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## Vetiver grass and the Vetiver System (VS) as a Green Infrastructure Tool

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Vetiver grass is a unique plant species which when applied correctly according to the Vetiver System (VS) approach can serve as a powerful bioengineering tool to tackle a wide range of soil and water related challenges. The Vetiver System (VS) can help with land stabilization, erosion control, infrastructure protection, soil and water conservation, topsoil regeneration, flood mitigation, water treatment and more.

Vetiver TT Ecological Engineering Solutions Ltd is a green engineering company which specializes in use and application of the Vetiver System (VS) along with other green infrastructure tools, to provide more cost-effective and greener solutions as compared with hard-engineered steel and concrete approaches. While many cases will still require these traditional methods, it is often possible to reduce the degree to which they are needed or to remove the need altogether in some situations.

Natural and softer-engineered approaches not only save money but are beneficial to surrounding ecosystems, and can be attractive for people as well. In this presentation you will learn about the Vetiver System (VS) as a green infrastructure tool, looking at its application on different sites around T&T and the Caribbean to serve a wide range of functions. The VS can also serve as a community and country development tool, to protect properties and public lands, and build resilience to many climate-driven challenges such as hurricanes, landslips and flooding.

The leaves and roots of the plant are also used to produce beautiful carbon-negative handicrafts. Vetiver TT and its sister organization IAMovement have worked also to take this knowledge to communities through the Vetiver Education & Empowerment Project (VEEP) model they developed in 2016/17. With support from the Ministry of Planning and Development's Green Fund and the IDB Lab, they have been working to take it to communities in need across T&T at the national level.