

Market Access & Rural Enterprise Development Programme



(MAREP)

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MAREP & Financiers Signs Aide Memoire

On Thursday, December 3rd 2015, the Market Access and Rural Enterprise Development Programme (MAREP), Government of Grenada (GOG) signed a Supervision Mission Aide Memoire with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The Supervision Mission endorses that the Program has made significant progress in implementation from the Midterm Review which was held on February 19th – 26th 2015(MTR); notwithstanding targets yet to be achieved. The Mission encourages the Program to focus on improving implementation, achieving the desired outcomes and identifying a practical exit strategy for each area of intervention. In addition, the Mission noted that the objectives and rationale remain relevant, and the Programme can still achieve most of its original objectives.

To date, the Programme has shown progress in a number of areas. There have been advances in the Vocational Skills Training (VST), Strengthening of Community Based Organizations and successful implementation of the Rural Investment Fund (Farm Access Roads; Social and Enterprise Windows).

The Supervision Mission was held from November 26th to December 3rd, 2015 to review the overall implementation progress, identify issues, as well as, agree on the way forward. IFAD team was led by Mrs. Esther Kasalu-Coffin, Country Programme Manager; Maria Sisto, Rural Development Specialist; Fausta Jean Maurice, Institutional and Gender Specialist; Amanda Gittens, Fiduciary Specialist. While the

Government team comprised of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Fitzroy James, PSC Chairman and Mr. Byron Campbell Programme Manager, MAREP.

Conclusively, the signing of the aide memoire's agreed actions therefore, indicates Government's commitment to MAREP which focuses on the reduction of rural poverty and vulnerability for unemployed or self-employed rural young men and women, development and employment opportunities, agricultural successes, increased agricultural production and sustainable livelihoods for farmers in rural communities across Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique.

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