

Agriculture on the Move

Region 9

RICE/BEANS PROJECT



Cultivation of 400 acres of rice/beans at Moco Moco, Quarrie, Kumu & Aishalton over a three years period, includes the acquisition of equipment for land preparation, harvesting and processing and the provision of technical support (G\$128m).



PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Technology transfer for corn production in savannahs of Guyana (EMBRAPA) – G\$10m.
- Technology transfer for upland rice production in the savannahs of Guyana (EMBRAPA) – G\$11m.
- Management of fruit flies (recently negotiated) – G\$14m.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL AGRI-ENTERPRISES ON SAVANNAH LAND

- Interest by SOL in the acquisition of Dadanawa ranch. 
- Hybrid Rice Production Project – RICETEC SEMENTES 
- Expression of interest by Brazilian entrepreneurs for large scale rice/soybean cultivation.

PLANS IN PLACE TO ADDRESS EFFECTS OF DRY SEASON IN REGION NINE

In response to anticipated effects of the current unusually long, dry season on the livelihood of Region Nine residents and farming, Minister of Agriculture, Robert Persaud, met with key stakeholders to discuss measures that can be put in place to ensure relief and appropriate adaptation.

Minister Persaud stated that, while assessments are currently on-going, a technical team will be dispatched to the Region to conduct further impact assessments. concerns. The provision of relief food supplies and sourcing of cassava sticks of a strain that can flourish under the prevailing conditions are some of the measures that will be taken.

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AGRICULTURE on the move in Region 9



Agriculture on the Move

Region 9

Agriculture Development

The interventions currently being implemented in Region 9 by the Ministry of Agriculture are intended to serve as a basis for food security and economic opportunity through increased job opportunities and income generation.



Projects being Implemented

The agricultural station at St. Ignatius has been designated the NARI Research & Development Centre (St. Ignatius), effective May 2009. The basic functions of this centre are:

- Liaising with EMBRAPA, Boa Vista on the identification of appropriate technologies for transfer to farming communities in Region 9.
- Provision of basic soil testing facilities
- Making appropriate fertilizer recommendations.
- Diagnosis of pest and disease problems.
- Continue to be a source of planting materials.
- Serve as the MOA location for other interventions such as with rice cultivation.

Activities to Support Villages/Farmers

- The above centre will be refurbished by the end of October, 2009 and will provide basic laboratory services for soil testing, fertilizer recommendations, etc. (G\$3m).
- Provision of breeding animals (pigs, sheep) to various communities (G\$1.5m).
- Promoting the use of drip irrigation at Annai and St. Ignatius (G\$1m).



- Establishment of model demonstration farms at Moco Moco (vegetable cultivation) and St. Ignatius (cashew intercropped with beans, passion fruit, etc.). These demonstration are intended to promote the sustainable use of savannah lands for agricultural production (G\$2m).

- Provision mechanized cassava processing equipment to two communities – Moco Moco and St. Ignatius/Kumu/Quarrie (G\$1.2m).



- Cashew project – cooperation with EMBRAPA
- Training was provided to technicians and processors in modern techniques of cashew production and processing. Four cashew varieties acquired from Brazil have been planted (G\$4m).
- Similar cashew varieties are being established at Shulinab on a 10 acre plot.
- Additional technical staff provided to the region. These include a Research Scientist, Veterinarian, Research Assistant and two technicians.

- An AI programme to introduce the Texana breed in the Rupununi would be conducted in October 2009. One hundred animals are targeted for insemination (G\$1m).



- The number of extension agents to be increased from six to twelve. A two week training programme would be conducted for the agents in September.
- Communities were provided with seed material and agrochemicals under the Grow More Food Campaign.
- Swingfog machines with chemicals and ant bait was provided to most communities.
- The Guyana Agricultural Producers Association (GAPA) was launched in August 2009.
- Instituting sanitary and phytosanitary procedures at the port of entry.

