Peanut Butter Production and School Snack Program in Guyana

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Background
- In 2004 peanut yields in Region 9 of Guyana were 3 times higher than previous years.
- Peanut prices lower due to market surplus.
- Farmers needed a new market to absorb supply.
- Ministry of Education and SSOS worked to develop a School Snack Program for primary and nursery students.
- Proposed pilot project using locally sourced ingredients.
  - Each child would receive a peanut butter and cassava bread sandwich and fresh juice drink.
  - Cottage industries were created to facilitate this program.

Activities
- Train workers (90% women) to produce snacks and manage:
  - Accounting and record keeping
  - Food safety and quality control
  - Packaging and distribution
- Work with peanut farmers for proper production practices and post-harvest handling including proper drying, grading, and storage.

On-going Goals
- Production of Technical Manual for Snack Program
- Establish and monitor quality standards
  - No government standards for aflatoxin
  - Create process for testing peanuts prior to buying and processing
  - Proper storage to minimize contamination (in cooperation with local agencies)

Project Impacts
- Job creation
- Raw materials purchased locally:
  - Peanuts, cassava, fruit
- Snacks served to 3,500 students daily
  - (GS$70, $0.35 USD/snack)
- Economic expansion
- Social implications

Map of Region 9 of Guyana, South America.

Timeline of peanut butter production and School Snack Program in Guyana from 2002-present.

- 7 cottage industries established in the 5 sub-regions of Region 9
  - South Pakaralmas: Karasabai
  - North: Aranaputa
  - Central: St. Ignatius and Parashara
  - South Central: Katoonarib
  - South: Awarewanau and Karadarnau

Gas heated roaster  Peanut sheller  Cleaning peanuts  Grinder  Making cassava bread  Cassava peanut butter snack  Nursery student with snack