



# Building an A-Frame

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Brief No. 7 for Agricultural Field Officers

## What is an A-Frame?

The A-Frame is a tool which can be made at home from local resources. It is called an A-Frame because it looks like the English letter "A". **The A-Frame is used for marking out horizontal lines, or contours, across a slope.** It is also possible to make a collapsible A-frame.

## Materials needed to make an A-Frame

- ✓ Two (2) pieces of wood/bamboo, each about five (5') feet long.
- ✓ One piece of wood/bamboo about three (3') feet long
- ✓ A piece of twine and nails.
- ✓ A heavy stone or bolt

## Step-by-step process:

1. Lay the sticks out in the shape of the English letter "A";
2. To join the pieces use nails or string;
3. From the top nail, hang a thin string with a heavy stone or a bolt tied at the bottom;
4. On level ground, make a mark where the feet of the two longer pieces of wood touch the ground;
5. Then make a mark 'a' where the weighted string touches the horizontal stick;
6. Make two marks on the ground where the sticks touch the ground;
7. Without moving the marks on the ground, lift the A-Frame, turn it around and place it so the opposite legs are in the same place on the marks on the ground;
8. Again, mark 'b' where the string touches the horizontal stick;
9. Now there are 2 marks, 'a' and 'b'. Make a third mark, 'c', exactly in between 'a' and 'b'. When the string touches 'a', you will know that the legs are exactly on level ground.



Building an A-frame in La Digue, St Andrew



Contour Planting training using an A-frame in Moyah, St Andrew

### GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA:

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry,  
Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information  
Tel: +1-473-440-2078  
Email: [ps@climateresilience.gov.gd](mailto:ps@climateresilience.gov.gd)

### GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA:

Chief Extension Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Tel: +1-473-440-2708  
Email: [agriculturegrenada@gmail.com](mailto:agriculturegrenada@gmail.com)

### GIZ:

Dieter Rothenberger, Head of GIZ/ICCAS  
Ministry of Climate Resilience, the  
Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster  
Management and Information  
St. George's, Grenada  
Tel: + 1-473-534-8000  
Email: [dieter.rothenberger@giz.de](mailto:dieter.rothenberger@giz.de)

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