



Investigating the Sustainability of Jamaican Small Traditional Farmers in Relation to the Impact of Economic Globalization

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Abstract

This paper has summarised and has taken forward the debates around the importance off as well as how to achieve sustainability in the Jamaica Small Traditional Farming Sub-sector. Small traditional farming has played a major role in Jamaica's development and poverty reduction in the past. However, changing global conditions are widely acknowledged as factors negatively impacting its sustainability. This explorative study utilized survey methodology to gather data from twenty directors and twenty researchers employed to institutions such as Scientific Research Council of Jamaica, one hundred and forty-six (146) farmers, extension and assistant extension officers from RADA. The study was explored in terms of six proposed sustainability indicators as demonstrated by the Mandel Model for sustainable rural poultry farming.

The hypotheses were supported by the available data and are accepted at $\alpha=0.05$. The study therefore postulates that, the revitalization and sustainability of the small traditional farming sub-sector is critical. Small traditional farmers of Jamaica like those in Israel and Japan can become efficient and achieve global competitiveness by means of an increase in endogenous innovations, along with improvements in the operational and administrative functions of agrarian institutions. These rural communities are likely to experience increased economic activities and development, hence better standard of living. There is the need for citizens in rural Jamaica to achieve cultural and educational changes. More than 40,000 Jamaican families can improve their standard of living directly and a further 30,000 families can experience indirect benefits.

Keywords: Rural Community Development; endogenous innovation; and sustainability