

Project evaluation series

**Mid-term evaluation of
Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides
including Persistent Organic
Pollutants, Promotion of Alternatives
and Strengthening Pesticides
Management in the Caribbean**

**GCP/SLC/204/GFF
GEF ID 5407**

ANNEX 4. Report of findings of the online survey

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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Report of Findings of MTE Online Survey

1 Context

1. This report presents the findings of the survey of partners of the GEF-FAO on the Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs, Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean. The survey was one of the instruments of the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) to assess the results of project implementation.

1.1 Survey Objectives

2. The objective of the survey was to gather feedback from partners, in particular, those related to institutional engagement and national ownership,

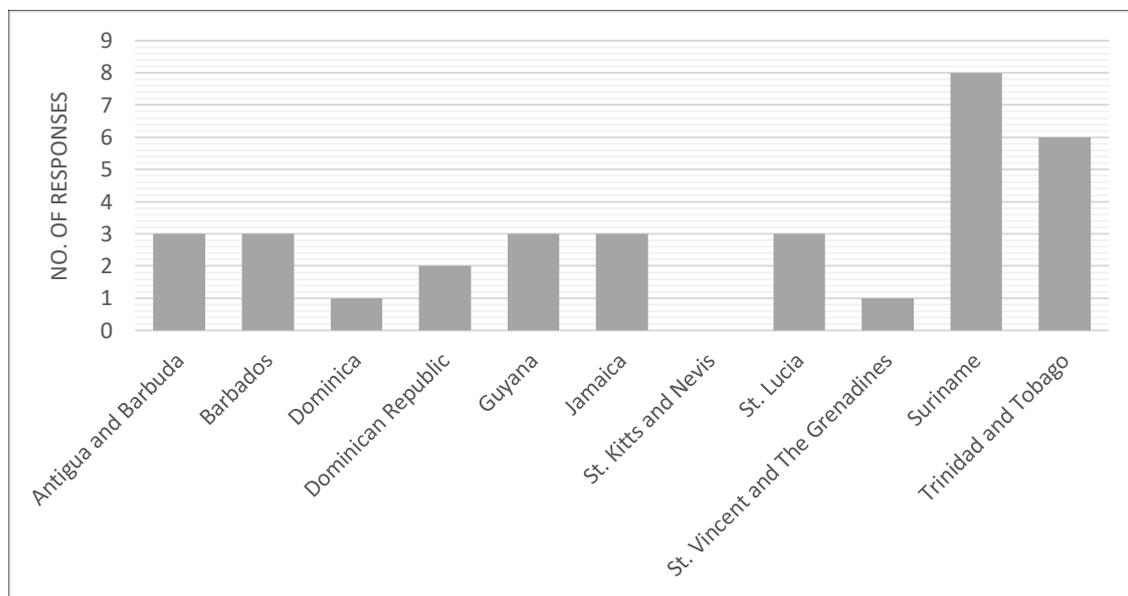
1.2 Methodology

3. The survey was developed by the independent MTE team in consultation with the Evaluation Manager. It was distributed to 176 stakeholders in the 11 project countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The lists of stakeholders were provided by the National Project Coordinators. The questionnaire was developed in Spanish for partners in the Dominican Republic, while those for the other countries were in English. All of the questionnaires were disseminated to project partners in February 2019 via electronic mail with the option to submit them online or by paper version. The online submissions were collated and analysed with support from Survey Monkey®, an online survey platform.

2 Feedback from the Online Survey

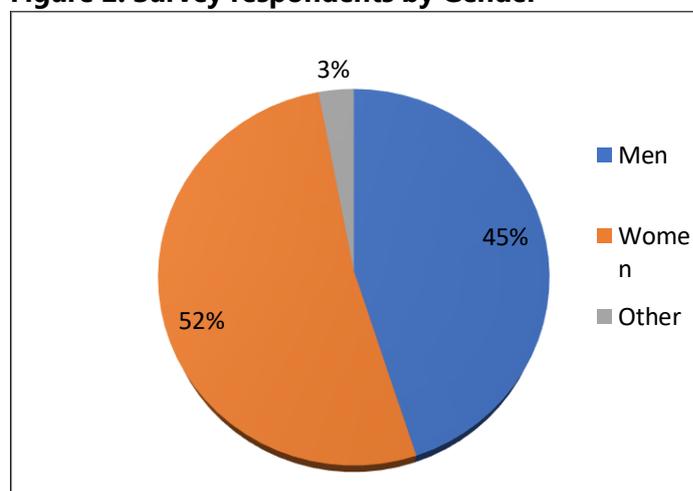
4. A total of 56 persons completed the online survey, representing approximately 32 percent of the 176 questionnaires circulated to project stakeholders. Responses were received from all of the countries participating in the project with the exception of Saint Kitts and Nevis.. However, only 33 or 59 percent of survey respondents identified the country from which they were providing answers, with 24 percent (8) responses received from Suriname, 18 percent (6) from Trinidad and Tobago, and 9 percent (3) from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and St Lucia respectively. Of the four responses received in Spanish, only 2 were indicated as emanating from the Dominican Republic, representing 6 percent of the questionnaires which were identified by country. One response each was received from the Commonwealth of Dominica and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, comprising a total of 6 percent of all the country-identified survey responses received (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Online survey responses by country



5. Analysis of the submitted questionnaires showed that 59 percent (33) of the respondents indicated their gender with 52 percent of them being female, while 41 percent of stakeholders who participated in the survey did not state their gender (Figure 2).

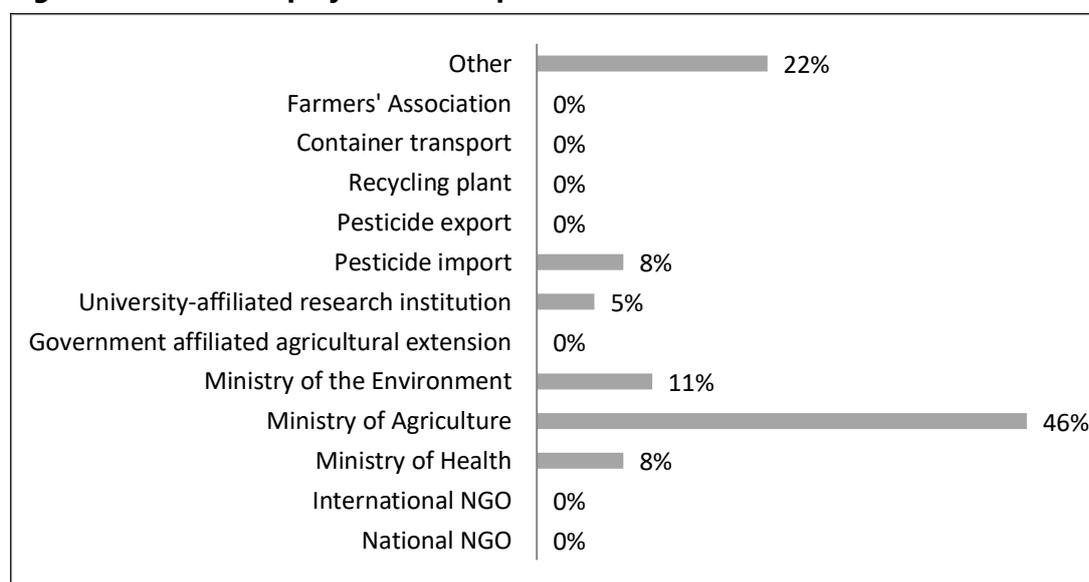
Figure 2: Survey respondents by Gender



3 Profile of the Respondents

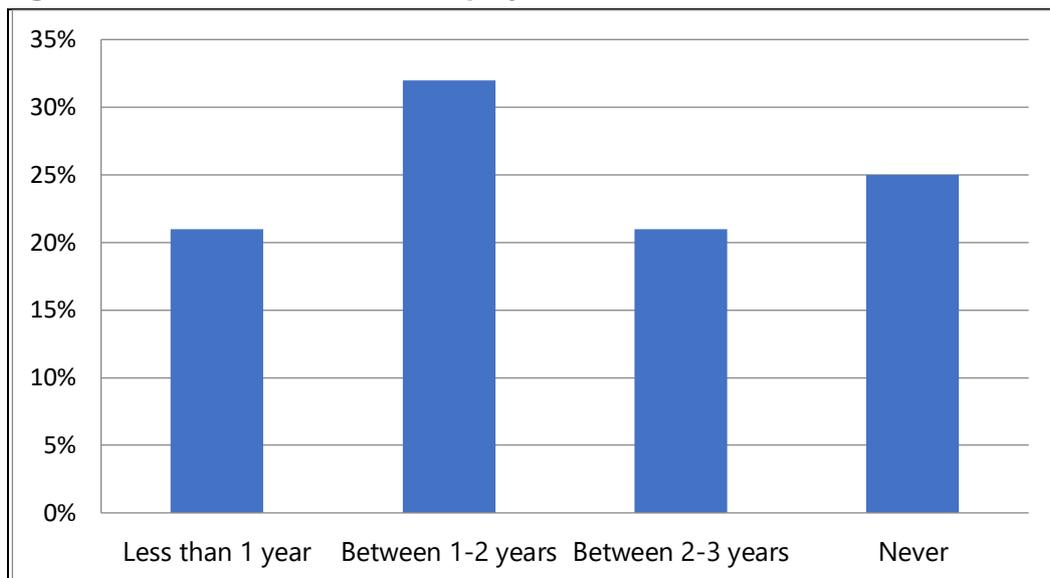
6. The primary respondents of the survey were government workers as observed for 73 percent (or 27 of 37 partners) who indicated the name or category of the organization at which they worked. Most of these respondents (17 or 46 percent) worked at the Ministry of Agriculture, 12 percent (4) at the Ministry of the Environment, and 3 others (8 percent) were employed at the Ministry of Health in their respective countries. Three (3) of the respondents (8 percent) were engaged in pesticide import while another 5 percent (2 persons) in university-affiliated research institutions. An overall of 22 percent or 8 persons indicated 'other' in response to the question regarding their place of work, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Place of employment of respondents



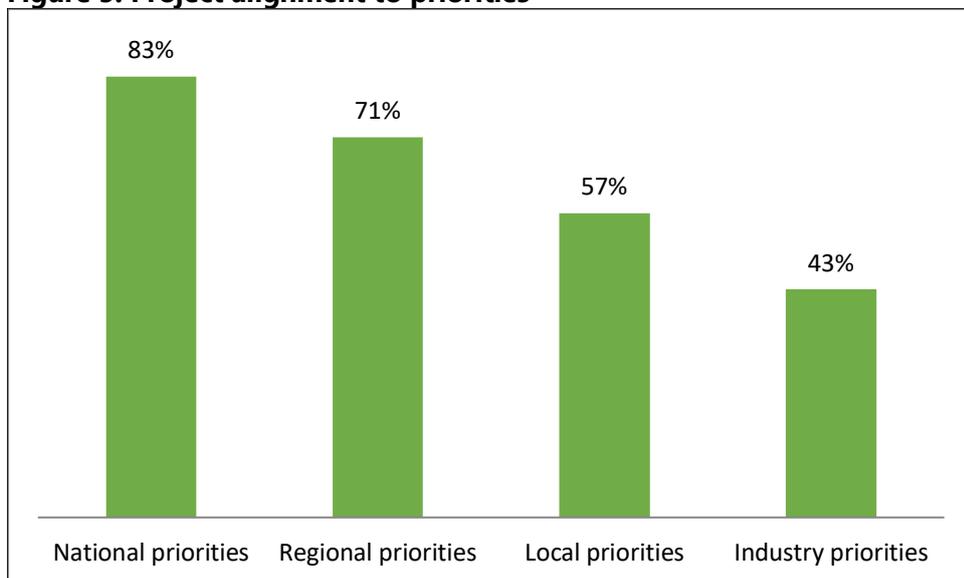
7. Generally, 32 percent or 18 of the 56 partners who responded to the survey had worked with the project for 1-2 years in comparison to 25 percent (14 persons) who never did. Twelve (12) persons were associated with the project for 3-5 years, while another 12 respondents (21 percent) for less than one year (Figure 4)

Figure 4: Time associated with the project



- Generally, the respondents (92 percent) agreed that the project was appropriately aligned with their priorities while 8 percent (3 of 38 stakeholders) did not know. The majority of the 38 respondents (83 percent) said the project was aligned to national priorities and 71 percent said they met priorities of the Caribbean Region. More than half (57 percent) of project partners said the project was relevant to local needs while 43 percent said they were aligned with priorities of industry.

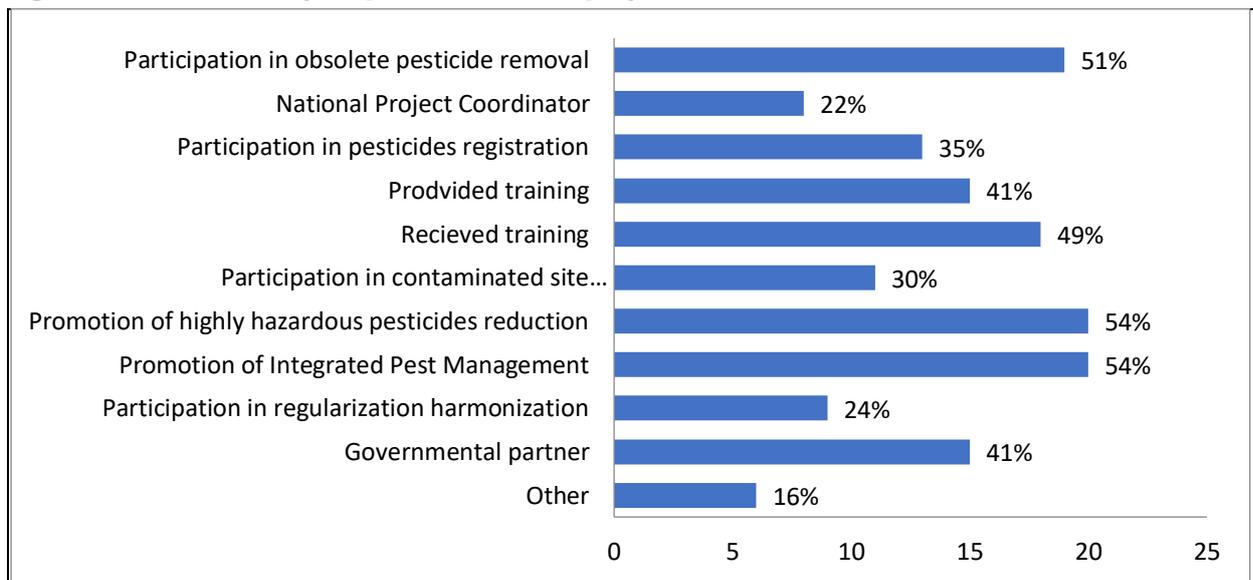
Figure 5: Project alignment to priorities



4 Type and level of participation in project activities

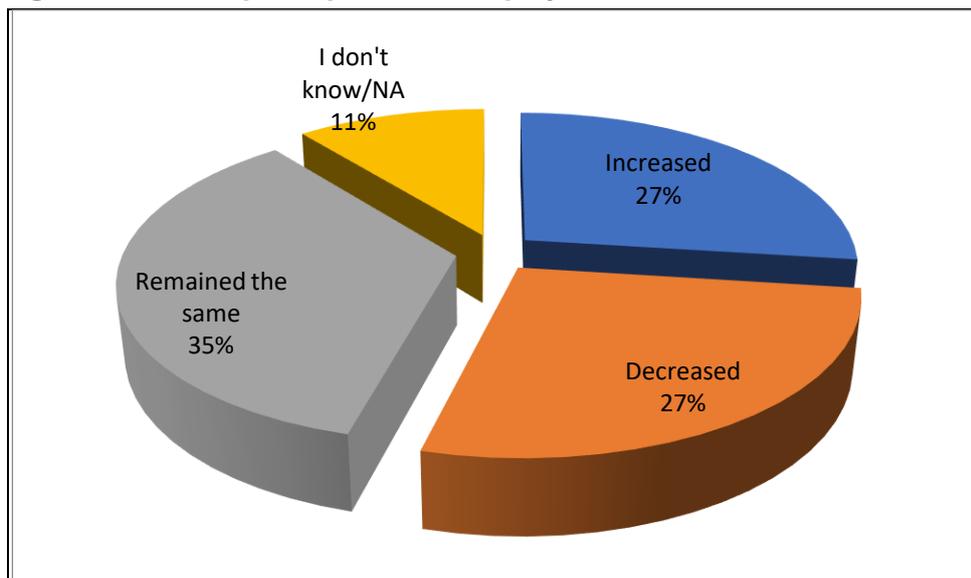
9. The online survey results showed that 20 of 37 respondents were engaged in promotion of Integrated Pest Management, and in promotion of highly hazardous pesticides reduction (54 percent each). 19 (51 percent) partners participated in obsolete pesticide removal and 18 (47 percent) received training. Fifteen respondents (or 41 percent) were government partners or had provided training for the project; 13 (35 percent) participated in pesticides registration, 11 (30 percent) in contaminated site identification and remediation, and 9 (24 percent) in harmonizing of legislation. Eight (or 22 percent) of the respondents were national project coordinators while 6 or 16 percent of the respondents indicated having 'other' roles.

Figure 6: Role of survey respondents to the project



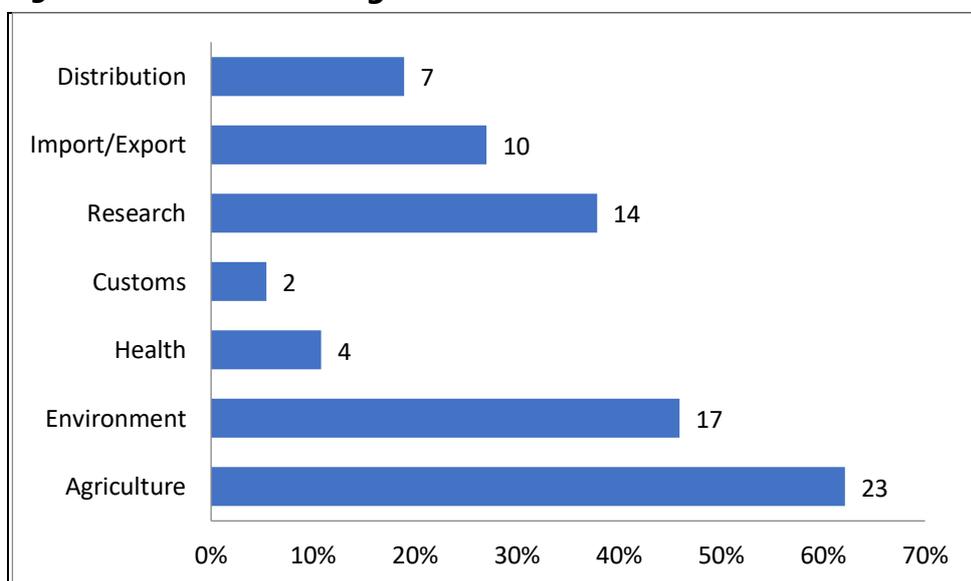
10. In response to the question "Over the past 18 months, has your participation increased, decreased or remained the same?", 35 percent or 13 respondents recorded that their level of participation in the project remained the same over the last 18 months. 27 percent (10) of the project partners said their participation increased, while a similar number said their time decreased on the project; and 4 persons (11 percent) indicated they did not know.

Figure 7: Level of participation in the project



11. Regarding the areas of work of the organizations represented in the survey, 63 percent (23) respondents were active in agriculture, with 17(46 percent) in the environment, 14 (40 percent) in research, 29 percent (10) involved in import and export, 20 percent (7) in distribution, 11 percent (4) in the area of health and almost 6 percent (2 respondents) in customs and excise. These findings are summarized in Figure 8.

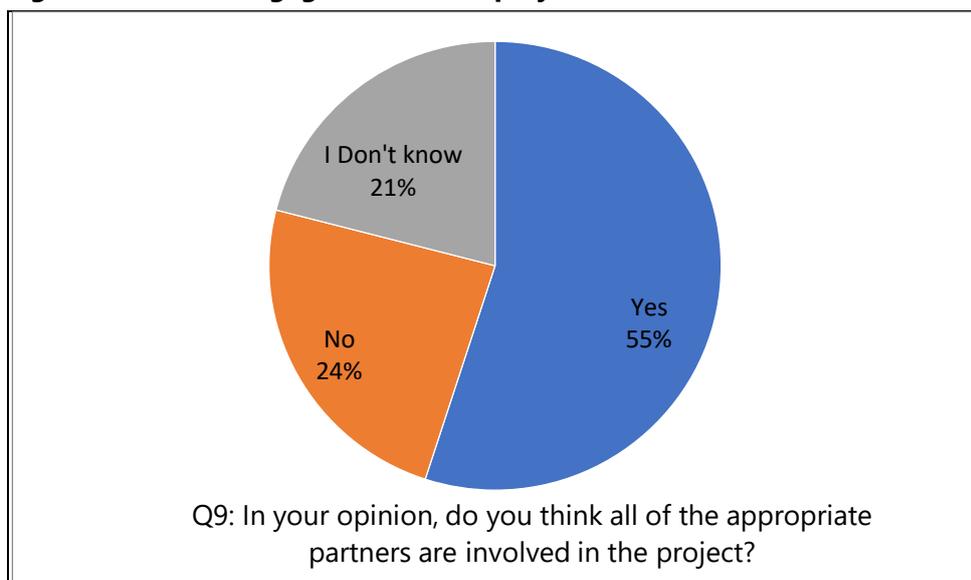
Figure 8: Focal areas of organizations



5 Engagement of partners

12. The survey sought feedback on the extent to which stakeholders were engaged in project activity. This would assist the evaluation team to assess links, if any, which exist in the capacities developed amongst diverse groups of beneficiaries and considerations of government ownership, partnerships and capacity development.
13. In response to the question on whether the appropriate partners were involved in the project, 55 percent (21 of 38) of respondents agreed, compared to 45 percent of which 24 percent (9) disagreed, and eight stakeholders (21 percent) indicated they did not know or considered the question non-applicable.

Figure 9: Partner engagement in the project

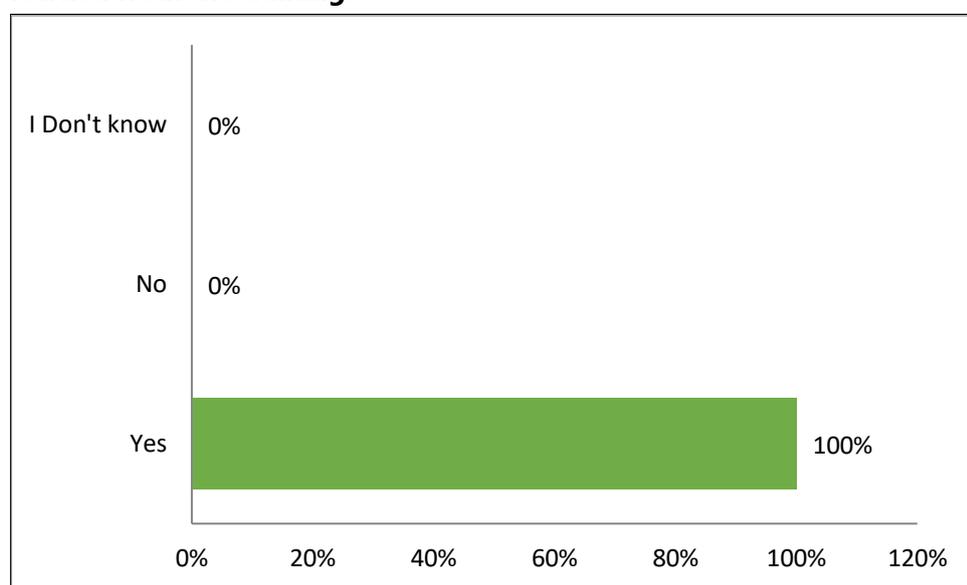


6 Ownership of project and results

6.1 Usefulness of training

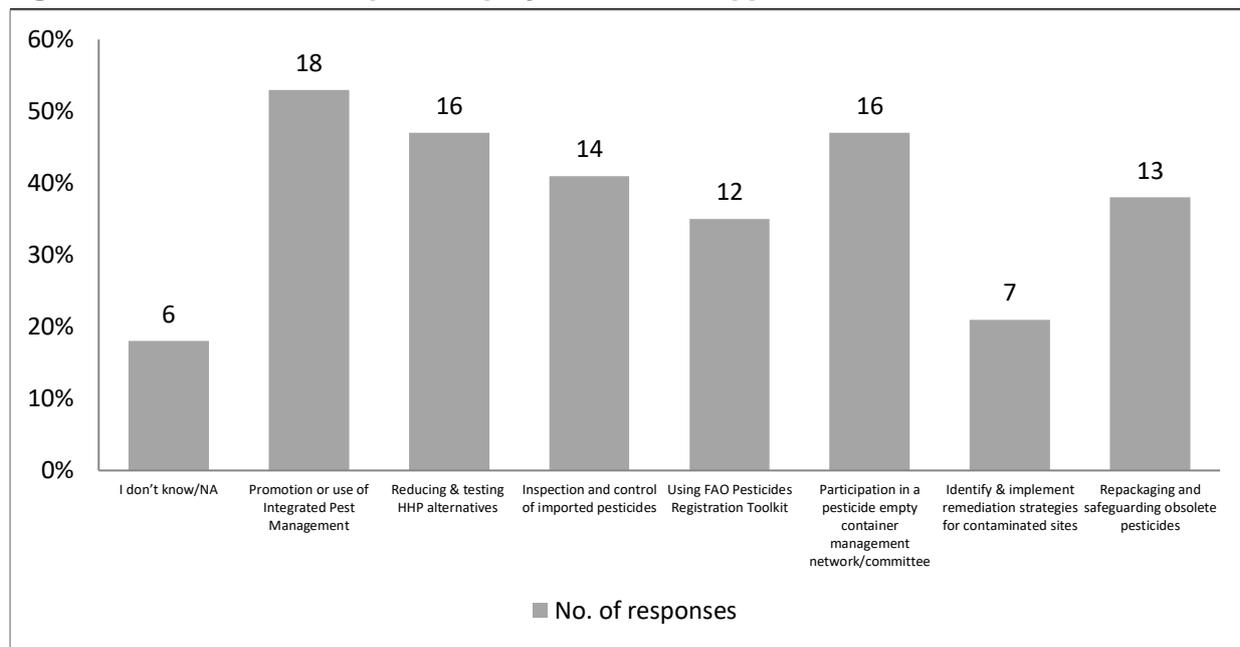
14. The FAO POPs project has facilitated several training programmes for project beneficiaries on remediating pesticide-contaminated sites, storage and safeguarding of POPs, the FAO's pesticides toolkit. Training workshops were also provided to Customs Officers and Pesticides Inspectors on the control of import and export of pesticides and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and related Conventions relevant to pesticides. The majority of the online survey respondents, (70 percent or 26 of 37), confirmed receipt of training from the project compared to 8 persons (22 percent) who did not and 3 others (8 percent) who marked 'I don't know/NA'.
15. All of the 26 survey respondents who benefited from training under the project indicated they would continue to use the knowledge or skills learned from the training they received.

Figure 10: Responses to the question: Will you continue to use any of the knowledge or skills learned from the training?



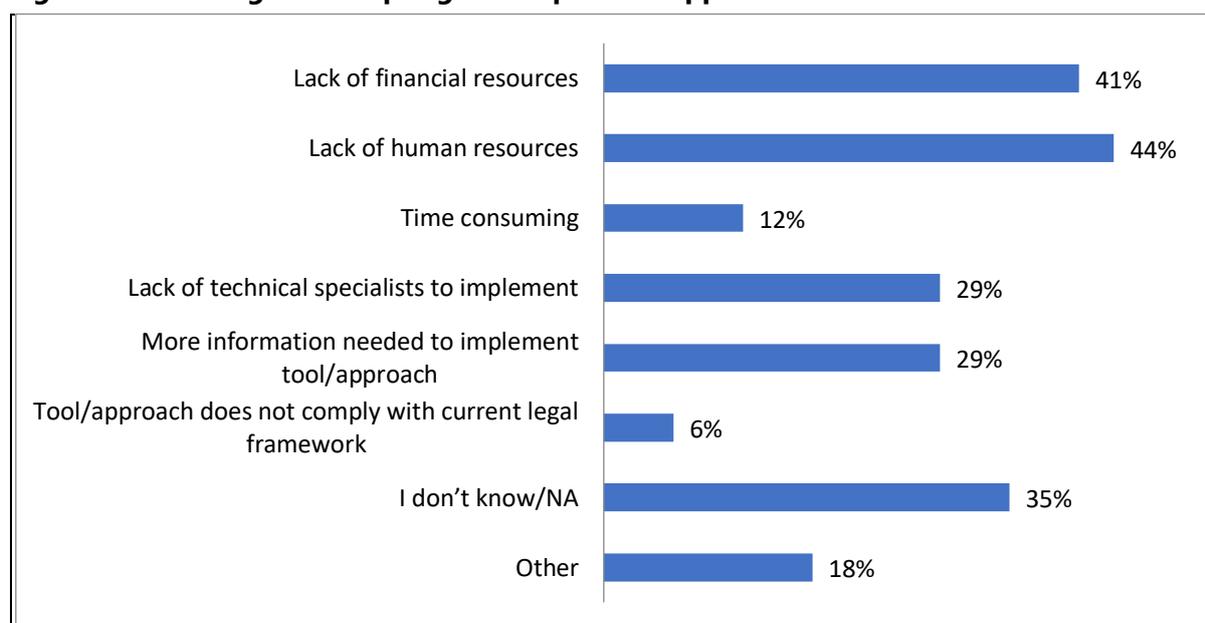
16. Based on the responses of 34 partners, an array of tools and approaches has been adopted from the project. These included the promotion or use of Integrated Pest Management protocols which has been adopted by 53 percent (18) respondents, while reduction and testing of alternatives to HHPs are being applied by 16 stakeholders (47 percent). Fourteen responses (41 percent) showed approaches in inspection and control of imported pesticides are in use in project countries, and the use of the FAO Pesticides Registration Toolkit was acknowledged by 12 or 35% of the respondents to this survey question. The results also indicated that 16 respondents or 46% were engaged in replicating the tools and approaches in an empty pesticides container management network or committee. This result suggests that in addition to the active network in Suriname, and from where eight survey submissions were received, partners in other project countries are engaged in some form of a network or committee addressing the management of empty pesticide containers in their respective countries.

Figure 10: Institutional adoption of project tools and approaches



17. Additionally, 34 partners also identified the challenges they faced in implementing these project approaches at their respective organizations, including inadequate financial and human resources (15 and 14 persons respectively), and the need for more information on how to implement the tools and approaches (10 or 29% respondents). Ten (10) partners also indicated the absence of technical specialists to implement tools and approaches was a challenge, while 18% (6) of them reported other challenges were experienced at their respective organizations. Thirty-five percent (35%) or 12 partners recorded being unaware of the challenges and/or what caused them.

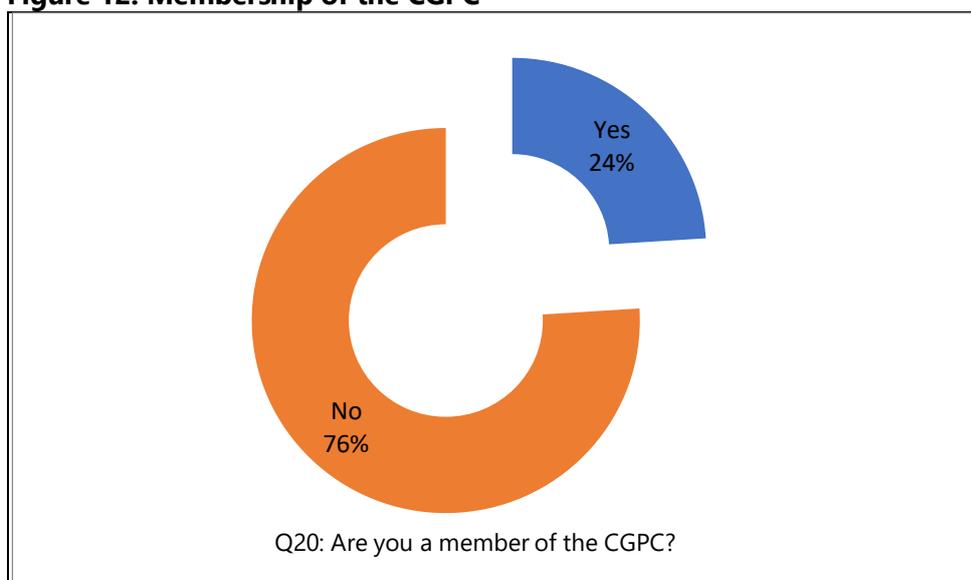
Figure 11: Challenges in adopting techniques and approaches



7 Performance and capacities of the CGPC

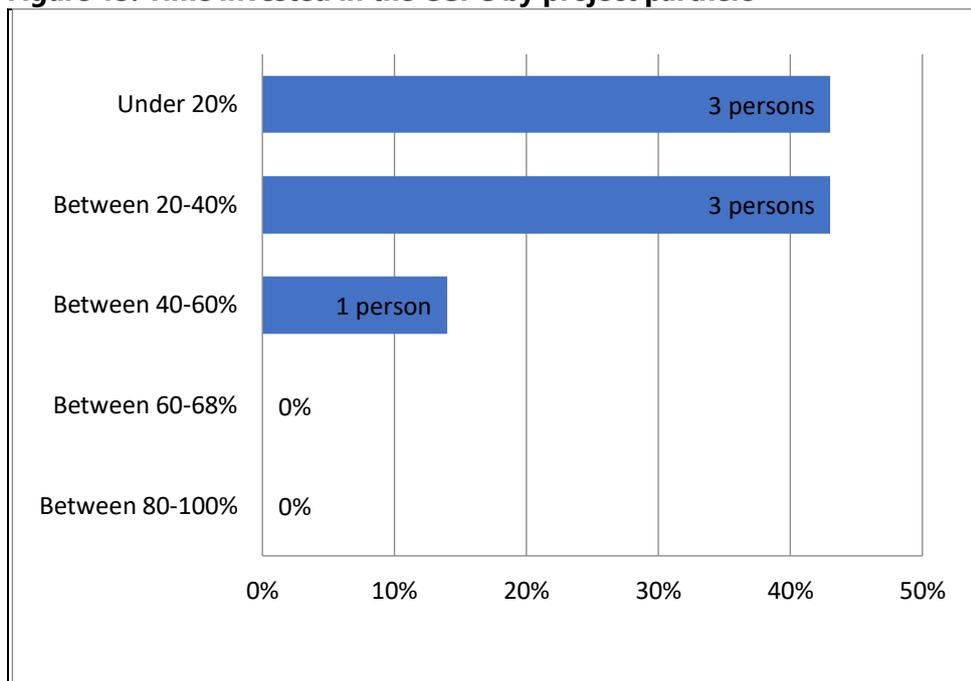
18. The Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC) is the main executing partner of the project and is expected to assume management and responsibility its activities after project closure. The survey captured information on the group's performance and its capacity to execute this responsibility, based on the opinion of partners who provided responses.
19. Of the 34 partners who responded to question 20 regarding membership of the CGPC, 8 respondents (24%) confirmed being CGPC members and twenty-six (76%) of them said they were not.

Figure 12: Membership of the CGPC



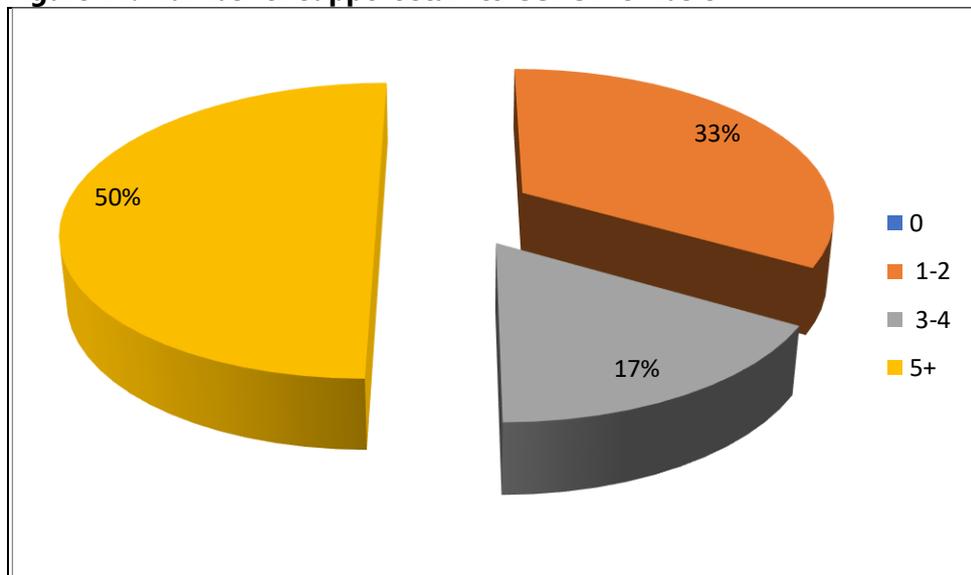
20. Three persons of a total 7 respondents indicated they spent up to 20% of their time on work of the CGPC and 3 others recorded their commitment of between 20 – 40% of their time. The other respondent dedicates between 40 to 60% of their time to the CGPC (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Time invested in the CGPC by project partners



21. Further, of the 6 responses received on the level of support they received for CGPC’s work, 3 stakeholders (50%) indicated that 5 or more persons support their work commitments for the CGPC, 2 partners (33%) benefit from 1-2 support staff, while the other respondent acknowledged the support of 3 to 4 members of staff.

Figure 14: Number of support staff to CGPC members



22. The partners were invited to comment on the CGPC’s performance 6 areas, and to provide a score guided by a rating scale of very poor, poor, acceptable, good, and very good, with the option to indicate lack of knowledge or applicability of the particular issue (Table 1). In response, 50% of the respondents rated the CGPC’s performance in disseminating information as acceptable, while 25% of others thought it was good. The CGPC’s manner of facilitating decision-making was rated as being good by 50% of respondents and

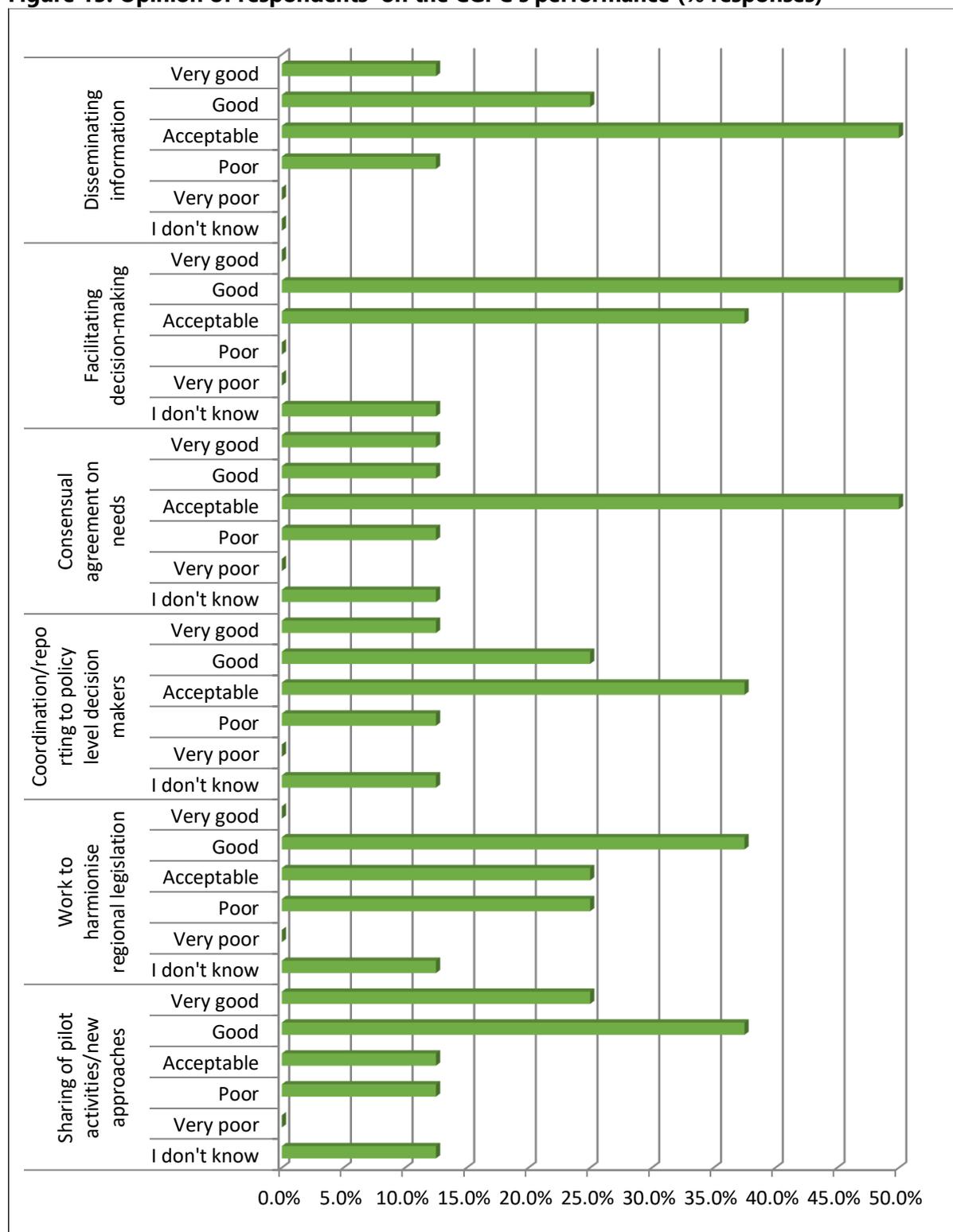
another 25% found it to be acceptable. Partners' assessment of the CGPC's performance regarding consensual agreement on needs was rated as acceptable by half of the respondents, while one in eight others (12.5%) thought the Group's performance was either very good, good, poor or otherwise did not know. Coordination and/or reporting to policy level decision makers by the CGPC was found to be acceptable by 37.5% of respondents, and 25% rated this performance area to be good. In the context of Component 4 which addresses strengthening of the regulatory framework and institutional capacity for sound management of pesticides, the CGPC's work towards harmonization of regional legislation was rated as being good by a weighted average of 3 of every 8 responses (37.5%), while one in four (25%) others assessed the Group's performance as either acceptable or good. One key overall activity of the project and its partners is dissemination of information and technology transfer. The performance of the CGPC in sharing pilot activities and new approaches received the highest ratings compared to the other areas with over 62% performance rating constituted of 37.5% of survey responses being good and an additional 25% rated as very good by partners. These performance results are graphically illustrated in Figure 15.

Table 1: Summary on CGPC performance rating

Performance Area	Results of partners' assessment*
Disseminating information	Acceptable (50%) , good (25%), poor & very good (12.5%)
Facilitating decision-making	Good (50%) , acceptable (25%), I don't know/NA (12.5%)
Consensual agreement on needs	Acceptable (50%) , poor, good, very good, I don't know/NA (12.5%)
Coordination/reporting to policy level decision makers	Acceptable (37.5%) , good (25%), poor, very good, I don't know/NA (12.5%)
Work to harmonization regional legislation	Good (37.5%) , poor & acceptable (25%), I don't know/NA (12.5%)
Sharing of pilot activities/new approaches	Good (37.5%) , very good (25%), poor, acceptable & I don't know/NA (12.5%)

* words in **bold** indicate highest average rating received

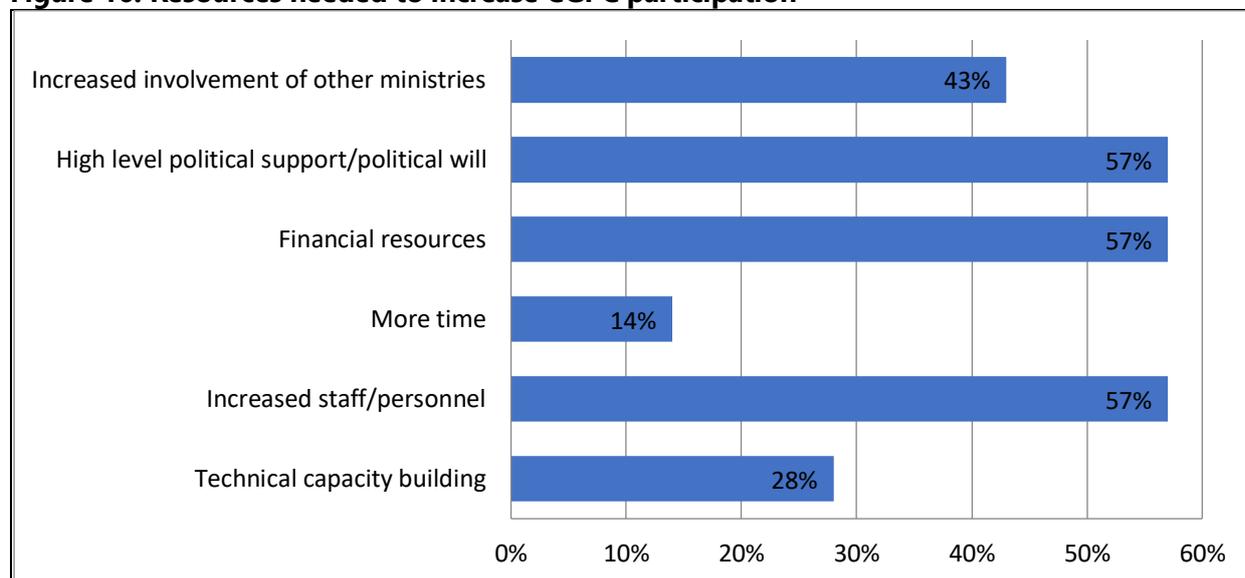
Figure 15: Opinion of respondents' on the CGPC's performance (% responses)



23. Further, the CGPC members who participated in the survey indicated the specific resources required to support their increased participation in the Group. Figure 16 shows that four of the seven (57%) of the members surveyed said there was need for increased availability of staff, greater involvement of other ministries, and that there needed to be a higher level of political support to enhance participation in the regional group. Three stakeholders

(43 percent) also recommended increased involvement of other ministries and two partners (28 percent) recorded the need for technical capacity building. Overall, one of the seven respondents (14 percent) indicated that more time was needed to increase the participation of members in the CGPC.

Figure 16: Resources needed to increase CGPC participation



24. Overall, feedback from project partners showed very favourable perceptions to the relevance of the GCP/SLC/204/GFF project to national and regional priorities in particular. Recipients of training all confirmed continued application of knowledge and skills gained through the project. This result indicated significant contribution towards capacity building by the project.
25. The CGPC is viewed favourably by the survey respondents who appeared to have common awareness of the Group’s activities, strengths and challenges. The results of the online survey concur with other MTE findings which confirm that there is willingness to support the work of the CGPC. However, there is great need to improve human and financial support to the CGPC, and greater commitment at the government and regional levels to the work of this regional institution, for the overall successful implementation of the project.
26. The way of work and contributions of the FAO are regarded as valuable assets to the project and its success. In 2017, then Chairman of the CGPC, Miriam Serrut, was quoted as saying “the elimination and final disposal of 319 metric tonnes of obsolete pesticides from within eleven Caribbean territories, with the technical support of FAO, and funded by GEF is a remarkable success story. These countries have been given a clean slate from which to launch and implement a pesticide stock management system that prevents the future accumulation of obsolete pesticides stocks. In order to achieve this, it is imperative that all stakeholders, in particular the pesticide industry heeds its responsibilities as outlined in the FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) International Code of Conduct for Pesticides Management”.¹

¹ <http://www.caribflame.com/2017/11/saint-lucia-joins-in-removal-of-obsolete-pesticides-and-hazardous-wastes/>