

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

**NAME OF PROJECT: Aquaculture Farming**

**NAME OF DEVELOPER: East Berbice/ Corentyne Cooperative Society  
Limited.**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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LOCATION - FORT ORINANCE

**Prepared by**

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## Proposed Project

This project is designed to address the issue of Mangrove depletion, the reduction of Marine fish/shrimps catches and sustainable livelihoods for communities and families. In implementing this project several other issues will also be addressed, for example, capacity building, climate change, regaining biodiversity, gender equity, food security and the reduction of poverty.

The people from several communities will benefit from the training in semi-intensive fish farming techniques and processing and preservation techniques. This knowledge base will enable people to implement better farm practices, improve new technology (move from extensive to the semi-intensive method) and have a better approach to the local and export market.

The objective is to achieve sustainable aquaculture in mangrove ecosystem, the expected results are an increase of habitats and nurseries for aquatic species, increase production of shrimp, boost food security and reduced poverty.

Brackish Water Shrimp/Fish farms were established over forty years ago and are located on the southern side of the sea defense dam. To the north is the Atlantic Ocean and these farms access water through intake channels. These channels act as both drainage and irrigation system.

In terms of Fort Ordinance, it is adjacent to Berbice River Bridge Road, to the south and extend to Grand Canal to the north. It is about quarter mile from the Berbice River to the west and about two miles from New Amsterdam.

The area is predominantly used for Aquaculture. For over forty years this type of farming has **no environmental impacts** and the abundance of natural resources in the area has contributed significantly to sustainable livelihood.

### **The Use of Natural Resources**

The development of Aquaculture as a natural resource over the years have the potential of restocking juvenile fish in the wild. In this project it is expected that there will be a separation and collection of an estimated 50,000 (Fifty Thousand) small dishes (snook, cuffum, grouper basha) to be reared in at least 12 established fish/ shrimp ponds over a two-year period.

It is also expected that this project will have environmental, social and economic impacts. The planting of mangroves will contribute to climate mitigation and adaption efforts by increasing Guyana's carbon sequestration capacity and storage from which the country will benefit economically from the LCDS Carbon Credit payment system. Additionally, the mangroves planted will reinforce coastal defense by reducing wave action and overtopping while promoting soil accretion. Biodiversity will also increase as mangroves act as a nursery for small fishes and serve as a feeding ground for larger fishes, most of which are commercial species important for supporting the fisheries industry.

**Irem No. 19**

In the Eastern Half of Fyrish, there are eight shrimp/fish farms interspersed between mangroves areas, located in a band about 1,200 feet from the shoreline. The size of four farms is about 15 acres each and the other four is seven acres each.

The facility (farm) is impoldered around the perimeter and after a number years (five to six) the dams are rebuilt to maintain the height of water in order to contain the required volume of water.

These farms access water from the Atlantic Ocean through intake channels. When the water comes into farms, tiny shrimp (larvae) and tiny fish (fingerling) are trapped and this process occur during the high tide. The growth period is between six to eight weeks and by that time shrimps normally reach marketable size.

During this growth period, the water is re-cycled actually every two weeks, through the filtering process. After harvesting, the follow-on process takes place and when water is removed through the established drainage system, then the fish is available for harvesting. The follow-on period varies due the weather pattern and after the process, water is taken into the farm and restocking for another crop.

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In this type of facility (Aquaculture), water from the Atlantic Ocean with a high level of salinity is used as explained earlier. Due to the method of intake of the volume of water, the recycling every two weeks, the discharge rate cannot be measured and there is no evidence of pollution. After forty years of this type of operation and its economic contribution, the Government invested over two hundred million dollars over the past two years.