

## Dominica STARS Food Security Project Shines with Australian DAP Support

(From 2014 <http://trinidadandtobago.embassy.gov.au/ptsp/cooperation.html>)

The community of Castle Bruce, Dominica was very hard hit by the decline of the banana industry and now houses mostly elderly and young people. What used to be productive banana fields are neglected and farmers have retired or emigrated along with many young persons.

In January 2014 the Castle Bruce Community in Dominica were the recipients of a Direct Aid Program (DAP) grant to expand its egg production program. Aimed at improving the sustainability of the community the project supports the economic stability and entrepreneurial vision of the STARS Multipurpose Cooperative.



Prior to this initiative, the cooperative experienced a number of crises over the years including storm damage and an incident where a rogue dog killed hundreds of chickens. Darius Christmas, Chairman of the Cooperative stated however "We are putting that behind us now...We have over a dozen active members and our work-plan includes developing our greenhouse gardening."

<<<< From L-R: Augustus Alfred, President of the STARS Multipurpose Cooperative Mr Richie Constant, cooperative member, HE Ross Tysoe, AO, Ms Keshara George, Ag. Cooperative Officer East, Mr Darius Christmas, Chairman of the Cooperative, Mrs Claudia Alfred and Mrs Justina Alexander of Lifeline Ministries

On a site visit to the facilities Mr Augustus Alfred, President explained that with the acquisition of the chickens, the manure generated would be enough to fertilise the greenhouse. This long-term vision is what ultimately led them receiving the grant since it spoke to their understanding of the need to diversify thereby reducing overdependence on one industry to feed families in the community.

The Australian High Commission is pleased to have partnered with the STARS Multipurpose Cooperative on this initiative.

Mr Augustus Alfred, President of the STARS Multi-Purpose Cooperative displays some of the eggs produced by the newly acquired layers. >>>>

