

RESEMBID'S Impact – The UCCI Training Experience

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Like many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Cayman Islands faced substantial challenges related to climate change and its impact on infrastructure, ecosystems, and livelihoods when the region became devastated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. RESEMBID (Resilience, Sustainable Energy, and Marine Biodiversity) a grant funded programme, by the European Union, provided a framework for the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) to build capacity of its students and by extension strengthen institutional capacity through the training and upskilling of 50 unemployed persons for the global workforce.

Studies emphasise that effective Career and Technical Education (CTE) requires financial resources and skilled personnel capable of planning, managing, and implementing resilience projects. These studies also demonstrate that training programmes are most impactful when context-specific, participatory, and aligned with national priorities. The UCCI's RESEMBID training programme was designed to address specifically recognised skill gaps.

The research methodology employed was a mixed-methods approach. Primary data was collected through participant surveys and semi-structured interviews with programme participants, trainers, and relevant stakeholders. Secondary data analysis included a review of project documents, training curriculum materials, and relevant national policies.

The study found that the RESEMBID Training Programme at the UCCI has been instrumental in fostering a more informed and skilled workforce. Participants reported enhanced technical skills in areas such as renewable energy, tourism hospitality, information technology, and construction technology. Furthermore, increased awareness of the linkages between the private and public sectors was established towards sustainable development.

The findings suggest that such tailored training programmes are critical to a holistic approach to sustainable development. Continued investment and refinement of these initiatives are essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of higher education's technical and vocational education and training systems.