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**Seminar on Financial Assistance and Extension
Services for the Promotion of Small-scale
Industries in the Caribbean Area**

3 - 8 December 1973, Bridgetown, Barbados

**UNIDO PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL-SCALE
INDUSTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA 1/**

prepared by

The Secretariat of UNIDO

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

UNIDO's first technical assistance operation in a country of the Caribbean area dates back to 1966-1967, when a woodworking expert was sent to help the Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation to improve the operation of small woodworking plants on the island. The expert, who stayed for over two years, also advised on the technical problems of establishing and operating a wood-seasoning plant on the Bumper Hall Industrial Estate in Kingston. At the same time, a UNIDO expert assisted the Government of Jamaica in the field of footwear manufacture, mostly by giving practical help to small and medium-sized shoe factories. The expert who carried out this assignment stayed in Jamaica for several years and made an appreciable contribution in raising the level and quality of footwear manufacture in the country, which resulted in a growing volume of exports.

Assistance was also given to Jamaica in the field of craft industries. Upon a request from the Government, UNIDO provided in 1968, under the OPAS system (Operational Assistance), a managing director for the organization "Things Jamaican", which was created to improve the level of handicrafts produced on the island through better designs and more modern techniques, with a view to increasing the overseas sales of these products. The expert remained with "Things Jamaican" for three years and contributed to the introduction of new items and better marketing techniques.

Assistance has been given almost continuously since 1966 to Trinidad and Tobago. In the beginning, an adviser was sent for one year to assist the Industrial Development Corporation in identifying possibilities for new small industries on the island. The expert's mission, which came to an end in 1967, left behind a number of concrete proposals for fields of activity in which small industry development could be promoted.^{*} This led to the appointment of another expert who took up his duties at the beginning of 1969. This expert assisted the Industrial Development Corporation in creating a suitable organizational framework for providing assistance to small-scale enterprises in financing, techniques of production and management. In addition, he gave assistance in the expansion of Trinidad's industrial estates programme; this was aimed at constructing suitable premises for small industries. His work led to the creation of the Industrial Liaison and Extension Service, a unit within the Industrial Development Corporation, established

* See Part III, Development Possibilities for Small-scale Industry in Specific Fields of Industrial Activity, by Alexander Neilson, pp. 113-156 (from the UN Publication SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY IN LATIN AMERICA).

to assist the small entrepreneurs to overcome their technical and managerial problems. Later, UNIDO provided two more experts, one who took up his assignment in mid-1972 to assist the Corporation in improving the financial assistance programme for small industries, and the second, a mechanical engineer who came to Trinidad in January of 1973 to provide technical assistance to the small metal and engineering plants. This team of three experts - the small industry adviser, the financial management expert, and the metal engineer - are still assisting the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the small islands of the Caribbean, UNIDO has provided assistance to Dominica, where an expert spent four months in 1971, helping small industries in improving operations. He also advised on new small enterprises that could be created. As a result of his work, a number of new projects were initiated.

At the other end of the Caribbean, UNIDO sent a small industry expert to Curacao, in the Netherlands Antilles. He studied the possibilities for the development of small-scale industries in these islands, made some proposals for products suitable for small-scale manufacture and prepared reports on the scale of production required. His assignment led later to assistance in the development of handicrafts, which was undertaken by the ILO.

A recent request for assistance has come to UNIDO from Barbados, where the Industrial Development Corporation needs advice in evaluating industrial incentives and industrial estate programmes. Two UNIDO experts will shortly leave on short missions to carry out these assignments.

UNIDO has also provided some assistance in evaluating projects suitable for co-operation between the different territories of the Caribbean community. A four-man mission undertook an assignment of several months in 1969, visiting several of the islands with a view to identifying possible industrial projects for development in the light of proposals for the development of the Eastern Caribbean Common Market and the Caribbean Free Trade Area (now changed to the Caribbean Community). One member of this team studied in particular the possibilities of establishing industrial estates on some of the islands. Some of the recommendations of this mission were changed as a result of further studies. An industrial promotion and management service is now to be developed with UNIDO's assistance to provide help in industrial promotion and management development to the

different islands of the Caribbean Community.

Thus, it appears that UNIDO's activities in the Caribbean have until now been of a limited nature, and that assistance was given mainly to the larger islands. There is scope for increased assistance in the future, in particular for the smaller islands, either directly or through the Caribbean regional or subregional groupings.





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