P.O. Box W1675
Mercers Creek
Antigua, West Indies
T +1-268-463-4121
C +1-268-727-4121
Website: www.gardc.org Email: admin@gardc.org

"Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees." Is. 35:3

PRESS RELEASE
(for Immediate Release)

From 2025–2028, the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARD Center) is a partner and LLA champion collaborating with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to contribute to implementation of the Generating Ambition for Locally Led Adaptation (GA-LLA) programme in the Caribbean, specifically in Antigua and Barbuda. The GA-LLA programme seeks to advance transformative actions that build resilience in communities most affected by the climate crisis.

Under the Adaptation Actions component of the GA-LLA programme, the GARD Center will lead the implementation of a practical on-the-ground project - "***Youth and Community-Led Vetiver Floating-Beds for Climate Adaptation and Livelihoods in Antigua,***"focused on floating vetiver grass-beds to enhance climate adaptation, watershed/pond resilience, and livelihood opportunities. This nature-based solution supports ecosystem-based adaptation by drawing on vetiver's natural ability to improve water quality, stabilise soils, and enhance biodiversity, offering a low-cost and sustainable method for restoring degraded ponds in the target communities. The initiative also promotes strong local ownership by engaging local communities in environmental management and climate-smart livelihood activities, including vetiver-based products and eco-tourism.



Photo credit: thehindu.com

This project builds directly on the GARD Center's experience in sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, and community-based climate solutions. In the absence of this intervention, these ponds and their surrounding communities' risk ongoing environmental decline, including persistent water quality issues, erosion, invasive species, and increased public health risks, as well as missed opportunities for community empowerment and green economic development.

- END -

About the GARD Center
The GARD Center is a non-profit organization and has been a leading training facility for 36+ years, preparing youth, men and women in sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship, allowing them to access varied employment opportunities.