South-South Transfer of Experiences in

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SARD)

Project No. INT/96/KO5/95/99

MoA/IICA/G77-UNDP Project

FINAL REPORT FOR SARD WEB SITE
http://www.sardguyana.org

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SARD)

FINAL REPORT FOR SARD WEB SITE

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1.   INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development Project (SARD) was implemented by the Guyana Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Finance for this project was administered through the Guyana Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Web Site Coordinator, Mr Paul Bonar, was contracted in February, 1999 and was accommodated within the Agricultural Project Cycle Unit (APCU) of the MoA. His functions, as stated in the Terms of Reference for the Web Site Coordinator were:

1. *Design Web Page, including Home Page, for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) Project which can be used with various browsers .*

2. *Identify and install suitable servers/browsers for Web Page.*

3. *Enter information for Web Page (text and graphics).*

4. *Identify suitable web site linkages on SARD.*

5. *Provide training on Web Page Designing and maintenance.*

6. *Provide training on use of the Internet for accessing information on SARD.*

7. *Maintain Web Page and update link addresses.*

8. *Update Web Site with information on innovative experiences in South-South (and facilitate transfer to members of network and other interested agencies and individuals).*

9. *Prepare e-mail address directory of members of network and e-mail newsletter to addressees.*

10.   *Facilitate establishment of interactive groups on the Internet.*

11.   *Post all issues of newsletters on Web Page, as separate files.*

12.   *Create directory of linkage sites for Web Page.*

2. HOSTING SERVICE AND ACCESS

Design of the web site for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) commenced during the month of April 1999. The web site is hosted by the Trinidadian-based company, BorderCom International (htpp://www.bordercominternational.com). At the end of the project the web site was hosted under the Liteweb Package at a cost of US$24.95 per month for hosting services.

The information required for accessing SARD File Transfer Protocol (FTP) directory is:

Profile name	:	**SARD**
Host Name/Address	:	**205.178.149.225**
Host Type	:	**UNIX (standard)**
User ID	:	**sard**
Password	:	**zzftov**

After accessing the storage directory on BorderCom's server, a list of sub-directories in the storage space of the SARD Project is displayed. One of these sub-directories is named **htdocs**. All directories and files pertaining to the web site are stored in the **htdocs directory**.

When required, technical support from BorderCom International is obtained by e-mail, via the address dematas@bordercominternational.com.

3. HOMEPAGE AND WEB SITE

A brief description of the SARD Project is found on the Homepage. The description states:-

> *This Project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana, is implemented by the Guyana Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and financed by the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (through United Nations Development Programme) and IICA.*

As shown in Appendix 1, the Homepage comprises several links containing the information presented below.

i) SARD Background
Provides detailed account of the background of the Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development Project.

ii) SARD Philosophy
Explains the philosophy behind the concept of sustainability in agricultural and rural development.

iii) SARD Newsletter
Displays the current issue of the monthly newsletter of the SARD Project. Access can also be had to the archive of past newsletters.

At the end of the project, the last Newsletter posted on the web site was a double issue for the months of November and December 1999. Both Spanish and English versions were posted in the respective sections of the web site. Table 1 shows the listing of the ten previous issues of SARD newsletters in the Archive, which is displayed separately from the current/most recent issue of the Newsletter.

TABLE 1 Archive listing of SARD Newsletters (1998-1999).

MONTH	VOLUME/NUMBER
October 1999	Volume 1, Number 10
September 1999	Volume 1, Number 9
July/August 1999	Volume 1, Number 8
June 1999	Volume 1, Number 7
May 1999	Volume 1, Number 6
April 1999	Volume 1, Number 5
March 1999	Volume 1, Number 4
February 1999	Volume 1, Number 3
January 1999	Volume 1, Number 2
December 1998	Volume 1, Number 1

iv) Profiles of Projects Using SARD Criteria

This regularly updated list contains descriptions of profiles for various projects. Although 30 such profiles were prepared for the project, the English section of the web site lists only 14 of these in seven countries. Profiles can be accessed based on either the type of project or its location. Some, projects, however, were placed in two categories. For example, the floriculture project in St. Vincent was placed in the categories *agriculture* and *Other*. The five categories for type of project are:-

CATEGORY (type of project)	# PROFILES
1. Agriculture	9
2. Rural Development	6
3. Sustainable Development	5
4. Natural Resources Management	5
5. Others	1

The listing according to the COUNTRY in which the project is located consists of:

COUNTRY (location of project)	# PROFILES
Costa Rica	3
Dominican Republic	2
Guyana	4
Haiti	2
St Lucia	1
St Vincent & The Grenadines	1
Suriname	1

In addition, more profiles were included in the section on the type of project compared to the location of projects.

v)   Agencies Sponsoring SARD-Type Projects

This provides a list of agencies that sponsor SARD-type Projects. Seven agencies, from Costa Rica and Grenada, and three international agencies are listed.

This list was derived from information obtained through the Format A questionnaire completed for several projects and, subsequent requests for information from contact persons for the various projects and recipients of the SARD Newsletter.

vi) Join SARD Interactive E-mail Group

This provides a sign-up area that allows users to join SARD Interactive E-mail Group.

At the end of 1999, the group comprised 25 members and 11 messages had been sent out by the moderator informing group members of web site updates. Two requests were made for information on green houses and mango nectar.

vii) Questionnaires for SARD Project

This provides access to the two questionnaires (Format A and Format B) used for collection of information for the SARD Project. The Format A questionnaire was used to submit preliminary information on projects from countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, for submission to the SARD Project. Most projects from Costa Rica and those identified for inclusion in the document of detailed case studies, Format B Questionnaire was used to collect details. The two questionnaires are also available for download as MS Word 97 format.

viii) Links to Related Sites

This provides a listing of related sites. The links to these sites have been placed into five categories. These categories are:

CATEGORY	# LINKS
AGRICULTURE	25
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	15
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	21
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	1
OTHER	15

At the end of the project, 77 links were established. Some links, however, are present on more than one page, i.e., different categories. Appendix 2 shows the links listed in their respective categories.

ix) Contact Information
Refers to information used during the project to facilitate contact with the SARD Project.

Postal Address : Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
P.O. Box 10-1089, Georgetown, GUYANA

Telephone No.: 592-2-68835, 592-2-68347

Fax No.: 592-2-58358

E-Mail: sard@networksgy.com,
sard@solutions2000.net

Following closure of the project, the contact information on the website should be modified to indicate that the contact organisation is MoA, not IICA.

x) Guest Book
This Guest Book invites the user/visitor to submit information about himself/herself. At the end of the project the guest book contained 13 entries.

4. SEARCH ENGINES

Keywords for web site were submitted to 400 different search engines. The majority of the keyword submissions were done by the hosting service, BorderCom International. In addition, the web site coordinator for the SARD Project submitted keywords to 13 search engines, namely:-

1. Alta Vista
2. Yahoo
3. ComFind
4. Excite
5. Hotbot

6. Infoseek

7. Lycos

8. Netscape Search

9. Northern Light

10. Planet Search

11. Pronet

12. The YellowPages

13. WebCrawler

The keywords listed below can be used to access various pages of the web site, both English and Spanish sections.

English Homepage of SARD Web Site

sustainable agriculture, rural development, SARD, Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, Guyana, IICA, south-south collaboration, sustainable development, capacity building, natural resources management, community development, criteria for sustainability

Spanish Homepage Web Site

agricultura, desarrolla agricola, rural sostenible, desarrollo agricola y rural sostenible, Guyana, Latin America, IICA

5.   WEB SITE STRUCTURE

The structure of information posted on the web site is simple in design. Appendix 3 displays the tree structure of the web site, as found on the hosting server and on the computer used by the Web Site Coordinator. The directories were all given short names to facilitate easy structuring of the tree. For example, it was easier to label a directory 'Costarica' instead of 'Costa_Rica' since occasionally, this causes problems when transfering information.

6.   SITE STATISTICS

Counters were placed on selected pages to record the number of visitors to the various pages. Table 2 shows the number of 'hits' for individual pages.

Table 2 Number of visits made by Internet users to SARD Project web site.

LINKS	ENGLISH VERSION VISITS/HITS	SPANISH VERSION VISITS/HITS
Homepage	2541	549
Background To This Project	168	55
SARD Philosophy	89	48
SARD Newsletter	275	168
Profiles Of Projects Using SARD Criteria	222	141
Agencies Sponsoring SARD-Type Project	113	63
Links To Related Sites	249	99
Join SARD E-Mail Interactive Group	58	45
Guest Book	147	63

7.   PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Common problems encountered during the project were:

- **Downtime**
- **Accuracy of counters**
- **Use of images**

Downtime
Downtime occurs when the web site cannot be accessed. This occurred when the hosting service, in this case BorderCom International, experienced problems within their system. However, BorderCom has demonstrated that it has excellent technical support response-time and a short time-span in solving problems.

Accuracy of Counters

Counters sometimes show a smaller number of hits than should have been recorded. However, after contacting Link Exchange (www.linkexhange.com), which is run by Microsoft Corporation and is a highly recommended service, the problem was fixed within two days.

Use of Images

A few minor non-technical problems were also encountered. It was found that the site demanded the use of photographic images for the projects profiled. This would provide the users/visitors with a better view/understanding of the profiles. Unfortunately, such images were not available.

A software is required for image manipulation. At the end of the project the Lite Edition version of Photoshop 4.0 was being used. However, although Photoshop is the best software, this version has limited features for the user.

8.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

- MoA should act with dispatch in making arrangements for continued maintenance of web site by employing a suitably qualified person on a part-time basis. Depending on the amount of information to be posted such person can be contracted for periods of 20 to 40 hours monthly. In view of his experience in establishing the web site for the SARD Project, the Web Site Coordinator can be retained on a part-time basis to facilitate such updating. Appendix 4 shows the qualifications and experience of suitable candidates.

- MoA should ensure that changes are made to the web site to include the contact address of the Ministry, following conclusion of the project by IICA.

- Arrangements should be made to post the additional project profiles on the web site, including those contained in the various issues of the SARD Newsletter.

- Someone should be contracted to prepare brief descriptions of the information found on web sites on the link page. This information can also be posted on the web site and hard copies can be distributed to agencies involved in agricultural and rural development.

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- More action should be taken to **market the site**. This can be done by using the services of any company which has web site promotions, for example, information on a company whose web address is http://www.bcentral.com. this will allow for the site to be disseminated to a larger number of persons and consequently an increase in the number of visitors to the site. In addition, successful marketing of the site can increase the number of persons participating in the Interactive E-mail group. A Moderator, however, will be necessary to ensure maximum dialogue is promoted among users of the E-group discussion forum.

Prepared by Paul Bonar (jnr)
Web Site Coordinator
18th January, 2000

Appendix 1 Home Page of SARD Project Web site.

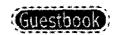## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

| Espanol | SARD | Guestbook |

Background to this Project

SARD Philosophy

SARD Newsletter

Profiles of Projects Using SARD Criteria

Agencies Sponsoring SARD-Type Projects

Join SARD Interactive E-Mail Group

Questionnaires for SARD Project

Links to Related Sites

Contact Information

SOUTH-SOUTH TRANSFER OF INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCES

An Initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana

This Project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana, is implemented by the Guyana Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and financed by the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (through United Nations Development Programme) and IICA.

... Is crop production restricted by factors such as: no access to land, low-fertility soils, easily degraded soils? Many persons may respond "yes" to this question, but a group of 35 women farmers in ....

... Since1993, the Cruz Verde community of Monte Plata, Dominican Republic has developed production and industrialization technologies for sugarcane and ....

Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana

United Nations Development Programme UNDP

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture IICA

2452

Last Updated	Maintenance	Design
2nd December, 1999	SARD Project Team	SARD Project Team

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Appendix 2   Listing of links (according to categories) to SARD-related web sites.

AGRICULTURE

1.   Ministry of Agriculture -http://www.sdnp.org.gy/minagri

2.   Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – IICA - http://www.iica.ac.cr

3.   AGROINFO -http://www.agroinfo.org

4.   Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation – CTA - http://www.cta.nl

5.   Agroinformatíca -http://www.agroinfo.com

6.   CAB International -http://www.cabi.org

7.   International Plant Genetic Resources Institute - http://www.cgiar.org/ipgri/

8.   EarthScan Publications -http://www.earthscan.co.uk

9.   Permaculture Community Action Worknet - http://www.web.net/~mulchman

10.   Yahoo - Sustainable Agriculture - http://dir.yahoo.com/science/agriculture/sustainable_agriculture

11.   Organic Trade Organisation -http://www.ota.com

12.   Organic Farming -http://www.doitnow.com/~smd/agorg.htm

13.   Organic Cotton Site -http://www.sustainablecortton.org

14.   Centre for Appropriate Rural Technologies - http://www.oneworld.org/cart

15.   Centre for Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture - http://www.oneworld.org/ileia

16.   One World Net -http://www.oneworld.org/partners/front.shtml

17.   Vetiver Network -http://www.vetiver.org/"

Appendix 2   Listing of links –Agriculture (continued).

18.   Farmer to Farmer Volunteer Opportunities –Guyana-
http://www.partners.net/English/programs/descriptions/Farmer/ftfguyana
.htm

19.   HADCO Farms (Hauraruni Agricultural Development Company Inc.) –
Guyana -http://www.hadcofarms.com

20.   CARIFORUM Agribusiness Research & Training Fund (CARTF) -
http://www.cafpro.org

21.   Walkerwood Caribbean Foods -http://www.walkerswood.com/toc.html

22.   PROCICARIBE -http://www.procicaribe.org

23.   Sustainable Development and Small Farms (Advisory Committee of
USDA) -http://www.usda.gov/oce/sdsf

24.   AGropolis is the web site of the Texas University -
http:/agprogram.tamu.edu/agropolis

25.   Documentos –Rural Net -http://infoagro.net/rural/docs.htm

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1.   Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana -http://www.sdnp.org.gy/minagri

2.   Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – IICA -
http://www.iica.ac.cr

3.   Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation – CTA -
http://www.cta.nl

4.   Permaculture Community Action Worknet -
http://www.web.net/~mulchman/

5.   International Development Research Center -http://www.idrc.ca

6.   Centre for Appropriate Rural Technologies -
http://www.oneworld.org/cart

7.   Centre for Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture -
http://www.oneworld.org/cart

8.   One World Net -http://www.oneworld.org/partners/front.shtml

9.   Walkerwood Caribbean Foods -http://www.walkerswood.com/toc.html

10.   CARIFORUM Agribusiness Research & Training Fund (CARTF) -
http://www.cafpro.org/

11.   PROCICARIBE -http://www.procicaribe.org

12.   United Nations Sustainable Livelihoods -
http://www.undp.org/sl/Introduction/introduction.htm

13.   UNDP-EC Poverty and Environment Initiative -
http://www.undp.org/seed/pei

14.   Sustainable Development and Small Farms (Advisory Committee of
USDA) -http://www.usda.gov/oce/sdsf

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1.   Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana -http://www.sdnp.org.gy/minagri

2.   Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture – IICA -
http://www.iica.ac.cr

3.   Sustainable Development Networking Programme – SDNP -
http://www.sdnp.org.gy

4.   International Institute for Sustainable Development -
http://iisd1.iisd.ca/

5.   International Plant Genetic Resources Institute -
http://www.cgiar.org/ipgri/

6.   World Resources Institute -http://www.wri.org/wri/

7.   Sustainable Agriculture -http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~farnswor/

8.   Agroinformatíca -http://www.agroinfo.com"

9.   Yahoo - Sustainable Agriculture -
http://dir.yahoo.com/science/agriculture/sustainable_agriculture/

Appendix 2   Listing of links –Sustainable Development (continued).

10.   International Development Research Center -http://www.idrc.ca

11.   Centre for Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture -
http://www.oneworld.org/ileia

12.   One World Net -http://www.oneworld.org/partners/front.shtml

13.   Vetiver Network -http://www.vetiver.org/

14.   Walkerwood Caribbean Foods -http://www.walkerswood.com/toc.html

15.   PROCICARIBE -http://www.procicaribe.org

16.   The World Bank Policy, Research Working Papers: Abstracts -
http://www.worldbank.org/html/dec/Publications/Workpapers/envsusdev.
html

17.   United Nations Sustainable Livelihoods -
http://www.undp.org/sl/Introduction/introduction.htm

18.   UNDP-EC Poverty and Environment Initiative -
http://www.undp.org/seed/pei

19.   UNDP's Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED) -
http://www.undp.org/seed/guide/intro.htm

20.   UNDP's Global Environmental Facility (GEF) -http://www.undp.org/gef

21.   Sustainable Development and Small Farms (Advisory Committee of
USDA) -http://www.usda.gov/oce/sdsf

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1.   ODI Rural Policy and Environment Group (RPEG)
http://www.oneworld.org/odi/rpeg/index.html

OTHER

1.   Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) -
     http://www.oecd.org/

2.   Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) -
     http://searcher.eclacpos.org/

3.   Rupununi Weavers Society -http://www.gol.net.gy/rweavers

4.   MSc in Sustainable Agriculture (Wye College)
     http://www.wye.ac.uk/PGDegrees/MScSustAg.html

5.   Concepts and Theory of SARD -
     http://www.wye.ac.uk/EP/courses/cts.html

6.   Aid to Artisans -http://www.aid2artisans.org/

7.   Plan International -http://www.plan-international.org

8.   NETAID -http://www.netaid.org

9.   IWOKRAMA -http://www.sdnp.org.gy/iwokrama/

10. CARIFORUM Agribusiness Research & Training Fund (CARTF) -
     http://www.cafpro.org

11. Walkerwood Caribbean Foods -http://www.walkerswood.com/toc.html

12. United Nations Sustainable Livelihoods -
     http://www.undp.org/sl/Introduction/introduction.htm

13. UNDP's Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED) -
     http://www.undp.org/seed/guide/intro.htm

14. UNDP's Global Environmental Facility (GEF) -http://www.undp.org/gef

Appendix 3 Display of file structure of SARD Project web site.

0sard
    index.htm
    spanishindex.htm
    hydro.htm
    hydrospan.htm
    sugarcane.htm
    sugarcanespan.htm

☐   **englishpages**

☐ **profiles**

☐ **category**

☐ **Agriculture**
amerindian.htm
coffeerevital.htm
hydro.htm
improvedagri.htm
indigenouspeople.htm
listcat.htm
organic.htm
promotinglivelihoods.htm
stanislauscollege.htm
stdeny.htm

☐ **Natural**
balatafigurines.htm
coffeerevital.htm
environmentalsustainability.htm
listcat.htm
marinemanage.htm
organic.htm

☐ **Other**
listcat.htm
promotinglivelihoods.htm

☐ **Rural**
amerindian.htm
balatafigurines.htm
improvedagri.htm
indigenouspeople.htm
listcat.htm
stdeny.htm
sugarcane.htm

Appendix 3 File structure (continued).

☐ **Sustain**
balatafigurines.htm
coffeerevital.htm
environmentalsustainability.htm
listcat.htm
marinemanage.htm
naturalresource.htm

☐ **country**

☐ **Costarica**
environmentalsustainability.htm
hydro.htm
list.htm
organic.htm

☐ **Dominican**
list.htm
naturalresource.htm
sugarcane.htm

☐ **Guyana**
amerindian.htm
balatafigurines.htm
list.htm
stanislauscollege.htm
stdeny.htm

☐ **Haiti**
coffeerevital.htm
improvedagri.htm
list.htm

☐ **Stlucia**
list.htm   .
marinemanage.htm

☐ **Suriname**
indigenouspeople.htm
list.htm

☐ **Vincent**
list.htm
promotinglivelihoods.htm

☐ **images**
61 images - all pertaining to the entire web site

☐ **homepage**
57 images - all pertaining to the web site's homepage ONLY

☐ **newletter**