



## **THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES**

**Mona, Kingston 7  
Jamaica, West Indies**

**Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies  
(SALISES)**

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### **SALISES 50/50: Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development Group (S/RAD)**

#### **PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **En/gendering Resilience in Rural Spaces: Tackling Poverty and Climate Change in Jamaica**

SALISES, Institute for Gender and Development Studies and the Bureau of Women's Affairs

#### **Project Rationale**

As Jamaica reflects on 50 years of development and plans for the future, it is recognized that climate change increases risks and vulnerabilities faced by rural women, especially those who are poor and are single female heads of households. This project initiative wishes to help rural women reduce poverty, develop resilience to climate change and improve their quality of life over the next 50 years. This commemoration of International Day for Rural Women, on October 20, 2011 is phase one of a three part project to achieve this goal. The other two phases include: a) a pilot study in St Ann, examining the state of rural vulnerability and resilience, and the nature of rural women's strategies for resilience and b) using the results to design an empowerment programme for a selected group of rural women in this area as a pilot for possible replication. This resilience approach to poverty reduction complements existing work examining risk and vulnerability, promoted by the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Union (EU) under the auspices of the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Our project initiative, the first of its kind in Jamaica, will promote a gendered analysis of patterns of risk and resilience to help break the cycle of poverty in the lives of rural women in Jamaica. This initiative will seek to promote sustainability by monitoring project impact and sharing the findings and lessons learnt.

The overall project, which includes this forum celebrating rural women, will thus promote public awareness and sensitivity to the gendered nature of both development and resilience strategies. It will also stimulate networking with public and private sector stakeholders to invest in the future of rural women, and more broadly support rural communities in promoting sustainable livelihoods.