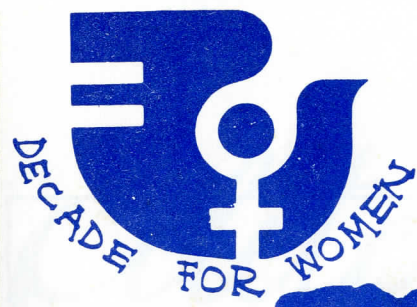


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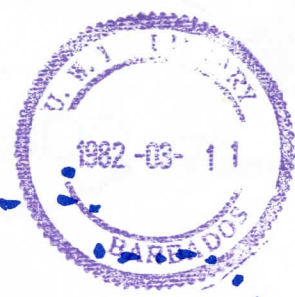
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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT CARIBBEAN WOMEN No. 5

1981



WOMAN SPEAK!

WOMAN SPEAK!

CONTENTS

	Page	Page
Editorial	3	World Food Day 9
Woman's Development Project	4	Management Skills for Women 10
New Woman's Bureau-Belize	5	W.R.S.M. Constructs Garment Factory 10
BCWAND form link with U.W.I	5	'Work has no Gender' 11
Regional Exams for nurses	6	Feature—Maggie of St. Vincent 12
Jaundice in the Newborn	6	CARIWA NEWS 13
Spiritual Development Programme	7	CCW Report 13
Pre-School Teachers Training	7	Meals for Millions 14
Food and Nutrition Program	8	Meals for Millions 15

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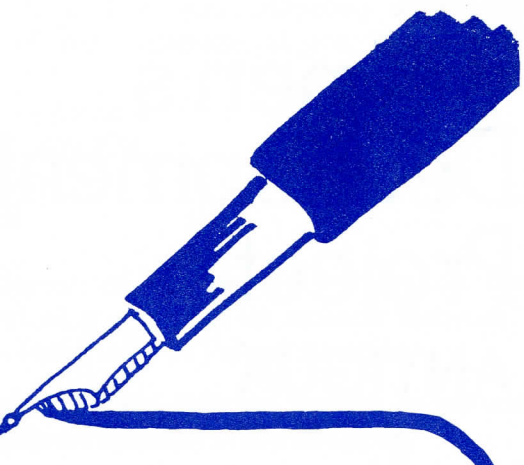
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Editorial

Girls and Boys the Same, But not Equal

In the Caribbean boys and girls have equal access to the school system, but this has not ensured and does not necessarily ensure equal opportunities in either education or employment. Significant differences in choices offered to girls and boys, sex role stereotyping in textbooks and teaching material, attitudes and expectations of teachers, and, women's perceptions of themselves, further compounded by the norms, values and expectations of society, have all contributed to the traditional roles and low status accorded to women in the Caribbean society.

Access to formal education has not guaranteed that our women will be equipped for active participation in development, for although a significant number of girls have attained "higher" education, and a few have made a breakthrough into the non-traditional and administrative and managerial fields, the bulk of women in the Caribbean remain in the low-status, low-paid marginal jobs.

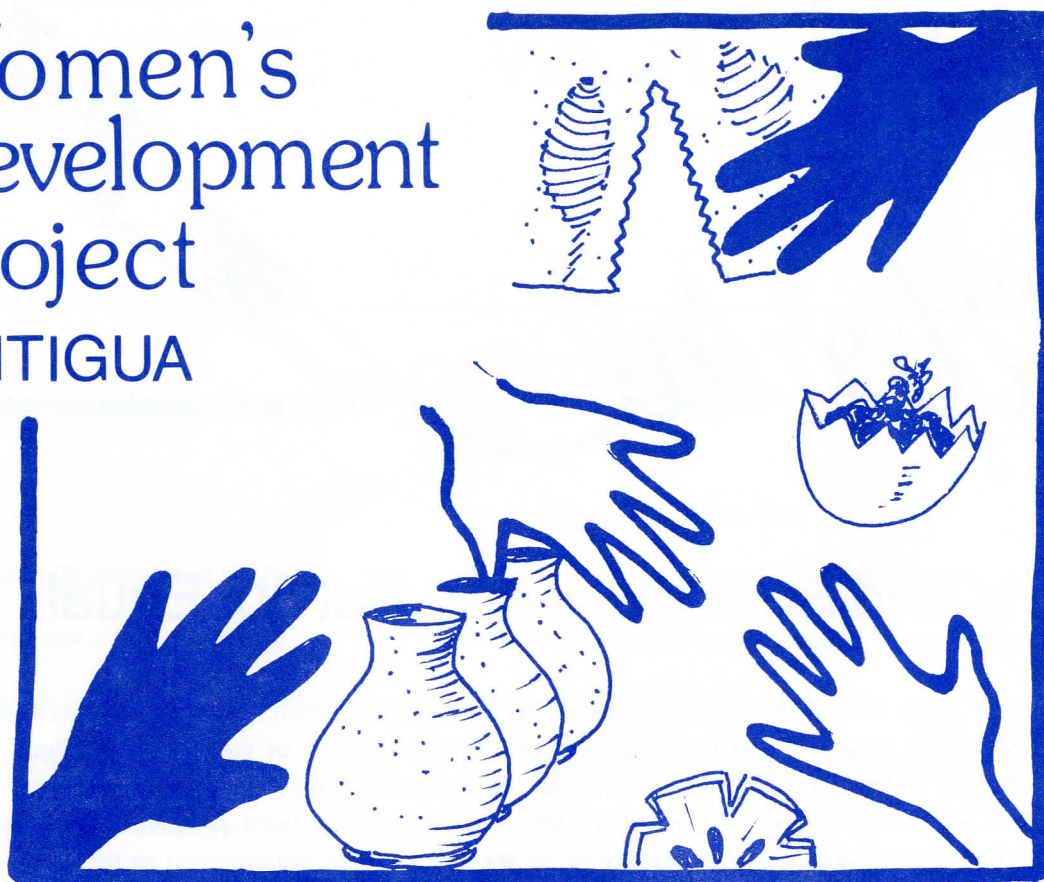
Education has not provided women with skills which would give them access to the more lucrative jobs in non-traditional fields of technology and science. It has not equipped them for leadership and decision-making roles at the highest levels in Caribbean society.

What is needed is a change in the deeply entrenched traditional attitudes which exist towards women, and which are reinforced in the educational system and other institutions of the region. In addition, education must help our women to develop a new awareness of themselves — a recognition of their potential and worth, and it must help them to see themselves as active participants and beneficiaries of the development of their Caribbean society.

The Career Days mentioned in this issue of Woman Speak, and similar activities sponsored by women's organisations and agencies, provide models for the introduction of wider career options into our regional educational systems.

Women's Development Project

ANTIGUA



The Women's Development Project of Antigua is now in its third year of operation. To date, two groups of women have been trained in the project's training programme.

- * Food Preparation
- * Craft
- * Dress-making
- * Personal Development

The first group completed training one year ago, and from this group, five women have formed an income-generating project in Catering and Craft. Their plans are to set up a small business to fill catering orders, to produce and sell baked goods, and to produce craft items (mainly tie-dyed articles and embroidery work). At present, they are awaiting funding to start this venture. It is hoped that they will be fully operational within the next six months.

During the past year, this group have been actually operating on a limited scale, in the catering field. They have regular catering orders for weekends, and have filled orders for cocktail parties, teas, and for restaurants. They do this on a part-time basis, while being partially employed otherwise. The group operates from the CADEC office, where the project is housed, and they use the project's equipment and facilities. When they receive their funds, they will be able to operate in their own facilities, and purchase their own equipment.

The second group completed their training in July, 1981. The participants of this group are presently making plans for their future income-generating activities. It is possible that some members of this group may be integrated into the first group's project, depending on mutual agreement.

Belize Establishes Women's Bureau

The Government of Belize, as part of its Development Plan has established a Women's Bureau in the Social Development Department of The Ministry of Labour, Social Services and Community Development. The establishment of The Women's Bureau supports Belizean women by seeking equal opportunities for their maximum participation in the country's development process.

The establishment of The Women's Bureau has enabled The Social Development Department to bring its Home Economics and Income Generating Programmes into a unified Women-In-Development Unit while at the same time, widening the focus of women's programmes to include planning, general policy, programme and project development, training, public education, advocacy and research.

Funding for the establishment of the Women's Bureau has been received from The United Nations Voluntary Fund For The Decade For Women, and the Government of Belize. The Women In Development Unit of The University of The West Indies will also be providing technical advice as needed.

The Director is Zee Edgell, The Women's Bureau, Social Development Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Services and Community Development, Belmopan, BELIZE.

Belize Committee for Woman & Development, link with U.W.I

As a major step towards formalising its structure, the Belize Committee for Women and Development, has linked up with the Extra-Mural

Department, and is now operating under the umbrella of the University of the West Indies.

The new address is:
C/o P.O. Box 229
Belize City
BELIZE

The Committee is presently working on the publication of the issue of its Journal "Network" which is a social research journal aimed at:

- a. Sensitizing the Belizean society in general to woman's problems and struggles.
- b. Exploring possible solutions to the problems which confront Belizean women.

The Journal is available by subscription at a cost of \$15.00 Belize currency per annum, or at \$2.50 + \$1.00 postage per copy.

Election of Officers

At a meeting of the Belize Committee for Women and Development (BCWAND) held in June, 1981, elections were held and the following executive members were elected:

- Ms. Zoila Ellis — Co-ordinator; Ms. Velda Aguet — Secretary; Ms. Eleanor Smith — Treasurer; Ms. Bette Lindo — Asst. Co-ordinator.

Survey

Individual members of BCWAND, are participating in a Survey conducted by the Council of Voluntary Social Services.

The Survey is aimed at assessing the attitudes of young women (mainly teenagers) in Belize towards training in non-traditional skills.

The Survey seeks to identify the areas where training in non-traditional skills could be useful in order to increase the options available to young school-leavers and other young women.



Regional Examinations for Nurses



The Caribbean Community Secretariat this year organised two workshops to accelerate the project for Regional Examinations for Nurse Registration, which is one of the important projects being undertaken by the Regional Nursing Body. The meetings were held in Guyana.

The objective of the workshops was to establish a uniform standard of testing and evaluation of nursing students for professional nurse registration.

The project will be implemented at both regional and local levels.

The regional level will concern itself with the development of a Blueprint for Regional Examinations,

The local level on the other hand, will deal with the training of nurse examiners in the skills of writing and scoring items, the orientation of student-nurses to the new format for examinations and the involvement of Nursing Councils in the acceptance of the proposed examination.

The Canadian Nurses Association has given valuable assistance to this project by acquiring funding — through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and by supplying consultants.

JAUNDICE IN THE NEWBORN

The Commonwealth Caribbean Medical Research Council has reported to the CARICOM Health Ministers Conference important findings related to jaundice in the newborn, a matter which has been of great concern to this body in the light of the high rates of sickness and death in infancy and especially in the newborn.

Preliminary work in Jamaica indicated that deficiency of one of the red cell enzymes is an important cause of jaundice in the newborn. Enzymes alter the rates of biochemical reactions and the defective enzyme, G6PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase), increases the rate of breakdown of glucose. This reaction is itself linked to another series of reactions important for maintaining the structure of the red cell membrane, and also hemoglobin and other proteins. G6PD deficient red cells therefore breakdown prematurely under certain circumstances.

Only some G6PD deficient infants become jaundiced in the neonatal period but the proportion developing jaundice and the factors precipitating its development are unknown.

Fortunately, there are facilities available at the large hospitals in the region to treat jaundiced infants and so prevent dangerous complications. However, all infants do not have access to these facilities and it is therefore necessary to recognise the pregnancies at risk before the infants are born or as soon as possible after birth. The study which is underway involves the recognition of G6PD deficient infants at birth and careful observation to find out (a) the proportion developing moderate or severe jaundice; (b) possible precipitating factors in the mother, in the infant or in the environment.

Infants are, of course, treated promptly once jaundice is recognised. In addition, since there are several other known causes of jaundice during the neonatal period, study of the possible interaction between G6PD deficiency and these other causes is also being undertaken.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SOCIAL CENTRE
DOMINICA

DOMINICA

A special Spiritual Development Programme has been introduced for the members of the Social League of Dominica.

The aim of this programme is to form Christian attitudes and values in the members of the League, and to generate the type of faith and commitment that will transform the lives not only of the participants, but of their families and communities.

"The League aims at the total development of man," a spokeswoman pointed out, "and for the past few years there has been much emphasis placed on, and many strides made, not only in the League but in the wider community with regard to the physical, economic and social aspects of development. It was felt however, that the time had come for more attention to be paid to spiritual development, which in turn would act as a foundation for other forms of development," the spokeswoman continued.

The Programme is at present aimed at three pilot areas; Castle Bruce, Thibaud and Goodwill.

DOMINICA

Pre-School Education Project in Dominica

The Pre-School Education Project (PEP) of the Social Centre of Dominica held a training course for the more experienced group of pre-school teachers. The training course was held from April 21-24, 1981, and forty-five out of the fifty teachers in that group participated.

The theme of the course was "Enrichment and Creativity in the Teachers' Professional and Personal Development." The objectives of the training course were:- 1) to re-inforce teachers' knowledge and understanding of the pre-school child; 2) to assist the teachers to continue, develop and practise positive attitudes towards teaching as a profession; 3) to re-examine and consolidate their role in the classroom as teacher, facilitator and curriculum developer; 4) to develop confidence in their role as agents of social change.

Topics covered included: Mathematics, Language, Arts, Health, Creative Activity, Professionalism, Organisation and Administration of Schools, Child Development, Religious Advice, Drama, Music, Demonstration School and Evaluation.

The Managing Director, Social Centre, chaired the opening function at which the Minister of Education and Health, Youth Affairs, Sports and Culture, was present along with other invited guests.



FOOD and NUTRITION programme

DOMINICA

THE FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME IN DOMINICA

The Food and Nutrition Programme of the Social Centre of Dominica embarked on a new venture with an agricultural slant – "Food Production/Animal Rearing Model Areas", in January this year.

The objectives of the project are:

- to enable the community to become more self-sufficient,
- to increase the intake of protein, and decrease the money spent on animal protein.
- to increase the intake and production of locally grown vegetables,
- to encourage the establishment of similar plots in all communities
- to improve food preparation skills and eating habits of the entire community.

A Model, consisting of a vegetable plot, a poultry rearing project, and a rabbit rearing project, has been established already in five (5) villages in the country.

Technical assistance for the programme is being given by the Agricultural Division. An Agricultural Assistant from the Division, accompanied by the Centre's Nutrition Officer along with a Field-worker and/or Aide for a respective area, conduct training sessions (theoretical and practical) at each site once per month.

It is proposed that a milking goat can be introduced into each model area, and that the project will be adopted by other groups and individuals in the districts.

WORLD FOOD DAY

OCTOBER 16, 1981

Today, More People Suffer From Hunger Than Ever Before.

World Food Day will be celebrated throughout the World on October 16, 1981, the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. This is an opportunity to do something about world hunger. It is a time to pay tribute to people who produce food and to those who work the land. It is a chance to learn more about why hunger exists and about ways to overcome it.

Here in the Caribbean we are all aware to some extent of the problem of malnutrition. Many children suffer from some degree of Protein-calorie malnutrition. Pregnant and lactating women are also very much in need of better nutrition, especially as it relates to the children they bear. In future issues of this newsletter we hope to offer you some ideas on how, with the resources around you, you can produce more nutritious foods at home and/or in your communities. We also welcome ideas from you for publication.

Remember Participation in World Food Day Means:-

- Renewed commitment and resources for food and development programmes.
- Internationally coordinated action to tackle food problems.
- Sponsorship of activities and observances, such as:
 - Seminars and debates on the causes of hunger and proposed solutions.
 - Analytic and informative newspaper supplements, radio and TV Programmes.
 - Market displays and harvest festivals; awards for farmers.
 - Essay competitions for school children.
 - Special religious services and meetings.
 - Stamps, coins and medals issued by Governments.



GRENADA

MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOR WOMEN

A five-day workshop for Caribbean Women in Management, Communication and Community Mobilisation, was sponsored recently by the Commonwealth Secretariat in Grenada.

The workshop was held to develop skills among women working in Women's Desk or in their communities.



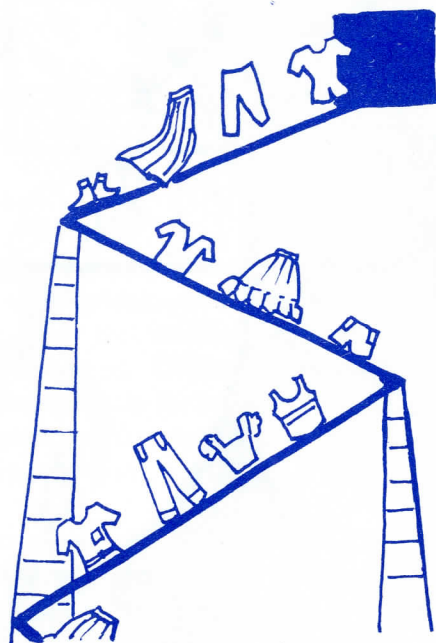
GUYANA

WRSM Constructs Garment Factory

The Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement, the Women's Arm of the People's National Congress of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, completed the construction of a Garment Factory earlier this year.

The factory was built at Melanie Damishana, a cooperative village about 14 miles from Georgetown. The project is being financed with assistance from ECLA.

The W.R.S.M. were commissioned, in association with UNICEF, to construct a Wind-mill at the Line Path Government School, to provide water for the children.



"WORK HAS NO GENDER"

JAMAICA

BUREAU OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS HOSTS CAREERS DAYS

During April this year the Jamaican Bureau of Women's Affairs, in collaboration with three (3) rural All-Age Schools, mounted Career Days in the Schools. The high point of an on-going consciousness-raising schools' Education Programme, the Career Days featured talks on various careers.

The point was strongly made by many speakers, that "work has no gender", and that young women and men ought to choose careers that suit their aptitude and inclination, rather than being channelled into one area or another because it has always been the traditional job area for a particular sex.

The Guest Speakers themselves were people who had chosen careers unusual for their sex: a female barber, three (3) male nurses, a female farm manager and a female mechanic were among the speakers.

One of the participants at the Careers Days talked about politics as a career. It was pointed out that in both major political parties in Jamaica, women work very hard in the background, but that they rarely get involved in "front line" politics. She said that it was time for women to walk beside the men, rather than behind them, so that the interests of the total society may be better served.

The climax of each Careers Day was a short dramatic presentation by member of the Sistern Theatre Collective, a group recently appearing at CARIFESTA Symposium on 'Women in Culture' in Barbados. Their presentations showed various favourable and unfavourable reactions by men to women in non-traditional job areas. Humorous dramatic form was used to underscore the points that had been made throughout the Careers Days proceedings, and were highly appreciated by the audience of students, teachers, parents and other community members.



Maggie of St. Vincent

Maggie is a typical Vincentian rural village woman. She is also one of the success stories of the Canadian Save the Children Fund (CANSAVE) in St. Vincent.

In her report for the period, April 1980-81, CANSAVE's Director in St. Vincent, Mrs. Millicent Iton, tells the story of Maggie's remarkable development through her involvement with one of CANSAVE's projects, the Byrea Hill Day Nursery.

"She gave birth to eight children. Four of these died during infancy and before her enrolment in the CANSAVE programme," writes Mrs. Iton. "She lives in a one bedroom, poorly furnished house in common law relationship with the father of her four children. Both parents are casual labourers and were often unemployed.

"Maggie came to CANSAVE's attention in 1975 when her two youngest children were enrolled on the milk list because they were malnourished. She was encouraged to join the Parent Education programme because it was evident that lack of knowledge of the proper care and nutrition of children was also a contributory factor to this family's sorry plight.

"Though financially poor and unskilled, Maggie showed great interest and a willingness to learn. She attended the meetings regularly and contributed to activities and discussions.

"At first, she had difficulty in performing even simple sewing, but she expressed her desire to learn. She had to be given extra individual attention in the skills training programme.

"The painstaking efforts and perseverance Maggie displayed, in spite of the jeering and jesting of her colleagues, inspired the field worker to help her to succeed. It wasn't long before Maggie could produce well made craft items. She is currently one of the producers of high-quality, marketable items in the Layou Income-Generating Programme.

"It is said 'nothing succeeds like success'. Maggie's efforts in skills training seemed to broaden her horizon and she soon became interested in the activities of the CANSAVE Layou Pre-School.

"Because she was receiving a regular stipend from the production of crafts she enrolled her two young children in the pre-school programme, regularly paid her weekly fee of 50 cents per child and came in as one of the regular volunteers as often as she could. Soon, she was showing a clear understanding of the needs of children and the activities for stimulation.

"Recently, the assistant to the pre-school teacher resigned. Maggie was offered, and readily accepted, the position.

"Maggie has recently benefitted from our years of motivating and skills training, and is now developed to such an extent that her family life is much improved. She insists, for example, that her children attend school regularly and she knows how to prepare well-balanced meals. The family attends church regularly. She has a small savings at the bank.

"In addition, she contributes to her community's development in that she helps in the stimulation of the pre-school child."

CARIWA NEWS

CARIWA TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

A special conference of the Caribbean Women's Association (CARIWA) was held in Antigua in April of this year, to amend the Association's constitution.

The draft amended Constitution has now been circulated to member territories as a prerequisite for ratification in April 1982 during the next Biennial Conference scheduled for St. Kitts.

It is expected that at the forthcoming biennial conference, CARIWA will see a widening of its membership based with the inclusion of women's organisations from the Dutch speaking Caribbean. The conference is also expected to offer innovations such as food fairs, exhibitions, and the presentation of awards to those women who have assisted in steering CARIWA through the troubled waters of the first ten (10) years.

CARIWA also reports that it is moving closer to one of its greatest ambitions; that of establishing a Secretariat to better serve its members. CARIWA's President Mrs. Ann Liburd, presented a draft proposal for the establishment of the Secretariat at a Workshop in Barbados, and discussed possible funding with agencies present.

CARIWA has a present membership of about 500 women's organisations in nine (9) Caribbean countries, and has been operating in an ad hoc manner for ten (10) years.

Projects

CARIWA's member organisations in several territories in the region continue their involvement with a number of income generating projects, such as the preparation and preservation of local foods, dressmaking, handicrafts, nutrition, child care and leadership training.

CCW REPORT



HELP FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Caribbean Church Women Desk reports that it is seeking assistance for the Happy Haven School for the Handicapped in Tobago as part of its contribution to the activities for the International Year of the Disabled.

The school is managed by the Tobago Council for Handicapped children, a voluntary organisation. There are 26 children on the register aged 5 to 16. The school is staffed by an equal number of qualified and unqualified teachers with support clerical and domestic staff.

The CCW proposes to provide a trained specialist teacher and an occupational therapist as a long-term project. In the short-term they have identified funding sources for the required educational and recreational equipment for children.

MEALS FOR MILLIONS

Ruth Spencer (Antiguan) Program Director, (Caribbean) for the Meals for Millions/Freedom from Hunger Foundation Program, reports a number of activities were carried out by the Program since October, 1980 in St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitts/Nevis, Montserrat, Anguilla and St. Maarten. These activities included training and technical assistance.



In Antigua the program provided:-

- Two (2) weeks workshop on "Small Scale Food Preservation Techniques".
- Operates Blubber Valley Agricultural Project — an eight (8) acre community garden.
- Operates the St. Johnston's Agricultural garden — a four (4) acre community garden.
- Provides technical and financial assistance to Seaglans Community Group in Food Preservation and Gardening and Appropriate Technology.
- Financial assistance to Buckleys Garden Club.
- Financial assistance to Barnes Hill Agro Project.
- Technical and financial assistance to Health and Family Life Unit operating in the Southern part of Antigua.
- Solar Drying workshop conducted.

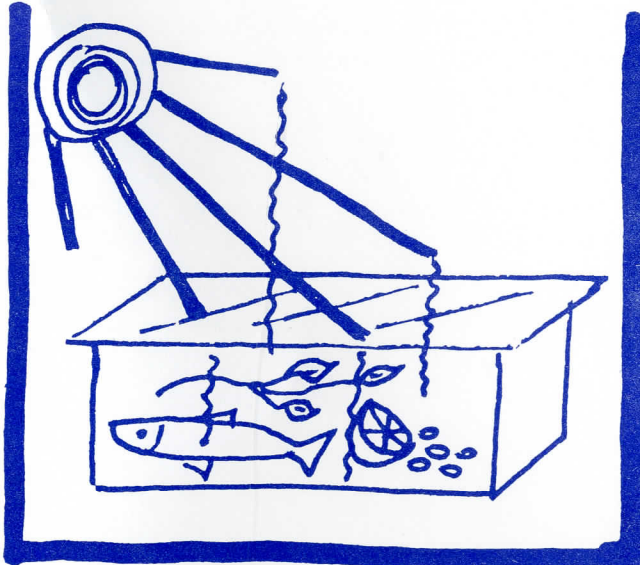
St. Maarten: Solar Drying and Cooking Workshop with BELINAH Group.



Dominica: Technical assistance to Health Education Nutrition Association in Castle Bruce in Banana Flour Processing — Conducted a Solar Drying Workshop.



St. Vincent: Solar Drying Workshop — On going technical assistance to Organisation for Rural Development (ORD) in Project Development and Management and in its "Economic and Rural Development Workshop" — Continued collaboration with Organisation for Rural Development (ORD).

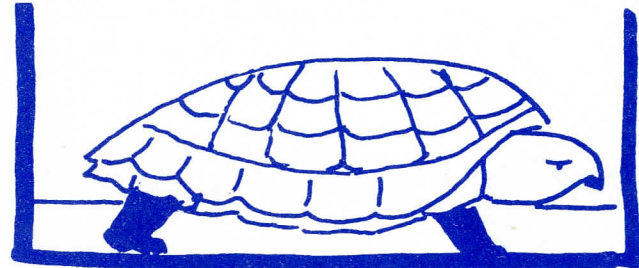


MEALS FOR MILLIONS

St. Kitts/Nevis: A two (2) weeks Workshop on "Small Scale Food Preservation Technologies" — Follow-up assistance to Workshop Participants.



Anguilla: Follow-up assistance to Workshop Participants in developing two (2) Agricultural Projects.



Montserrat: Solar Drying Workshop conducted with Food Preservation group — Follow-up assistance to Workshop participants in developing projects in Food Preservation and Agriculture.

