



Session Brief

DATE:	22 April 2024 - International Mother Earth Day (IMED)
CONTEXT	<p>Climate action is essential, particularly in vulnerable and resource constrained communities impacted by repeated impacts from extreme weather events. There are several such communities in CARICOM countries making efforts to build national and locational (area/site-specific) resilience through climate action. There is also an increased number of infrastructure projects and agricultural production expansion that undermine resilience, due to their significant movements/redistribution/disturbance of large volumes of soil/earth. In general, these efforts rely almost fully on externally funded projects. While these projects contribute to proof of concepts, transfer knowledge and promote better practices in sustainable natural resource and ecosystem management, they are short-lived. Post projects, the communities have limited capacity, in terms of financial resources and leadership, for continued community mobilisation and cohesion to sustain and build on the efforts and results achieved.</p> <p>Climate action cannot be sustained or mainstreamed based on a reliance on externally funded projects. This is underscored by the three intersecting pillars of ecosystem-based adaptation, i.e., (1) conserving biodiversity and ecosystems, (2) making use of the ecosystems for climate change adaptation and (3) making use of the ecosystems for socioeconomic benefit. Sustained climate action requires that all three pillars exist and are balanced. With this in mind, the CBF-IICA EbA project invested in all three pillars, with additional emphasis on pillar 3, by providing training and tangible tools and resources to support the start-up and/or expansion of NbS green businesses in project countries. These green businesses were centred on utilising the vetiver grass - root and leaves – to generate good and services that can support decent livelihoods and this engender continued interest, expansion and the resources needed to sustain EbA/NbS climate action for pillars 1 and 2.</p> <p>The 2023 theme of IMED was ‘Invest in Our Planet’ which encouraged companies to adopt sustainable practices, was reflected in the IICA-CBF EbA project which promoted greater use of geoengineering solutions for climate action. In resource poor countries and vulnerable communities, this was an investment both fit for context and purpose. There is need to build on the project’s investment by ensuring that the green businesses survive, thrive and mainstream the 3-pillar EbA principle in community life, livelihoods and practices, to help accelerate the transition to an equitable, prosperous green economy for all. IMED 2024 builds on the theme of changing practices in the global battle of Planet vs Plastics.</p>
ABOUT IMED	<p>Under Resolution A/RES/63/278, the United Nations established International Mother Earth Day, which has taken place on April 22 since 2009. The State of Bolivia proposed the Resolution, which was adopted by more than 50 member nations. The resolution acknowledges that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that it is critical to promote harmony with nature and the Earth. “Mother Earth” is used because it reflects the interconnectedness that exists between humans, other living species, and the planet we all share. International Mother Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd to “raise global public awareness of the challenges to the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports”, “recognize a collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and the Earth”, and “achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of the present and future generations of humanity”.</p>



IICA-TT CCRAF EVENT BRIEF
 WEBINAR - MAKING CLIMATE ACTION SELF-FINANCING THROUGH VIABLE EbA/NBS LIVELIHOOD AND GREEN BUSINESS

WEBINAR OBJECTIVES	<p>The webinar seeks to reiterate that changing practices towards a ‘for the planet’ focus must also ensure that a ‘for the people’ benefits are engendered, if actions are to be sustained and mainstreamed beyond awareness campaigns and environmental projects. The Webinar will present two situations on the viability of EbA Pillar 3 ‘making use of the ecosystems for socioeconomic benefit’ for mainstreaming climate action. Each situation will establish the environment for EbA/NbS based green business/livelihoods and discuss the competitiveness of their products and services relative to alternative options. A cost of production profile for these businesses will be presented for discussion to aid in the determination of the relative competitiveness and ease of management of these alternative ‘green’ services relative to the contemporary approaches.</p>		
EXPECTED OUTCOME	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater clarity on the real and relative costs of offering vetiver-based geoengineering services for soil erosion control/slope stabilisation and the readiness of the market (national and regional) to embrace this alternative, <i>i.e., are EbA/NbS approaches effective/efficient/realistic in the absence of short-term external projects.</i> 2. Scoping of opportunities and strategies to improve the positioning and outlook for competitive EbA/NbS livelihoods and businesses, <i>i.e., exploring the real & comparative costs and financial/time investments needed to move these interventions from project budgets to private business</i> 		
AGENDA - TENTATIVE	<p>10:00-10:05AM</p> <p>10:05-10:10AM</p> <p>10:10 – 10:30AM</p> <p>10:30 – 10:50AM</p> <p>10:50-11:10 AM</p> <p>11:10 – 11:20AM</p> <p>11:20 - 11:45AM</p> <p>11:45AM – 12:00PM</p>	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Webinar Theme and Context</p> <p>Situation #1: Experiences in mainstreaming vetiver geoengineering in Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Situation #2: Moving from awareness to real demand to grow a viable, cost-effective vetiver geoengineering for business in Dominica.</p> <p>Discussion: Clarifying Approaches and Lessons Learned</p> <p>Blending the ‘ecos’: driving ecosystem action through economic imperatives – working out cost of production of geoengineering services</p> <p>Discussion: Clarifying key elements of the COP</p> <p>Conclusions, Way Forward and Closing</p>	<p>CCRAF Nekelia Gregoire Carai</p> <p>IICA-TT Diana Francis</p> <p>VetiverTT IAMovement Kevan Kalapnath-Maharaj Managing Director</p> <p>Vetiver Green Solutions Inc.: Troy SHillingford</p> <p>IICA-TT Richard Rampersaud</p> <p>Ataul Malik Ali-Kajim Consultant</p> <p>IICA-TT Richard Rampersaud</p> <p>IICA-TT Diana Francis</p>