

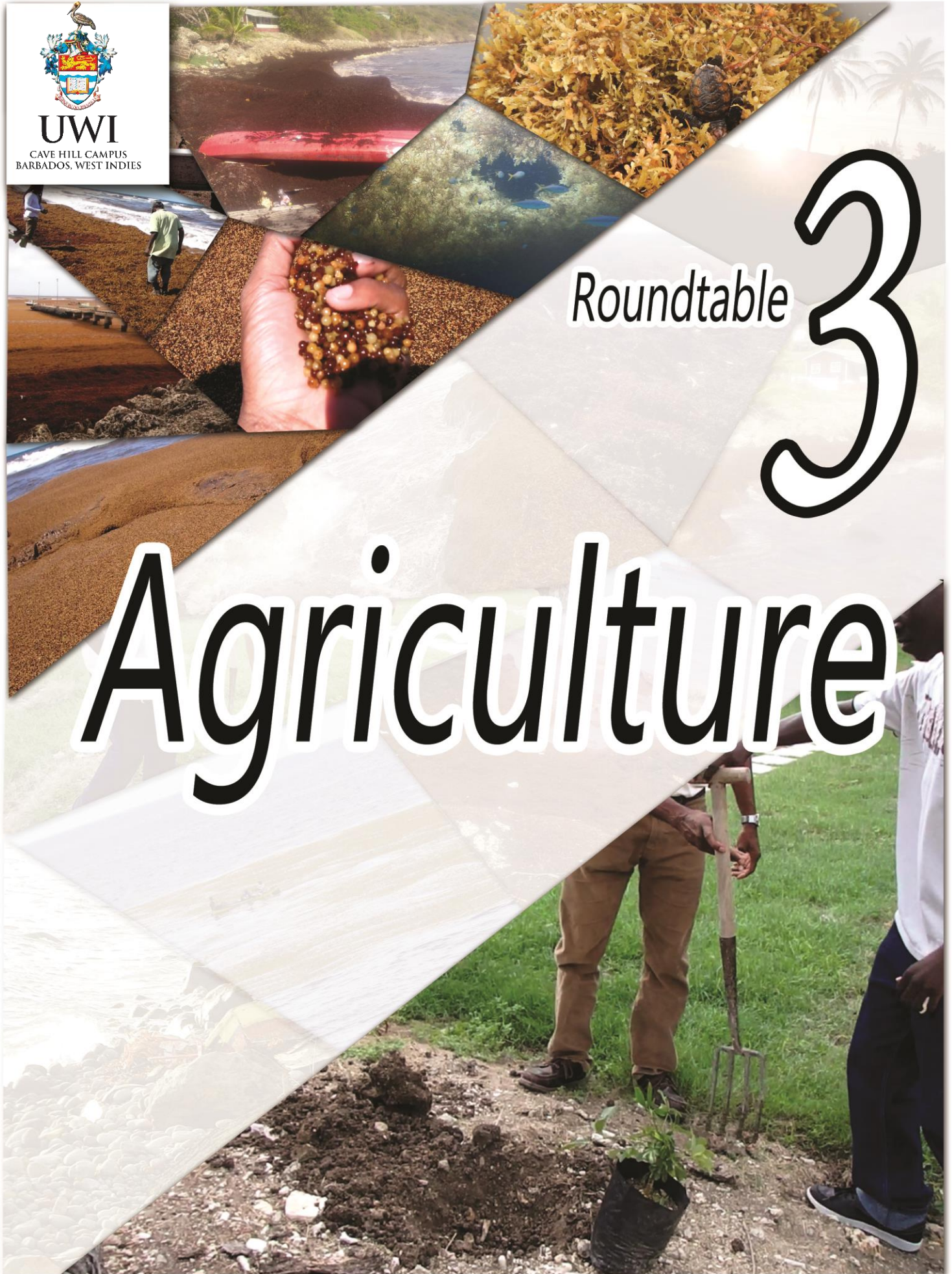


UWI
CAVE HILL CAMPUS
BARBADOS, WEST INDIES

Roundtable

3

Agriculture



ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Roundtable Three: Product research and development

-Viable options to be explored-

Topic: Agriculture – Feed & Fertilizers

INSTRUCTIONS

Persons should have selected this topic because they have an interest or expertise in the specific area.

This is a regional issue, therefore do not focus exclusively on the Barbadian situation, but think about the regional experience and brainstorm regional, international as well as local actions that might be required.

Each group must **select a rapporteur** who will be responsible for summarising and recording the main points made for each question.

Over the next **2 hours** have been allocated for this discussion. The Moderator will announce time checks every 20 minutes. Groups should try to use their time to ensure that they **address all 5 questions**.

At the end of the session this booklet must be handed to one of the administrative staff.

The information will be compiled and emailed to all of the Symposium participants.

1. What is being done and lessons learnt?

- Research exists (globally)
- Use as bio-fertilizer, compost tea, conditional
- Regional Responses:
 - St. Lucia Algas Organics (250 tons/month processed; Soil Amendment – Physical & Chemical Changes) – Total Plant Tonic
 - SBRC – Government Analytical Services - SBRC initiated a program encouraging the public to bring seaweed for pay (\$50.00 p/tonne) to their facility to carry out research on the uses of seaweed. SBRC had a chemical analysis done on the seaweed using the services of the Government Analytical Services (GAS)
 - Chemical Analysis – Tannins
 - Can make studies available – made compost tea & fertilizers
 - Increased minerals & nutrients
 - Organic Fertilizers – Organic Mulch
 - Ocean Surf – Atwell
 - Richard Hood
 - Arrival & Nutrition Unit – Min. of Agriculture
 - St. George Secondary School
- Opportunities for acidic soils for use as filtration
- St. Lucia Algas – Study with IICA and CADI – On effect on soil fertility, resilience and yield
- UNDP GEF SGP – Social regional projects in biodiversity and international waters
- In agriculture working well with certain products & plants.
- Reduced costs when used as opposed to other fertilizers (requires less products to be issued)

2. What are the issues to be investigated?

- Is it an effective bio-stimulant?
- Appropriate dilution rate? – 1 tbsp. to a gallon Algas has been explored
- How does this affect crop yield?
- Seaweed builds resilience to salinity; but what exactly is the correlation between salinity and resistance?
- How can we scale up and distribute the organic products once created?
- How can we validate or further explore the potential fertilizer economy/market? The group raised the issue that 3.5 million is an underestimation.
- We need to reinvestigate the market potential of bio-stimulants specifically.
- We shouldn't pit seaweed products as just an organic fertilizer, but also a wider opportunity for product enhancement.
- Unique niche – Higher return.
- How can education be used to show position public perception – Build confidence in the market.

Issues to Investigate Cont'd.:

- Commercial scale costs & mechanisms
- Systems – What capacity do we use to determine ROI
- Employment potential
- Utility in other markets
- NCC removed 12,000t³ February to June
- Efficient collection at sea

3. Who are the stakeholders to be involved?

- BHTA – May be willing to pay for responses
- UNDP – UWI, CARIRI
- CARDI
- BAS
- NCC
- CAFAM – Caribbean Farmers Network
- IICA
- SBRC
- CARICOM
- Algas
- CTO
- OGCA National/Regional Groves Association
- All National Governments
- Caribbean Sustainability Collective

4. What resources are required?

- \$100,000.00 – Crane collection device for site specific solutions which causes issues for other beaches.
- Research Expertise – Technical Resources (Dr. Sriunivasa; K. Popuri)
- Networks for private sector cooperation
- Dr. Emma Smith explore – Chemical components (NPK) – Environmental Chemist
- Elemental Analysis Equipment (Costs) – Currently sends to Taiwan even though we extract here.

5. What are potential sources of funding?

We need to have joint efforts:

- UNDP
- Min. of Agriculture
- Min. of Finance
- Green Climate Fund – UNDP can access for national governments
- Adaptation Fund
- IADB
- EU
- FAO
- Foreign Universities that need Alginate

SARGASSUM ROUNDTABLE REPORT



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Thank You for Your Participation

At the end of the session please hand this booklet to one of the administrative staff.