the GARD center x CCRIF SPC
The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility

VETIVER GRASS

AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION STRATEGY

GARD Center Engages ABCAS Students in Climate Adaptation Through Vetiver Grass

October 13, 2026

GARD Center partners with ABCAS School of Agriculture by engaging students through Vetiver Grass Workshop on Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability.

The GARD Center, with support from CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility), successfully conducted interactive and educational workshops for 7 students with the theoretical presentation in classroom on October 06 and the hands-on sessions on October 08th and 13th, 2026, under the theme **"Vetiver Grass as an Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Strategy."**

The workshop was designed to provide these students with a deeper understanding of how Vetiver grass can be used as a natural solution to environmental challenges, particularly soil erosion, land degradation, and the effects of climate change. Students learned how the deep root system of Vetiver grass helps to hold soil together, reduce soil loss during heavy rainfall, protect the environment, and improve the resilience of agricultural lands.





PLANT. NUTURE. GROW.

Through these practical, hands-on activities, students also gained valuable experience in sustainable land management and explored how nature-based solutions can help communities protect their natural resources and adapt to changing climate conditions.

Their experience harvesting the grass and then having them soaked to remove the excess soil to effectively separate and put in bundles of 10 slips as well as planting in potting bags was a great opportunity for them to experience each stage.

Ms. Karen James, Principal of the ABCAS School of Agriculture, facilitated both the classroom session, and the harvesting session in the nursery at GARD Center. Ms. James expressed that “It was a rewarding experience engaging with enthusiastic students and sharing the importance of vetiver grass in soil conservation, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability.” A key highlight of the workshop was the practical, hands-on session, during which the students demonstrated strong teamwork, collaboration, and enthusiasm as they prepared Vetiver grass slips in planting bags, along with bundles of ten slips for future planting. This activity provided valuable practical experience in sustainable land management and environmental conservation.

Through continued collaboration and community engagement, GARD Center remains committed to strengthening communities by advancing environmental education, climate resilience, and sustainable land management. By combining knowledge with practical experience, the Center empowers young people with essential skills to become responsible stewards of the environment and contribute to a more sustainable future.

GARD Center extends its sincere appreciation to CCRIF SPC for its continued support and investment in initiatives that strengthen environmental sustainability and climate resilience in Antigua and Barbuda.

Students Planting & Plowing Vetiver




