



Peanut Butter Production and School Snack Program in Guyana

Alyssa Cho¹, Gregory MacDonald², Robert Kemerait³, and Jerry LaGra⁴

¹Graduate Assistant and ²PI, University of Florida; ³PI, University of Georgia; ⁴Executive Officer, SSOS



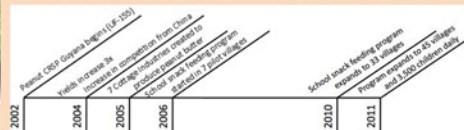
Background

- In 2004 peanut yields in Region 9 of Guyana were 3 times higher than previous years.
- Peanut prices lower due to market surplus.
- Farmers needed a new market to absorb supply.
- Ministry of Education and SSOS worked to develop a School Snack Program for primary and nursery students.
- Proposed pilot project using locally sourced ingredients.
 - Each child would receive a peanut butter and cassava bread sandwich and fresh juice drink.
 - Cottage industries were created to facilitate this program.



Map of Region 9 of Guyana, South America.

- 7 cottage industries established in the 5 sub-regions of Region 9
- South Pakaraimas: Karasabai
North: Aranaputa
Central: St. Ignatius and Parashara
South Central: Katoonarib
South: Awarewanau and Kauradarnau



Activities

- Train workers (90% women) to produce snacks and manage:
 - Accounting and record keeping
 - Food safety and quality control
 - Packaging and distribution
- Work with peanut farmers for proper production practices and post-harvest handling including proper drying, grading, and storage.

On-going Goals

- Production of Technical Manual for Snack Program
- Establish and monitor quality standards
 - No government standards for aflatoxin
 - Create process for testing peanuts prior to buying and processing
 - Proper storage to minimize contamination (in cooperation with local agencies)

Project Impacts

- Job creation
- Raw materials purchased locally:
 - Peanuts, cassava, fruit
- Snacks served to 3,500 students daily
 - (G\$70, \$0.35 USD/snack)
- Economic expansion
- Social implications



Gas heated roaster



Peanut sheller



Cleaning peanuts



Grinder



Making cassava bread



Cassava peanut butter snack



Nursery student with snack



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FULL BELLY

SSOS Society for Sustainable Operational Strategies

UF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES