

Fond St Jacques Agro-Tourism Park



The Community of Fond St. Jacques

- ▶ The Fond St. Jacques community is an agriculturally rich area, historically known for tree and root crops (cocoa, coffee, nutmegs, citrus and mangoes). It is commonly referred to as the “Bread Basket” of Saint Lucia. It is also home to a key segment of Saint Lucia’s natural tropical forests; rich in biodiversity, breathtaking scenery, natural springs and dissected by numerous streams which join the main Fond St. Jacques river. The area is also located in the Sulphur Springs Valley where thermal springs are found.
- ▶ The watershed is naturally prone to landslides, floods and seismic hazards because of its geology - volcanic geology mainly dacites, high rainfall regime (250-300mm) average monthly and steep slopes. In 2010 the watershed was severely impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Tomas - large areas of forest cover were lost to landslides and the settlement areas suffered severe mudflows which damaged property and took 5 lives. The area was also previously impacted by Tropical Storm Debbie in 1994.
- ▶ Other key issues include the fresh water contamination from agro chemicals used on farms that are located in the upper reaches of the watershed and along the river banks (Desrache, L’tang and Migny) as well as brown water from linear settlements along the main Fond St. Jacques River. These activities have compromised the quality of the fresh water systems within the watershed and threaten the lower reaches of the watershed and marine environment.

Aerial View of Part of the Fond St Jacques Community



A community of diverse
talents!

Young Drummers



Future Generation of Musicians



Community Carnival Pageant



Pork 'n' Country Chef Competition



Agro-Processing Groups



Reigning National Independence Queen



Our Breathtaking Sites

En Bas Saut Waterfall



Grand Eden Estate with Morne Gimie Mountain Range



Mural at the Fond St Jacques Catholic Church



Why an Agro-Tourism Park?

- ▶ **The Agro Tourism Park is expected to create employment and encourage sustainable management of natural resources while providing visitors with an authentic cultural and gastronomic experience.**

Attractions to include:

- ▶ • Farm to table tours
- ▶ • Medicinal gardens
- ▶ • Massages
- ▶ • Forest hiking trails
- ▶ • Bird watching
- ▶ • Waterfalls
- ▶ • Natural pools
- ▶ • Eco lodges
- ▶ • Some of the best vistas in the region
- ▶ • “Ital” Farms
- ▶ • Cooking classes on the preparation of local cuisine
- ▶ • Spring water at the source
- ▶ • Historical buildings dating back to the 1800s
- ▶ • Church mural by national renowned artist, Dunstan St. Omer
- ▶ • Demonstration of organic farms

Benefits of the Agro-Tourism Park

- ▶ 1. Slope stabilization (The Agro Tourism Park through the initiatives of IWECo will ensure slope stabilization)
- ▶ 2. Improved water quality in the lower watershed.
- ▶ 3. Upgraded trails leading to waterfalls
- ▶ 4. Improvement of natural pools
- ▶ 5. Increased production of organic foods
- ▶ 6. Establishment of entrepreneurism and new businesses
- ▶ 7. Improvement in night live
- ▶ 8. Improvement in cultural activities
- ▶ 9. Creation of employment
- ▶ 10. Community cohesiveness
- ▶ 11. Sustainable use of natural resources to maximize economic benefits
- ▶ 12. Added value to farmers' produce

On behalf of the
**Fond St Jacques
Development Committee**

Thank You!