PROJECT STATUS REPORT
JULY 2009 - DECEMBER 2009

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Demonstration of an Integrated Farming Model for Poor Farmers

Project Number: GY-M1010
Operation Number: ATN/ME-10884-GY

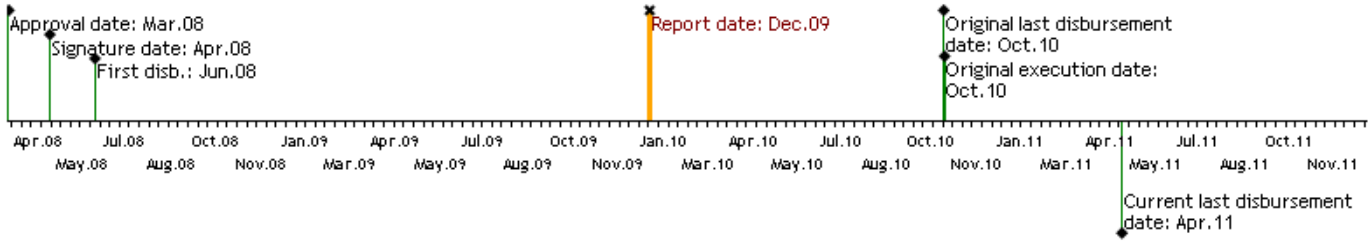
Purpose: To achieve significant increases in productivity of small farmers, including women farmers, by integrating duckweed production with fish farming.

Country Administrator	Beneficiary Country	Group	Subgroup
GUYANA	GUYANA	ENV - Environment	AGRI - Sustainable Agriculture

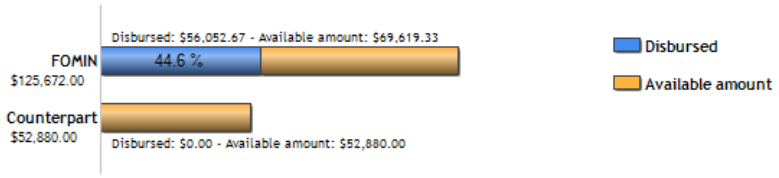
Executing Agency: INSTITUTE FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

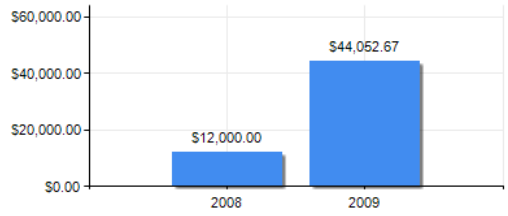
Design Team Leader:
Supervision Team Leader: Leitch, Janelle

TIMELINE

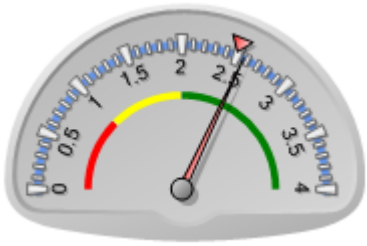


FUNDS

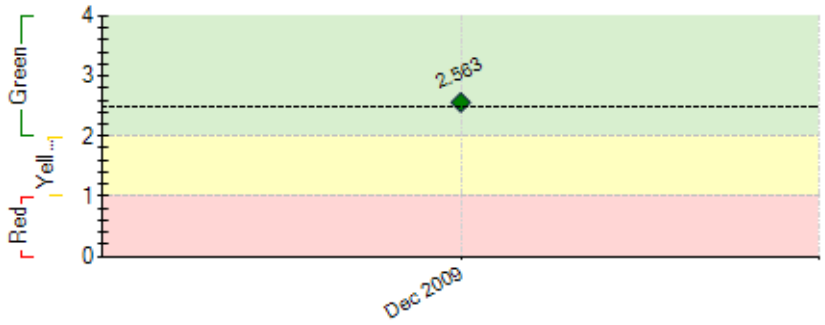




PERFORMANCE SCORE

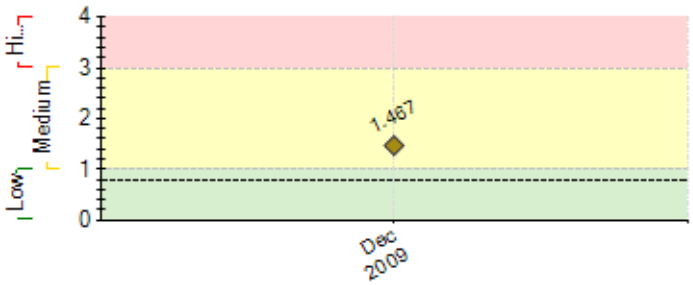


Current score: Satisfactory: 2.563
FOMIN Average: 2.491



----- FOMIN performance average

EXTERNAL RISKS



---- FOMIN risk average

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

	Risk
Financial Management:	---
Procurement:	---
Technical Capacity:	---

SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

The project has been moderately successful. Seventy eight (78) farmers (project target 300) are practicing integrated farming of which 35% are women (target 25%) and 18% have fish pond or fish cage (target 30%). Twenty two (22) demonstration model farms have been established of a target of 30 of which at least 2 in each of the 10 Administrative Regions. Only one demonstration farm has been established in each of Regions 1, 4, 8 and 9. Nine (9) farmers have shared their experiences in integrated farming in 11 on-farm workshops against an annual target of 20 workshops after the first half-year.

A manual for growing tilapia produced by the government Mon Repos Aquaculture Station is being used by the Project Extension Officers for work with farmers. A bio-digester manual prepared for IICA Guyana is being used as the initial basis for the design and establishment of bio-digesters. This manual has been distributed to interested farmers. Two (2) promotional brochures developed for the use of Lemna duckweed to feed ducks and pigs respectively were distributed to farmers and interested persons. Conditions or technical parameters for growing Lemna duckweed were summarized. The draft Lemna Duckweed manual is still undergoing modifications based on practical experiences and results.

Dr. Leslie Chin retired as CEO of IPED at the end of December 2009, but will continue to function as Project Coordinator.

The main obstacles faced were:

(i) The delay in the achievement of the key objectives of 30 demonstration farms and being on course for project target of 300 farmers adopting integrated farming is partly due to the phenomenon of risk aversion for early adopters. This kind of risk will be minimized when the farmers see successful farmers benefiting from the technology. The under achievement of 30% fish ponds will be addressed by creating a greater focus on promotion of fish ponds.
(ii) Lack of financial capacity of the beneficiaries to invest in a fish pond will be addressed by loans from IPED. Another option that will be explored will be the NGO Food for the Poor to construct fish ponds for poor farmers.

The risk level of the project is medium. Duckweed is not as easy to grow as originally perceived.

The likelihood of the Project achieving its final objectives in full are marginal, although because of the inherent sustainability of the model through its demonstration effect, the major objectives are achievable in another 12 to 18 months beyond the Project.

The Execution Unit will pay special emphasis to the following critical actions:
(i) The Project Coordinator will undertake promotional field visits one day per week.
(ii) Focus will be made on the promotion of fish ponds/ fish cages.
(iii) The NGO Food for the Poor will be approached for construction of fish ponds for poor farmers

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Partially Agree with the Executing Agency comments
The Executing Agency needs to make a greater effort at promotion of the Integrated Farming model, using the media and IPED's television program. It was recommended that a 15 minutes documentary should be made highlighting a successful integrated model for promotion among farmers, and use beyond the project's execution period. Some farmers who have shown interest in the model, are desirous of adopting the model with livestock rearing, particularly poultry and have seen some measure of success, the EA should work diligently to facilitate such farmers.

Summary of project performance in the last six months

The Project's performance over the last six months has been moderately satisfactory with respect to the planned activities for the semester. The main achievements of the semester were 37 new farmers practicing integrated farming, although 105 were planned. The Eleven (11) new demonstration farmers are in various stages of operating integrated farms within the reporting period. This amounts to a cumulative total of twenty two (22) demonstration farmers. During the half year period, one demonstration farm was added to each Region except for Region 5 where two were added. The objective was to establish thirty (30) demonstration farms at the end of nine (9) months of the project's operation.

The main obstacles faced were:

The under achievement of 30% fish ponds will be addressed by creating a greater focus on promotion of fish ponds to complement duckweed ponds by outlining the high potential revenue generation a fish farming.

The Execution Unit will pay special emphasis over the next 6 months to the following critical actions:
(i) The Project Coordinator will undertake promotional field visits one day per week.
(ii) Focus will be made on the promotion of fish ponds/ fish cages to achieve the target of 30% fish production.
(iii) Food for the Poor will be approached for construction of fish ponds for poor farmers.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Partially Agree with the Executing Agency comments
The EA should also capitalise on existing operations/activities of farmers such as livestock rearing and the use of duckweed to supplement feeding, since this has already started and farmers have recorded reduction in cost of production for rearing of poultry. Some farmers may not be as willing to incur costs for construction of fish ponds, additionally based on the geographical location of the farms e.g., proximity to fishing communities, urban centres and other physical characteristics such as water availability and soil types, promotion of fish ponds/fish cages may not be the most feasible option. The respective manuals being used by the EA (produced by NARI & IICA) should be adopted incorporating the lessons learnt in the field, making it more user friendly, to suit the needs of the farmers based on their farm operations and geographical location.

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

		Indicators	Baseline	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 3	Planned	Achieved	Status
Purpose: To achieve significant increases in productivity of small farmers, including women farmers, by integrating duckweed production with fish farming.	**P.I1**	Farmers that have adopted integrated farming into their operartions	0 Apr 2008				300 Oct 2010	82 Dec 2009	
	P.I2	Proportion of project beneficiaries that are women	0 Apr 2008				25 Oct 2010	35 Dec 2009	
	P.I3	Farmers that have adopted fish farming as part of the integrated farming model	0 Apr 2008				30 Oct 2010	19 Dec 2009	
Component 1: Establishment of demonstration units	**C1.I1**	Farmers have established integrated agriculture-aquaculture model farms	0 Apr 2008				30 Oct 2010	22 Dec 2009	Delayed

Weight: 31% **Classification:** Satisfactory	**C1.I2**	Agri/aqua farms per region	0 Apr 2008				2 Oct 2010	1 Dec 2009	Delayed
	C1.I3	Persons identified and invited to participate in establishment and operation of integrated agriculture-aquaculture demonstration units.	0				30 Oct 2010	22 Dec 2009	Delayed
	C1.I4	Candidates selected from each Administrative Region.	0				2 Oct 2010	1 Dec 2009	Delayed
	C1.I5	Database potential model farmers established by IPED.	0				1 Oct 2010	1 Dec 2009	Finished
	C1.I6	Consultants who will function as Project Extension Officers (PEO).	0				3 Oct 2010	3 Dec 2009	Finished
Component 2: Documentation of Technical Data **Weight:** 13% **Classification:** Unsatisfactory	**C2.I1**	Manuals for biogas production, duckweed production and fish production are produced based on the experiences of farmers	0 Apr 2008				3 Oct 2010	2 Dec 2009	Delayed
	C2.I2	Farmers that have shared their experiences in integrated agriculture-aquaculture	0 Apr 2008				40 Oct 2010	15 Dec 2009	Delayed
Component 3: Outreach campaign to promote the adoption of the integrated agriculture/aquaculture model **Weight:** 56% **Classification:** Satisfactory	**C3.I1**	Workshops held to educate farmers to integrated farming and duckweed	0 Apr 2008				20 Oct 2010	19 Dec 2009	On Course
	C3.I2	Public relations activities to build awareness	0 Apr 2008				6 Oct 2010	5 Dec 2009	Delayed
	C3.I3	Press, including television, radio and the newspapers, will encouraged covering the on-farm workshops and publicize press releases	0				1 Oct 2010	11 Dec 2009	Delayed
	C3.I4	TV program "Grow with IPED" and fortnightly radio program to promote the Project.	0				1 Oct 2010	2 Dec 2009	On Course
	C3.I5	PEO will evaluate effectiveness of workshops on basis of number of participants at workshops and number of persons expressing interest in establishing integrated farms.	0				1 Oct 2010	1 Dec 2009	On Course

Milestones		Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date achieved	Status
M0	Previous Conditions	4	Oct 2008	4	May 2008	Achieved

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE

[X] Others, which?: Cost to beneficiaries for contruction of fish ponds

SECTION 4: RISKS

MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE

	Level	Mitigation action	Responsible
1. Lack of market demand for produce	Medium	Produce from farmers to be absorbed within the communities of origin,	Project Coordinator
2. Receptiveness and willingness of farmers to adopt integrated agriculture	Medium	Extensive outreach campaign to promote the benefits of integrated farming,	Project Coordinator
3. The technology for duckweed production is relatively new to Guyana	Medium	Documentation of technical aspects of duckweed production in manuals based on project and other experiences,	Project Coordinator

PROJECT RISK LEVEL: Medium **TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS:** 3 **IN EFFECT RISKS:** 3 **NOT IN EFFECT RISKS:** 0 **MITIGATED RISKS:** 0

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion: P - Probable

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Issue	Comments
[X] Lack of a **sustainability plan** or its inadequate implementation	Promotion of the model requires services of Technical Field Officers, which may not be sustained after implementation.

Actions related to sustainability which will be or have been implemented:

The project has been designed to be inherently sustainable. It uses the output or waste from one production unit as input of a subsequent unit. The project is depending on the demonstration effect. Each integrated farm established serves as a further demonstration site for the establishment of additional integrated farming units.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

	Relative to	Author
1. Some farmers are only desirous of partial adoption and integration of the model. Farmers are more willing to incorporate some aspects of the model into their existing operations instead of incurring additional costs for construction and starting relatively new operation such as fish farming(aquaculture). Farmers involved in poultry operation quickly adopted the use of duckweed to supplement feed for broilers, and have seen marked reduction in their cost for feed while	Implementation	Leitch, Janelle *[FOMIN]*

maintaining the growth rate of the birds. Additionally due to the high cost of fuel for cooking in some rural communities, some households already involved in livestock rearing have successfully adopted the use of the biodigester for a steady supply of fuel for cooking.
It is important that the field officers work with the farmers to assist them in adopting the model thst best suits their operations and needs, within the context of their location and economic situation since there are some farmers who may have the capacity for full integration.