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Progress Report on CEDP activities in
Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers States

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Update on CEDP activities in SPDC communities

Background

Undoubtedly the planned activities were interrupted by the 2009/2010 festive season and setbacks caused by community members, especially in Afam. Work was later normalized in late January 2010 when the appropriate staff of the SPDC Community Relations Unit (Messrs Hope Nduka and Richard Kissington) were contacted). They subsequently helped in our interactions and negotiations with various parties (traditional rulers, youth leaders, and service providers) in Afam. Below please find an update of the activities in the various States and the plans for the future.

Rivers State

Small to Medium Scale Enterprise, Afam

Following the progress report submitted to SPDC in October 2009 and the monitoring and evaluation exercise subsequently undertaken by the donors, more activities were recommended for the Afam project. In particular, the provision of an adequate water supply to the centre and community became a very serious issue. To address this, all the metallic pipes were replaced with PVC material and the drainage system was cleared to collect and convey waste water to the septic tank. In addition, the septic tank was refurbished by removing all the sand blocking the outlets and covering the tank with 9 fabricated slabs. This was meant to enhance the quality and flow of recycled water.

All old and unusable machines were replaced by new ones. These were 2.5T/hr cassava graters, 6Hp Lister engine, a cooling drum, 350kg per batch hydraulic press, 32T hydraulic jack, petrol engines for milling machines, and 8 x 4 stainless pan fryers for *gari*. The leaking roof of the main building was mended and the male and female toilets were refurbished. On completion of these activities, an SPDC representative visited the site again and awarded IITA a score of 85%. Upon consultation with the members of the community, he advised us to construct a starch plant and repair the generator. To meet these recommendations, a wet milling machine (plus engine) and a dry milling machine (plus engine) have been acquired (see photo) and an engineer has been commissioned to repair the generator.



*The new Afam out-look
for Afam*



Mills ready

Some of the initial problems in Afam included tedious negotiations with traditional rulers and community members prior to the commencement of any task. This has been very time-consuming. Staff from the SPDC community programme have been helpful in facilitating these arduous meetings. Our progress was reversed on several occasions by the community. For instance, the newly constructed fence was broken and we had to spend time and money to replace it. More recently, one of the engines for the mills was stolen and also had to be replaced.

Rukpokwu

The outstanding activities for these processing facilities at the last visit by the SPDC evaluators were the installation of a flash dryer and a generator. The dryer was delivered and had been fully installed by 11 January 2010. The dryer was covered completely to solve the old problem of water seeping into the machines and disrupting production, especially during the rainy season (see photo below). The 42 kva generator has been acquired and was delivered to the centre on Friday, 19 February, for installation (see photo below). Commissioning of the centre and the recipe book is planned for 15 March 2010.



Installed dryer



Covering of dryer



Control Panel and feeding port



Discharge port and the main fan unit



Genset delivered to Rukpokwu



Section of Genset

SIAS (Elele-Etche)

The only outstanding activity in this centre was the acquisition of the generator which was delayed as a result of the issues I mentioned earlier. However sourcing of the Genset is now being done locally to speed up the process. Hopefully, it will be installed by the end of February/early March 2010. Facilities in the centre are shown below.



Arrow pointing to flash dryer



Internal Work completed in the SME

Get Hygienic Products Limited (Omuma)

The request by SPDC to make this processing outfit functional is currently being considered, following the appeal made by the proprietor (Mr Victor Ojiakor) to our donor. Some of the equipment originally planned for the centre is available but some need to be acquired. A flash dryer has already being delivered to the site. Further progress in this area would be possible when the owner of the plant addresses the issues raised by SPDC in the agreement. These were clearing and securing the site by 19/02, meeting with IITA by 22/02, and providing the exact

numbers for full-time employment opportunities. It is our hope that Mr Ojiakor will attend to these issues in time for us to meet our obligations before CEDP closes out at the end of April 2010.



Mobilizing of machines to the Omuma site

Mobile grater distribution

On 17 November 2009, mobile graters were distributed to 40 out of the 75 participants who benefited from the training on cassava production, processing, and enterprise development conducted between March and April 2009. These were from the GMOU clusters in Etche 1 (12 persons), Etche 2 (15 persons) and Ikwerre (13 persons).



Beneficiaries being taught how to operate the machine



A lady beneficiary starting her mobile grater

Rasper training

The training for technicians and machine operators was meant to empower them and improve their knowledge of machine operation, maintenance, and repairs. It was held at the Ego Farm Processing Centre on Wednesday, 4 November 2009 and 10 participants benefited from this exercise.

Representatives from SPDC (Mr Raimi Lasisi), IITA (Mr Chyka Okarter and Mr Eze Iroechonwu), North-South Development (Mr Prince Kayode) and the private sector (Mr Uchenna Enyiazu) were present (photos below).



Eze and Uche explaining to trainees some issues about cassava grater

Bayelsa

Refurbished centres

The 4 refurbished centres in Bayelsa State are performing well and contributing to job creation and income generation in the various communities. An additional 2 centres in Elebele and Sagbama have just been completed with a newly installed Imex engine and processing equipment. This concludes the activities in Bayelsa State for Milestone 8.

Mobile grater distribution

Distribution of mobile graters was made on the 30 October 2009 at Bayelsa State Agricultural Development Programme Head Quarters, Swali, Yenagoa. Officials in attendance were Mr Onyikuro (SPDC Government and Public Relations Officer, Bayelsa State office), Mr Francis Alagoa, PM -ADP Bayelsa , and Dr P.O. Ezekiel (IITA Station Manager, Bayelsa State). The event was well publicised and there were 30 beneficiaries (22 males and 8 females).



Mobile graters being commissioned by PM-ADP and the SPDC Government/ Public Relations Officer

Rasper training

The rasper training took place on the 16 November, 2009 at Josy Integrated Agro-Farm Limited (SME) Otuogwe II, Ogbia LGA Bayelsa State. Dignitaries in attendance included The Paramount Ruler of Otuogwe II, HRH. The Ministry of Information press crew led by Mr Lelemo Appah, covered the occasion. Also present was Dr Patrick Ezekiel (IITA Station Manager, Bayelsa State) Engineer Okio was the resource person. There were 31 participants (22 males and 9 females).



Rasper training at Josy Integrated Agro-Farm

Delta State

Refurbished centres

Five centres in Delta State have been completed and are performing well. Two more centres at Olomu and Agbarho will be finalised before the end of February 2010.

Rasper training

The rasper training took place on 21 November 2009 at Cross Victory Industries, Abraka, Ethiope East LGA, Delta State. It was led by the resource person, Engineer Otoberise Ogevire, J. and was done in three parts: a lecture, then practical and question and answer sessions. Fifty participants (38 males and 12 females) benefited from the training. See photos below.



Rasper training at Cross Victory Industries, Abraka

Mobile grater distribution

The mobile graters to be distributed to communities are in custody at the IITA-Onne Station. Distribution has been delayed because the SPDC contact person in the State has still not given us the list of the beneficiaries, even though several efforts have been made to discuss this. In a telephone conversation with him, Mr Edesiri Akpomudgere promised to bring this matter into a close by ensuring that the graters are distributed before the end of February 2010.

Agricultural Resource Centre (Oguta, Imo State)

All the proposed equipment for the Oguta Development Centre were supplied in 2009. These are 1 complete set of cabinet dryer with 52 shelves, 1 screw press (Brazilian type) with 2 baskets, 1 Sifter with 2kp electric rotator, 2 Patino graters with drums and 1 set of bearings, 2 Hydraulic bearing presses, 4 raspers and *gari* fryers. A recent visit by the IITA Engineer and the Station Manager for Imo State confirmed that the machines are intact and secure. According to the caretaker, Mr Iworisha Frank Ossai, the community is still discussing with SPDC about the location where the machines should be installed. Mr Ossai further explained that SPDC wants to revive the piggery, the site which was earmarked for the installation of the machines, meaning that a new location has to be identified for the processing facility. This was confirmed through an SPDC representative who was contacted on the phone. Our stand on this is that, once the site and building issues are sorted out, IITA would be happy to come in and install the machines.



Machines delivered to Oguta, Imo State

Website

Cassavabiz (www.cassavabiz.org) is active and have updates of the latest CEDP/SPDC reports and activities. Please visit the site and give us a feedback.

Milestone 9 Activities

As prescribed by SPDC, the priority areas are as follows.

1. Workshop on cassava products for animal feeding, provision of mobile graters, improved cultivars, and technical support for 85 poultry and cassava farmers.
2. Training on cassava recipes, enterprise development, and pest management.
3. Impact assessment.

4. Production, launching, and distribution of 3000 copies of the cassava recipe book.

Below, please find the work plan for Milestone 9

These activities have already commenced with the supply of 1000 recipe books to the donor for distribution to appropriate units in SPDC, the relevant Federal and State Government ministries, local governments, the ADPs, the private sector, and NGOs. The official launching of the document itself will be held on 15 March 2009. This event will be combined with the commissioning of the Rupokwu processing centre in Rivers State.

The impact study has also been started as an Impact Assessment Methodology Workshop was held in Ibadan on 6 November 2009. The proceedings of these deliberations have been circulated to our donors, IITA scientists/management, and the participants. The questionnaires have also been developed, reviewed by various authorities and are now ready to be tested on 1 March 2010 in Abia State, prior to the immediate commencement of the actual field work which is scheduled to end by 30 March 2010.

A new set of mobile graters have already been constructed by SEDI for the next batch of beneficiaries in Delta, Bayelsa, and Rivers States. This equipment will be distributed by the end of March and we are awaiting the list of recipients from SPDC.



PIA workshop in progress in Ibadan produced



3000 cassava recipe books

Conclusion

All arrangements are in place to conclude the activities for SPDC Milestone 8 amicably and commence those for Milestone 9. All that needs to be done

now is to accelerate the process. If all the actors play their parts, it is our hope that CEDP will be closed out by the end of April 2010. We expect community members to exploit the technologies introduced in the project States for the past 5 years to improve their livelihoods. With the appropriate exit strategy mechanisms put in place, this goal should be achieved.

S/No	Project Activities	FEB	M A R C H 2 0 1 0																				
		18-25	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
1	Cassava Recipe Training & Distribution of 3000 Cassava Recipe Booklets, Cassava Production & Pest Management Training; Cassava Enterprise Development & Product Marketing Training				R		B		D														
2	Launching of Cassava Recipe Book & SME in Rukpokwu, Rivers State																						
3A	Project Impact Assessment		Field testing of PIA survey instrument																				
			M A R C H 2 0 1 0																				
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	A P R I L 2 0 1 0								
4	Workshop on using Cassava Products For Animal Feed, Mobile Grater Distribution & Improved Cassava Varieties Distribution				Sourcing of Improved Cassava Varieties and Mobile Graters								R		B		D						
															1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

3B

Project Impact Assessment

Field data collection & collation

B = Bayelsa State, D = Delta State, R = Rivers State

Work plan – Milestone 9