

Community Conservation and Management of Native Bee Species in Matura, Trinidad and Main Ridge, Tobago

KEY LESSONS LEARNED



✓ 1. Conduct Reconnaissance Visits

Before commencing data collection, it's essential to conduct reconnaissance visits to sampling sites. Terrain and distance to farmers' properties can vary significantly, affecting logistics and access.



✓ 2. Select Appropriate Field Vehicle

Proper transportation is crucial. Depending on the location, some sites may require 4x4 vehicles, while others may involve hiking on foot. Ensuring the right vehicle is available is essential for efficient data collection.



✓ 3. Opt for the Dry Season

Choose the dry season for data collection to avoid issues related to rainwater filling traps and adverse weather conditions, which can hinder access to sample plots.



✓ 4. Early Data Collection

Conduct data collection early in the day to minimize exposure to the sun. Ensure prompt and reliable attendance of field assistants to maximize productivity.



✓ 5. Adapt Equipment as Needed

Be prepared to improvise and modify equipment when necessary. In this case, a hood was designed to prevent rainwater from filling traps using simple, readily available materials.



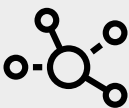
✓ 6. Assure Stakeholders

Assure stakeholders of their ability to participate in field surveys and future projects, especially when issues like land tenure may be a concern for some participants.



✓ 7. Understand Stakeholder Concerns

Be mindful of stakeholder concerns, such as road maintenance and trust issues, which can affect their willingness to participate in community-based projects.



✓ 8. Leverage Networks

Utilize existing networks and partnerships to maximize benefits and resources, including identifying field coordinators and accessing workshop venues and facilitation.



✓ 9. Be Prepared for Extra Work

Anticipate the need for additional work, such as supplemental sampling, to support specific aspects of the project, like orchid bee identification.



✓ 10. Keep it Simple

Always try to use common names of species. Avoid technical terms. Never assume that all farmers have the same background knowledge. Always explain.

