

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 2018 - JUNE 2018

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Creating a Sustainable Sugarcane Industry in Belize

Project Number: BL-M1012 - Project Num.: ATN/ME-15051-BL

Purpose: The project objective at the results level is to increase farm-level capacity of Northern Belize sugar cane farmers to become globally competitive.

Country Admin

BELIZE

Country Beneficiary

BELIZE

Executing Agency:

SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

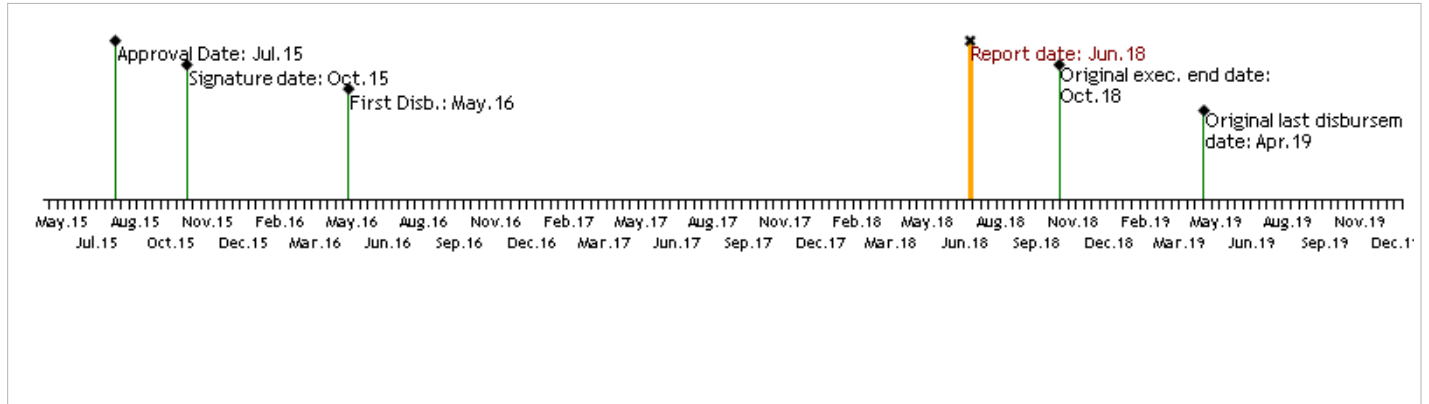
Design Team Leader:

SEGREE TERRY-ANN SHARLENE

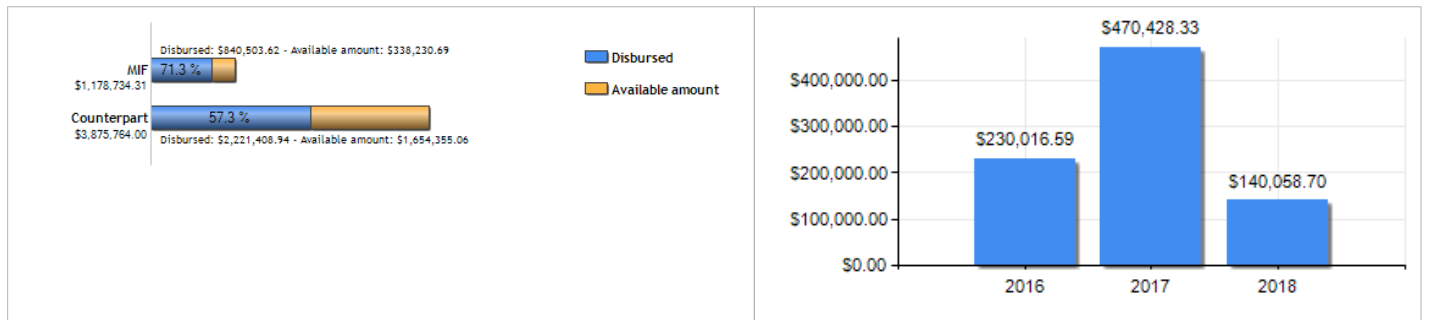
Supervision Team Leader:

SEGREE TERRY-ANN SHARLENE

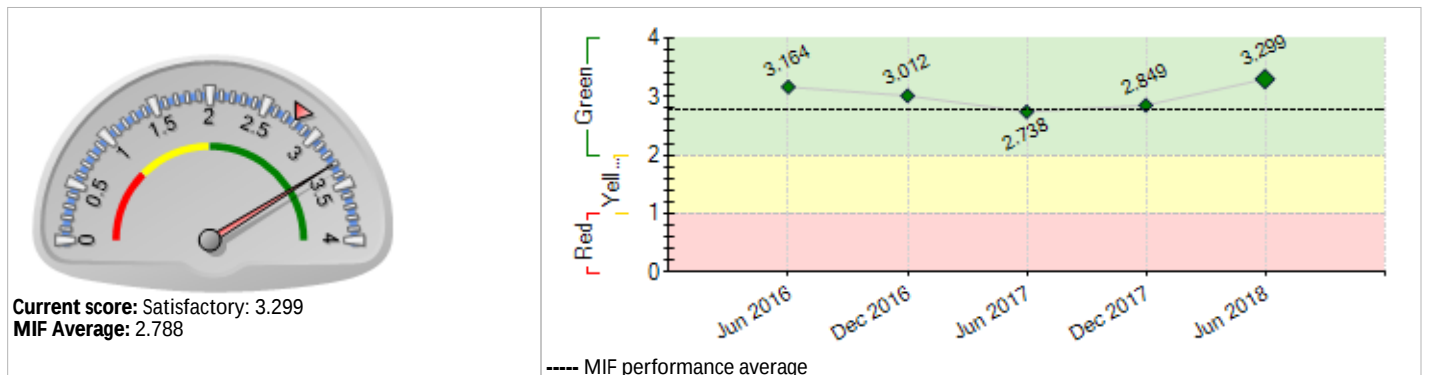
PROJECT CYCLE



FUNDS



PERFORMANCE SCORE



EXTERNAL RISKS

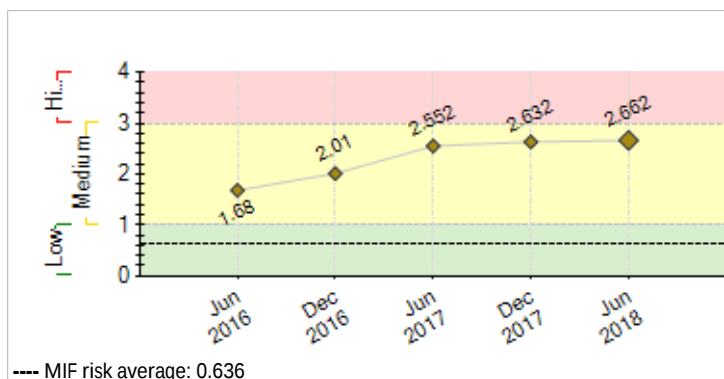
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk

Financial Management: Medium

Procurement: Low

Technical Capacity: Low



SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

To date we have completed up to milestone 4 of the project. The fourth milestone was completed in March of this year (2018) and consisted of a Harvesting audiovisual which was shown on two television stations as well as an online TV station and a radio station for radio listening farmers in the North. The information given was to indicate the harvesting techniques and processes which result in delivery of a high quality sugar cane to the mill, and was well received by the farmers. We now have two more milestones to complete, the next one is due in August 2018 and is being planned at present. This one will be a strategic communication event and will discuss the sustainability of the project going forward. The farmer field school program was completed during this semester. All the modules have been delivered and a graduation ceremony will be held for participants, including one Junior College, in September of this year. Extension activities now consist of Field Days as well as monitoring for pests and diseases in the trial plots. The sugar cane milling season finished in June of 2018 and while the crop was not as large as last year, it still was a good year in terms of production. An encouraging sign was the improvement of the quality of the deliveries as measured by tons cane to tons sugar. This was better this year and we think it reflects the improved training. SIMIS continues to be discussed and the industry stakeholders have agreed to restart performance monitoring.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments
The project is progressing and meeting most of its indicators

Summary of project performance in the last six months

During the past semester the farmer field school program was completed with the participating farmers in all areas of the Northern Districts. Graduation will take place in September. A rotational field day was held on March 15, 2018 for women and youth of the various High Schools in both districts. This was well attended and good participation was observed from students. A field day was held on the topic of Integrated Weed Management to farmers in all areas and was also well attended. An exchange visit was made to Cuba by members of the three associations as well as other stakeholders who were self funded. This was to seek information on environmental concerns using bio-fertilizers instead of chemical. Some farmers are now utilizing the techniques learned by the visit. Our variety trials continue and we now have enough data to show that at least 3 varieties are outstanding enough to be able to recommend use by farmers. The subsequent work on these varieties will grow enough seed material to be able to give to farmers for in-field trials on their farms. These will be recommended for comparison with present varieties used by farmers. We will definitely meet the criteria set by the project in this regard. The SIMIS program continues to be upgraded and the stakeholders have agreed to utilize the program for the next crop to performance monitoring which will bring the program back on line for use by the industry to gather all important and relevant information.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

Indicators		Baseline	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 3	Planned	Achieved	Status
Goal: The project objective at the impact level is to sustain or increase the income of Northern Belize sugarcane farmers	I.1 Average farms' annual sales growth from cane (CRF 330100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	15			20	1	
		Oct 2015	Oct 2017			Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	I.2 Number of farmers in lower production threshold (below 75 tons) (Disaggregated by sex)	20	19	17		15	18	
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
Purpose: The project objective at the results level is to increase farm-level capacity of Northern Belize sugar cane farmers to become globally competitive.	R.1 Annual volume of sugar produced by Northern Belize cane farmers (in metric tons)	123000	130000	145000		150000	143309	
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	R.2 Number of farms adopting sustainable production practices (CRF 230600)	0	1000	2000		3500	2585	
	Improved environmental management and labor practices	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	R.3 Number of farms that have adopted new technologies or practices (CRF 230100)	0	1000	2000		3500	2585	
	BMP, replanting, new varieties	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	R.4 Average yield per acre for participating farms Measured in metric tons per acre.	19	19	23		28	25	
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	R.5 Acres of sugar cane lands sustainably managed or under cane cultivation (CRF 240100)	0	10000	30000		45000	31000	
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	R.6 Number of acres of sugar cane replanted using best practices	3000	7500	15000		22500	7460	
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
Component 1: Enhancing Productivity of Cane Farmers and Harvesting Groups Weight: 81% Classification: High Satisfactory	C1.1 Number of varieties tested by SIRD and released for propagation	0	2			3	3	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2017			Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	C1.2 Number of training modules developed on environmental sustainability and women and youth	0	2			2	2	On Course
		Oct 2015	Oct 2017			Oct 2018	Dec 2016	
	C1.3 Number of farmers receiving training in cane cultivation through farmer field schools (CRF 130100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	2000	4000		5400	4255	On Course
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
	C1.4 Number of harvest group leaders (HGLs) trained in improved	0	75	200		270	260	On Course

	cane harvesting and harvest management (CRF 130100)	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
C1.15	Number of farmers trained by HGLs in improved cane harvesting	0	1500	4000		5400	4500	On Course
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
C1.16	Demonstration plots established and maintained for harvest group trainings	0	12	12		12	12	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	

Component 2: Developing an Industry-Level Management Information System**Weight:** 16%**Classification:** High Satisfactory

C2.11	Number of cane parcel GIS datasets completed	0	1	1		1	5	Finished
	Dataset contains 90% of cane parcels in production	Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
C2.12	Number of cane farmer registry/identification systems completed	0	1	1		1	4	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Dec 2017	
C2.13	Number of HGL trained on Sugar Industry Management Information System (CRF 110100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	75	200		270	275	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	
C2.14	Number of field captains and loaders trained on Sugar Industry Management Information System (CRF 110100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	100	250		540	374	On Course
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Feb 2018	
C2.15	Barcode traceability system for cane deliveries implemented and operational	0	1			1	1	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2017			Oct 2018	Dec 2016	
C2.16	Number of transport operators trained on Sugar Industry Management Information System (CRF 110100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	100	250		540	3500	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jul 2017	

Component 3: Capacity-building for farmers and farmer organizations**Weight:** 1%**Classification:** High Satisfactory

C3.11	Number of managers and leaders from 3 cane farmer associations trained in financial management and internal controls (CRF 110100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	24	24		24	35	On Course
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Oct 2017	
C3.12	Number of farmer associations completing or updating 3 year strategic business plans	0	3	3		3	3	Finished
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Oct 2017	
C3.13	Number of farmers trained on financial literacy topics (farm budgeting, cash flow management, credit) (CRF 130100) (Disaggregated by sex)	0	1500	3000		5400	3678	On Course
		Oct 2015	Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Jun 2018	

Component 4: Knowledge management and strategic communication**Weight:** 2%**Classification:** Satisfactory

C4.11	Number of public sector institutions who access MIF knowledge products knowledge sharing activities (CRF 150100)	0				5		
						Oct 2018		
C4.12	Number of private sector institutions who access MIF knowledge products knowledge sharing activities (CRF 150100)	0				10		
						Oct 2018		
C4.13	Number of development partners who access MIF knowledge products knowledge sharing activities (CRF 150100)	0				2		
						Oct 2018		
C4.14	Publication of an annual report on Northern Belize Sugarcane industry based on data from SIMIS	0	1	1		3	1	On Course
			Oct 2016	Oct 2017		Oct 2018	Oct 2016	
C4.15	Communications plan developed	0				1		
						Oct 2018		
C4.16	Flagship publication/annual report on the state of the Northern Belize Sugarcane industry.	0				1		
						Oct 2018		
C4.17	Case Study	0				1		
						Oct 2018		
C4.18	Annual Event	0				3	2	On Course
						Oct 2018	Jul 2017	

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date of achievement	Status
M0 Conditions Prior	8	Apr 2016	8	Apr 2016	Achieved
M1 Demonstration Plots Established by Each Field Officer.	12	Nov 2016	12	Sep 2016	Achieved
M2 Printing of Farmer Field School (FFS) Manuals	1	May 2017	1	May 2017	Achieved
M3 Airing of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Audiovisual	1	Nov 2017	1	Oct 2017	Achieved
M4 Airing of Harvesting Audiovisual	1	Mar 2018	1	Mar 2018	Achieved
M5 Hosting of Strategic Communication Event	1	Aug 2018			
M6 Completion of Train the Trainers Program	1	Feb 2019			

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE*[None reported in this period]***SECTION 4: RISKS****MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE**

	Level	Mitigation action	Responsible
1. Stakeholder Risk: There is a risk that the SDP process may extend beyond one year because industry stakeholders cannot sign off on critical actions to secure long-term viability of the sugar industry. The outcome of the SDP process effectively determines whether BSI-ASR will move forward with the expansion of the mill and power plant and the farmer credit facility which is key to industry growth.	High	BSI-ASR, the Government of Belize and the farmer associations are aware of the importance of moving forward with the SDP for their mutual benefit. While the project cannot completely mitigate this risk, the implementation of the MIF project is expected to create positive momentum and improve information and coordination that will be important for concluding the SDP and beginning industry expansion. Until the SDP is agreed, BSI-ASR is moving forward with smaller scale investments aimed at improving efficiency in the cane yard, storage capacity and transport systems to address immediate constraints	Project Coordinator
2. Market Risk. Although EU preferential prices for Belize will cease, further changes to the EU sugar regime may increase the supply of sugar on the market, further driving down prices.	High	The BSCFA is Fairtrade certified and the two new associations (the CSCPA and the PSCPA) are expected to become certified soon. As such, BSI-ASR is working to establish contracts with large buyers looking to source Fairtrade sugar. This is part of the industry's diversification strategy to enter new markets and capture higher prices.	Project Coordinator
3. Sustainability Risk. This risk is related to the extension service not being sustained beyond the MIF project but, more importantly, it relates to SIRDl's capacity to become financially sustainable in the long	High	: From its design, the MIF project proposal aims to consolidate SIRDl's extension services so that services can be provided in an organized manner. The project includes the creation of a sustainability plan for SIRDl. The plan will seek to have BSI-ASR and the three associations co-finance these core industry services after MIF participation ends	Project Coordinator

term			
4. Absence of sufficient credit for farmers. Raising productivity is closely linked to replanting cane fields, which requires availability of affordable, long term credit for farmers. There is a risk that core services offered by the project (extension services, improved varieties, information management) may not be sufficient to increase farmer productivity without access to finance	Medium	While the project does not directly address access to long term credit, this is a core part of the SDP, which envisages the establishment of a US\$100 million cane farmer credit facility. BSI-ASR has engaged in detailed discussion with development partners (including SCF/CFI) around structuring a farmer credit facility which would enable 70,000 acres to be replanted over a 10 year period. Until this facility is in place, the project will leverage the existing EU replanting fund which is providing financing for renovating cane fields until the end of 2017.	Project Coordinator
PROJECT RISK LEVEL: High TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS: 4 IN EFFECT RISKS: 4 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 0			

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion: HP - Highly Probable

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

[None reported in this period]

Actions related to sustainability which have been taken in the reporting period:

Discussions are ongoing between the stakeholders in the sugar industry regarding sustainability issues. In the next reporting period, a report will be made on more specific areas being considered by the industry, as a sustainability planning event will be held in the month of August, 2018. Discussions will be held on the level of funding and administration of the activities carried out under the project. As well, a report on the level of income for the stakeholders, including BSI/ASR, will be determined, and this will dictate the level of funding available for the activities. In terms of SIRD, they continue to provide farmer services including tractor and farm implements, pest and disease control and in the near future, biologic control of the most important pests in the industry. A mini soils laboratory is now being set up on the SIRD compound and will shortly offer services to cane farmers and other agricultural farmers. In the Month of August, 2018, a strategic communication meeting will be held with all stakeholders during which the sustainability issues of the project will be discussed and agreed upon. Reporting on this meeting will be made in the next report.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

	Relative to	Author
1. Since there is a large contingent of staff to monitor, it would have been best if a vehicle would be made available specifically for project monitoring. Either purchase or assignment would have made implementation better.	Implementation	Tewes, Michael
2. In the design of projects of this type, it is important that an accountant be hired specifically for the project implementation. Having an accountant with many other activities to monitor makes it difficult to have timely accounts reports and delays implementation.	Design	Tewes, Michael