CORE programme moves forward

WAND's Communities Organising for Self-Reliance programme has maintained its focus on building the capacity of the community to rely on itself through laying the basis for developing leadership skills, encouraging active collective participation, assisting in the implementation of income generating projects and by addressing the issues critical to the maintenance of social cohesion. CORE continues to have a presence in the communities of La Pointe, St Lucia, Fancy and Rose Hall in St Vincent.

La Pointe

Following up on an evaluation and planning workshop in January by the La Pointe Development Committee (LPDC), there was a 'Group Strengthening and Development' workshop in March which assessed the internal dynamics of the LPDC and its ability to carry forward its work.

In June there was a workshop on "Gender Relations: Men and Women in the Home and the Community".

In terms of project activity, a pre primary school with approximately 20 available places was opened earlier this year. Training of teachers for this project took place on a day release basis and in the absence of the teachers mothers in the community were organised to take over.

A young community member, Sophia Serieux, participated in the four-month Principles and Practices of Social Work course run by the UWI's Social Welfare Training Centre in Jamaica. She is expected to share her training with community members and to play a significant role in the process of building the community.

WAND made some funds available for project implementation and continued to assist the community to access more funds to undertake two income generating enterprises: a paper making project and a fruit juice marketing venture.

Fancy

Two major workshops, "Understanding and Dealing with Conflict and Differences" and "Developing Group Management Skills" were facilitated at Fancy to help strengthen organisational capacity and project planning, implementation and development.

Fancy identified two viable economic enterprises: pig rearing and peanut processing and a small grant from the International Fund for Agricultural Development assisted in the building of pig pens.

Plans were made for exchange visits between Fancy and La Pointe community members so that the communities could share views and experiences on the community development process.

Continued overleaf
CORE programme activities

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Rose Hall

A reorganised Rose Hall Community Working Group with a new executive body has the responsibility to implement its current Plan of Action, which includes work among the youth.

In the area of project activity, efforts were made to introduce a school book rental scheme for key primary school texts as a cost saving measure for parents.

Photo album flashback

Participants Dr Tja Said (left) and Dr Hasyiah Haneng of Indonesia at a meeting in Barbados, of the Canadian and Caribbean partners in the Communities Partnership and Women's Studies Project. The project involves Canadian, Caribbean and Indonesian academics and workers in the field of women and development.

Partners to create jobs for women

A Sustainable Livelihoods project is to come on stream soon to benefit women in three Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) territories. The project will create employment for 60 women in Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica in agriculture and small business ventures. It will be funded by the United Nations Development Programme and the other organisational partners are WAND; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the OECS. WAND's role will be that of documenting the process.

Age and Experience

"With age and experience ... growth becomes a conscious, recognised process. Those long periods when something inside ourselves seems to be waiting, holding its breath, unsure about what the next step should be, eventually become the periods we wait for, for it is in those periods that we realise we are being prepared for the next phase of our life and that, in all possibility a new level of experience is about to be revealed."

Alice Walker, African American writer (b. 1944)

Link made with University of Havana

The unit has established ties of cooperation with the Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Universidad de Habana, Cuba (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Havana).

This cooperation will be expressed in the exchange of information between the two institutions: WAND's Tutor/Coororinator will deliver lectures on women and social development in the English-speaking Caribbean in the faculty's Masters programme, "Caribbean Social Development" in the coming academic year, and WAND will provide administrative support for FLACSO researchers who will be focusing on social issues as they affect women in eight countries of the English-speaking Caribbean.

FLACSO is active in 11 countries and is involved in research on social aspects of development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some areas of research include women and health, gender and power in Cuba, women and social development, the social impact of biotechnical development and tourism and prostitution in Cuba.