

FARMING IN THE CAURA VALLEY

A HIGH NATURE-VALUE ENVIRONMENT

FACTS ABOUT THE CAURA VALLEY

- 50,295 persons can be directly affected by land-use changes in the Caura/Tacarigua watershed;
- 24.66% of the Tunapuna/Piarco municipality live in the Valley;
- Upwards of 1,611 businesses are situated in the Valley

FARMING PRACTICES IN CAURA COMPRISE:

AN ECONOMIC ASPECT

Increasing the net income
to the farmer .

AN AGRONOMIC ASPECT

Benefiting from the pattern
of resource use.

A CONSERVATION ASPECT

*Maintaining the capacity of
the LAND to provide
productive and other
landscape services*



Photo credit: Beaumont Celestain

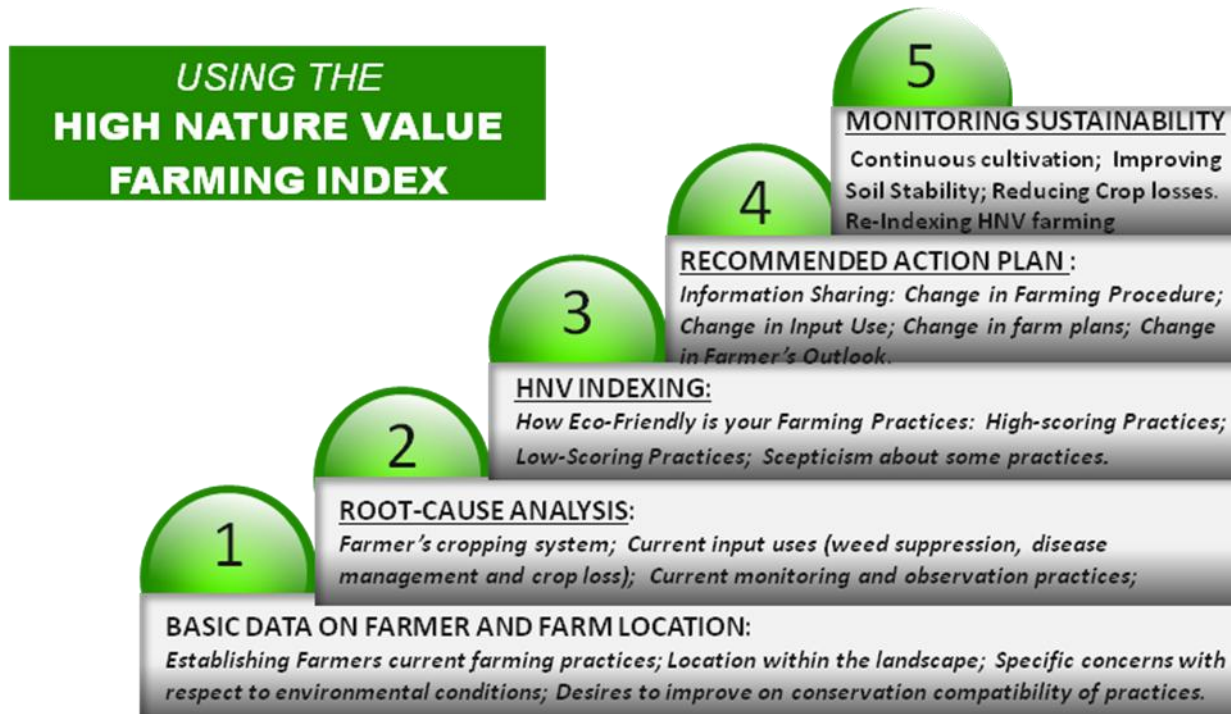
Commercial farming in the Caura / Tacarigua Valley

CAURA'S HIGH NATURE VALUE

- *Freshwater made available to upstream and downstream populations*
- *Land space for housing and agriculture*
- *Timber and non-timber products of the forest*
- *Minerals, Fisheries (including freshwater products)*
- *Water Retention: capacity for controlled runoff and risks of flooding*
- *Capacity for soil conservation; absorb alteration of ecosystem*
- *Recreation: river liming, ecotourism etc.*
- *Cultural and Religious values*

IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES IN TRINIDAD'S NORTHERN RANGE COMMUNITIES PROJECT

ACTIVITY AGENDA FOR IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES



Achievable Goals in Farming Activities in CAURA VALLEY

- 1) ***HNV Index: Finding out how Eco-Friendly is your Farming Practices***
 - *Your location in the landscape*
 - *Your current farming practices*
 - *The impact of the inputs you use*
 - *Alternative beneficial farming practices*
- 2) ***Increasing your total area of farm under continuous cultivation***
 - *% increased utilization of land*
 - *Crop Rotation System (% Change in number and use of Crop Mix)*
 - *% Change in Harvested Yields (Crop revenue)*
 - *% Change in Seasonal Crop Loss*
- 3) ***Changing the predominant soil characteristic (Farmer perspective)***
 - *Descriptive analysis of beneficial soil characteristics*
 - *Evidence of Processing and Re-cycling of Farm residue*
 - *Observation of Microbial activity in the soil (soil quality)*
 - *Impact of improved water retention in sandy soils (plant quality)*
- 4) ***Reducing Crop susceptibility to disease (Farmer perspective)***
 - *Disease/ Pest Incidence (low, high, as usual)*
 - *Weed Suppression Technique (Chemical vs. Mulching)*
 - *Cost reduction in use of commercial herbicides, insecticides and weedicides*