

ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS



ANNUAL REPORT

elebratin Mobilising Knowledge for Development

OUR IMPACT

FUNDING (

Total Funds Awarded **\$17,432,428**

Counterpart support attracted (Cash and in-kind)

>\$31M

Income generated from customer services

>\$480K

Funding for follow-on/spin-off projects

>\$38M

OPPORTUNITIES



31 Projects funded



**

Awards (local, regional, international)

Workshops & seminars

151

CONNECTIONS



>200

Communities reached

>187

New partnerships



139
Graduate students

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



Peer reviewed journal articles



Book chapters



/|||40

Theses

2

Edited books

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION





15

Social media pages

24 Project websites

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chair The Management Team Portfolio Overview and Performance 2017 Project Impact Highlights 32 RDI Fund 2017 Work Programme Our Finances **RDI Fund Priorities 2018**

CONTENTS STATEMENT

This Annual Report, which covers the period from January to December 2017, has been prepared by the RDI Fund Secretariat in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of the Fund. This report has been submitted to the Technical Evaluation Committee and approved by the Chair, Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Copeland. All dollar amounts used in this Annual Report are current Trinidad and Tobago (TT) dollars unless otherwise specified. Throughout this report, the terms "UWI-TT RDI Fund", "RDI Fund" and "Fund" refer to The University of the West Indies –Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund.



Message from the Chair



The RDI Fund at Five



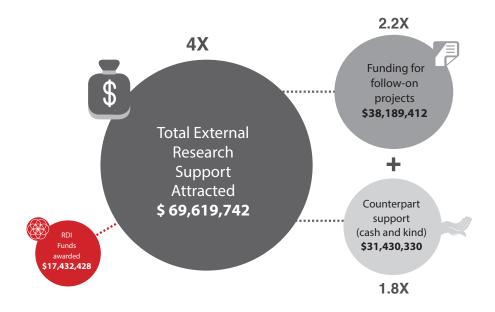
As the RDI Fund turns five, The University of the West Indies begins a new strategic period. Our focus from 2017-2022 is The Triple A Strategy – Access, Alignment and Agility. The UWI has declared an activist agenda that targets effective alignment with Industry and Government, to drive a stronger, more robust culture of self-sustainability, wealth creation, and social and ecological good.

As we celebrate the early success of the Fund, we recognize that it is also a time for introspection and reflection. It is important that we retool, ensuring fitness for purpose and relevance both to the needs of the University and the wider society. As we look towards the next five years, the Fund is uniquely poised to help us grapple with what I call the 'innovation imperative' which declares the following:

A necessary condition for sustainable development in the nation and the region, is that our nations must re-create, must kick-start and must maintain their engines of wealth creation by establishing effective National Innovation Systems (NIS) that would move original ideas and concepts to commercial reality.

The University of the West Indies has long seen our research and innovation as a key differentiator, not just in terms of international reputation, but also as the means by which wealth can be generated in the Caribbean, in a region where dependence on natural resources – be they oil and gas, bauxite, or sun, sand, and sea – makes us vulnerable to the depletion and degradation of resources and the vagaries of people. The need to diversify our regional economies has clearly reached critical proportions.

Counterpart support/external support



Recognizing that we wish to become more entrepreneurial as an institution, and recognizing the critical importance of successful research commercialization in helping to jumpstart the economic diversification of our national and regional economies, we must ensure that the Fund is doing all it can to support the priming of the innovation pipeline at UWISTA, focusing on social and technological innovation as well as innovating our creative industries. This requires conscious commitment to the aggressive inculcation of a 'culture of innovation' that embodies the creativity and drive needed to grow and sustain society and the systems that support it.

The RDI Fund is itself a social innovation which encourages UWI researchers to break down internal and external silos, collaborating in unique and resourceful ways across faculties and departments while also engaging with external, often non-traditional, collaborators and partners. The funding model developed focuses on stakeholder engagement, action

research, and knowledge transfer. Researchers are expected to go beyond the traditional production of academic research outputs, to focus on how their research activities can bring about real impact in the lives of people, transforming and revitalising the society.

While the Fund has granted
TT\$17.4 million to the
projects in its portfolio,
these projects have
been able to attract
nearly TT\$70 million in
counterpart support.

Structuring the Fund and making stakeholder engagement and collaborative partnerships an integral part of the project design has proven to be an imperative innovation in the grant funding model. RDI Fund projects have aggressively pursued an impressive number of new local, regional and international partnerships. In addition, while the Fund has granted TT\$17.4 million to the projects in its portfolio, these projects have been able to attract nearly TT\$70 million in counterpart support, both in cash and in kind, from collaborators and partners external to The UWI, as well as in additional grant funding for new projects, most of them related, follow-ons or scale ups on research activities conducted as part of their RDI Fund projects. The Fund has thus emerged as an excellent seed funding model for research and development, facilitating a quintuple helix approach, bringing together the capacity and resources of academia, government, private sector, development agencies and civil society to work on pressing development issues and multiplying the impact of their collective efforts.

Given the tough prevailing economic circumstances we face at this time, innovation and competitiveness are absolutely essential if our country is to weather this storm, driving the diversification agenda and increasing efficiency and competitiveness in the sectors we have traditionally depended

on to drive our economy. Research and development are the foundation from which innovation can be fostered. Many RDI Fund projects are already providing new opportunities for social innovation, commercialization and increased competitiveness in several sectors. By strategically positioning the Fund to ensure its alignment with the new strategic plan, the RDI Fund is poised to play a key role in ensuring that the innovation pipeline at The UWI is primed and enable the institution to achieve some of its key priorities as identified in the new strategic plan.

As Trinidad and Tobago joins the rest of the world in implementing the sustainable development goals, access to data to facilitate evidence-based decision making and to monitor the glocalization and implementation of policies and programmes to achieve those goals will also be critical. Vehicles such as the RDI Fund have an integral role to play and the outcomes of our first cohort of completed projects strongly support that fact. Projects funded by the RDI Fund are already informing policy in several key Ministries and state agencies including the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, SWMCOL,

the Environmental Management Authority, the Tobago House of Assembly, The Ministry of Agriculture, The Ministry of Planning, and many more. Insights garnered also mean these projects are prime to serve as launching pads for social innovation and scaling development solutions.

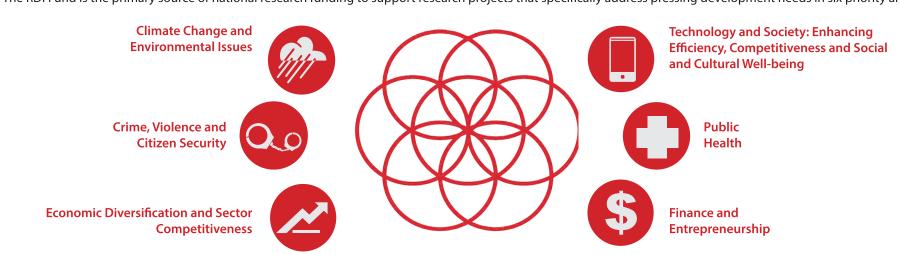
Given the track record of the Fund thus far and its potential for maximizing impact in the near to medium term, it is important that the Fund's mandate be renewed, its processes strengthened and its financial sustainability be actively pursued. This includes seeking the reinstatement of dedicated funding from the GORTT to the RDI Fund as well as positioning the Fund as a prime vehicle to help development, philanthropic and industry partners achieve their national and regional development objectives.

Professor Brian Copeland

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal
The University of the West Indies,
St. Augustine Campus

Priority Areas

The RDI Fund is the primary source of national research funding to support research projects that specifically address pressing development needs in six priority areas:



The Management Team 🋞

Technical Evaluation Committee



Chair
Professor Brian Copeland
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus
Principal,
University of the West Indies,
St Augustine



Professor Dale Webber
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate
Studies and Research
University of the West Indies



Mrs. Andrea Taylor-Hanna
Campus Bursar
University of the West Indies
St Augustine



Dr. Heather Cateau
Chair, Committee of Deans
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and
Education
University of the West Indies
St Augustine



Professor Patricia Mohammed
Campus Coordinator for Graduate
Studies and Research
University of the West Indies,
St Augustine



Professor John Agard
Director, Office of Research
Development and Knowledge
Transfer
University of the West Indies,
St Augustine

Not Pictured above - Professor St. Clair King, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

Secretariat



Ms. Lois St Brice
Project Management Officer
Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer
University of the West Indies
St Augustine



Ms. Karisse Jackman
Former Senior Secretary
Office of the Campus Principal
University of the West Indies
St Augustine



In 2017, the vast majority of the projects in the Fund's portfolio were completed versus being at various stages of implementation. Of the 31 approved grantee projects, 21 projects are now completed, 3 have been cancelled and seven are scheduled to be completed by 2018. All projects approved during the 1st and 2nd Calls for proposals are now either completed or cancelled.

Approved RDI Find Projects

Climate Change & Environmental Issues					
Year Awarded	Title of Concept Note	Team Leader	Amount Awarded \$TTD	Status	
2012	Evaluation of the Economic Value of Caroni Swamp: Implications of Climate Change using the UNEP TEEB protocol	Prof. John Agard	\$954,854	Completed	
2012	The Impact of the contaminants produced by the Guanapo Landfill on the surrounding environment	Dr. Denise Beckles	\$1,000,000	Completed	
2013	Terrestrial Flood Risk and Climate Change in the Caroni river basin: Adaptation Measures for Vulnerable Communities	Dr. Matthew Wilson	\$550,000	Completed	
2015	Society, turtles and environmental change in Grande Riviere Bay-towards sustainable management of a vulnerable community: an investigation into the interrelationships between terrestrial and coastal systems which impact the beach habitat of the endangered leatherback turtle.	Dr. Junior Darsan	\$300,000	Scheduled End Date 31-Oct-17	
2015	Promoting Agriculturally Important Microorganisms To Address The Challenges In Food Safety And Food Security In The Caribbean	Dr. Saravanakumar Duraisamy	\$600,000	Scheduled End Date 30-Apr-18	
2015	Technological Solutions for improved Agro-environment and Sustainability of Agricultural Development	Dr Wendy-Ann Isaac	\$332,800	Scheduled End Date 30-Apr-18	
2015	An Assessment of the Beach Erosion and the Coastal Flooding Hazards at selected sites along the Trinidad and Tobago coastline through correlation analyses of the short- to medium-term variations in the morphological, hydrodynamic and environmental conditions and through detailed numerical modelling.	Dr. Deborah Villarroel-Lamb	\$400,000	Scheduled End Date 30-Apr-18	
	\$4,137,654				

Crime, Violence & Citizen Security					
2012	Analysis of Intervention and Counseling for At Risk Youth to Reduce Crime, Violence and to Improve Outcomes for the Individual, The Schools, and the Family	Dr. Sandra Celestine	\$500,000	Completed	
2012	A Multi-centre phase 3 cluster randomized controlled trial of a manualized anger management intervention for prisoners at risk for uncontrolled anger and aggression	Prof. Gerard Hutchinson	\$999,396	Completed	

2013	Crime Victimization and Fear of Crime Survey in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Derek Chadee	\$549,600	Completed
2013	Adult Sexual and Physical Intimate Partner Violence Survey & Public Health Intervention (ASaP IPV Survey & Public Health Intervention)	Prof. Gerard Hutchinson \$547,000		Cancelled
2013	A Matter of Survival: A life course approach to understanding the decision-making and economic livelihoods of school dropouts in T&T	Dr. Priya Kissoon	\$500,000	Completed
2015	Situational Analysis of Children of Prisoners in Trinidad and Tobago	Ms Karene-Anne Nathaniel	\$258,400	Cancelled without Prejudice

\$3,354,396

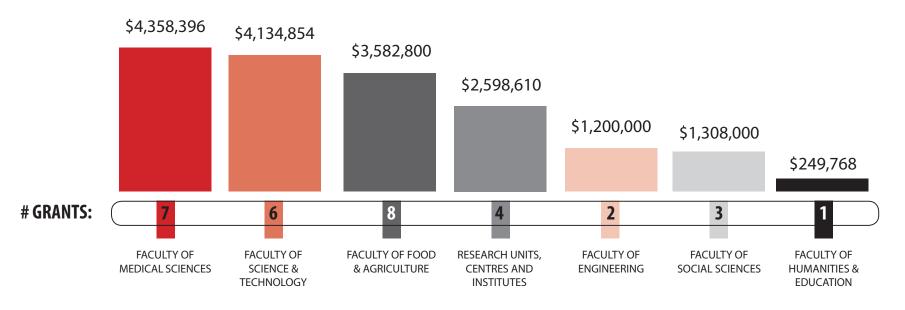
Economic Diversification and Sector Competitiveness					
2012	Understanding Built and Cultural Heritage in East Port-of-Spain	\$800,000	Completed		
2012	Towards Re-development of a Competitive Citrus Industry in Trinidad and Tobago and the Greater CARICOM Area	Dr. Govind Seepersad	\$600,000	Completed	
2012	Leveraging the International Cocoa Gene Bank to Improve Competitiveness of the Cocoa Sector in the Caribbean, using modern genomics	Prof. Pathmanathan Umaharan	\$1,500,000	Completed	
2013	Language and Competitiveness: Positioning T&T for Sustainable Development	Dr. Beverly-Anne Carter	\$500,000	Completed	
2015	Genetic Evaluation, Breeding and Propagation of Germplasm for the development of Dairy Goat Industry in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Nandakumar Puliyath	\$300,000	Cancelled	

\$3,700,000

	Public Health			
2012	Use of next generation molecular and evolutionary epidemiology to strengthen surveillance and develop models to predict and prevent the spread of Dengue	Prof. Christine Carrington	\$800,000	Completed
2012	Identification of the reservoirs of animal influenza viruses in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Christopher Oura	\$800,000	Completed
2012	Surveillance, characterization and management of antibiotic resistance in common bacterial pathogens in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Jayaraj Jayaraman/ Dr. Patrick E. Akpaka/ Dr. Adesh Ramsubhag	\$550,000	Completed
2013	Noise Induced Hearing Loss in Various Occupations / Environments in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Ricardo Clarke/Dr. Nikolay Zyukiov	\$330,000	Completed
2013	Mitigating the Dementia Tsunami in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Gershwin Davis/ Dr. Nelleen Baboolal	\$550,000	Completed
2013	An investigation into the Trajectory of Neurobehavioural Development of Primary School Children in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr. Farid Youssef	\$464,000	Completed
2013	A New Volcanic Emissions Monitoring Network: Integrating Community Engagement and Public Health Hazard Management through the application and transfer of low-cost technology	Dr. Erouscilla Joseph	\$298,610	Completed

2015	Pharmacovigilance Programme for Assuring Medication Safety in Trinidadian Population	Dr. Sameer Dhingra	\$198,000	Scheduled End Date 30-Apr-18
			\$3,990,610	
	Technology & Society: Enhancing Efficiency, Competi	tiveness & Social and Cultura	al well-being	
2012	Documentation and Digital Development of Heritage Languages in Trinidad and Tobago	Benjamin Braithwaite	\$249,768	Completed
2012	AgriNett, An Agriculture Knowledge ePortal: Research on Intelligent Decision Support for enhancing Crop and Livestock Enterprise Management	Margaret Bernard	\$800,000	Completed
2013	Capacity Building and Research on Smart Grid Technology in the Caribbean Region	Dr. Davinder Sharma	\$500,000	Completed
2015	Work/Life Balance; Its Impact on the Productivity of Working Men and Women and on the Wellbeing of Ageing Populations in Trinidad	Prof. Patricia Mohammed	\$300,000	Scheduled End Date 30-Apr-18
2015	Development of advanced precision agriculture techniques for crop management and risk assessment in Trinidad and Tobago	Dr Govind Seepersad	\$400,000	Scheduled End Date 30-Apr-18
			\$2,249,768	

Funding by Faculty/ Projects by Faculty

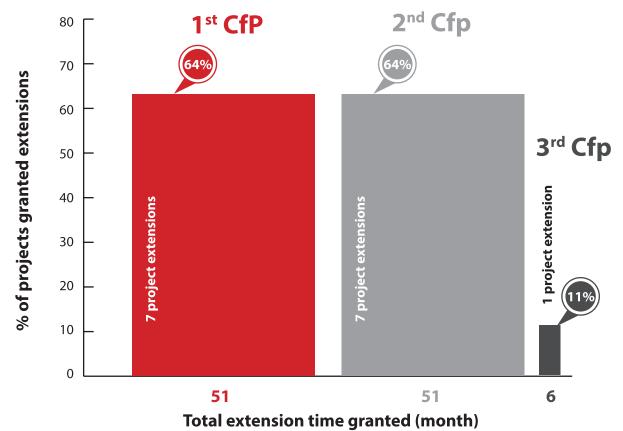


Project Implementation

In previous reports, it has been noted that a significant number of projects in the Fund's portfolio have experienced a somewhat lengthy mobilization phase at the outset of the execution of the project as well as various challenges during implementation including delays in contract approvals, navigating university/departmental processes, difficulty recruiting graduate students, lack of primary data, lack of physical space, delays in ordering, challenges managing collaborators, concerns about how to sustain the gains made and uncertainty in how to exploit commercial opportunities.

These challenges resulted in some projects being unable to complete the projects in the originally scheduled time and thus submitting official requests for non-funded extensions in their implementation time. However, with strategic guidance and improved monitoring and assistance from the Fund Secretariat, these delays have been reduced considerably and projects have been better able to manage unforeseen challenges. To date, with less than six months left until all of those projects are scheduled to be completed, only one of the projects in the 3rd cohort has been granted an extension.

Approvals for non-funded extensions in implementation time



Project Monitoring and Reporting



Projects approved in the third call for proposals were required to submit progress reports twice in 2017, in April and October. All the requisite reports were submitted except for one project's 30-month report which remains outstanding. Four projects approved during the second call for proposals submitted their completion reports in 2017 and as such all 1st and 2nd cohort projects would have submitted completion reports or been cancelled by 2017. The Fund also received its first annual impact reports from 11

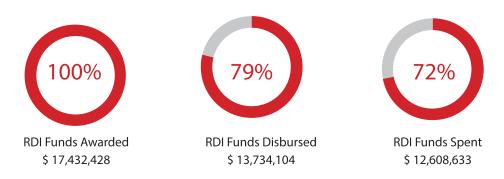
projects, eight from the first cohort of projects awarded grants in 2012 and three from the second cohort of projects awarded in 2013. However, 35% of projects required to submit impact reports in 2017 did not do so. As such the question of grantee accountability post project completion will need to be examined, particularly as the Fund moves to consider the evaluation of grantee projects and the Fund itself.



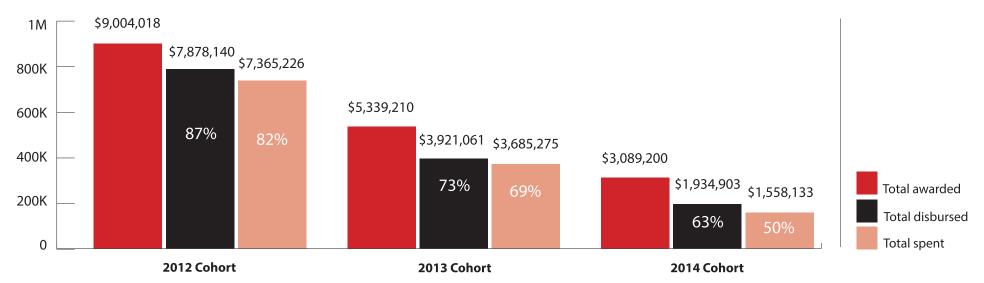
Project Disbursement and Expenditure

As of December 2017, 79% of the total funding awarded by the Fund had been disbursed and 72% spent on project related expenses. Among completed projects, only 38% of grantees were able to spend all of the funds awarded. The remaining completed projects spent between 31% and 90% of the awarded funds. The Secretariat will continue to monitor disbursement and expenditure levels. The experiences gained in monitoring and executing the projects currently in the Fund's portfolio will continue to improve budget evaluations in future calls.

Funding Amount Awarded/ Disbursed/ Spent



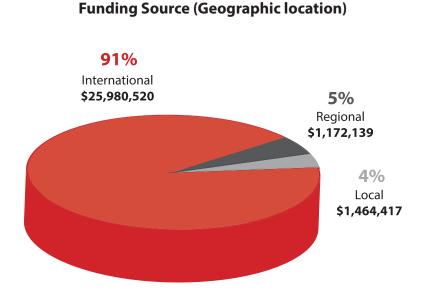
Projects utilization of funds

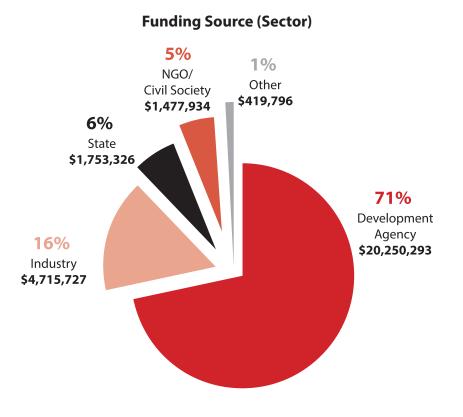


External Support Attracted

While the RDI Fund has awarded grants totalling \$17,432,428, project teams have been able to sucessfully leverage this seed funding to attract a tremendous amount of cash and in kind support for their research activities. To date, a total of \$69,619,742 in external research support has been attracted. This is four times the amount granted by the Fund. Counterpart support in cash and kind attracted during the projects' implementation totaled \$31,430,330 (2.2 times the amount granted). Grant funding attracted for follow-on projects post completion currently stands at \$38,189,412 (1.8 times the amount granted).

Counterpart Support Attracted During Implementation of Projects





Knowledge Transfer, Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement (



Project teams continue to actively engage their stakeholders, partners and collaborators in various ways including traditional approaches such as presenting at academic conferences as well as less traditional approaches involving direct interactions with stakeholders and potential end users. These interactions include various knowledge brokerage approaches such as training activities, participation in sector specific groups, briefings to state agencies, participation on state sanctioned boards, building communities of practice, social media interactions, supporting commercial activity and partnering with development agencies. It also involves the establishment, strengthening and even formalization of partnerships and collaborations with an ever growing cohort of local, regional and international partner institutions from a range of sectors including government, multilaterals, development agencies, private sector, academia and civil society organizations.





STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENTS HOSTED IN 2017

Dr. Baboolal

Meeting with Ministry of Health (Minister and Executive Team)

July 13

Dr. Bernard

Launch of the ICT4SDG app at The World Summit on the Information Society Geneva, Switzerland

June

Prof. Chadee

UWI-TTPS "Think-Tank" Series: Session 1 – Police support for victims of violence

August 16

ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre The UWI, St Augustine Getting Started with SAS Analytics – University Edition February 2 and 3

FSS Computer Laboratory West, The UWI, St Augustine

Applied Analytics Using SAS® Enterprise Miner April 24 - 26

FSS Computer Laboratory West, The UWI, St Augustine

Data Preparation for Predictive Modelling

April 27 - 28

FSS Computer Laboratory West, The UWI, St Augustine

Text Analytics Using SAS® Text Miner June 28 - 29

GIS Laboratory, Faculty of Engineering, The UWI, St Augustine

Data Preparation for Predictive Modelling 2,

GIS Laboratory, Faculty of Engineering, The UWI, St Augustine

Dr. Dhingra

One day Symposium on Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety

May 11

Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex

Information dissemination to general public on Professional Services Day

March 25

Sangre Grande Hospital

Information dissemination to general public on Professional Services Day

April 8

Arima District Health Facility

Dr. Duraisamy

Tech Agri Expo

March 24 - 26

UWI, St Augustine Campus

Workshop "AIMS in Crop Health"

March 26

FFA, The UWI, St Augustine

Workshop: Weed Management- Problems and Solutions

September 10

Agricultural Innovation Park, Orange Grove Field Station

Participated and exhibited AIMS project activities and plant disease clinics service at World Food Day Exhibitions organized by Faculty of Food and Agriculture

October 16

Brian Lara Promenade, Port of Spain

Participated and exhibited AIMS project activities and plant disease clinics service at World Food Day Exhibitions organized by Faculty of Food and Agriculture

October 19

Harris Promenade, San Fernando

Plant disease diagnostic service

October 26

Green Market, Santa Cruz

Dr. Isaac

TechAgri Expo

March 24 - 26

UWI, St Augustine Campus

2 workshops held on hydroponics and aquaponics at TechAgri Expo

March 25 and 26

UWI, St Augustine Campus



Graduation ceremony for ADOPT-FAITH Backyard initiative at USC - sustainable veg production January

ADOPT Secondary School Competition

Jan - Sept

Rooftop demo and training in aquaponics and hydroponics

July - August

FFA, The UWI, St Augustine

TechAgri ADOPT 2017 summer camp

July - August

FFA, The UWI, St Augustine

Closing ceremony of ADOPT Secondary School competition

October

Prof. Mohammed

SEMAVIL MOU signing and reception January 17

Achieving work/life balance workshop T&T Medical Association Tobago Branch June 24

IGDS booth at MoE Research in Education Symposium July 10

Hyatt Regency Trinidad

Prof. Umaharan

Industry Symposium February

Focus group meetings April

TIC Expo July

Centre of Excellence, Macoya

TechAgri Expo

March

UWI, St Augustine Campus

World Cocoa and Chocolate Day

October 6-7

CRC International Internships Seminar - Using Technology to Modify, Customise and Optimise Cocoa Bean Fermentation.

July 26

Sir Frank Stockdale Building, The UWI

Cocoa Research and Development Symposium - Research and Development Initiatives in Support of Economic Diversification

March 15

IFCIC 2nd Conference, Symposium and Chocolate Exposition - Revitalising the Caribbean Fine Cocoa Industry

February 6-7

Spanish Court Hotel, New Kingston, Jamaica

DNA Fingerprinting training course

August 21-25

Cocoa Research Centre, The UWI, St Augustine

Molecular Management of Germplasm Collections

March 20-24

Cocoa Research Centre, The UWI, St Augustine

Training - Application and Construction of the CRC Collar for use in the Control of Black Pod Disease December 11

Training - Identification and Management of Diseases in Cocoa February

Dr. Youssef

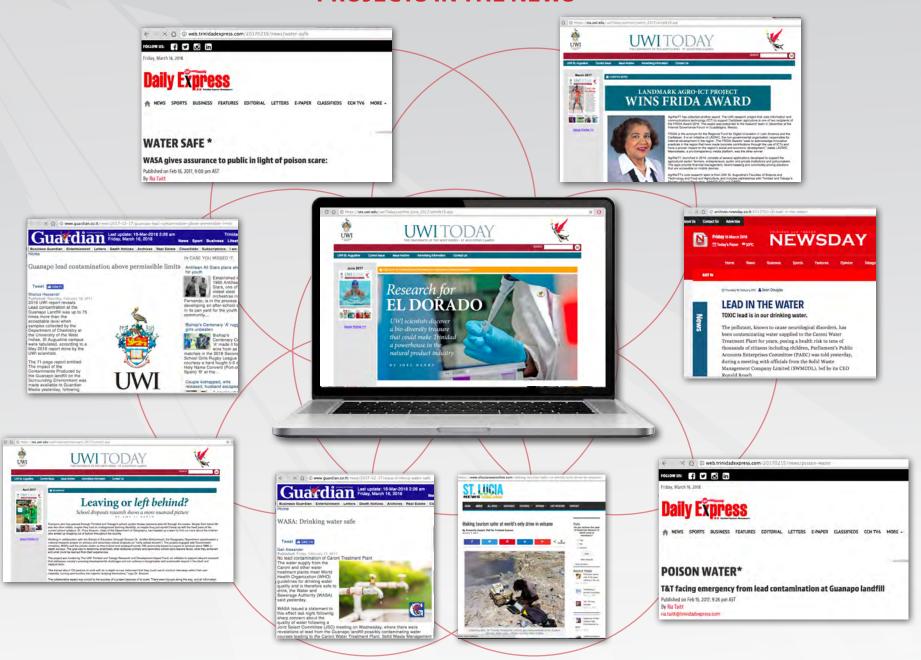
Presentation: Bridging the Gap between Cognitive Neuroscience and Education: Lessons from our experience in Bringing the NIH TOOOLBOX to Trinidad & Tobago

February 8

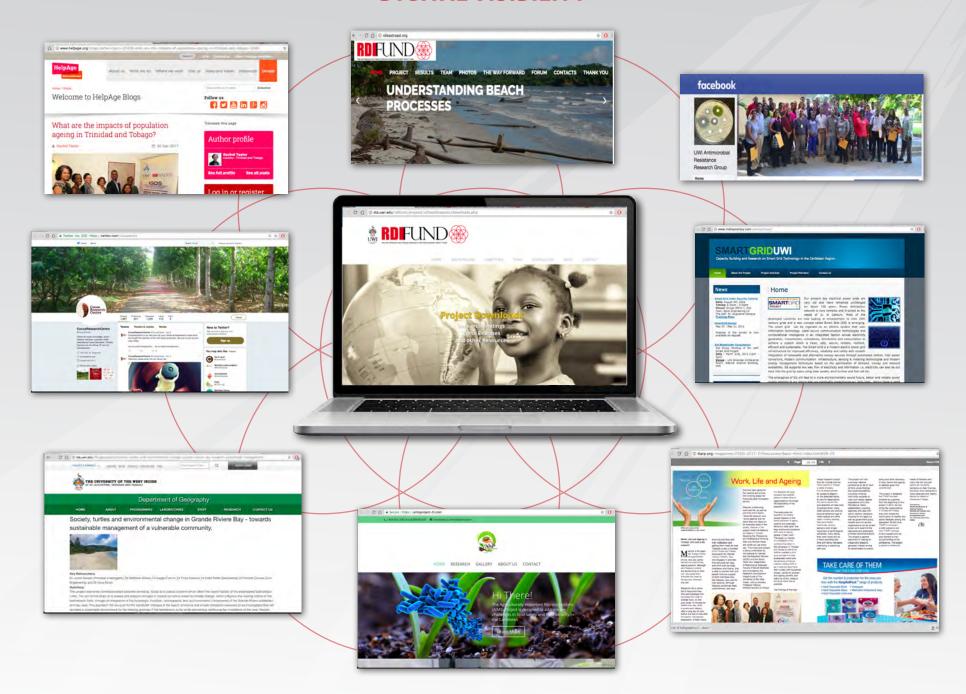
Ministry of Education Technical Cooperation Unit **Brown Bag Lunch Series**



PROJECTS IN THE NEWS



DIGITAL VISIBILITY



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Project teams have participated in more than **236** local, regional and international conference presentations and have hosted more than **151** stakeholder workshops and seminars.

POST GRADUATE TRAINING

More than 139 graduate students have already benefitted from training and research experience as part of RDI Fund project teams.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RDI Fund projects have conducted activities in more than 200 communities throughout T&T. These activities include music therapy interventions, farmer training, a wide range of environmental and public health sampling, neurobehavioural testing, psychiatric screening, flood risk assessments, wildlife surveys, work/life balance seminars, awareness raising for healthcare professionals, prison interventions, language documentation, social vulnerability surveys, establishment of protected agriculture structures and population surveys.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

RDI Fund projects have led to new/strengthened collaborations with more than **187** local, regional and international partners.

Some of these have led to formal MOUs with The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. These institutions include tertiary education institutions, government agencies, development agencies, private sector and non-governmental organizations and civil society groups, among others.

ACADEMIC OUTPUTS

Collectively, more than **40** Theses, **46** peer reviewed articles, **11** book chapters, and **2** edited books have been produced thus far.



INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Projects have garnered more than **85** print media mentions to date and project teams have established **24** project websites and **15** social media profiles/

CAPACITY BUILDING

Hundreds of persons have now been trained in a wide range of areas including various farming techniques, lay therapy, anger management, chocolate making, census methods, patois, Trinidad and Tobago sign language, statistical analysis and predictive modelling, wildlife survey methodology, environmental sampling, business internationalization, and diagnostic screening





AGRINeTT – ICT and the SDGs

The AGRINeTT team, in collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), initiated and led the development of a mobile app which shows the linkages between ICT Action Lines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ITU, as the ICT arm of the UN, has developed a number of Action Lines for development of ICT globally, as well as the linkages of those Action Lines to the UN SDGs. The app, ICT4SDG, shows the ICT activities needed to support the individual targets of the SDGs. The app was launched at the World Summit on the Information Society in June 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.







Cocoa and the Economic Diversification Agenda

The Cocoa Research Centre (CRC)'s RDI Fund project has already impacted at the national level, helping to raise the profile of the cocoa sector such that the GORTT has earmarked the sector for particular attention in the thrust to diversify the economy. One of the spinoff projects resulting from the insights of the RDI Fund grant work was the development of the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre (IFCIC). With an initial commitment of €2.6 million from the EU/ACP, this centre will seek to seed innovations along the entire cocoa value chain based on CRC's research output and international best practices, facilitating technology development and transfer. Recognising the importance of the Innovation Centre to the development of the cocoa sector, the GORTT in its 2017-2018 budget provided TT\$6.2 million in PSIP funding support for the buildings to house the IFCIC. The Economic Advisory Development Board has also identified the IFCIC as one of the national innovation centres proposed to be set up to support economic diversification.



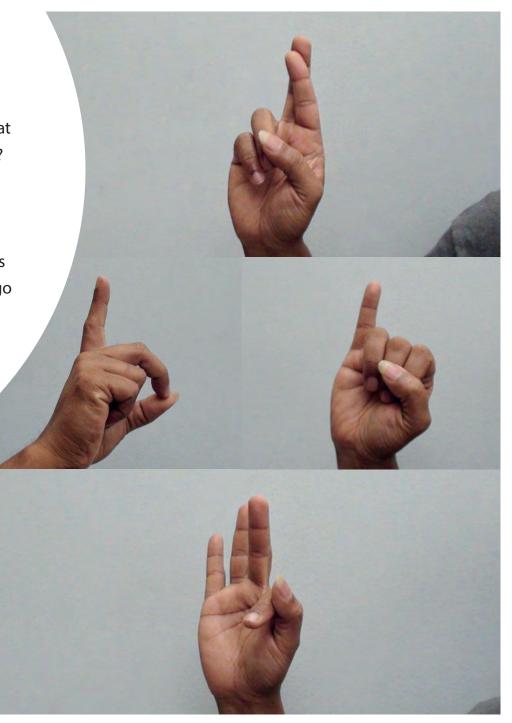
Mainstreaming Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language

Have you noticed that it is becoming more and more likely that your nightly news broadcast has a sign language component? This development is one more achievement due to the dedication of the Endangered Languages team, with some of the broadcasts being signed by the project team lead, Dr Benjamin Braithwaite himself. Other achievements due to this project team's work include the continued Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language (TTSL) interpretation of the broadcast of the national budget as well as the offering of TTSL courses at the University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus.

SIGN LANGUAGE ON THE TV6 NEWS

Aug 29, 2017







Combating Antibiotic Resistance

Based on their team's work, Prof. Jayaraj Jayaraman, Dr. Adesh Ramsubhag and Prof. Patrick Akpaka were invited by the Ministry of Health to serve on the Scientific Committee to develop the policy and action framework for combating antimicrobial resistance in Trinidad and Tobago. This action was mandated by the PAHO and WHO. A Strategic Action Plan was developed and as per that, the policy framework and activity scheme were drafted and sent for consideration to WHO. Once approved, it will become a standing policy for Trinidad and Tobago and the action plan drafted in the policy will become mandatory for implementation.





From Recommendation to Implementation

In early 2017, the Guanapo Project found itself at the centre of national discourse and a flurry of media coverage from all major local media houses after Mr. Ronald Roach, the CEO of SWMCOL informed the Public Accounts Enterprises Committee that lead contamination was occurring at the Guanapo landfill, citing the project team's final report. The impact of the project team's findings continues to reverberate to date, with this study remaining the most comprehensive study of landfills in our environment. SWMCOL continues to implement the project team's recommendations, including employing waste diversion strategies to limit the amount of waste entering the landfill, placing restrictions on the types of waste allowed to enter, and planning the construction and operation of a leachate treatment system.





Facilitating Evidence-Based Policy Making

In November 2017, the findings from the Prisons Anger Management Project were requested by the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as part of a request for information on local studies conducted on mental illnesses at Remand Prisons throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The project team was able to share its findings as it related to the prevalence of mental health difficulties in prisoners referred for anger management, intellectual disability amongst prisoners with anger problems, and details on the specific anger management intervention conducted by the project team and its early impacts.





Protecting Our National Bird

Due to the public outcry surrounding the illegal poaching of the national bird, the Scarlet Ibis, the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) is pursuing the designation of the Scarlet Ibis (Eudocimus ruber) as an Environmentally Sensitive Species (ESS) pursuant to the ESS Rules, 2001. Recognising that the RDI Fund Caroni Swamp Project has generated a sizeable amount of data that can feed into the management plans for the area, the EMA formally requested that the Caroni Swamp Project team submit data and information to help inform the designation as well as submit comments on the Draft Legal Notice Designating the Scarlet Ibis as an Environmentally Sensitive Species.





Evidence-Based Policing

The Crime Victimization and Fear of Crime (CVFCS) Team continued its active collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service in 2017, seeking to build on the insights garnered during the CVFCS project and helping to build capacity within the TTPS to utilise more evidence-based approaches.

The UWI-TTPS Think Tank series was launched in 2017 as a continuation of the collaboration between the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre of The UWI and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) that began with the CVFCS RDI Fund project. This particular venture was founded on the TTPS Operating Plan 2017 outcome: "Crime solutions arising, from an evidence-based and forensic science methodology" which includes an action item on the TTPS partnering with universities and other organizations with a view to formulating recommendations to manage crimes. The objective of this session was to gather relevant experts and stakeholders to discuss the context of support provided to crime victims by the TTPS. It was attended by members of the TTPS, including the Victim and Witness Support Unit, academics, and mental health professionals. It is the first in a series that will cover crime related topics of national importance.

The ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre and SAS Institute Inc., a leader in the provision of analytics software and solutions, also co-hosted three analytics workshops and two predictive modelling project sessions which were attended by the Commissioner of Police (Ag.) Stephen Williams, as well as several other representatives from the TTPS, primarily from the Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA) with a view to improving the TTPS' analytic capabilities. During the project sessions, academics from the Criminology and Psychology Units of the Department of Behavioural Sciences and TTPS representatives used actual TTPS crime data to build predictive models.



Award Winning Research

The work of our grantees continued to be recognized in 2017. Professor Christopher Oura's work on animal influenza viruses was recognised with The UWI Vice-Chancellor Award for Research. The work of the antimicrobial resistance team was also recognised, with Dr. Adesh Ramsubhag being selected for The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Award for Excellence (ANSCAFE) in Research while Prof. Jayaraj Jayaraman was appointed to the UNU - BIOLAC Programme Scientific Advisory Committee, by The United Nations Organization.



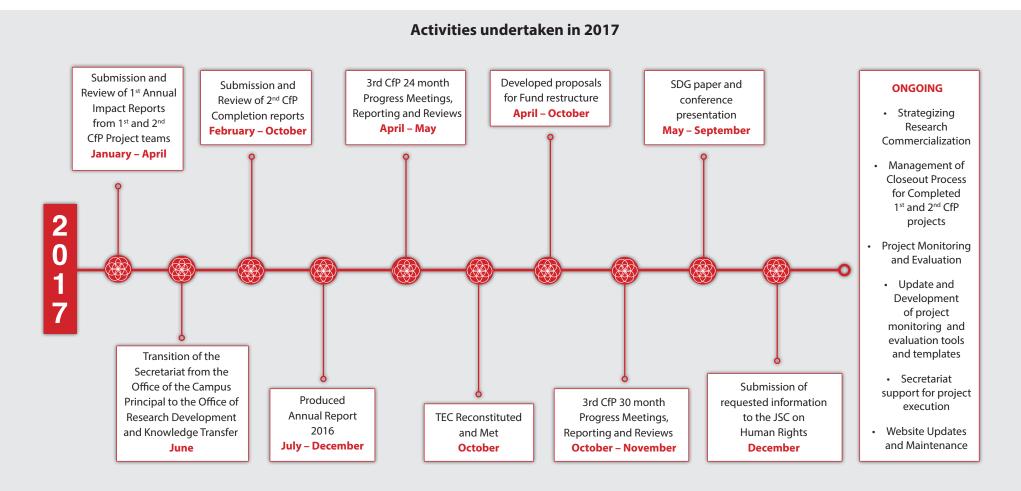




A Fund in Transition: Programmatic Changes and Activities in 2017



During the 2017 calendar year The RDI Fund underwent several significant governance and administrative changes. Following on the change in Chairmanship with the transition to the new campus principal in 2016, the technical evaluation committee was reconstituted and reconvened in 2017 to deliberate on the future of the fund and its alignment with The UWI's new strategic plan. This resulted in the development of proposals to amend the operational guidelines of the Fund as well as to boost the Fund's support for innovation and research commercialization. The Fund's Secretariat was also moved from the Office of the Campus Principal to the Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer.





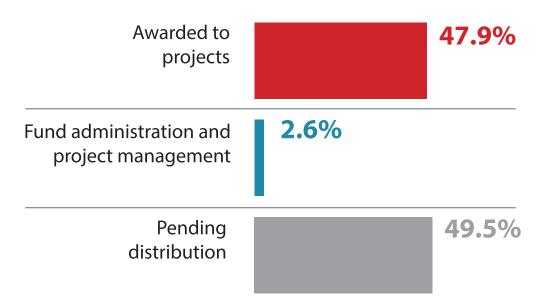
While the RDI Fund's Operational Guidelines stipulate that 5% of the Fund's annual allocation will be dedicated to supporting the activities of the Secretariat and the TEC, this provision has been underutilized thus far with only 2.6% of the allocation used for this purpose. Of the 50% of the total allocation distributed to date, 5% has been utilised for administration and project management while 95%, has been awarded as grants to projects.

It is important to note that four years after the decision to redirect funding committed to the RDI Fund to the Higher Education Research Fund (HERF), the later competitive national research funding scheme, intended to be open to applications for funding from all national tertiary institutions, is yet

to be operationalized. It has also been noted in the 2017 budget statement that the GORTT would like to establish a TT\$50 million Innovation Fund.

Given the RDI Fund's history, track record, governance, methodology, processes, and commitment to transparency and accountability as well as its potential for priming the innovation pipeline, it is uniquely poised to be used as a national vehicle to foster innovation in the country. Therefore, moving forward, it is imperative for the RDI Fund to engage in strategic fundraising efforts with a view to negotiating the reinstatement of funding from the GORTT and bringing additional donors on board to secure the financial sustainability of the Fund.

RDI Fund Distribution of Allocation (2012-2017)





As the RDI Fund enters its sixth year, the Fund will seek to build on the significant advances made in the first five years of its existence by focussing on completing the closeout process for the projects in its portfolio, improving its processes and procedures, strengthening governance and increasing focus on areas directly impacting project implementation and success, particularly in the areas of monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, information dissemination and knowledge mobilization. In order to ensure alignment with the vision of the new Chair as well as the new UWI strategic plan 2017-2022, the Fund will also put structures in place to ensure support for innovation, knowledge transfer and research commercialization with the expectation that some of this activity will lead to academic entrepreneurship.

The Fund's work programme in 2018 will be centred on the following objectives:

- Strengthening the Fund's Operational and Governance Framework
 To complete the update of the Operational Guidelines with the aim of strengthening efficiency, accountability and transparency based on the experience gained from managing three Calls for Proposals and enabling innovation, scaling of development solutions, improving knowledge transfer and supporting research commercialization.
- (ii) **Strategizing Research Commercialization** To work with project teams to compile lessons learnt from execution of RDI Fund projects, which would be useful for developing Campus and University processes that support the commercialization of research. Put structures in place to support research commercialization.
- (iii) Call for Proposals (CfPs) To launch and efficiently manage new CfPs and the processes related to the evaluation and approval of new projects.
- (iv) **Financial Sustainability** To actively engage in negotiation with the sole donor to date with a view to getting GORTT funding reinstated. To also engage in strategic fundraising with key donor organizations with a view to broadening the resource base of the Fund and enhancing the sustainability of the RDI Fund for future Calls for Proposals.





- (v) **Ensuring Project Completion** To improve processes and procedures to ensure that projects are successfully brought to completion in a timely manner. Ensure the orderly closeout of all projects currently in the Fund's portfolio.
- (vi) **Project Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)** To evaluate and improve existing M&E framework and to consider terms of reference for project and programme evaluations.
- (vii) **Support for Project Execution** To provide technical and administrative assistance and guidance to project teams during the execution phase with a view to reducing the administrative burden on research teams and facilitating project execution.
- (viii) Strengthening linkages between research and development impact To develop and execute a strategy for:
 - a. information dissemination on RDI project research outputs and outcomes;
 - b. knowledge mobilization to increase opportunities for knowledge uptake that are critical to ensuring development impact;
 - c. increased visibility and awareness of the RDI Fund as a model for supporting targeted research linked to national and regional development priorities;
 - d. project and programme evaluation with a focus on impacts; and
 - e. facilitating capacity building for researchers, particularly in the areas of research project management, planning for impact, and knowledge mobilization strategies.
- (ix) **Informing Policy on Research Impact** To strengthen the policy agenda on 'research for development' in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean through evidence based studies that inform the university and our key stakeholders on relevant issues related to research, impact and the pathways for strengthening research uptake and stakeholder engagement.







Our Vision

A research enterprise which facilitates research that can serve as an impetus for transformational change and development.

RDI Fund Mission

- To provide dedicated funding for projects that address pressing developmental needs
- To encourage projects to 'plan for impact' and 'mobilize knowledge for development'
 - To support a more targeted, impact oriented, multidisiciplinary research agenda
- To foster a greater appreciation in our stakeholders of the value and impact of research, innovation and knowledge transfer
- To facilitate research which impacts on policy, practice, new products, services, ways of thinking, attitudes and behavior, which ultimately contribute to the improved well-being of society.

Contact Us: rdifund@sta.uwi.edu https://sta.uwi.edu/rdifund/

A publication of The UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer

The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus

©2017. All rights reserved.