

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT IN DESIGN * (*)

Reigniting Empowerment of tribal women in Suriname through Engagement in transformative Technology (RESET)

PITCH ELIGIBILITY DATE		COUNTRY(IES)
08/22/2022		Suriname
ALIGNED WITH COUNTRY STRATEGY?		
Yes		
PARTNER(S)		
Wi! Uma Fu Sranan		
PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT		
B (**)		
TOTAL BUDGET	IDB Lab	LOCAL COUNTERPART AND COFINANCING
US 1,500,000	US 150,000	US 800,000
DESCRIPTION		

The problem The problem that is being addressed is the severe disruption in livelihoods and empowerment of tribal women engaged in cassava production, processing and export in Suriname's interior hinterland communities, caused by the restrictions imposed as a COVID 19 response, the steep increase in costs of living as a result of a 130% devaluation in less than 12 months, and particularly, damage caused by severe flooding in these already vulnerable communities, all of which occurred over the period 2020 – 2022. These developments have also exacerbated the broader problem of sovereign food security in the country which has been threatened by global supply constraints and increased pricing, particularly in low-income communities.

The solution The proposed solution focuses on piloting more climate resilient, agricultural technologies and innovations to reset primary production of cassava for female producers in the Wi! Uma Fu Sranan co-operative. The project will initiate a new model of production that improves efficiency as well as resilience of cassava cultivation and farmer livelihoods, focusing on female growers. In the aftermath of severe flooding which destroyed crops, fields and homes and because most savings have been eroded, female producers will be primarily supported via the provision training in new technologies and small grants to restart cultivation.

The beneficiaries The primary beneficiaries of this project are low income, highly vulnerable women from Indigenous and Maroon communities in Suriname that are members of the Wi! Uma Fu Sranan co-operative, who will be reengaged in productive and sustainable livelihoods in cultivation of cassava for processing and sale local and export markets.

The partner The project will be executed by Wi! Uma Fu Sranan partnership with SURIVET NV.

Founded in 2013, Wi! Uma Fu Sranan (WUFS) is the first all-female Agriculture Cooperative in Suriname. The members are hardworking rural women from the hinterland, who seek to provide for

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**The IDB categorizes all projects into one of six E/S impact categories. Category A projects are those with the most significant and mostly permanent E/S impacts, category B those that cause mostly local and short-term impacts, and category C those with minimal or no negative impacts. A fourth category, FI-1 (high risk) Financial Intermediary (FI)'s portfolio includes exposure to business activities with potential significant adverse environmental or social risks or impacts that are diverse, mostly irreversible or unprecedented, FI-2 (medium risk) FI's portfolio consists of business activities that have potential limited adverse environmental or social risks or impacts, FI-3 (low risk) FI's portfolio consists of financial exposure to business activities that predominantly have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

their families with limited access to sustainable income. SURIVIT was established in 2006 with the objective to produce agro processed products that meet international requirements by using local raw materials to improve local production and substitution of imported products.

Both organizations have a collaboration agreement and depend on each other to produce the cassava-based products; SURIVIT depends on WUFS for cultivation and partial processing of the

cassava; and WUFS depends on SURIVIT for advanced processing of cassava-based products such as porridge, pancake mixes and baby food. To strengthen this relationship and strategy, WUFS became shareholders of SURIVIT, which means that part of the profits made by SURIVIT in processing and sales of the product range, flows back to WUFS and by extension, its members, as dividends.

The IDB Lab's contribution IDB Lab contribution requested is a Non-Reimbursable Technical Co-operation of \$150,000.

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