Sandra C. A. Ferguson

INTRODUCING OUR PROJECT PARTNER

Agency For Rural Transformation (ART)

Tell us about ART and provide a brief description of your work in Grenada.

The Agency for Rural Transformation (ART) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, rural development agency in Grenada which works to improve the quality of life of the rural poor and disadvantaged. It is committed to a people-centred community development process and its mission statement defines its role as an enabler and facilitator at the community level – "Empowering People! Empowering Communities!!" In support of its mission, ART's activities have been focused on rural communities under the broad themes of Community Empowerment; Capacity Building, focusing on community organisations, community leaders and children 5 – 16; Community Health Promotion; and Support to the Development of Livelihoods.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD 2024 – 2028

Contribute to the development of self-employment/income-generating activities to enhance welfare and well-being of individuals.

Promote and support households sectors/communities to implement measures which build individual, household/livelihood and community climate resilience and contribute to disaster risk reduction.

What is your role in the Multi-Actor Partnerships (MAPs) project?

As the focal point in Grenada for CPDC's regional Multi-Actor Partnerships on Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Preparedness, ART co-ordinates the implementation of the project activities on behalf of the CPDC. A significant role is the mobilisation of relevant stakeholders, partners and agencies, in addition to co-ordination of logistics in respect of in-country activities.

What role does the ART organisation play in combating the effects of climate change on the region?

The agency's principal role to date in combating the effects of climate change on the region has been local and national sensitisation and public awareness of the effects of climate change and the role of citizens and CSOs in combating climate change. Over the period December 2020 to August 2023, ART, in its role as Chair of the Inter Agency Group of Development Organisations, co-ordinated national activities on behalf of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, the implementing agency for the regional project, Enhancing CSOs Access and Readiness to Climate Finance. Among activities were mobilisation of the local CSO sector to participate in capacity building exercises in-person and virtually, co-ordinating the production of videos focusing on climate change work of local CSOs and the hosting of two Community Climate Solutions Expos.

How can the region adapt to the impacts of climate change/natural hazards?

Citizens must understand and appreciate that "climate change is everybody's business". How are they contributing to the problem and how can they be part of the solution? Individual responsibility is important. e.g. how can each person contribute to reducing emissions? What adjustments can they make? How can they contribute to reducing risks and building resilience? What is required to support citizens to take action? Education is key and, in some cases, the application of that knowledge requires finance and technical support.

What role do you think Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) can play in building resilience in the region?"

CDRFI can be a measure for building the resilience of individual and community assets. It can improve financial liquidity after a disaster and enable rapid recovery. It can also incentivise risk reduction behaviour and thus foster a culture of prevention-focused risk management.