Sustainable Crop Production Intensification (SCPI)
Regional Consultation – Caribbean
4-5 October 2012, Barbados

Outline of Presentation

- Objectives and Expected outcomes of the Regional Consultation
- Background to the Study
- Introduction
- Conceptual Framework / Survey methodology

Objectives

1. Introduce FAO's 'Save and Grow' as the underpinning mechanism for SCPI
2. Present findings of a study that collated information on sustainable crop production practices in Barbados and six OECS countries
3. Bring together relevant stakeholders and support agencies to promote use (in pilots) of some of the 'tried-and-tested' methods

Expected outcomes

- ‘Save and Grow’ promoted in the Caribbean
- Sustainable practices and agro-ecological innovations shared with stakeholders
- Gaps and possible solutions identified for testing:
  - In-country projects specified / agreed upon
  - Resources necessary established
  - Possible funding sources identified
- Outcomes of Consultation shared with supervisors /counterparts (for their buy-in/support with regard to implementation of agreed actions)

Background (1 of 2)

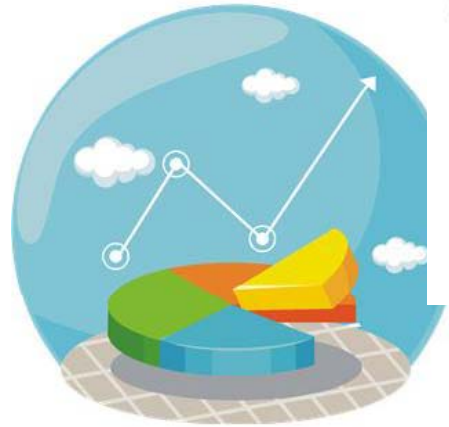
- One of FAO's Organizational Result (2010-11): *A01 - Strategies of Sustainable Crop Production Intensification* (SCPI) promoted in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean*

**SCPI – increase in crop production per unit area, taking into consideration all relevant factors affecting productivity and sustainability, including social, political, economic & environmental impacts*

Background (2 of 2)

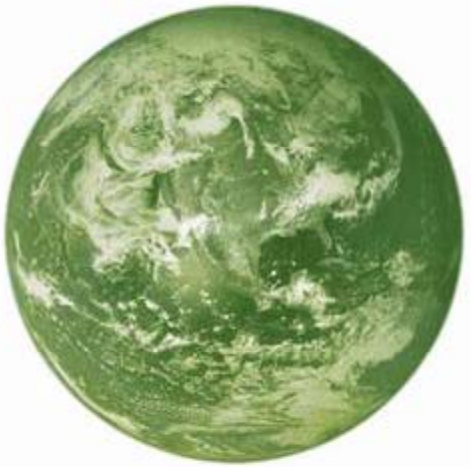
- SCPI aims to maximize options via:
  - management of biodiversity and ecosystem
  - focusing on environmental sustainability through an ecosystem approach

In the Present study: 'Sustainability' includes environmental, financial and socio-economic elements



Conceptual Framework (1 of 2)

- Sustainability issues in SIDS must take Climate Change into consideration
- Any 'sustainable' practice/approach should be climate-smart and include measures that:
  - Minimize agriculture's contribution to greenhouse gases, and/or
  - Increase carbon sequestration



Conceptual Framework (2 of 2)

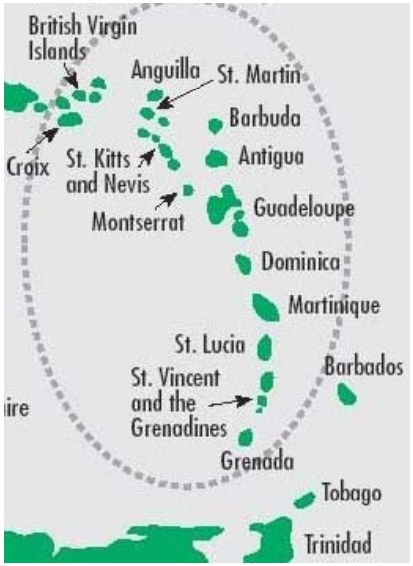
- Under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), documenting sustainability practices can assist with developing:
  - National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)
    - Current sustainable practices as foundation for climate-smart agricultural strategies as part of NAPA
  - Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
    - Lead to benefits from technology transfer and financial support from developed countries

Introduction (1 of 2)

- During a number of workshops and meetings, FAO and other organizations were requested:
  - To capture existing practices, technologies and models of sustainability in the Region, and
  - To make these available to the agricultural community
- Objective of study:
  - Document sustainable practices/technologies/models in order to promote (pilot) testing for replicability & intensification

Introduction (2 of 2)

- Under a Letter of Agreement with FAO, CARDI collated (into a Report) information on some of the tried-and-tested practices for sustainable production in Barbados and six OECS Members:
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Dominica
  - Grenada
  - St. Kitts/Nevis
  - St. Lucia
  - St. Vincent and the Grenadines



“Baseline Survey Report”

- Covers the activities of over 2000 producers
- Includes practices correctly deemed “sustainable”
- Not included: instances where “sustainability criteria” agreed to by Team were not met: e.g. terracing or composting not technically correct
- Overall aim:
  - To seek out *examples* of sustainable practices (even isolated cases)
  - Not to determine prevalence or statistical significance of the practices

Survey Methodology

- Surveys conducted by trained and experienced Field Assessors (7), in collaboration with key Extension staff and Producer Organizations:
  - structured group sessions and discussions with producer groups (crop/ livestock farmers, fisher-folk), district extension officers and produce buyers /consignees
  - individual interviews
  - field inspections
  - Extension Officer reviews

Survey Methodology (cont'd)

- In each country, all districts and geographic variations were covered
- Focus group meetings covered the following:
  - review of documented holdings/producers
  - determination of major types of potential/actual environmental degradation related to
    - soil (quality/quantity)
    - water (quality/quantity)
    - flora/fauna interaction (biodiversity)

Survey Methodology (cont'd)

- Furthermore, focus group meetings:
  - assessed economic importance of major products to selected success factors (financial sustainability)
  - integration of the enterprise within the community
- Additional information gathered from locations with "high risk" environmental issues (e.g. Riverine operations, steep slopes, watersheds)

Survey Methodology (cont'd)

- Current practices were determined via:
  - on-farm observation and inquiry
  - reviewing marketing and legislative protocols
- On-farm data collection via structured interviews using a standardized instrument to:
  - direct / guide the discussion
  - capture qualitative data
- Additional details based on the Assessor's familiarity with the sector in each country

Survey Findings

- Reported in accordance with Conceptual Model:
  - Environmental Sustainability

  Soil management, Water management, Crop selection and Carbon footprint

  - Financial Sustainability

  Gap training, Marketing, Farmer cooperation, Land tenure and Constraints

  - Economic Sustainability

  Farmers and their community, Cooperation at community level and Policy level support

Thank You