jamaica National Small Business Loan Limited (JNSBL), Desnoes and Geddes Foundation, Tuskegee University, University of Maryland – Eastern Shore, Delaware State University (DSU)
  JDDB – Serge Island, RADA, CASE, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

- **Strategy #2** – Catalyzing credit for VC resilience through CSA upgrades

  **Summary**: The lead firm, Mid-Island Packaging and Processing Company (MIPCO), has brokered an arrangement with the St. Elizabeth Cooperative Credit Union Limited (STECUL) to allow farmers in St. Elizabeth and Manchester to access funding for water use efficiency technology upgrades that is a constraint to the company’s supply chain management. The tripartite arrangements between the producers, buyers and financiers, will be supported by extension services providers to meet existing market demands for specific crops. Approximately 100 farmers are expected to benefit from the program where a loan pool of USD $400,000 will be made available for lending over a two-year period. The Climate-Smart Innovation Fund reflects a one to one match of donor and private sector funds. Resilience innovations include water use efficiency and cost effective post-harvest handling technologies.

  **Market Actors**:
  **Alliance Members**: STECULL, RADA, Christiana Potato Growers Association.
2 - Build Capacity for Agriculture Credit Risks Assessment in Financial Institutions

Ja REEACH II’s Capacity Building for Agriculture Credit Risk Assessment focused on two financial institutions: NPCB and STECCUL. These two financial institutions demonstrated strong intentions to provide credit to the agricultural sector, especially around climate smart investments.

A major highlight was the completion of a comprehensive organizational assessment for the NPCB that presented the bank with recommendations on the actions and upgrades necessary to address operational and governance gaps and improve the bank’s market position. A three-person ACDI/VOCA technical assistance team (see Figure 3) led the assessment which highlighted several areas for
improvements. The organizational assessment is timely as the operations of the NPCB is undergoing review. The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) will be reviewing the NPCB’s performance in April 2017 to determine whether they will continue to lend to them. The DBJ is the main source of agricultural funding for NPCB.

Despite the required improvements, the consultants found that there is strong client loyalty among NPCB account holders. This loyalty has produced a total annual saving of J$500 million by the membership. NPCB is an important market actor in the agricultural finance space, and addressing these limitations can unlock a sustainable source of climate change finance. Ja REEACH II intends to focus on immediate actions for supporting the NPCB to strengthen bad debt collection, refocus branch managers through in depth training in credit management, and improve credit risk assessment processes in the Bank.

Figure 3. ACDI/VOCA staff and consultant interview NPCB borrower at his farm

ACDI/VOCA’s microfinance specialists also worked with consortium member STECCUL to prepare a term sheet for a future agreement amongst the member and Ja REEACH II. Under the proposed agreement, STECCUL is to extend loans to over 100 onion farmers in St. Elizabeth and Manchester parishes. The planned 18-24 month loans would be made to farmers willing to make a first-time investment in irrigation infrastructure to support efficient water use technologies such as drip or micro sprinklers and that are growing between 0.5 to 1 acre of onion. Other recommended terms include a rebate incentive
where farmers are rewarded for timely loan repayments.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Continuing technical assistance to the NPCB, including developing a capacity building action plan related to the priority recommendations of the organizational assessment.
- Brokering of technical support from the DBJ to implement the action plan.
- Capacity building support for the NPCB and STECCUL in credit risk assessment.
- Technical assistance to the NPCB and STECCUL on loan product assessment, new financial products development and executive management mentoring and coaching.

3 - Explore collaboration with key partners around agriculture credit risk assessment for Value Chain Actors

Two main collaborations around agricultural credit risk assessment emerged at the time this report was drafted. These collaborations focused largely on the adoption and use of ACDI/VOCA’s Profit Planner® tool for credit risk assessment by JMA and its membership and extension provider the RADA.

Many of the approximately 400 individuals and firms that form the JMA’s membership are actors in Ja REEACH II priority value chains, especiallyago processors. Following the year-one introduction of the Profit Planner® tool to the JMA, the organization wishes to adapt the tool to help its members develop technically and financially feasible proposals that are more attractive to financiers. To this end, the Ja REEACH II team drafted a cooperation agreement with the JMA to:

1. Modify the Profit Planner® software to include the assessment of proposal financial risk and financial viability of micro-agribusiness.
2. Develop and deliver training for JMA staff in the use and application of the modified Profit Planner® tool.
3. Integrate climate risk consideration with the JMA’s enterprise risk management training material.
4. Train JMA staff and Cluster Lead as trainers.

The modification of the Profit Planner® tool is advanced, with field testing being conducted by the JMA at the time of reporting.

4 - Build Technical and Financial Literacy of key value chain actors to support up-take of credit opportunities for CSA innovations or upgrades

During the reporting period, the ACDI/VOCA home office technical team engaged project partners, RADA and STECCUL, in defining the content for a draft Farming as a Business (FaaB) manual. STECCUL has been providing business-based training to its members that have agriculture loans, while RADA extension officers actively work with producers to prepare loan applications to lenders. The curriculum rapidly exposes farmers to business skills by teaching farming within the context of an enterprise model. This training equips farmers to better produce the information they need for managing their farms and to identify and mitigate risks faced by farmers, including climate risk. The training will complement other activities within the market facilitation strategy – namely by improving the quality of business plans and
loan applications going to lending institutions, by increasing the awareness of benefits of belonging to farmer associations and cooperatives, understating the importance of honoring sales contracts, and improving producers’ business ethics. The manual content was discussed and finalized with RADA, and drafting of the manual is ongoing. Once completed a training of trainers (TOT) workshop for extension officers will be conducted in July 2017. This will be complemented by training in the use of the Profit Planner®, in its original format.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on the:

- Finalization of the FaaB training manual and TOT with extension leads.
- TOT on the use of the Profit Planner® tool for extension officers and STECCUL/MIPCO staff, especially those in project sites.
- TOT for JMA staff on the modified Profit Planner® tool.
- Integration of the climate change risk consideration in the JMA enterprise risk management training material.
- Facilitating training of targeted value chain members (producers and JMA members) on agriculture credit risk assessment.

### 1.1.2 INCREASED ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON CSA AND RELATED SERVICES

The Ja REEACH II team implemented five major activities that increased access to information on climate service tools and products, and resilience actions for 404 Jamaicans (46 percent of which were females). These results were achieved through ongoing collaborations with the MSJ, CASE, CARDI, Ministry of Industry Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF) and RADA, and new collaborators GK Insurance, the Coffee Industry Board (CIB), the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

**1 - Support for the Climate Services Working Group (CSWG)**

The project collaborated with CSWG members, MSJ, RADA and CARDI to mobilize six climate services fora, impacting 280 participants island-wide. An anchor of the fora was the MSJ’s continued introduction of the drought prediction tool and other products to agriculture sector stakeholders (farmers, fishers, and extension leads). This engagement improved the participants understanding on the terms included in advisory and climate service products, while providing complementary guidance about the on-farm decisions that should be taken for livelihood resilience. New additions to the fora’s content were the role of insurance products in the management of climate risks, and planning for climate risks at the farm or community level utilizing the participatory integrated climate services for agriculture using the Participatory Integrated Climate

The Drought Prediction tool was launched by the MSJ in 2013 with support from USAID and the Ja REEACH II project. Since its launch the tool has been invaluable to the agricultural and water sectors. Its use has expanded to over 23 Caribbean and Central American countries. Most recently, the MSJ was requested, by the WMO, to present on the tool in Germany.
Services for Agriculture\(^1\) (PICSA) tool. The PICSA tool allowed forum participants to prepare a seasonal calendar of farm activities such as land preparation, plant protection activities, and expected climate events – using climate service products such as the drought prediction tool.

New forum partner GK Insurance presented its Livelihood Protection Policy that covers loss of income due to heavy rains or high wind speed. GK Insurance also provided coverage to three forum participants totaling US$1,173.

Figure 4. \begin{center} received crop insurance premium from GK Insurance at one of the climate services forum \end{center}

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Collaborating with the MSJ and the US Forest Service for the refinement of the Fire Danger Rating Climate Service Tool.
- Providing support for the hosting of additional climate services forums.
- Assessing the forum participants to determine use of the climate-information after the fora.

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\(^1\) The PICSA approach, developed by the University of Reading, aims to facilitate farmers to make informed decisions based on accurate, location specific, climate and weather information; locally relevant crop, livestock and livelihood options; and with the use of participatory tools to aid their decision making. Link to manual - [https://cgspace.cgiar.org/rest/bitstreams/60947/retrieve](https://cgspace.cgiar.org/rest/bitstreams/60947/retrieve)
2 - Partner with the CIB to implement FFS to manage coffee leaf rust disease through the implementation of an early warning climate information based strategy

A new partnership with the CIB, and the International Research and Applications Project (IRAP) project’s Coffee Leaf Rust\(^2\) (CLR) team, allowed Ja REEACH II to support the CIB’s use of FFS as a tool to expand utilization of climate information by agribusiness stakeholders in the coffee sector. During the reporting period, one Ja REEACH II team member joined an international technical workshop on the development of early warning systems for the management of the CLR in El Salvador. The project also supported an initial training workshop on FFS for the CIB extension leads and IRAP project partners, with specific contributions to a checklist on components of the CLR early warning system. The checklist will be used for CIB’s internal early warning system audits.

Contributions were also made to the IRAP project’s efforts to finalize a farmer training curriculum on the understanding and use of climate information. This curriculum will be part of a more comprehensive CLR extension-level and community-level training program that the team will implement in the next reporting period.

During the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Supporting the CIB in the CLR TOT workshop.
- Continuing to build the CIB’s capacity for the refinement of the CLR FFS farmer training manual and field school delivery.

3 - Capacity building for RADA in participatory extension delivery

One outcome of the first USAID project phase is a continued growing demand for the utilization of Participatory Extension Delivery (PED) methods such as FFS among Government of Jamaica, International Development Partners, private sector and most recently research partners. This demand is both driven by capacity built by Ja REEACH II in the extension service, the positive impact on farmer

\(^2\)CLR is a fungus that affects all coffee producing regions. In Jamaica, the first major flare-up occurred in late 2012, affecting an estimated 35% of the crop and severely affecting farmer income. The main drivers of CLR epidemics elsewhere in the world have been economic and meteorological in nature. Increases in air temperatures in recent decades can also allow for the optimal conditions for CLR to be present and persist for longer at higher elevations compared to the past, while droughts generally weaken the trees.
learning and the level of best practice application seen among farmers who complete FFS programs.

During the reporting period 43 persons completed a five-day PED TOT workshop that was co-hosted by the World University Service of Canada PROPEL project and Ja REEACH II. Trainees (see Figure 5) included 35 RADA extension officers, five PROPEL technical personnel and three doctoral students from the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Figure 5. PROPEL Extension Lead Makes Presentation During TOT Workshop.

During the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Mentoring of extension leads, who are assessing the UWI student’s delivery of micro-irrigation field schools in St. Elizabeth.
- Recruitment of volunteer technical support to be mobilized to assist with the completion of four FFS Production Manuals for use in PED training.

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3 The PROPEL project is a sustainable economic growth project which aims to increase the value of Caribbean fresh produce accessing high-value markets in the Caribbean and internationally by CAD $100 million over six years.
4 - Capacity building for CASE to support PED and CSA adoption

The project is also actively working with CASE, as the national training institution for agricultural extension practitioners, to build capacity for medium to long-term PED and climate smart agriculture and resilience technology and innovation. Twenty CASE lecturers, heads of departments, the curriculum development officer, and faculty deans completed a five-day curriculum development workshop (see Figure 6).

Figure 6. F2F Volunteer Interacting with Participants During the CASE Curriculum Development Workshop

The activity responds to the finding of the CASE institutional gap assessment and curriculum review conducted in year one of the project, that identified a systematic curriculum development process as an area of deficiency. Through this assistance, CASE is better positioned to develop new programs that improve its current courses, guide the development of new courses that transfer capacity for climate change and adaptation and PED, and address current and future needs of the CASE graduates and employers and to. In the next performance period, the project team will focus on working with the college to prepare an action plan for revisions to college course offerings.
RESULT AREA 1.2 INCREASED ADOPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
BEST PRACTICES

Continued application of the EbA approach in the Swift River watershed (see Figure 7) impacted four communities, and over 200 persons, with training, technical assistance, and grant funding for risk reducing action. The project’s collaborative implementation approach saw alliances with over ten partner organizations within, and external to, the watershed. These partners included RADA, the Forestry Department, NEPA, the Fisheries Division – MICAF, CASE, the Social Development Commission, the Portland 4-H Club, the Jamaica Fire Brigade and the community groups.

Figure 7. Communities reached by Ja REEACH II in the Swift River watershed EbA program

The Ja REEACH II team defined activities based on assessments of the threats and challenges being faced by the six target communities (listed in
Table 1). Threats and challenges ranged from clearing of trees, soil loss and environmental pollution in the upper watershed, to water shortage, fresh and coastal water sedimentation and changes in the riverine fisheries in the middle to lower reaches of the watershed. Three of the planned six communities were impacted by Ja REEACH II EbA interventions during the performance period.
Table 1. Conservation and Climate-driven Challenges Faced in the Swift River Watershed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWIFT RIVER COMMUNITY</th>
<th>MAIN THREATS/RISKS/ISSUED IDENTIFIED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Castle Community</td>
<td>Steep slopes and bare soils with active history and severe risks of land slippage. Also, a major coffee growing community in the upper watershed area which is a source of agrochemical pollution of waterways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content Community</td>
<td>The reputed “centre of deforestation” in the watershed according to watershed managers as well as widespread burning of cleared land and very limited access to water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift River</td>
<td>Improper disposal of garbage and main source of solid waste pollution of Hope Bay Coastal area. There is also widespread agrochemical poisoning of waterways and soil erosion from exposed soil and unstable slopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruitful Vale</td>
<td>Steep slopes, soil erosion and landslides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Hall</td>
<td>Severe shortage of water particularly during periods of drought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Bay</td>
<td>Sedimentation of coral reef and fishing grounds, solid waste pollution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2.1 INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ON NRM AND AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

Over 200 farmers, fishers and students benefitted from the range of Ja REEACH II and partner-led trainings. This included FFS, climate services forums and other technical exchanges.

1- Implement the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Farmer Field School (EbA-FFS) and Other Trainings in the Swift River Watershed

Eighty-three farmers (51 males and 32 females) in the Swift River watershed have completed four or more modules in the EbA-FFS training curriculum (Table 2) and are now actively applying conservation and land management best practices on demonstration and individual farm plots (Figure 8). This reflects a combined 1,800 hours of training being delivered by RADA, Forestry Department and Ja REEACH II technical leads since October 2016.

The three active field schools are now in the process of establishing one-acre demonstration plots where they will learn while applying risk-reducing and land husbandry best management practices. The best practices applied on the field plots are driven by the group’s completion of their farm plans (see Error! Reference source not found.). The farm plan outlines the agroforestry innovations and livelihood improvements that the farmer will apply on the targeted plot to improve farm and landscape level resilience.
Farm plans not only show the land management or conservation actions to be employed, but also detail the crops and trees that will be used to improve livelihood and food security of the farmer and his/her family. The groups, which have started to apply best management practices, are already seeing the benefits of the innovations (see Figure 8).

RADA extension leads currently lead field school delivery. CASE has also been an instrumental partner in the EbA process, as they have continued to maintain the two-acre agroforestry learning plot, that was used to train 82 CASE students (46 females and 36 males).
Figure 9. Swift River United Farmers' Group - Agroforestry Farm Plan

[Diagram of Swift River United Farmers' Group - Agroforestry Farm Plan]

[Key:
- Timber tree
- Water-way
- Fruit/Individual Basin
- Scotch Bonnet Pepper
- Sweet Pepper
- Pineapple
- Plantain
- Sweet Potato
- Cabbage
- Hillside Ditch
- Lemon grass
- Dead barrier
- Farm boundary
- Gully plug]
The project also partnered with the MSJ, the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union, and community leaders to host a climate service forum for fisher folk in Hope Bay (the coastal end of the Swift River watershed). The 34 participants (28 males and 6 females) learned about the available climate service and products, and how they can inform their daily activities as fishers, as well as how their economic activities were impacted by a changing climate and environment.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:
- Completing remaining field school sessions.
- Hosting watershed-wide work days to support wider tree establishment with RADA and Forestry department.

2- Implement a Sustainable Livelihoods Incentive Program for Select Swift River Economic Crops

Four grants were issued to Swift River watershed groups in response to a request for applications issued in year one of the project. Each grant had activities designed to stimulate and diversify livelihood in the watershed. The Portland 4-H Club is one of four grantees that received funding for risk-reducing best practices in the watershed. This grant led to the installation and handover of a rainwater harvesting system at the Fruitful Vale primary school that was complemented by the establishment of a vegetable plot and poultry rearing unit. Members of the Swift River Re-United Community Club also received 16 apiaries and beekeeping equipment such as handling gear, smokers, extractors and honey harvesting buckets. The group will also receive fruit and timber tree for integration in the complementary agroforestry and land management program.

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4 The Fruitful Vale project is one of four water harvesting systems to be installed in five primary schools in the Swift River watershed (Shirley Castle Primary, Mount Hermon Primary, Fruitful Vale Primary, Bloomfield Primary and Rock Hall Primary).
In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Conducting a livelihood assessment for fishers to inform alternative livelihood strategy development.
- Leading a livelihood assessment for the broader Swift River watershed to be completed to inform further buildout of EbA livelihood program.
- Implementing a pineapple livelihood expansion program with RADA and other value chain actors.
- Facilitating MICAF Apiculture Extension providers training for bee farmers.
- Collaborating with community groups, RADA and Forestry Department to plant trees on the learning plot and across the watershed.

3- **Conduct required M&E and learning on the EbA-FFS program pilot to generate lessons learned**

In addition to the continued collection of baseline data to inform resilience changes in the Swift River watershed, the project, engaged with researchers from UWI toward forging research collaborations for EbA program learning. The intent of the UWI collaboration is to expand the ability of the project to provide empirical evidence to support the program rationale. The following are the agreed research questions:
1. What are the dominant plant and animal life constituents in the Swift River and other major aquatic systems in the Swift River watershed?

2. What are the aquatic indicator species that can serve to communicate on resource quality and integrity in the Swift River watershed?

3. What are the changes (if any) in the presence of the bussu\(^5\) population? How does their current population density compare to previously established baselines, with particular emphasis on the mollusk population such as the “bussu.” Are there any terrestrial or aquatic sources of the changes observed?

4. What are the principal anthropogenic and natural factors or activities which have contributed or is contributing to temporal and spatial (changes particularly in the aquatic ecosystems within the watershed including population and other change (or status) among riverine organisms, barriers to life cycle and general optimal existence?

5. What are the major chemical, physical and biological pollutants in the drainage systems of the watershed that poses or could pose a threat to the fresh water ecology and how do their current levels compare to previously established baselines?

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Building out the research collaboration with the UWI.
- Installing soil loss traps on all learning plots within the watershed.
- Continuing outreach to other reach partners who can support EbA learning and exchange locally and regionally.

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\(^5\) Bussu is the common name for a small aquatic snail often found attached to rocks in rivers. They are edible and sometimes used as an ingredient in soups.
1.2.2 LOCAL AND NATIONAL NRM GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS STRENGTHENED

Five community groups in the Swift River watershed were the primary beneficiaries of the activities during the reporting period. In addition to providing the groups with road maps for capacity development, emphasis was placed on mobilizing partnership to support group strengthening and the implementation of actions that lead to resilience.

1- Capacity support for national-level groups and organizations focused on NRM governance

Discussions started for the hosting of a governance conference in the next performance period with NEPA and other partners. A volunteer consultant has been engaged to support the project’s effort in this area.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Collaborating with local partners to host the inaugural NRM governance conference.
- Investigating opportunities for capacity strengthening for the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Union Ltd. towards establishment of cooperative groups along the Portland coastline.

2- Implement activities to strengthen NRM governance and local advocacy efforts in the Swift River watershed

Four community groups now have draft constitutions, and are moving towards formalized registration with Ja REEACH II and partner support. This was facilitated by a workshop held on March 17, during which representatives from four community groups (Shirley Castle Farmers’ Group, Swift River Re-United Community Club, United Farmers’ Group and Rock Hall Farmers’ Group) were guided through the development of their constitutions. This is one of the first steps recommendations from the institutional strengthening plans developed for each group in year one, following organizational capacity assessments.

Figure 12. Participants at Constitution Development Workshop
Table 3. Proposed Legal Group Structures for Swift River Community Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY GROUP</th>
<th>LEGAL GROUP STRUCTURE TO BE PURSUED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Castle Farmers Group</td>
<td>Benevolent Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Farmers’ Group</td>
<td>Benevolent Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift River Re-United Community Club</td>
<td>Cooperative Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Hall Farmers’ Group</td>
<td>Benevolent Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Implementing additional capacity development actions from institutional strengthening plans with the group leads and key partners.
- Assisting groups to finalize the draft constitutions and implement next steps regarding legal structures.

1. Utilize Communities Empowered for Disaster and Adaptive Resilience (CEDAR) to implement a climate and disaster resilience program for select Swift River communities

The Rock Hall community in Portland completed its climate action plan (CAP) that documents the threats to resilience. The CAP was the product of the project’s CEDAR process during which 27 community members (12 males and 14 females) identified climate and disaster hazards and defined actions that would address or minimize the impacts of the threats as summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Primary Hazards, Impacts and Resources Impacted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY HAZARDS</th>
<th>PAST AND CURRENT IMPACTS</th>
<th>LIVELIHOOD RESOURCES IMPACTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane</td>
<td></td>
<td>Farm lands, rivers/spring, school, forests, church, transportation/vehicles, shop, farming, traded goods, farmers, teacher, drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Loss of roofs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Destroy farms and livestock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Landslide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Shortage of food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Loss of income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Blocked roads and damaged properties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Residents cannot go to work and school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>1 Low yields from crops</td>
<td>Farm lands, river/springs, school, church, shops, farming, traded goods, farmers, teachers, drivers, political group, farmers group, community group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Shortage of water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Loss of crops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Food shortage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Loss of income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Closure of schools, affects domestic activities, impacts livestock health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CAP also provides detailed implementation plans for two projects for which the community will seek funding to implement as they work to become more resilient. The two projects are:

- Project 1 – Rock Hall Land Husbandry, Water harvesting and storage
- Project 2 – Rock Hall Land Stabilization and Reforestation

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Working with the community to identify funding for action project implementation.
- Building alliances with partners at the parish and national levels to support action project implementation.
RESULT AREA 2.1 IMPROVED GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND PLANNING COORDINATION STRUCTURES

The project worked primarily with various government of Jamaica’s agencies and community groups to implement activities designed to increase awareness on the impact of climate change and knowledge of resiliency activities.

Expected outputs and outcomes included:

a) Greater public awareness on climate change and knowledge of solutions that will lead to resilience.

b) Increased capacity (trained staff, improved process and decision-support tools) within the parish and national government and communities to create an effective enabling environment for resilience.

IR 2.1.1 LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSE AND MITIGATION MEASURES STRENGTHENED

While the anticipated progress for the planned activities did not happen as planned, significant time was spent on partnership building and engagement. The project continues to work with partners towards the agreed program objectives.

1- Support the MLGCD to build the capacity of its local authorities to more effectively support climate-resilient local planning and programming

The project prepared a report suggesting entry points for mainstreaming resilience at the parish level. The report reflects the results of two consultation workshops involving representatives from eight municipal corporations. The report documented current practices and gaps in climate risk assessment, and provides recommendations on next steps to address those gaps. Through this activity another action was taken towards meeting the agreed terms of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the MLGCD and Ja REEACH II. Three entry points were recommended to mainstream climate risk assessment:

a) The parish level strategic planning process
b) The project planning unit
c) Parish disaster community project approval

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6 The eight municipal corporations are: Hanover, Manchester, St. Ann, Portmore, Westmoreland, Clarendon, Trelawny, and Portland.
In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Soliciting MLGCD and municipal corporations to sign-off on the recommended entry points
- Developing tools and process to support the municipal corporations in climate risk mainstreaming at the each of the recommended entry points. This will be tested in Portland.
- Training of municipal corporation staff on use of the emerging tools.

2- Work with Climate Change Division and agriculture sector stakeholders to mainstream climate change into sector activities, planning and policy

Ja REEACH II, through an interagency committee, advanced plans for the hosting of a two-day stakeholder workshop to define the approach for the development of a resilient agriculture sector plan. A two-person consultant team was mobilized and three technical briefs were prepared as part of the workshop process.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Executing the stakeholder workshop over April 19-20.
- Developing the Terms of Reference for the sector plan development consultancy based on the stakeholder feedback.
- Releasing a Request for Proposals and selection of a qualified consultancy team to complete the development of the plan.
IR 2.1.2 INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS AND ADAPTATION

Training workshops and other technical sessions impacted 423 persons (150 males and 273 females) under this result area. Activities targeted youth primarily, or institutions providing information to youth, equipping them to be able to inform their community about climate change and resilience. This was supported by the development of training material and resources.

Broader awareness efforts saw the project interacting with 1,641 persons (330 males, 1307 females, 4 not stated) through fairs and expositions. Ja REEACH II exhibitions showcased resilience-smart innovations, and highlighted the importance of implementing risk reducing actions. One useful tool in the project’s outreach events is the project’s agroforestry model which was useful in showing how the proposed climate-smart innovations could lead to resilience.

New partnership opportunities led to US$60,000 being raised for youth focused climate change awareness building initiatives.

1- Work with key education institutions (secondary and tertiary) to integrate climate change, CSA and other program-related elements into training curricula

Ja REEACH II partnered with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MOEYI) to host one in a series of workshop to introduce teachers to the new national standards curriculum. During the one-day workshop 40 grade four teachers completed activities that equipped them to integrate climate change within the school’s grade four curriculum. Teachers from primary schools in the Swift River watershed also attended. Ja REEACH II provided each teacher with a resource toolkit and material needed to explain key climate change terminology and stimulate student learning.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:

- Partnering with MOEYI for additional teacher training workshops.
- Partnering with the MOEYI and the Climate Change Division to finalize the climate change action framework for schools.

2- Collaborate with partners e.g. Jamaica Library Service to promote climate change awareness key messages in Jamaica among youth, men and women

The project partnered with several school and institutions to deliver awareness building presentations to students under a new initiative called “REEACHing Youth Climate Xchange”. Through a partnership with the Jamaica Library Service, Ja REEACH II trained 145 persons on climate change (66 males and 79 females), during sessions held in three libraries – St. Elizabeth, St. Ann and St. Catherine. In addition, 173 students (59 males and 114 females) were trained at St. Andrew High School for Girls and Ardenne Preparatory School. At Hampton, over 900 girls participated in broader sensitization and awareness sessions. One community group also benefitted from the training.

These sessions introduced students to the terms and concepts associated with climate change, and stimulated them to think critically how they can be agents of change through adaption and mitigation actions within their school and broader community. The sessions also emphasized the different ways in which climate change impacts males and females, and other vulnerable groups. Students were given the opportunity to share the knowledge they had gained by participating in the question and answer
segment of the morning. The segment ended with students doing a symbolic declaration of their commitment with all gathered stating "I am for climate action."

Figure 14. Students at a Youth Xchange Session

The awareness building support provided by the Ja REEACH II team often emerged from partner engagement. For example, the Xchange session at the Ardenne Preparatory as the result of the project’s engagement with the school’s representatives at the Scientific Research Council’s Science in the Gardens exposition held on February 16, 2017. It should also be noted that the Xchange sessions are helping the schools’ delivery of their Grade 4-6 Science curriculum and learning objectives.

The Ja REEACH II team also reached agreement with the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) project to host the third Youth climate change conference (YCCC) in October 2017; involving Caribbean and Japanese youth delegates. The J-CCCP committed US$40,000 in funding for the co-hosting of the event as a match to Ja REEACH II funds. A F2F volunteer consultant will support the project’s hosting of this event.

In addition, ACDI/VOCA partnered with GlobalGiving to raise US$10,000 ($5,773 from 63 individual donors, and the remainder from ACDI/VOCA) that will be used to host one-day summer camps with the Jamaica Library Service. The camp will prepare 200 Jamaican youth ages 8-17 to become change agents in their communities. The funds raised will cover the cost of youth attending the camp, as well as planting trees and other small action projects.

In the next performance period, the project team will focus on:
- Planning for the YCCC 2017.
- Hosting of the GlobalGiving-funded Youth Summer Camps.
- Continued delivery of Youth Xchange Sessions.
5. YEAR TWO PERFORMANCE INDICATOR UPDATE

In March 2017, a revised PMELP was submitted to USAID that details the use of seven performance indicators to assess implementation progress for Ja REEACH II. The revision reflects a) changes to the USAID standard indicator list that archived several of the previously reported indicators, and b) donor feedback on the need to consolidate the number of performance measures. The PMELP is still being reviewed by USAID and may be further revised based on USAID feedback.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF REVISED JA REEACH II INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three of the seven are reported semi-annual based on the performance indicator reference sheet. These are highlighted in the list below with the designation “SA”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change (SA)
2. Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance
3. Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for climate change adaptation as supported by USG assistance (SA)
4. Number of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers, receiving agricultural-related credit as a result of USG assistance
5. Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance
6. Number of people trained in climate change adaptation supported by USG assistance (SA)
7. Number of institutions with improved capacity to assess or address climate change risks supported by USG assistance

Two of the three semi-annual indicators met, and exceeded, 50 per cent of the proposed year two target - analysis and projections indicate that the project is on track to meet the year two targets.

Table 5. Ja REEACH II Semi-Annual Performance Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRII-01</td>
<td>Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRII-03</td>
<td>Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for climate change adaptation as supported by USG assistance</td>
<td>U$116K</td>
<td>U$13,653</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**INDICATOR ID** | **FY 2017 TARGET** | **FY2017 ACTUALS AS OF MARCH 31, 2017** | **% OF TARGET ACHIEVED AS AT MARCH 31, 2017**
--- | --- | --- | ---
JRII-06 | Number of people trained in climate change adaptation supported by USG assistance | 1,500 | 915 | 61%

See Appendix 4— for the full indicator table (reflecting disaggregates)

**Persons Supported** - Project beneficiaries (market actors, youth, and community leaders) received the training and technical assistance that constituted medium to high level of USAID support reported. The majority of beneficiaries (915 [429 males and 486 females]) were supported with training in areas such as: climate change adaptation and mitigation, planting and protecting of seedlings, teaching climate change in the grade four curriculum, and using climate change products and tools. Technical assistance activities for the period were primarily centered around the drafting of the Rock Hall community climate action plan (CAP) and assistance towards the drafting of group constitutions for the Rock Hall, United Farmers and the Swift River Re-United Producer groups at the Ja REEACH II Constitution Development Workshop held on March 14, 2017 in Portland. Females represented 53 percent of the total number of people supported by the project and more than 43 percent of beneficiaries are under 25 years.

**Investment Mobilized** – As the project scales up best practice application, partnerships with local and international entities are critical. Over US$13,000 of partner or beneficiary investment, complementing USAID’s investment, was documented during the performance period. This reflects 12 percent of the year two target, however, the project anticipates meeting and exceeding this target based on over US$100,000 private sector and other donor commitments that are being negotiated for execution in year two. The total investment includes:

- US$2,740 for two-years of livelihood protection insurance provided by GK Insurance for seven project beneficiaries. At the time this report was drafted, policies were issued to three farmers for a total value of US$1,173. The balance will be provided to four additional farmers.
- US$4,290 in leverage contribution from grantees for their grant activities relating to sustainable livelihoods (for example apiculture), water harvesting and tree planting within the Swift River watershed.
- US$8,190 from co-funded technical assistance activities namely a TOT partnership with the PROPEL project for the joint hosting of the FFS Facilitation TOT workshop, held March 13-17, 2017 at the Eltham training center in St Ann.

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7 ‘Support’ is defined as assistance from the project or activity, with the intention of helping people adapt to climate change. Support encompasses financial resources, assets, infrastructure, agricultural inputs, training, communications (e.g. early warning systems) or information (e.g. weather forecasting).

8 Includes finance mobilized (or leveraged), enabled by USG assistance, for actions, activities, projects or programs that support adaptation to the effects of climate variability and change.
People Trained in Climate Change Adaptation⁹ – The project also exceeded the 50 percent mark having trained 915 persons in climate change adaptation during the reporting period. Those reported by Ja REEACH II were required to complete 90 per cent of the training course as required by the performance indicator reference sheet. The project achieved a balance in gender participation with an almost equal representation of women and men being supported and trained over the semi-annual period. This ratio of project beneficiaries is close to the Jamaica labor force average where there is 55 percent male and 45 percent female participation (STATIN 2015).

A significant portion of the training reported reflects the project’s effort to increase beneficiary of climate information and data in their decision-making through the climate services forum co-hosted with the Metrological Service, Jamaica (MSJ). A total of 280 persons (166 males and 114 females) - predominantly farmers/producers - received training in the use of climate information and how this type of information can be accessed.

Another significant training, contributing to the project’s EbA outcomes, were training sessions associated with the delivery of over nine modules of the EbA-FFS to over 165 farmers in the Swift River watershed (51 males and 32 females) and students (36 males and 46 females) from the CASE.

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⁹ Training is defined as a learning activity involving: 1) a setting intended for teaching or transferring knowledge, skills, or approaches; 2) a formally designated instructor(s) or lead person(s); and 3) a defined curriculum, learning objectives, or outcomes.
6. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The project continued to use a mix of field and home office-based ACDI/VOCA staff that provided technical and project management support. ACDI/VOCA staff expertise was complemented by the technical assistance provided by volunteer and paid consultants to deliver technical assistance programs during the reporting period. A total of eight consultant assignments, including volunteers, provided support in the areas reported in section four of this report.

Volunteer Update

The project hosted three F2F volunteer assignments during the reporting period. These assignments contributed to 42 volunteer level of effort days of technical assistance being delivered that impacted 197 persons (101 males and 96 females) directly in areas of curriculum development and agro-enterprise development for educational institutions. Additionally, over 600 persons were impacted indirectly. Persons who participated in training and technical support activities represent direct beneficiaries. Indirect beneficiaries represent the wider community and households of the direct beneficiaries. This is calculated using a multiplier of 3.1 based on the average household size in Jamaica.

Table 6. Persons Impacted by Volunteer Consultants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</th>
<th>TOTAL LEVEL OF EFFORT (DAYS)</th>
<th>PERSONS IMPACTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DIRECT (Males)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Females)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INDIRECT (Males)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Females)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Development</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Resilience Enterprise Development</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming Educational Institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M&E ADMINISTRATION

Aside from ongoing data collection, data entry and learning related activities, for the most part, the review and revision of the project’s initial 18 indicators and the resubmission of the PMELP were the two major activities carried out by the Monitoring and Evaluation Team (M&E Officer, Database Management Officer and Intern) during the semi-annual period.

The revision of the USAID standard climate change adaptation and agriculture indicators in October, 2016, resulted in Ja REEACH II’s collaborative review of the project’s performance indicators with USAID and ACDI/VOCA to ensure alignment with the revised USAID monitoring and evaluation requirements. This revision (removal, addition and in some instances editing) resulted in the tracking and reporting on
seven USAID standard indicators (five new and two edited indicators), the re-alignment of project targets, especially for new indicators, and the sensitization of staff to the changes to indicator definitions in relation to planned activities.

Once the extensive review and staff sensitization process was complete, the project’s Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS) and Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT) - both included in the project’s revised PMELP - were updated to reflect the revised indicator definitions, disaggregates, data collection strategies as well as the results for FY2016 and the life of project targets for the seven new and edited Ja REEACH II indicators. Subsequently, the project’s revised PMELP was reviewed by ACDI/VOCA and resubmitted to USAID during the quarter covering the period January-March 2017.

DATA COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Data collection was an ongoing process over the six months, where the M&E Team:

- collected beneficiary profile and resilience type information such as the age, sex, educational level, land tenure, sources of income and household size from EbA-FFS participants belonging to the Swift River Reunited, the United Farmers and the Fruitful Vale Benevolent Society throughout the semi-annual period
- worked with technical leads to administer pre-tests prior to the start of each FFS
- prepared and administered feedback questionnaires to farmers at three of the six Climate Services Forums
- pilot tested the mapping of sections of the Swift River watershed for future and possible community level data analysis
- prepared and administered post-training questionnaires at the FFS Facilitation TOT, curriculum development workshops and the Eastwood Park Youth for Progress group training session.

Questionnaire feedback was collated and shared with technical officers to refine the training approaches.

Over the next six months, the team will focus on the collection of the indicators reported annually by the project.

PROJECT LEARNING

The revised PMELP included a description of the project’s illustrative learning agenda and a list of preliminary questions intended to be answered at the activity, project-wide and resilience levels. Over the next six months the initial learning questions will be further expanded into a Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) plan. This CLA plan will serve as a complement to the PMELP. The home office based - Associate Director of Corporate Analysis Monitoring & Evaluation, will collaborate with the field team to complete this over the next few months. Plans will also be initiated for the project’s mid-term evaluation.

DATA MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

The Ja REEACH II database is continuously updated to satisfy its evolving data needs. The project is now monitoring seven USAID indicators. New Access web forms were created with better filter and display
functions. Automation was built into several of the Access web forms, reducing transcription error and enabling data entry to be more efficient.

Data trackers exist for all the indicators, and data has been collected for four of the seven indicators. In addition, all indicator values and disaggregates were put online on SharePoint so that any staff can access them at any time. These values are updated in real-time whenever data is entered or edited in the database.

The data entry efforts have been ramped up due to the increase in activities in the semi-annual reporting period, where the M&E team entered 1,571 new beneficiaries in the Ja REEACH II database. All M&E staff have been involved in this process, ensuring that all data is entered in the database in a timely manner. The data is cleaned and verified on an ongoing basis, ensuring data integrity.

Data visualization is facilitated on the home office M&E site through its Learning Evaluation and Analysis Platform (LEAP) platform. This has been delayed for Ja REEACH II due to the change in the project indicators. Additional work needed to be carried out on the database to allow for efficient data entry and calculation of the indicators. The new indicators will be displayed on the LEAP in short order.

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

The project continues to achieve a balance in gender participation with an almost 50-50 representation of women and men being supported and trained over the semi-annual period. This ratio of project beneficiaries is relatively aligned with the Jamaica labor force average which is 55 male and 45 percent females (STATIN 2015). Although encouraging, the project endeavored to further integrate gender into project activities. Some of the actions taken with specific gender objectives were the observance and training of children and youth on World Women’s Day (March 8, 2017) and the role women play in building resilience at the agribusiness and community levels. There was sensitization of students from the Hampton School for Girls on how climate change impact each gender, and a module within the FFS TOT to equip RADA extension personnel about gender considerations during extension delivery.

**Gender Sensitization of Partners/Extension Personnel**

Besides providing RADA and PROPEL Extension Personnel with climate change adaption information and the principles/strategies for the implementation of FFS, at the five-day TOT workshop held in March, 2017, participants were also sensitized on Gender and Youth considerations for a successful FFS. During the workshop, a Gender Specialist from a partner institution carried out a presentation which primarily highlighted some key areas facilitators must consider when implementing FFS. Some areas of consideration mentioned included the general timing of FFS sessions; for instance, the time of day or year in which the FFS is conducted. As facilitators, participants were encouraged to as best as possible, select and carry out FFS sessions at a time which will not conflict with other commitments participants may have, such as household, domestic and “back to school” commitments. The length (for example in hours) of FFS modules, the selection of topics to stimulate interest amongst participants and the mode of delivery were some of the other considerations mentioned during the presentation. Overall,
extension personnel were urged to ensure that gender considerations are made from the inception and at every stage of the FFS process, to ensure the inclusion and full participation of all male and female FFS participants.

**Gender Staff Sensitization**

During the December 2016 to-January 2017 period, the Ja REEACH II technical team prepared and presented a preliminary gender response matrix for each result area. Additional technical assistance to develop a gender action plan and provide training for the staff was solicited through a Request for Proposals. The project is in the process of finalizing the consultancy and training workshop and action plan development will be completed in the next reporting period.

**Environmental Compliance**

The Ja REEACH II team worked with its institutional and community based partners and beneficiaries to ensure that environmental best management practices were integrated into all actions undertaken in year two, from design to implementation of activities. USAID Environmental Threshold Decision (ETD) LAC-IEE-15-16 provided direction for the development of the compliance actions. The mitigation measures were further detailed in the approved Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). Even with most implementation activities in their embryonic stages, relevant mitigation actions were taken during the period under review, most of these actions concerned Initial Environmental Evaluations as well as EbA-FFS land management interventions.

**Environmental Mitigation Actions taken during reporting period**

- The project prepared and submitted the year two EMMP following work plan approval that received the Regional Environmental Advisor’s approval.

- The Ja REEACH II technical team reviewed Initial Environmental Evaluation/ Screening Forms forms and provided guidance to potential beneficiaries during concept writing and grant application stages of grant application to ensure environmental best management practices are integrated into all projects seeking grant funding from Ja REEACH II. In addition, potential environmental consequences of all actions as well as possible mitigation measures were put forward in all grant applications. Non-grant funded technical assistance activities were also screened for potential environmental impacts.

- The Ja REEACH II risk assessment process – “Diagnosis and design” was carried out on all demonstration/learning plots and farm plans reflected the green land husbandry practices integrated to ensure application of environmental best management practices.
Table 7. Update on Ja REEACH Year Two mitigation measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMMP MEASURES (RELEVANT TO ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN)</th>
<th>STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ACTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Engage specialized technical expertise (internal and external) to ensure suitable design for each CSA innovation/system being installed.</td>
<td>In the installation of water harvesting system at the Fruitful Vale Primary School under the Pilot EbA Program, both internal and external specialized expertise was employed in site assessment and system design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Site assessment tools (e.g. diagnostics and design and farm plans) used to guide intervention design.</td>
<td>Diagnostics and design/ Ecosystem Assessment processes applied to all Demonstration Plots, both in selection of plots as well as development design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Develop Farm Plan/Blue Print from the application of a standardized design and diagnostics (D&amp;D).</td>
<td>Farm Plans/Development Blueprints developed for all Demonstration Plots under EbA-FFS Program from standardized D&amp;D process outlined in EbA-FFS Training Manual. Individual farmers to begin Blueprint development process of their own farms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Minimize the disruption of soil or removal of soil cover</td>
<td>Minimal soil disruption undertaken during the implementation of soil management treatments (individual basins) on Learning Plots. Additionally, very minimal removal of soil cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Place an emphasis on grass waterways and chutes, and bank stabilization techniques such as gabion baskets (based on site assessments) in the overall land management strategy.</td>
<td>Though the measures are not yet implemented, emphasis has been placed during the assessment and farm plan development process of Learning Plots. All Learning Plot Farm Plans prescribe grassed waterways and bank stabilization, especially by timber trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Hive Boxes to be utilized should only be purchased from certified MICAF Sources.</td>
<td>Hive boxes purchased for Swift River Community Group were purchased from sources recommended by the Apiculture Unit of the MICAF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Expert-led election of apiary sites to be done while ensuring that there is zero clearance of trees.</td>
<td>Experts from the Apiculture Unit of the MICAF undertook site inspection of apiary site in Swift River Community and there was no clearing of trees to establish apiary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Training material to consider best practices in hive smoking, to ensure health and fire safety.</td>
<td>Training material developed by Apiculture Unit of the MICAF considers these and many other risk factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Selection of species will be done collaboratively with Forestry Department and RADA to ensure the maximum use of native economic species</td>
<td>All final selection of species to be used on Learning Plot and under grant program in the Swift River watershed EbA Program were made through guidance from the Forestry Department, RADA and officials from MICAF. Additionally, these technical experts also facilitate sessions with farmers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## EMMP Measures (relevant to activities undertaken)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMMP Measures</th>
<th>Status of Environmental Compliance Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Each grantee or sub-award applicant will complete the environmental screening checklist in collaboration with the technical team members.</td>
<td>All sub-award applicants completed the environmental screening checklist with guidance from Ja REEACH II technical team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Gender action plan strategies to be integrated at activity design. Learning strategy elements to be integrated in grant award and EMMP (where applicable)</td>
<td>Ja REEACH II allowed for equal opportunities to benefit from grant awards and for participation in all project activities. Ja REEACH II technical team were sensitive to time and location of activities affecting the participation of specific gender. This informed mobilization; for example, regarding time of meetings etc. Market actors, submitting applications were asked to address how factors limiting female and male participation (for example in accessing financing) would be addressed in their applications. Their responses were scored and will be used to inform the final intervention design.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### During the next performance period the project team will focus on:

- Continued implementation of the EMMP and its requirements.
- Following donor approval for construction, ensuring that EMMP requirements related to construction are met.

### Marking and Branding

Ja REEACH II coordinated activities and events with a key focus on raising visibility and promoting awareness of the project activities and climate change impacts, in accordance with the marking and branding plan. This was achieved mainly through:

- Development and dissemination of project information and communication products.
- Media engagement via features in traditional and online media.
- Coordination of major events and participation in outreach activities with partner organizations.
- Increased utilization of social media to highlight project activities and raise visibility of project successes.
The feature – *One story makes many!* Reflects how content shared with audience on new media can also capture the attention of traditional media and provide opportunities for varying levels of exposure.

**ONE STORY MAKES MANY!**

Following a social media feature generated by the Ja REEACH Facebook group about the James Hill farming group and their jam making experiment, local newspaper *Jamaica Observer* pursued the group for a follow up feature. This resulted in a publication about the group’s efforts to improve climate-smart agriculture production which also highlighted the transfer of knowledge gained from the previous Ja REEACH agroforestry farmer field school.


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Major accomplishments for the period included:

- **Production and dissemination of the project newsletter “The REEACH”** - 490 printed copies of the first edition were circulated to stakeholders through expositions and other face-to-face interactions. The electronic version has been sent to over 500 recipients via online communication platforms including email and social media. The project also utilized the online hosting platform, Issuu, for the quarterly newsletter. Comparison of the October 2016 newsletter publication statistics to the January 2017 statistics reveals a 23% increase in the number of reads. Impressions which measure potential exposure garnered a 43% increase. Read time and average time spent also increased by 11% and 27% respectively. The findings show that more users were engaging with the newsletter and spending more time reading.

- **Production and distribution of the first edition of the Ja REEACH II project calendar** that featured project beneficiaries being impacted by activities and climate-smart innovations. 700 calendars were produced and distributed.

- **Distribution of Branded Promotional Items** - Over 732 promotional items including tote bags, pens, notebooks, stress balls, and T-shirts were disseminated at project activities and major events to improve visibility and reinforce branding and project messages.

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Source: The Jamaica Observer


- **Media Features** - A total of six articles generated in print media. Feature articles mentioning highlighting Ja REEACH project activities published in the Gleaner and Jamaica Observer newspapers and Loop news.

- **Social Media Presence** - The project saw a 25% increase in membership/audience in the Ja REEACH II Youth Facebook group following the staging of the World Water Day activities. The World Water Day activities were designed to boost online audience reach and engagement for the Facebook group. Membership expanded from 761 to 1031 members. This outreach had two anchor activities - a video competition and an online forum. Five video entries were received from secondary schools across Jamaica. Participants were required to invite friends and family to like the contesting videos for the chance to win. The top three videos came from Papine High School in St. Andrew, Ferncourt High School in St. Ann and Nain High School in St. Elizabeth. 

Sandals South Coast – Environmental Health and Safety Team, as part of the incentives, has partnered with Ja REEACH to provide a tour of their waste water facility.

The World Water Day panel discussion explored the reuse of waste water across different sectors. The discussion was supported by an expert panel which included representatives from Sandals South Coast, The Caribbean Water and Waste Association, National Environmental and Planning Agency and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority and our Facebook group audience. The discussion was moderated by Director of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and environment blogger, The Facebook platform facilitated a highly interactive exchange of information between the panelists and the audience.

### LIST OF LINKS TO MEDIA ARTICLES

- [USAID Creates Climate-smart Tutorial Farm at CASE](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/USAID-creates-climate-smart-tutorial-farm-at-CASE_83281)
- [Farmers Benefit from Climate Change Forum](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Farmers-benefit-from-climate-services-forum_90894)
- [USAID Ja REEACH Project to Train Farmers in Climate Smart Risk Management](http://www.loopjamaica.com/content/usaids-ja-reeach-project-train-farmers-climate-risk-management)
- [Ja REEACH Stages World Water Day Video Competition](http://myinforms.com/en-af/a/136550490-ja-reeach-stages-world-water-day-video-competition/)
- [Eastwood Gardens Youth Launch Clean Community Initiative](http://www.loopjamaica.com/content/eastwood-gardens-youth-launch-clean-community-initiative)
GRANTS UPDATE

The two-person grants team focused on processing concept notes and applications received in response to the NRM RFA released in year one, and the CSA Innovation RFA released in year two. To date five of the NRM RFA applications were processed and are in varying stages of approval, including approval from USAID to undertake small scale construction. Six applications were shortlisted from the CSA RFA call and one has been evaluated by an external grants committee and await final processing towards an award. Of 11 unsolicited proposals received, two were processed with one being awarded.

Table 8. Status of Ja REEACH II grant applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>NRM RFA</th>
<th>CSA RFA</th>
<th>UNSOLICITED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Concepts Received</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Concepts Received</td>
<td>3,680,637.62</td>
<td>81,987.00</td>
<td>2,064,773.00</td>
<td>993,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Grants Pending Approval</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Grants Pending Approval</td>
<td>86,480.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Grants Approved</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Grants Approved</td>
<td>34,595.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Leverage Approved to Date</td>
<td>19,247.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Leverage Certified to Date</td>
<td>4,290.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

USAID/Jamaica obligated a total of USD $5,888,041 (Table 9) with the signing of Award Modification two in January 2017. At reporting, the project has expended 45 percent of the obligation received (Table 8).

Table 9. Obligations Received as of March 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USAID FISCAL YEAR (FY)</th>
<th>DATE OF OBLIGATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT (USD $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2015</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>$1,222,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>$2,966,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OBLIGATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$5,888,041</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10. Cumulative Project Expenditure as of March 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD COST CATEGORY</th>
<th>AWARD BUDGET (USD)</th>
<th>YEAR TWO PROJECTIONS (USD)</th>
<th>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (October 2016-March 2017)</th>
<th>REMAINING AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Costs</td>
<td>$7,492,593</td>
<td>$1,916,169</td>
<td>$846,387</td>
<td>$5,179,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>$2,622,407</td>
<td>$670,659</td>
<td>$329,576</td>
<td>$1,742,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passthru</td>
<td>$1,885,000</td>
<td>$575,000</td>
<td>$19,105</td>
<td>$1,865,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Donor Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,000,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,161,828</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,195,068</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,787,735</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leverage (non-USAID contribution)</td>
<td>$407,012</td>
<td>$124,686</td>
<td>$10,357</td>
<td>$350,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,407,012</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,286,514</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,205,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,138,023</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 1. Ja REEACH II Resilience Framework

JAMAICAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT
Vision 2030
Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2012-2015

Ja REEACH II GOAL
Livelihood & Ecosystem Resilience

OBJECTIVES
1. Climate Smart Agriculture & Natural Resource Management
2. Climate Change Governance & Institutional Capacity Building

LIVELIHOODS
VULNERABILITY
ECOSYSTEMS
INSTITUTIONS

INTERVENTION AREAS
Illustrative Climate Resilient Crop Value Chains
Sweet Potatoes, Pineapples, Peppers, Onions, Cotton

Strengthened Enabling Environment
Government, Research, NGOs, Public Media, Private Sector

Resilient Ecosystem Services
Land, Water, Trees, Biodiversity

Adaptation Strategies

Natural Assets
Climate Resilient Forestry
Land, Soil, Water, Biodiversity

Human Assets
Climate Change Risk Knowledge & Awareness
Use of Climate Information
Skills Training
Climate Smart Agriculture
Natural Resource Management

Physical Assets
Climate Resilient Crop Value Chains
Production, Storage, Processing, Distribution

Financial Assets
Livelihood Diversification
Agricultural, Non-agricultural

Socio-Political Assets
Social Network/Access
Internal, external
Institutional Governance
National Resilience Agenda
Market Systems

CLIMATE RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS, ECOSYSTEMS, AND INSTITUTIONS
### Appendix 2. Analysis: Grant Proposals Received to Support CSA Upgrades and Innovations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY &amp; ALLIANCE PARTNERS</th>
<th>CONCEPT</th>
<th>CONCEPT DETAILS</th>
<th>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</th>
<th>TOTAL ASK FROM JA REEACH II GRANT FUND</th>
<th>PERCENT OF TOTAL FUNDING</th>
<th>PROPOSED USE OF JA REEACH II FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Stripe / Heineken Alliance Members – CIAT, G&amp;G Foundation, Tuskegee University, UMES, DSU, MICAF, RADA</td>
<td>Development of local cassava supply chain</td>
<td>Create a network of 200 small and medium cassava farmers to supply to local cassava buyers and processors, estimated to generate 30K tons and $6.2 million in annual sales from cassava farms. Four components: (1) Enhance technical/agronomic capacity for farming cassava, (2) develop climate smart production system, (3) improve access to finance for cassava farmers, (4) knowledge &amp; strategic communication.</td>
<td>$2,893,131</td>
<td>$344,000</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>No Funding. Technical Assistance to be provided for FaaB training curriculum development, and research collaborations with universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE Alliance Members – RADA, MACAF</td>
<td>Develop local pineapple supply chain</td>
<td>Help foster growth of new variety of pineapple that has been proven to mitigate climate change and has large international demand, through importing and growing new planting materials, educating farmers on growing the new variety (Del Monte Gold or MD2), and help link farmers to markets for fresh produce and juice (agroprocessing).</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
<td>$92,500</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>Capital investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY &amp; ALLIANCE PARTNERS</td>
<td>CONCEPT</td>
<td>CONCEPT DETAILS</td>
<td>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</td>
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<td>PERCENT OF TOTAL FUNDING</td>
<td>PROPOSED USE OF JA REEACH II FUNDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPCB</td>
<td>Provide improved financing to pepper farmers working with GAP</td>
<td>Agricultural project that will accommodate approximately 120 pepper farmers with loan funding at reduced interest rates to produce 2,000 tons of pepper for the production year 2017. The NPCB’s role is to provide reduced interest rate loan funding through GAP for them to assist their contracted pepper farmers - under a tripartite arrangement NPCB, GAP and farmers - with the necessary inputs, equipment and infrastructure.</td>
<td>$690,000</td>
<td>$345,000</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>NPCB loan funding, other investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance Members – GAP, RADA, Jamaica Agriculture Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>JDDB</td>
<td>Support growth of dairy value chain in Jamaica</td>
<td>The actions of the project include, but are not limited to: (1) Pasture rehabilitation/development to include fencing and drought tolerant forage species, (2) Establishment of fodder banks and silvopastoral systems, (3) Physical infrastructure improvement and mechanization, (4) Herd Replacement, (5) Energy cost reduction plan, (6) Implementation of food safety standards, (7) On farm water management systems including the provision of safe and potable water for animals &amp; milk parlors, (8) Training and development of farmers and farmers’ organizations.</td>
<td>$1,504,000</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>Partial funding for all areas of the program in collaboration with JDDB, beneficiaries, and another TBD donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance Members – Serge Island Dairy, RADA, ICCA, CASE</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY &amp; ALLIANCE PARTNERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Agro Processors Division (GAP)</td>
<td>Increase local sourcing of Jamaican hot peppers (several varieties) for processing and domestic/export markets</td>
<td>Engage with Molecular Science Division at University of West Indies to improve yield of pepper varieties, improve pest/disease resistance, and search for cause of black seeds; also better utilize precision agriculture technology and rainwater harvesting for pepper crops. Project seems to be in collaboration with NPCB concept.</td>
<td>$76,429</td>
<td>$49,679</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>Funds go to 65% of each line item's cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Island Packaging and Processing Company Ltd (MIPPCO)</td>
<td>Develop local onion value chain</td>
<td>The Project is for an ‘Onion Development’ initiative geared towards ensuring sustainable access to water for 100 farmers within these farming groups. The Project will install Water Storage Tanks and comprehensive half acre Drip-irrigation systems at each farm and five (5) ponds of harvested water sited at greenhouse venues. Shared equipment for land preparation and planting of seedlings will also be provided. Additionally, the project will provide drying facilities at MIPPCO and water delivery to the farms sourced from the ponds utilizing a tanker provided by MIPPCO who will also provide storage and drying facilities for the crops. Provision is also made for the refurbishing of 10 greenhouses to</td>
<td>$407,514</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
<td>Grant would cover parts of all items except ag training, business training, and water deliveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY &amp; ALLIANCE PARTNERS</td>
<td>CONCEPT</td>
<td>CONCEPT DETAILS</td>
<td>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED</td>
<td>TOTAL ASK FROM JA REEACH II GRANT FUND</td>
<td>PERCENT OF TOTAL FUNDING</td>
<td>PROPOSED USE OF JA REEACH II FUNDING</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ensure the availability of an adequate supply of seedlings. Working with St. Elizabeth Co-operative Credit Union Limited (STECCUL), The Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association (JGGA), and onion farming groups in certain areas of the country.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Appendix 3. Red Stripe Project Grow - Summary of Areas of Collaboration (based on University Responses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COOPERATING UNIVERSITY/ INSTITUTION</th>
<th>COMPONENT 1: ENHANCING TECHNICAL AND AGRONOMIC CAPACITY FOR CASSAVA PRODUCTION</th>
<th>COMPONENT 2: DEVELOPING A CLIMATE SMART PRODUCTION SYSTEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Red Stripe**                     | 1. Anchor for all activities  
2. Monitoring and Evaluation responsibilities  
3. Manpower for on-farm investigations  
4. Recruitment of farmers  
5. Provision of some material to support farmer field school | 1. Provision of input and plots for field testing  
2. Funding for nurseries |
| **MICAF | Boodles Research**     | 1. Monitoring and Evaluation responsibilities  
2. Provision of planting material | 1. M&E of field test and collating of results  
2. Development of nurseries |
| **Tuskegee University**           | 1. **Cassava EbA Program Stratgey and Field plan** - Developing an ecosystem-based approach to cassava production (with leading technical experts) that is both highly productive, environmentally sustainable and responsive to climate change impacts.  
2. Training field staff and extension officers. | 1. **Research and field trials** for testing high yielding cassava varieties to determine performance under different conditions (rain fed, irrigated, etc.).  
2. **Propagation of high yielding planting materials** through a system of nurseries to assure availability to farmers including tissue culture techniques.  
3. **Identifying and testing complementary crops** for inter cropping and rotation.  
4. Integrated Pest Management. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COOPERATING UNIVERSITY/ INSTITUTION</th>
<th>COMPONENT 1: ENHANCING TECHNICAL AND AGRONOMIC CAPACITY FOR CASSAVA PRODUCTION</th>
<th>COMPONENT 2: DEVELOPING A CLIMATE SMART PRODUCTION SYSTEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)** | UMES - experienced researchers and technical staff will be made available to provide technical assistance and training as needed in the proposed project. Specifically:  
1. Develop agribusiness training curricula.  
2. Implement agribusiness training and services to farmers and farmer-based organizations through workshops, farm visits, and business coaching.  
3. Train field staff and extension officers. | |
| **Delaware State University** | 1. Technology transfer research team on risk management/IPM techniques and using participatory approach in delivery and provide technical backstopping.  
2. Farmer Group Capacity Building & Agribusiness Support - Strengthen limited resource farmers' associations through capacity building in value-chain development, agri-business management, climate smart production systems.  
3. Contribution to the development of technical manuals/modules for cassava production. | 1. Using the biotechnology laboratory capacity at DSU, College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) can provide technical support to rapidly screen for diseases and desirable traits using molecular markers.  
2. Seed system support: Large-scale rapid multiplication of vegetative propagated crops (clean seed production techniques) using in-vitro propagation/virus free meristem culture with special focus on the small farmers and the supporting seed services. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COOPERATING UNIVERSITY/ INSTITUTION</th>
<th>COMPONENT 1: ENHANCING TECHNICAL AND AGRONOMIC CAPACITY FOR CASSAVA PRODUCTION</th>
<th>COMPONENT 2: DEVELOPING A CLIMATE SMART PRODUCTION SYSTEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Collaborate in the long-term research and degree training for technical staff.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACDIVOCA - Ja REEACH II -</strong></td>
<td>1. Anchor for agribusiness training curriculum development.</td>
<td>1. Travel and per diem for collaborating universities supporting collaboration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Anchor for capacity building training of Red Stripe field staff and extension officers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Travel and per diem for Universities supporting collaboration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ja REEACH II can serve as the facilitating agency in the collaboration, anchoring the farmer training capacity transfer component of the collaboration, and facilitating the researcher’s efforts under component II.
## Appendix 4. Ja REEACH II SAR Indicator Targets and Actuals as of March 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR ID</th>
<th>FY 2017 TARGET</th>
<th>INDICATOR DISAGGREGATE(S)</th>
<th>FY2017 ACTUALS AS AT MARCH 31, 2017</th>
<th>% OF TARGET ACHIEVED AS AT MARCH 31, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRII-01</td>
<td>1,650 Total</td>
<td>Male 533 (48%)</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female 570 (52%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Under 15 yrs 410 (37%)</td>
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<td>15-24 166 (18%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25-34 83 (9%)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>35-44 97 (10%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>45-54 111 (12%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>55-64 93 (10%)</td>
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<td>65 yrs and over 63 (7%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Age not stated 80 (7%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New 1,103</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Continuing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRII-03</td>
<td>U$116K Total</td>
<td>Public, domestic funds  US$2,390 (17.5%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Public, international funds US$8,190 (60%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private, domestic funds US$3,073 (22.5%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRII-06</td>
<td>1,500 Total</td>
<td>Male 429 (47%)</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female 486 (53%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>