GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL WEBINAR

IMPACT AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

IMPACT
- Distribution & spread
- Population dynamics
- Effects
- Impact assessment survey

MANAGEMENT
- Resources
- Initiatives
- Prospects for biocontrol
- The way forward

Impact & Long-term Management of the GAS - Antigua and Barbuda: CPHD Webinar, October 2022
IMPACT
DISTRIBUTION & SPREAD

RATE OF SPREAD

DISTRIBUTION

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Number of Giant African Land Snails collected from infested areas in Antigua over the period April 2008 to October 2010: Jolly Hill/Bolans New Extension
POPULATION DYNAMICS

RAINFALL VS. NUMBERS: 2018

RAINFALL VS. NUMBERS: 2019

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PLANT & CROP DAMAGE

EFFECTS
PROPERTY DEFACEMENT (FAECES)

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AIRPORT RUNWAY INVASION

EFFECTS

SNAIL’S RESPONSE TO BAITING

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IMPACT ASSESSMENT SURVEY

• **OBJECTIVE:** Determine the economic & social impact of the GAS on affected groups *(using a stratified random sampling approach)*

• **RESULTS**
  - 202 respondents participated (Nov. 2019 – June 2020)
  - 15% reported being affected by the GAS
  - Average monthly cost for control measures – US$140
  - Social impact (stench of rotting snails, reduced outdoor activity)
  - Economic impact (cost of bait, etc.)
  - >50% unwilling to participate in the eradication effort
MANAGEMENT: Resources

Finances

• PSIP for Eradication of the GAS (approx. $EC4 million: 2017-2020)
• Cabinet-Approved Bounty Initiative (EC$1 million: Sept. 23 – Dec. 31, 2018)

Human Resource

• GAS Task Force (multi-sectoral, cabinet-approved group of stakeholders)
• Work Experience program (trainees)
• NPPO staff
• Individuals contracted under various initiatives
• Schools, churches, general public

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MANAGEMENT: Baiting & Collecting

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MANAGEMENT: Initiatives

Bounty Initiative
• Over 770,000 snails collected

IICA RRA Project
• 8 townhall meetings facilitated, incl. Barbuda
• Flyers & brochures developed & widely distributed
MANAGEMENT: Public Awareness, Participation & Education

NATIONAL SNAIL COLLECTION DAYS

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MANAGEMENT: Stakeholder Collaboration
MANAGEMENT: Prospects for biocontrol

SHELLS TAKEN OVER BY HERMIT CRABS

LAND TURTLES FEED ON THEM

NEW GUINEA FLATWORM PARASITISM?

Community Participation to Eradicate the GAS: Townhall Meeting - MPCC 28112019
COLLECTION BY ALL

THE WAY FORWARD

DESTRUCTION & DISPOSAL

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THE WAY FORWARD

THE MESSAGE

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PUBLIC EDUCATION VIDEO
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION