

Title: “Small-Scale Economic Development through Agriculture”

Subtheme: Green economy – livelihoods in the green economy, rural planning, green businesses, natural resource based livelihood

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Abstract

This workshop will explore the use of community-based economic development to support livelihoods in rural Guyana through a case study of a small-scale agricultural economic development project developed by Caribbean African Self-Reliance International (CASRI) and its partners in Guyana. After major flooding in 2005, a CASRI community forum held in the Ana Regina district – an area significantly impacted by the flooding - identified hydroponics and natural farming as an option to rebuild economic livelihoods. In response, CASRI developed its Hydroponics Project – an initiative focused environmentally resilient, community-based business enterprises in hydroponics and natural farming. Since its inception the Hydroponics Project has expanded across the country, involving women, youth and educators.

The workshop will provide an overview of the development and implementation of the Hydroponics Project. It will explore the following questions: What are urban linkages to rural small-scale agriculture? How might the green economy be supported by small-scale agriculture? What have been the successes of this project and how might it be applied elsewhere?