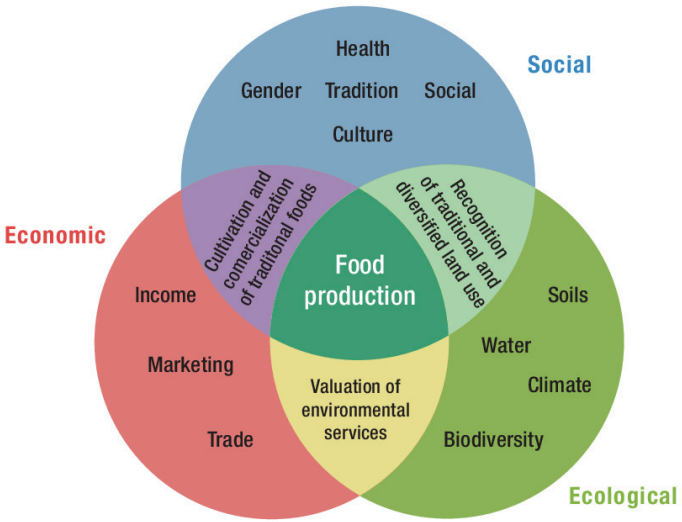
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LAND MANAGEMENT

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

SUMMARY SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The overall objective of Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management (SLM) is to reduce land degradation and improve land productivity in NE Tobago. Baseline data regarding agricultural activities are scarce; however, it can be stated that agricultural activities are on a very small scale. With the exception of two, mid-size state farms, most farms are very small; the main crops are corn, starchy root tubers, tomatoes, aubergine, ochro, peas, pak choi; livestock is limited to grazing goats and sheep in addition to some cattle. Agriculture is seen as an unattractive, hard labour occupation, not able to attract youth on a larger scale. Innovative sustainable agricultural practises are neither taught nor practised. Farmers associations do not have a history of success and are in dire need of organisational and operational support. Food security is low as most agricultural products are imported from Trinidad. However, the UNESCO Biosphere approach and rich soils harbour many opportunities for sustainable agriculture and agroforestry practices. Low impact, sustainable and regenerative agriculture have the potential to be significantly expanded, contribute to local livelihoods, export potential, ensure food and nutrition security. Unfortunately, development of roads, new housing, mismanagement of wetlands, illegal sand and gravel mining, larger scale construction activities, and grey water run-off from communities significantly contribute to land degradation, loss of soil, reefs, and fishing grounds.



HIGH LEVEL GOAL

Natural land resources within the NETMABR are sustainably managed to ensure regeneration and long-term availability of ecosystem services at their fullest potential.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Lucrative sustainable and regenerative agriculture and destigmatised agricultural entrepreneurship;
- sufficient, healthy, nutritious, and affordable agricultural products to supply resident and export markets;
- improved livelihoods based on sustainable use of natural land resources in a way that promotes ecosystem health;
- reduced non-agriculture related land degradation and improved soil stability in all watersheds; and
- agricultural research, innovation, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

STRATEGIES

- Identify the most lucrative, locally adequate agricultural products;
- conduct applied research and knowledge exchange on sustainable, regenerative, circular, and climate smart agricultural ecopreneur-ship;
- institutional strengthening and individual capacity development to build sustainable and regenerative agricultural skills and knowledge in all agricultural systems via training and demonstrations sites and knowledgeable extension services;
- provide easy access to sustainable farm inputs;
- optimally use the UNESCO MAB and BR brand for marketing agricultural products;
- regularisation of / tenure security for small farmers; and
- commitment of all THA departments to apply integrated sustainable land management on public lands.

KEY PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Facilitate

- the implementation of activities and practices that reduce direct and indirect threats to ecosystem health and biodiversity and discourage activities that threaten cultural and natural heritage as well as the wellbeing of residents;
- the improvement and generation of research and educational opportunities and partnerships linked to sustainable land management;
- local production of affordable farm inputs such as organic fertilisers, seeds, tools, and pesticides and sell at cost price;
- brand development and marketing platforms for NETMABR agricultural products;
- support for farmers to bridge the teething period when transitioning to sustainable and regenerative agriculture; and
- communication on agricultural success stories.