



# Government of Jamaica

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries

MINISTRY PAPER

/2018



## Performance Report 2017 – 2018

***“Sustainable Growth Advanced”***

April 24, 2018

## Ministry Paper /2018

### Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries Performance Report 2017 – 2018

#### 1.0 Purpose

The matter for tabling is the Performance Report for the period April 2017 to March 2018 on the major programmes, initiatives, and projects undertaken by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries for the development of the Agricultural, Manufacturing, and Services Sectors in Jamaica.

#### 2.0 Background

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF) has been charged with the responsibility of driving primary production of agricultural produce along all the stages of the supply chain, including value added, to the point of full commercialization.

This means that there is a critical need to establish and implement a range of policies/legislation, programmes, and projects, as well as acquire the requisite human and budgetary resources to facilitate and advance the realization of the output targets of all sectors. Of equal importance is the role of the Ministry as one of the pillars that contributes to an environment supportive of business development and trade facilitation, trade resulting in increased contribution to economic growth.

The World Bank's Doing Business Report 2018 ranked Jamaica 70 of 190 countries, which was three places lower than 2016. ***Despite this fall, Jamaica remained as the best ranked country in Latin America and the Caribbean, for Starting a Business (5<sup>th</sup> in the world).*** In addition, Jamaica has shown improvement in three other sub-categories; they are Getting Electricity, Resolving Insolvency (35<sup>th</sup> in World and 1<sup>st</sup> in Region) and Trading across Borders. As it related to competitiveness, the Global Competitiveness Report 2017/2018, which assesses the competitiveness landscape of 137 economies, Jamaica was ranked 70<sup>th</sup> of 138 countries, five places higher than 2016.

#### 3.0 Overview of 2017 Performance of Key Sectors

In FY2017/18, the MICAF and its portfolio Departments and Agencies implemented programmes, initiatives and projects that will facilitate “... ***innovative, inclusive, sustainable and internationally competitive industries in agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing and service sectors***” (MICAF's Vision 2018-2022). This is demonstrated in the calendar year 2017 performance of the agricultural, manufacturing and distributive trade sectors:

***In calendar year 2017, the preliminary estimate for growth in the agricultural, manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors is -3.8%, 0.4% and 0.1% respectively.***

### **3.1 The Agricultural Sector**

Performance for the year 2017 was impacted by unstable weather patterns – moving from excessively dry conditions to very heavy rainfall. As such, preliminary assessment of overall growth for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Industry is projected at -3.8%. Notwithstanding the overall decline, the production of bananas and coconuts increased by 10.4% and 24.9% respectively. Similarly, the livestock sub-sector demonstrated sustained growth. Overall, domestic crops contributed 56% (a decline of 5.7%); traditional crops contributed 18% and livestock contributed 16% to the sector.

Domestic Agricultural Crops which include legumes, vegetables, fruits, condiments, cereals, plantains, potatoes, yams, other tubers and sorrel, recorded four quarters of decline (-4.5%, -11.3 %, -2.8 % and - 3.5 % respectively). These contributed to an overall sub-sector decline of 5.7 % for the calendar year 2017.

Total poultry meat production amounted to 128.4 million kilograms in 2017, an increase of 1.9% over the 126 million kilograms produced in 2016. The poultry meat industry has seen consistent growth over the last five years, moving from 101 million kg produced in 2013 to 128 million in 2017.

Egg production also did well, and reflected a 6.1% increase in 2017. Approximately 184 million eggs were produced over the period, moving up from 174 million for 2016. Data is still being finalized for the other livestock areas of pork, beef and small ruminants. Dairy milk production, however, increased 9.1%, moving from 12.1 million litres produced in 2016 to 13.2 million litres in 2017.

Based on preliminary estimates from STATIN, for the calendar year 2017 the food import bill declined by 1.3 % in 2017 when compared to 2016 as total expenditure on food in 2016 stood at \$ US 853.3 m (revised) and declined to \$ US 841.9 m in 2017.

#### **Select Policy Initiatives**

- Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme<sup>1</sup>
- National Irish Potato Programme and National Onion Development Plan<sup>2</sup>
- Beet Armyworm Assistance<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For details see page 123

<sup>2</sup> For details see page 43 – 44; 121 - 123

<sup>3</sup> For details see page 51

### 3.2 The Manufacturing Sector

Real value added for the manufacturing industry grew by 1.5 % and accounted for approximately 8.6% of total Real Value Added in 2017. This outcome resulted from growth in the **Food, Beverages & Tobacco** and the **Other Manufacturing** sub-industries. For 2017, real value added for Food, Beverages & Tobacco was estimated to have increased by 2.3% relative to 2016. This performance was driven by the output from the Food Processing and Beverages & Tobacco components.

Real value added for the **Other Manufacturing** sub-industry was estimated to have increased by 0.4 per cent relative to 2016. The performance was attributable to the output of the **Rubber and Plastic Products** and **Chemical and Chemical Products** sub-categories which had increased output compared to 2016. In contrast, there was decreased output from the **Non Metallic Minerals** and **Petroleum Products**

#### Employment

The manufacturing industry's average employment level increased to 79,675 persons compared with 77,450 persons for 2016. The industry's share of the total employed labour force was 6.6 per cent, similar to that for 2016. Increased employment of both males and females contributed to the higher employment level. The average number of males employed in the industry was 52,225 compared to 51,525 persons for 2016. The average number of females employed was 27,450, which was 5.9 per cent higher than 2016.

#### Select Policy Initiatives

- Development of the Manufacturing Sector Strategy<sup>4</sup>
- Revision of National Quality Policy <sup>5</sup>

### 3.3 The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Sector

Preliminary GCT returns data showed an increase in the number of registered firms at both the micro (up 1.0% to 5,984) and small (1.0% to 3,767) firms. The total sales from MSEs fell by 3.2% to \$44.5 billion, due to reductions in sales for both micro and small enterprises.

There was growth in the value of loans disbursed however there was a decrease in the volume of loans disbursed by some entities surveyed. Disbursements by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), the main wholesale lender, increased by 16.5 per cent to \$2,361.0 million. Funds made available by the DBJ are disbursed through four channels with the allocation by channel being as follows:

- Micro Finance Institutions – \$1 588.4 million, up \$82.5 million
- Approved Financial Institutions (AFI) – \$748.6 million, up \$343.2 million
- Direct – \$0.2 million, down \$33.7 million
- National Peoples Co-operative Bank (NPCB) – \$23.8 million, down \$57.1 million.

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<sup>4</sup> For details see page 20

<sup>5</sup> For details see page 7

### Employment

The average number of employed Own Account Workers increased relative to 2016. There was an increase of 1.0% in the average number of employed Own Account Workers to 418 975 persons. This improvement stemmed from an increase in the average number of employed females in the Own Account Worker category which grew by 2 800 to 155 700.

### Select Policy Initiatives

- Revision of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) Policy <sup>6</sup>
- Development of the MSME Sector<sup>7</sup>

## **3.4 The Wholesale and Retail Sector**

The Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair and Installation of Machinery industry (WRTRIM) recorded growth in real value added of 0.5 per cent and accounted for 17.4 per cent of overall Gross Domestic Product (Figure 1). Growth was bolstered by:

- an improvement in the annual average employment of 27 275 individuals
- an improvement in the related Construction and Manufacture industries
- an increase in the stock of Loans & Advances to consumers and distributors from commercial banks
- a 1.4 per cent real increase in remittances
- higher volume (4.5 per cent) and real value (16.3 per cent) of Automated Banking Machine (ABM) and Point of Sale (POS) transactions.

Constraining factors to growth in the industry were:

- a 3.2 per cent decrease in the annual average Consumer Confidence Index
- a 2.3 per cent decrease in the annual average Business Confidence Index
- a decline in the Real Value Added growth for the related Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Sector.

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<sup>6</sup> For details see page 7

<sup>7</sup> For details see page 23

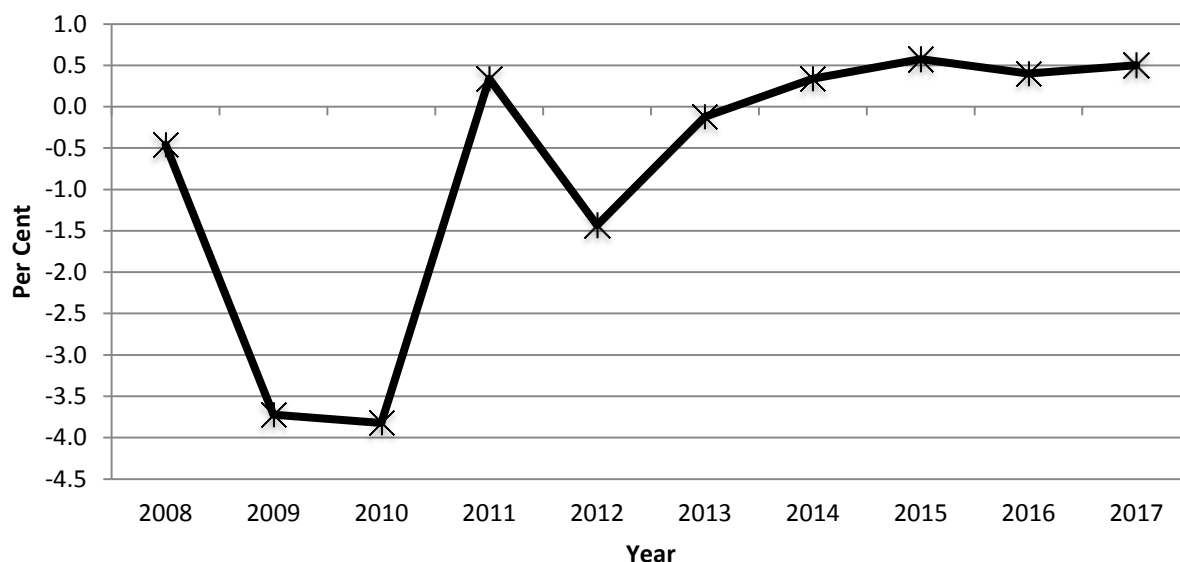


FIGURE 1: REAL VALUE ADDED GROWTH RATE OF THE WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR AND INSTALLATION OF MACHINERY INDUSTRY, 2008–2017

### Employment

The Labour Force Survey undertaken by STATIN revealed that:

- An average of 238 550 persons were employed in the WRTRIM industry, the largest single employer grouping. There was an increase of 11 225 in the number of individuals employed

### Select Policy Initiatives

- Operationalization of the National Compliance and Regulatory Agency (NCRA)<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> For details see page 115

## 4.0 Ministry's Priority Programmes, Initiatives and Projects

MICAF plays a pivotal role in facilitating inclusive Economic Growth and Job Creation as well as the implementation of key activities in the Economic Growth Agenda “5 in 4” Plan. As such, in FY2016/17 the Ministry continued to reposition the agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing and service sectors through the following programmes, initiatives and projects:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 4.1 Policy and Legislative Development Agendas.....   | 7  |
| 4.2 Business and Trade Facilitation Programme .....   | 16 |
| 4.2.1 Commerce Division .....   | 16 |
| 4.2.2 Economic Planning Division.....   | 18 |
| 4.2.3 Industry Division .....   | 20 |
| 4.2.4 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Division .....   | 23 |
| 4.2.5 Trade Unit .....  | 27 |
| 4.3 Food Health and Food Safety Programmes.....   | 29 |
| 4.3.1 GLOBALGAP Certification Programme .....   | 29 |
| 4.3.2 Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Programme .....  | 30 |
| 4.3.3 Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection (PQ/PI) Programme.....  | 32 |
| 4.3.4 Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination Programme .....  | 37 |
| 4.3.5 Veterinary Services Programme.....  | 40 |
| 4.4 Food Security Initiatives .....   | 43 |
| 4.4.1 Sweet Potato Industry Plan .....  | 43 |
| 4.4.2 Onion Development Plan .....  | 43 |
| 4.4.3 The National Irish Potato Programme.....  | 44 |
| 4.4.4 Strawberry Development Plan .....   | 45 |
| 4.5 Agro-Parks Development Programme.....   | 47 |
| 4.6 Fisheries Development Programme .....   | 49 |
| 4.7 Research and Development Initiatives .....  | 51 |
| 4.8 Modernization and Transformation of the Ministry and Its Entities/Divisions Programme.....  | 57 |
| 4.8.1 ISO Quality Management System Programme .....   | 57 |
| 4.8.2 Rationalization of select Commodity Boards and The Export Division .....  | 60 |
| 4.8.3 Establishment of New Entities, Posts and Divisions .....  | 61 |
| 4.9 GOJ/Adaptation Fund – Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Improve Livelihoods and Increase Food Security ..... | 63 |
| 4.10 Agricultural Competiveness Programme.....  | 65 |

## 4.1 Policy and Legislative Development Agendas

The Ministry seeks to formulate and review policies and legislations in accordance with the objectives and goals of Vision 2030. The policies and legislations support the Ministry's strategic priorities to facilitate an enabling planning, legislative and policy framework. This is to ensure food security, sustainable use of agricultural land and fisheries resources and facilitate an enabling local business environment. In addition, the legislative framework enhances the development of sound policy for key sub-sectors using a participatory approach.

### **Aim**

To provide an enabling planning, legislative and policy framework to ensure food security, sustainable use of agricultural lands and fisheries resources and to facilitate an enabling local business environment.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

#### ***Policies***

The Planned targets for 2017/18 were to develop and submit to Cabinet for approval:

I. National Youth in Agriculture Policy and Implementation Plan (YIAP)

The YIAP is intended to provide the framework for guiding all the Agencies and Institutions contributing to the development of the agricultural sector using the youth population as the vehicle. Importantly it should minimize duplication and splintering of resources and programmes especially among Government Agencies, and establish a framework for focused coordination. The policy will also provide the enabling environment for the realisation of the sector's 2030 goals and establish a clear pathway for transition and sustainability. The objectives of the policy are to provide a framework for:

- i. The creation of a strategic plan for youth involvement in the sector
- ii. Creation of specific guidelines for access to land and other resources
- iii. Youth participation in the sector's policy decisions
- iv. Youth in agriculture education
- v. Coordination of rural and agricultural youth related activities
- vi. Funding for rural youth and agriculture related programme

II. National Organic Agriculture Policy and Implementation Plan

The introduction of the Organic Agriculture Policy and Plan will seek to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities in the global organic market/sector movement. It is intended to provide the framework for guiding all organic agriculture-related development and implementation. The objectives of the policy are to provide a framework to:

- i. Increase production and trade of organic products primarily by development of new niche markets;



- ii. Create an enabling environment for the development of the organic sector;
- iii. Reduce environmental degradation and support enhancement of ecological services;
- iv. Promote consumption of locally produced organic food/products;
- v. Contribute to social equity, food security and improved health of the nation; and
- vi. Increase stakeholder awareness about the importance and benefits of organic production.

III. Revised National Quality Policy

One of the important features/key activities in the development of a modern and appropriate quality infrastructure is the revision of the National Quality Policy (NQP) of 2001 to make it current and applicable to the current global trade and economic development paradigm. Global business development and trade agreements with the attendant conformity assessment regimes have evolved significantly since 2001 and as such the quality infrastructure must be significantly enhanced through the implementation of a more appropriate National Quality Policy.

IV. Revised MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy and Implementation Plan

The reviewed policy will refocus on the development of the micro small and medium sized enterprises and refine the programmatic areas of business development support and capacity building, an enabling business environment, improving financing to the sector, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship along with cross cutting issues. The revised policy will update and validate a national definition for MSMEs and add the inclusion of social enterprises and social value creation. Additionally, a five (5) year implementation plan (reviewable) and a monitoring and evaluation framework will be added to the policy.

**Key Achievements for 2017/18**

- i. The development of the National Organic Agriculture Policy and Implementation Plan approved by Cabinet
- ii. Approval by Cabinet of the Revised MSME Policy and Implementation Plan as Green Paper
- iii. Approval for the Revised National Quality Policy and Implementation Plan by Cabinet as Green Paper
- iv. Approval of National Craft Policy as a White Paper

**Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

In 2018/19, the Ministry will seek to develop and submit to Cabinet for Approval:

i. National Youth in Agriculture Policy and Implementation Plan

The Ministry will seek to submit to Cabinet for approval the Youth in Agriculture Policy as a White Paper

- ii. National Organic Agriculture Policy and Implementation Plan  
The Ministry will seek to complete and submit to Cabinet for approval the Organic Agriculture Policy.
- iii. National Consumer Affairs Policy and Implementation Plan  
The Ministry will seek the approval of Cabinet for the development of the Consumer Affairs Policy.
- iv. Revised MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy and Implementation Plan  
The Ministry will be tabling the MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy and Implementation Plan in the House of Parliament as a White Paper in the FY2018/19 first quarter.
- v. Seed Policy  
The Ministry will be tabling the Seed Policy and Implementation Plan in the House of Parliament as a White Paper within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY2018/19.
- vi. National Services Policy  
To guide the development of the services sector and explore expansion strategies, as well as to help shape the regulatory environment governing the modes of services supply. A concept paper has been drafted and is currently being finalized to be submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- vii. National Industrial Policy  
The Ministry will embark on the revision of the National Industrial Policy.
- viii. Bamboo Policy  
The Ministry through its Industry Division will continue to work closely with the PIOJ in the development of the policy during the upcoming period. Consultations have been conducted regarding development of the bamboo policy and a concept paper is to be drafted.

## ***Legislations***

### **Key Achievements for 2017/18**

#### **Legislation Enacted**

**1. The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority Act 2017:**

This Act, having been passed in 2017, came into operation on January 1, 2018. It established a regulatory body called the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority that now governs and regulates the coffee, cocoa, coconut and spice (nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and pimento) industries, among other things.

**2. The Agricultural Loan Societies and Approved Organizations Act, 2017:**

This Act came into force on November 21, 2017. It repealed the Agricultural Credit Board Act and transferred the monitoring and inspection functions of the Agricultural Credit Board to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, with respect to regulating agricultural loan societies and approved organizations, among other things.

**3. The Fisheries Bill:**

This Bill was tabled on March 14, 2018. The Bill seeks to repeal and replace the existing Fishing Industry Act for the better management of the Fishing Industry.

**4. The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017 – Global Forum Amendments:** The Bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament and enacted in June 2017. The objective of the amendment is to bring Jamaica in conformity with international standards. Jamaica is a member of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes. The Forum is the multilateral framework within which work in the area of tax transparency and exchange of information is carried out in over ninety (90) jurisdictions in the world.

**5. The Processed (Amendment) Act and Regulations, 2017:** The Bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament and enacted in October 2017. The Act seeks to amend the Processed Food Act and the Processed Food (General) Regulations to remove the requirement for Export Certificates to facilitate the implementation of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), a web-based system designed to transform the Jamaica Customs Agency to a paperless operation through the use of electronic documents.

**6. The Protection of Geographical Indications Act and Regulations, 2017:** The Bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament in March 2018. The amendments to the Bill are to be confirmed in the Lower House and to be gazetted thereafter. The Act and Regulations are being amended to accord the highest level of protection for geographical

indications afforded by the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

### **Regulations/Orders Promulgated**

**7. The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority Regulations, 2018:**

These Regulations were affirmed by the House of Representatives on January 30, 2018 and by the Senate on February 9, 2018 and give effect to the provisions of the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority Act by providing greater details as to registration, licensing, inspection, record keeping, quality standards and other requirements.

**8. The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (Cess) Regulations, 2018:**

These Regulations were affirmed by the House of Representatives on January 30, 2018 and by the Senate on February 9, 2018 and deal specifically with the imposition of cess with respect to the various regulated agricultural commodities.

**9. The Fishing Industry (Special Fishery Conservation Area) (Amendment) Regulations, 2017:**

These Regulations were gazetted on August 29, 2017 and are in effect. The Regulations designated one (1) additional Special Fishery Conservation Area, in Saint Ann.

**10. The Animals Diseases (Importation) Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2017:**

These Regulations were gazetted on September 14, 2017 and are in effect. The Regulations facilitate importation of dogs and cats into Jamaica from prescribed countries by implementing the appropriate regime including biosecurity clearance requirements.

**11. The Plants (Quarantine) (Frosty Pod Rot of Cocoa, *Moniliophthora Roreri*) Order, 2017:**

The Order was gazetted on November 29, 2017 and is in effect. The Order prohibits inter-parish movement of cocoa pods, plants, seedlings etc. outside of the parish of harvest, unless written permission is given by the Chief Plant Quarantine/ Produce Inspector. The purpose of this Order is to contain and prevent the further spread of the frosty pod disease, while implementing measures to eradicate the disease, where practicable.

12. **The Trade (Prohibition of Importation) (Used Tyres) Order, 2017:** The Order was promulgated February 2, 2017. The Order seeks to provide for the importation of Used Tyres for vehicles specifically for use in the agricultural and sugarcane industry for a period of six (6) months from the date of coming into force of the Order.
13. **The Trade (Prohibition of Importation of Refined Sugar on Retail Trade) Order, 2017:** The Order was promulgated in October 2017. The Order seeks to provide for the prohibition of the importation into Jamaica of refined sugar for the retail trade except under the authority of a licence granted by the Minister to a person appointed by the Sugar Industry Authority under section 6 (b) of the Sugar Industry Control Act as an agent for the marketing of sugar.
14. **The Coffee Industry (Amendment) Regulations, 2017:** The Order was promulgated in November 2017. The Regulation seeks to prohibit the offer for sale in Jamaica or for the export of roasted coffee made from imported green coffee beans unless the roasted coffee is a blend comprising coffee cultivated and produced in Jamaica in such proportion as to account for not less than 20 per cent of the weight of the roasted coffee offered for sale or exported.
15. **The Trade (Scrap Metal) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 2018:** The Regulation was promulgated January 2018. The Regulation seeks to provide for the restriction of brass as a restricted item for exportation.
16. **The Trade (Dealer Disclosure) (Pre-shipment Certificate) Order, 2018:** The Order was promulgated in February 2018. The Order seeks to provide that for an application for a licence from the Trade Administrator to import a used motor vehicle, shall be accompanied by a pre-shipment certificate, from a person approved by the Trade Administrator.
17. **Other key activities undertaken in 2017/18:**
  - a. Training of key stakeholders on the newly promulgated Insolvency Act
  - b. Consultation with key stakeholders in the development of The Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Regime
  - c. Consultation with stakeholders for a new legislation in relation to a modified insolvency framework for Financial Institutions
  - d. Consultation with key stakeholders in creating a framework for a Merger Review – Competition Consultant in developing and drafting a legislation and regulation to enable the amendment of the Fair Competition Act to include the merger and acquisition regime.
  - e. Training/ Sensitization of key stakeholders in relation to the newly promulgated Agricultural Loan Societies and Approved Organizations Act

## Principal Focus – 2018/2019

### Legislations to be passed during the legislative year:

1. ***Amendment of the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act***

The amendment to the Act is to facilitate importation, distribution, storage, etc., of animals and animal products and by-products with regard to disease prevention and safety.

2. ***Amendment of the Facilities for Titles Act***

The amendment to the Act is to allow for title investigation procedures with a view to establishing title under the Registration of Titles Act without first having to apply for a loan under the Facilities for Title Act and to increase the maximum fines for offences.

3. ***Amendment of the Veterinary Act***

The amendment to the Act is to correct the inherent deficiencies in the existing Act, ensuring that the Act's objectives are met and that it maintains relevance by responding to new developments in Veterinary Medicine.

4. ***The Plants and Plant Products (Inspection and Quarantine) Bill***

To make new provision for plant quarantine and produce inspection activities and to establish a department of Government to be known as the Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Branch for the management thereof; to prescribe measures to prohibit the entry and establishment of plant pests; to prescribe measures to ensure the importation and exportation of only the highest quality pest-free plants, plant products and other regulated articles; to repeal the Plants (Quarantine) Act; and for connected purposes.

5. ***Companies (Amendment) Act***

The Act is being amended to strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica. The proposed amendments seek to include the following:

- Incorporate and amend definitions to provide greater clarity
- Improve provisions in relation to the incorporation of companies
- Revise provisions in relation to mutual fund companies
- Address the transfer of shares
- Improve provisions in relation to company meetings and proceedings
- Increase fines and penalties

6. **The Co-operatives Societies (Amendment) Act:** The Bill is currently being reviewed by key stakeholders for finalization. The Bill seeks to place the activities of credit unions within the regulatory ambit of the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ); develop Youth Credit Unions, register deposit taking businesses, amalgamation, conversion and

acquisitions among other things; restrict the deposit taking activities of the Co-operative Societies.

**7. Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Act(FSPID)**

The amendment includes the following:

To increase the powers of FSPID inspectors to include:

- The right to seize equipment related to any article to which the Act applies, which is defective.
- The right to request documents in relation to the articles being inspected and the power to detain vehicles and containers used to transport food, and also buildings, if they are infested or contaminated or liable to be infested or contaminated.
- To amend certain definitions to give effect to new provisions.
- To allow the FSPID to pass the cost associated with removal, storage and/or destruction of infested or contaminated commodities to the offending party.
- To remove the powers that the FSPID has for licensing pest control operations in food areas but retain powers of certification of such activities.

**8. Modernization of Intellectual Property (IP) Legislation:** This is required if Jamaica is to enhance its competitiveness as a premier investment location. The key areas of IP modernization are:

- a. ***The Patents and Designs Bill:*** The Bill is now finalized and has been submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber for approval and for submission to the Legislative Committee. When passed it will significantly fulfil Jamaica's obligations as a party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and will reflect the requirements of the Agreement on the trade related aspects of intellectual property and the bilateral agreement between Jamaica and the United States of America.
- b. ***The Trade Marks Act and Rules:*** The Bill is now finalized and has been submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber for approval and for submission to the Legislative Committee. The Act and Rules are being amended to incorporate the Madrid Protocol into local law. This will allow for the international registration of trademarks and the strengthening of JIPO to process applications.
- c. ***The Protection of New Plant Varieties Bill***  
The proposed law seeks to protect the rights of breeders of new varieties of plants that have been developed through propagation, and seeks to protect the rights of breeders of plant varieties, which are:  
new, distinct, homogeneous and stable. The Bill is being drafted by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel.

**9. *Enactment of the Scrap Metal Act***

The Act will codify the Scrap Metal Regulations 2012 and will allow for the inclusion of additional provisions, which were not contemplated under the Trade Act. This is in keeping with Cabinet's decision in relation to the matter.

**10. *The National Compliance and Regulatory Authority Act and related Legislations***

To establish an independent regulatory body responsible for regulatory functions previously undertaken by the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) in keeping with WTO guidelines.

**11. *The amendment to the Registration of Business Name Act***

To streamline the process of the registration of businesses in regards to the registrar's functions.

**12. *The Custom Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act***

To bring the Act in close harmony with WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement. The amendments also seek to establish the Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Commission as a body corporate and to make provisions for pension, medical and other benefits for employees.

**13. *The Fair Competition Act***

To improve efficacy of the FTC in fulfilling its duties, including-

- (a) Restructuring the FTC to include an independent tribunal with responsibility to adjudicate matters investigated by the Commission and hear appeals;
- (b) Allowing the Act to apply to all markets and industries, except where specifically exempted by another law



## **4.2 Business and Trade Facilitation Programme**

The internal divisions under the Ministry focused on enhancing the business and trade environment; protecting and improving consumer welfare and development of industry and business. The specific priorities undertaken in 2017/18 are detailed below:

### **4.2.1 Commerce Division**

#### **Aim**

The overall focus of the Division is the development of policies and programmes that facilitate commerce and govern how business and trade activities are conducted in Jamaica. The Division, therefore, is responsible for designing, recommending and implementing policies, strategies, programmes and regulations that will ensure a stable, competitive and transparent commercial environment aimed at increasing commercial activities, sustaining businesses and promoting export.

#### **Objective**

To monitor the key areas of the commercial environment and manage the policy development process to ensure efficient operations which balances the interests of all stakeholders (domestic and regional producers, importers, retailers and consumers) to achieve the greatest public good.

#### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- Complete the National Quality Policy
- Comprehensive review of the Common External Tariff and Rules of Origin under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas
- Implement the Pre-Shipment Inspection Certification Programme
- Implement the compulsory packaging and labelling requirement for all types of sugar
- Facilitate the importation of used tyres for the sugar and agricultural sectors
- Manage commodities monitoring mechanisms
- Facilitate capacity building programmes for the commercial sector
- Represent the issues of the commercial sector in regional and international fora
- Monitor operational activities and policy issues of assigned portfolio agencies
- Facilitate and increase the use of trade mechanisms and treaty guidelines to support the commercial sector

#### **Key Achievements for 2017/2018**

- National Quality Policy
  - Green Paper completed and tabled in Parliament
- Motor Vehicle Import Policy
  - Pre Shipment Inspection Programme implemented on February 1, 2018
  - Special regime implemented to enable importation of vehicles up to 8 years old for use as taxis
  - Special regime implemented to enable importation of vehicles up to 8 years old for use as farm vehicles
- Facilitated national consultations for the Comprehensive Review of the Common External Tariff and Rules of Origin under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas
- Implemented the Trade (Prohibition of Importation) (Used Tyres) (No. 2) Order allowing for the importation of used tyres specifically for the sugar and agricultural sectors

- Import regime strengthened for refined sugar for the retail trade to prevent the diversion of duty-free refined sugar from the manufacturing sector into the retail trade
- Compulsory packaging and labelling requirements for brown and refined sugar implemented. Consequently, all sugar sold in the retail trade must be packaged and labelled in keeping with the standards.
- Maintained licensing framework for cement and facilitated fourteen (14) import licenses for importation of cement and clinker into Jamaica
- Provided business facilitation support to fifty (50) companies
- Processed sixty (60) requests for suspension of the Common External Tariff to allow for the temporary derogation from the applicable rates of duty on inputs for the manufacturing sector for goods valued at approximately US\$128,142,146.00
- Processed twenty-seven (27) safeguard requests for the manufacturing sector to allow for the use of extra regional material in the manufacturing process and for the export of the finished products to CARICOM territories without being subject to import duties and other restrictions
- Provided fifty-seven (57) responses to CARICOM's enquiries regarding availability of local products
- Facilitated the approval of ninety-one (91) notices of exemption, seventy-five (75) licences and sixteen (16) extensions of exemption in keeping with the Ministry's statutory obligations under the Companies Act.
- Gazetted one hundred and twenty-five (125) Standards as Jamaican Standards
- Managed the issues of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) falling under the ministry's portfolio in keeping with the treaties that govern intra-regional trade and with national, regional and international obligations
- Represented portfolio issues at the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> meetings of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).
- Provided technical input and support for the negotiations under the CARICOM/Dominica Free Trade Agreement; Jamaica's 4th WTO Trade Facilitation Review; 5th Special Meeting of the COTED Customs Committee; Negotiations under the CARICOM/Republic of Cuba Trade Agreement; 38th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government; Review of the Report of the Commission to Review Jamaica's Relations with CARICOM and within the ACP/Cariforum Framework
- Maintained CARICOM Monitoring Mechanisms for rice, red kidney beans, cement and sugar as required by the Caribbean Community Secretariat
- Conducted two (2) public education programmes for the business sector impacting 25 companies and 5 business associations

## **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

### Policy Priorities

- Development of a National Consumer Policy
- Development of an e-commerce strategy

### National Quality Infrastructure

- Implementation of the Revised National Quality Policy
- Development of a technical regulations regime within MICAF to coordinate the preparation, adoption, application and enforcement of technical regulations
- Ensure the gazetting of Jamaican standards

#### Commodities Monitoring

- Monitor specific commodities and levels of imports to ensure consistent and quality supplies to meet the demands of the market; to ensure consistency with national developmental objectives; to make policy recommendations and ensure policy adjustments as necessary; and ensure that import licensing regimes are appropriate.

#### Data Capacity Improvement

- Continue to improve data capacity by expanding databases and strengthening the linkages with data providers.

#### Business Facilitation Support

- Increase support to the distributive trade in addressing the needs, challenges and issues impacting the commercial sector.
- Ensure that the Ministry's obligations under the Companies Act are met

#### Public Education and Capacity Building

- Increase structured engagement of the commercial sector through public education and sensitization programmes targeted at strengthening capacities to grow businesses, facilitate trade and increase exports.
- Facilitate programmes to increase exploitation of the opportunities to supply local and regional demand

#### Use of Trade Instruments and Measures

- Participate in the regional training programmes for moderators of the CARICOM Interactive Marketplace
- Populate the CARICOM Interactive Marketplace & Suspension Procedure (CIMSUPRO) database with information on Jamaican producers and available products
- Activate the use of the CARICOM Interactive Marketplace to connect local companies with regional and international buyers and sellers
- Continue to promote the increased use of the regional and international measures and treaty guidelines to support the commercial sector
- Ensure that Jamaica's interests are represented in the continued CARICOM review of the Common External Tariff and Rules of Origin under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas

#### Regional and International Representation

- Represent the issues of the commercial sector in regional and international fora

#### Portfolio Agencies Monitoring and Support

- Improve the support provided to the portfolio agencies and increase the monitoring of operational activities of assigned portfolio agencies.

### **4.2.2 Economic Planning Division**

#### **Aims and Objectives**

To enhance the performance of the agricultural sector through the formulation of policies, economic plans, programmes and projects within the National Plan. The Division consists of three (3) Units as listed below:

- Macro-planning & Data Analysis;
- Micro-planning and
- Farm Management.

The primary activities include preparing Cabinet Submissions/notes, project proposals, policy/plan/programme/project appraisals, industry profiles, position papers, farm models and conducting cost of production surveys for crop and livestock enterprises.

### **Planned Targets**

1. Development of at least 5 project proposals
2. Develop and submit at least 5 project proposals to the Public Investment Management Secretariat (PIMSEC) in accordance with the required format
3. Conduct Cost of Production Estimates for 20 crops, 2 livestock and 1 aquaculture
4. Production of 6 industry profiles.
5. Development of at least 3 farm/financial models
6. Provide technical support to 8 projects/plans/ policies.
7. Develop Cabinet Submissions.
8. Develop a comprehensive database for the Division
9. Develop value chain analyses for 21 agricultural crops.
10. Four quarterly review and analysis of Food Import Bill
11. Thorough (quarterly) review and analysis of the FAO's World Food Prices.

### **Key Achievements**

- Six project proposals were developed and submitted to the PIMSEC Secretariat
- Cost of Production Estimates were developed for at least thirty (30) crops and 2 livestock
- Five farm/financial models developed.
- Technical support provided to 10 projects projects/plans/policies.
- Value chain analysis was developed for 1 crop.
- Four quarterly reviews and analysis of Food Import Bill conducted.
- Quarterly review of FAO's World Food prices conducted.
- Provided coordination and divestment support for the Monitoring Agreements of the Wallenford Coffee Company and MICAF and the Montpellier divested lands;
- Provided appraisal work for at least 16 policies/programmes and projects with various MDAs.

### **Principal Focus for FY 2018/2019**

- Development of a comprehensive climate change project for the sector to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund;
- Conduct Cost of Production Estimates for 20 domestic crops within the parishes of St. Elizabeth , Manchester and Trelawny;
- Review and analyze the Food Import Bill quarterly;
- Review and analyse the FAO's World Food Prices;
- Develop at least 5 project proposals for funding;
- Appraise at least 10 project proposals;
- Provide technical support to policies, programmes, plans, projects as requested
- Developed Cabinet Submissions as requested

### 4.2.3 Industry Division

#### Aims and Objectives

- To support/facilitate the development of globally competitive industry structures.
- To support/facilitate export development, diversification and expansion.
- To support/facilitate initiatives geared towards business facilitation through streamlining business approval processes and rectifying bureaucratic inefficiencies.
- To identify business opportunities to help increase participation of the productive sector in the global value chain (GVC).

#### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- Policy Framework Development- Continued implementation of the Bamboo Products Industry Project, which includes development of a National Bamboo Production and Utilization Policy; initiate comprehensive review of National Industrial Policy; advance the development of National Services Policy; further development of the Cannabis and Hemp Regime.
- Strengthen Value Added Services for the Productive Sector- Streamline the technical review process for the granting of manufacturing status to companies under the Productive Input Relief Facility (PIR) as part of the Omnibus Incentive Regime.
- Improve the policy advocacy role of the Division through partnership and strengthening of external linkages- Collaborate with the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association (JMA) in completing the Manufacturing Growth Strategy; continue to play a coordinating role in the implementation of the National Export Strategy (NESII) as MICAF's focal point for the Agro-Processing Cluster; advancement of the Business Environment Reform Agenda, including participation in the Border Regulatory Agencies (BRA) Committee where a revision of the practices of these agencies and the laws which govern them will be undertaken with a view to streamlining cumbersome bureaucratic procedures.
- Support/ facilitate the implementation of strategic programmes/ projects- To play a lead coordinating role and provide strategic leadership in the implementation of a one-year pilot Alternative Development Project geared towards transitioning illicit ganja farmers into the regulated industry that was approved by Cabinet.

#### Key Achievements for FY 2017/18

- Bamboo Industry Development- Industry Division worked closely with PIOJ (Community Renewal Programme) and the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) to continue the roll-out of *the Peckham Bamboo Pre-processing Project*, which sought to contribute to Jamaica's agro-processing sector mainly through the cultivation and exportation of bamboo charcoal by 2018. Specifically, the project target included putting into production 40 hectares of land in the community of Peckham, Clarendon, capacity building, and employment of at least 80 young persons. The OAS was the main project sponsor, along with local donors that included CARILED and TPDCo. As part of the endeavour to help diversify the economic base, and drive economic growth, the Division participated and hosted a series of stakeholder consultations to help inform the development of a comprehensive policy for the sector.

- Cannabis Alternative Development Program- Subsequent to Cabinet approval for implementation of the Cannabis Alternative Development (CAD) Programme for the transition of Traditional ganja farmers into the Regulated Cannabis Regime, the Industry Division worked closely with the Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) in the development of a one-year pilot Cannabis Alternative Development Project. The project is expected to positively impact community development through the establishment of a lucrative medical cannabis industry in Jamaica. In this regard, the Industry Division participated in coordinating a crucial stakeholder consultation session that led to the identification of two communities, the number of farmers, and acreage of land to be included in the pilot. Additionally, the department coordinated finalization of the project proposal in order to commence implementation of the project.
- National Craft Policy- Following Cabinet's decision for MICAF to assume responsibility for the craft industry, the Industry Division collaborated with the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) and other external stakeholders, including the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (MCGES); Ministry of Tourism (MOT); Ministry of Local Government; and Ministry of Transport and Mining, in finalizing a draft Craft Policy, and Cabinet Submission seeking its approval. The Craft Policy was approved by Cabinet by the end of the 2017 calendar year.
- Facilitation of the manufacturing status application process (Productive Input Relief Facility- Omnibus Regime): The Industry Division continued to process applications for manufacturing status in order for companies to access fiscal incentives, specifically duty relief on productive inputs under the Regime. Key activities were as follows:
  - Made referrals to the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA),
  - Conducted joint inspections with JCA to determine if applicants satisfy the application criteria.For fiscal year 2017/2018 as at February 2018, the following were achieved:
  - **94** applications for manufacturing status were vetted and referred to the JCA.
  - **27** applications for packaging renewal letters were vetted and referred to the Jamaica Customs Agency.
  - **81** joint site inspections were conducted.
- Streamlining the manufacturing certification process: Within the context of a highly competitive international marketplace and a changing business environment, it was recognized that the criterion for defining manufacturing cannot be static. Hence, a review of Jamaica's manufacturing definition as a means to improve the administration of the Productive Input Relief (PIR) facility was initiated by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. Furthermore, the Division was asked to participate in a Technical Working Group in order to determine how best ambiguities with the current manufacturing definition could be addressed. It therefore played a critical role in providing technical input as required in order for the drafting of technical notes to be done by the Customs Agency. The Industry Division also worked closely with the Ministry of Finance in reviewing the manufacturing application process with a view of further streamlining the process.

- Implementation of the National Export Strategy (NES II): The Industry Division continued to perform duties as the designated MICAF focal point for the Agro-Processing/ Agri-Business Priority Sector. This entailed providing support to the priority sectors and cross-cutting areas outlined by the Strategy through the coordination of stakeholder activities for various NES Committees, and providing technical input for the development of market-driven interventions. The Strategy is intended to contribute towards the achievement of a goods export target of 2.5bn and a services export target of 3.2bn by 2019.

### **Principal Focus for FY 2018/19**

- Policy Framework Development- Based on high level decision, the Division will focus on development of a National Bamboo Industry Development Plan rather than a policy; initiate comprehensive review of the National Industrial Policy; advance development of a National Services Policy; seek approval for the National Craft Policy as White Paper and coordinate its implementation; and support the development of a National Investment Policy.
- Strengthen value-added services for the productive sector- Continue efforts to streamline the application process for the granting of manufacturing status to companies under the Productive Input Relief Facility (PIR) as part of the Omnibus Incentive Regime.
- Improve the policy advocacy role of the Division through strengthening external linkages- Continue to collaborate with sector interest groups such as the Jamaica Manufacturers Exporters Association, other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in order to better identify and address issues affecting the productive sector. This will include continuing to coordinate activities for implementation of NES II, as well as participation on the Border Regulatory Agencies (BRA) Committee that seeks to help improve the overall bureaucratic environment.
- Support/ facilitate the implementation of strategic programmes/ projects- To continue playing a lead coordinating role in the implementation of a one-year pilot Alternative Development Project geared towards transitioning illicit ganja farmers into the regulated industry that was approved by Cabinet.

#### **4.2.4 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Division**

##### **Aim and Objectives**

To facilitate the development of a policy environment towards achieving the GOJ vision of “inclusive growth” with a robust MSME sector, contributing measurably to economic growth and job creation.

##### **Planned Targets for Fiscal Year 2017/2018:**

- Complete the staffing of the MSME Division by March 31, 2018;
- Table the Revised MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy in the Houses of Parliament; Enhance the financing framework for the productive/value-added segment of the MSME sector vis-a-vis retail & distribution;
- Restructure and repurpose the Micro Investment Development Agency (MIDA); wind up the Self Start Fund (SSF);
- Design framework for data collection on the MSME sector;
- Incorporate Social Enterprises within the policy framework of the Government;
- Facilitate the work of the IFC consultants on the proposed MICAF/International Finance Corporation (IFC) Cooperation Agreement to review the Secured Transaction Regime and develop recommendations for improving the framework in Jamaica;
- Develop the Terms of Reference for the provision of technical consulting services to assess the efficacy and feasibility of establishing a MSME Fund, utilizing unclaimed funds within financial institutions;
- Implement Phase II of the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Project, and Secure resources for the expansion of the SBDC network;
- Promote and facilitate the increase of incubator and factory space for MSMEs;
  
- Facilitate the promulgation of Regulations for “Special and Differential Treatment”, Set-aside and Margin of Preference to increase the participation of MSME in Government Procurement within the Public Procurement Act (2015). Facilitate the development of Draft Orders for the activation of the Set-aside and Margin of Preference Regime;
- Promote and provide technical support towards the promulgation of the Micro Credit Act and Regulations;
- Facilitate the team of consultants engaged by the OAS from the Duke Global Value Chain Centre to develop Value Chain Analysis Studies for three (3) priority sectors for MICAF.

##### **Key Achievements – Fiscal Year 2017/2018:**

- Completed the staffing of the MSME Division by March 31, 2018 – All six (6) posts were filled by February 1, 2018;
  
- Tabled the updated MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy as a Green Paper in the Houses of Parliament on November 14, 2017. The updated MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy will be tabled as a White Paper in April 2018;
  
- Developed Request for Proposals for the engagement of an Approved Funds Manager to provide funds management services for a \$400 million pilot project to provide



concessionary loans to productive MSMEs. Jamaica National Small Business Loans was selected as the Approved Fund Manager to provide on lending services to MSMEs;

- Received Cabinet approval for the restructuring and repurposing of MIDA. Restructuring exercises have commenced:
  - ❑ Approval received for MIDA to relocate to MICAF's 4 St Lucia location.
  - ❑ Approval received for MIDA to commence implementation of redundancy plan on March 31, 2018.
- Terminated all staff of SSF and paid redundancies. Liquidation exercises are well advanced.
- Developed project proposal on data requirements of the MSME sector. Project proposal is to form part of MICAF's (Industry, Commerce) data collection mechanism.
- Completed a Strategic Operational Review of Jamaica's Secured Transactions Regime and National Security Interest in Personal Property (NSIPP) Registry.
- Incorporated the Social Enterprise Sector as a policy chapter in the updated MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy. Key areas of focus for the Social Enterprise Sector included:
  - ❑ Developed strategies and activities to enhance the Social Enterprises Sector
  - ❑ Engaged in discussions with the Companies Office of Jamaica (COJ) for exploring a possible legal framework for social enterprises in Jamaica.
- Commenced the execution of the Cooperation Agreement between MICAF and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to provide advisory services for improving the Secured Transaction Regime in Jamaica, and provide recommendations for:
  - ❑ Improving the legal and regulatory framework;
  - ❑ Providing technical assistance in developing sector-specific moveable asset-based lending products;
  - ❑ Sharing and transferring knowledge on best practices on collateral registry operations;
  - ❑ Delivering Capacity Building Workshops - facilitating of cross border training and study tour;
  - ❑ Assisting in developing an electronic marketplace for disposition of repossessed collateral;
  - ❑ Providing technical assistance to the Central Bank in the review and potential adjustments of the prudential lending framework to account.

- Obtained approval for the conduct of a technical consultancy to assess the efficacy and feasibility of establishing an MSME Fund, utilizing unclaimed funds held within financial institutions and insurance companies:
  - ❑ Request for Proposals developed with consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and the PIOJ.
  - ❑ Obtained funding approval for undertaking of the technical consultancy from the World Bank Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Project for US\$250,000.
- Continued the implementation of Phase II of the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Model project in Jamaica:
  - ❑ Secured a \$30 million budget for the expansion of the SBDC network
  - ❑ Hosted value chain assessment workshops for over sixty (60) key stakeholders
  - ❑ Facilitated the completion of Global Value Chain Analysis Studies for three (3) priority industries: tourism, coffee and off-shore services by Duke University Value Chain Centre consulting team
- Facilitated stakeholder dialogue with Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ):
  - ❑ FCJ provided dedicated space for incubators within its town centre model for the Morant Bay and Portmore Town Centres.
- Provided recommendations for drafting instructions on the Public Procurement Regulations - Special and Differential Treatment provided to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. Draft Orders (20% Set aside and Margin of Preference) reviewed by MICAF;
- Provided comments on the draft Microcredit Bill. Facilitated stakeholder workshop in collaboration with JAMFIN and JAMFA;
- Hosted three (3) meetings of the MSME Thematic Working Group and established two (2) Sub-working groups (Social Enterprise Working Group and Access to Finance Working Group).

**Principal Focus for Fiscal Year 2018 /2019:**

- Implement the updated MSME & Entrepreneurship Policy;
- Establish two (2) additional Sub-working groups (Business Enabling and Capacity Building) of the MSME Thematic Working;
- Facilitate the work of the technical consultant to assess the efficacy and feasibility of establishing an MSME Fund, utilizing unclaimed funds held within financial institutions and insurance companies;

- Complete MIDA restructuring with a focus on wholesale lending to productive MSMEs, and facilitate the relocation of MIDA to MICAFA on 4 St. Lucia Avenue for greater efficiency and effectiveness;
- Facilitate the launch of the 400 million Concessionary Pilot Loan Facility for productive MSMEs with JN Small Business Loans;
- Coordinate the implementation of IFC Final Consultancy Report containing recommendations for improving the Secured Transactions Regime and the National Personal Property Registry in Jamaica;
- Facilitate public education on the Security Interests in Personal Property Act (SIPPA);
- Facilitate the tabling of the Micro Credit Bill in May 2018, with the Bank of Jamaica being established as the regulator for the industry;
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service for the tabling of the Public Procurement Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) Regulations;
- Facilitate capacity-building initiatives for MSMEs and procuring entities to ensure wide compliance with the SDT Regulations and the maximization of the intended benefits for the MSME sector;
- Continue work to establish a data collection mechanism for the MSME sector towards the provision of credible data on the MSME sector: Facilitate the capture of demographic (gender, age, formality status, geographical location, educational status, type of business); financing data (total financing, total credit, source of fund, type of products) among others
- Facilitate the implementation and expansion of the SBDC Network in Jamaica;
- Implement Phase III of the SBDC Project;
- Establish a Social Enterprise Code of Ethics for Jamaica, and promote the establishment of a legal structure for social enterprises within the Jamaican legislation;
- Increase outreach and information dissemination to the MSME sector;
- Launch of an MSME Resources Search Tool which contains a catalogue of MSME initiatives and opportunities for improving the growth and development of the MSME Sector in Jamaica.

## 4.2.5 Trade Unit

### Aims & Objectives

- To conduct research and provide technical support and advice in the area of international trade policy.
- To ensure trade policies are clearly articulated and implemented in the Ministry's plans, policies, programmes and strategies.
- To facilitate implementation of relevant Trade Facilitation (TF) measures, including the establishment of a national trade portal and single electronic window.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- Trade Facilitation (TF):
  - Complete work on the development of Implementation Plan and Budget for the TF Programme.
  - Complete negotiations with World Bank Group/International Finance Corporation for a Trade Portal Advisory Agreement.
  - Produce action plan for the re-engineering of border regulatory functions of key agencies under MICAFA and MOH.
- Private sector/bilateral trade issues: Continuous monitoring of the concerns regarding TBTs, market access, rules of origin and other factors impacting domestic, regional and international trade. Continued support to the private sector to address emerging as well as long-standing concerns, and continued engagement with bilateral trade partners on all issues of concern.
- Trade policy support and coordination: Continued support to the relevant Divisions/Units on trade and trade-related issues.
- CARICOM BTAs: Continued stakeholder consultations and coordination with the private sector on outstanding market access and rules of origin issues.

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

- Trade Facilitation (TF): NOTIFICATION OF CATEGORIES B & C MEASURES. Cabinet Decision approving Jamaica's Category B and C commitments under the WTO TFA. MFAFT was informed and request made for notification to WTO Secretariat.
- Trade Portal: Signing of Advisory Agreement between the GOJ and the World Bank/International Finance Corporation for the delivery of a National Trade Information Portal; the trade portal falls under Output 4 of the TF Project Plan.
- Streamlining of licensing, certification and permitting functions of border regulatory agencies: Steering Committee and two Technical Sub-Committees established on
  - i. Business Process Reform and
  - ii. Enhancing Trade Support Capabilities of Border Regulatory Agencies

- World Bank Report on the Licensing and Certification Regime in Jamaica, following conclusion of Missions to Jamaica to conduct training in border regulatory agencies in risk management, development of risk profiles and needs assessment.
- Completed Terms of Reference for the Organizational Re-engineering of key border regulatory agencies of MICA and MOH.
- Private sector/bilateral trade issues: Undertook continual monitoring of concerns regarding TBTs, market access, rules of origin and other factors impacting domestic, regional and international trade, and provided effective policy recommendations to the relevant Ministries, Divisions and Agencies. Also provided continued support to the private sector addressing emerging as well as long-standing concerns, and continued active engagement with bilateral trade partners, through the relevant MDAs, on all issues of concern.
- Trade policy support and coordination: Continued support to the relevant Divisions/Union on trade and trade-related issues.
- Concluded stakeholder engagements, providing updates on policy matters related to manufacturing, services and agricultural sectors for the 2017 WTO Trade Policy Review of Jamaica.
- CARICOM BTAs: Continued stakeholder consultations and coordination with the private sector on market access, TBT and rules of origin issues of concern with regard to the CARICOM-Cuba Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement and the CARICOM-DR Free Trade Agreements.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- a. Continue work on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Reform Agenda
- b. Continue support on private sector issues
- c. Continue support and guidance on Bilateral Trade issues:  
Revised Market Access and Rules of Origin under CARICOM-DR Bilateral Agreement
- d. Continue coordination and consultations on regional & multilateral trade issues:  
BREXIT, Future of EU-ACP Relations, Regional Services Policy
- e. Continue general trade policy support to internal stakeholders:  
Validation of Services Concept Paper towards development of National Services Industry Policy

### **4.3 Food Health and Food Safety Programmes**

Food safety is an issue of growing importance due to several worldwide trends that contribute to increasing safety risks in food systems, such as the growing movement of people across borders; increased movement of agricultural and food products across borders; rapid urbanization; changes in food processing and handling practices; and the re-emergence/emergence of critical diseases, pathogens, toxins and other issues. Against this background, focus is being placed on the ability of all stakeholders in the food chain to be able to demonstrate adequate traceability of all food sources. Issues relating to food safety will therefore impact on agricultural production, agro-processing the food service industry, trade and commerce, public health and overall economic development.

#### **4.3.1 GLOBAL G.A.P Certification Programme**

##### **Aims and Objectives**

The overall aim of this project is to operate more efficient and integrated agro parks by implementing the GLOBALG.A.P Standard (Globally acceptable on Farm Food Safety Management System) that will ensure that the agro parks comply with international sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety standards for the production of plant based foods for the domestic and export markets.

##### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

- The project will cover the implementation of GLOBALGAP requirements for the propagation material, machinery and equipment, crop protection, harvesting as well as harvested crop handling and food safety infrastructure in four Agro Parks namely;
  - New Forest /Duff House
  - Plantain Garden River (PGR)
  - Ebony Park/ Spring Plain and
  - Yallahs
- A maximum of 50 farmers will be selected from each agro park to participate in the certification process.
- The project will train all stakeholders in:
  1. Quality Management System (9001) Internal
  2. HACCP Training/ Understanding ISO 22000
  3. Plant protection, fertilizer and IPM (Per crop under the scope)
  4. Food Hygiene/Food Safety Training
  5. GLOBALG.A.P Awareness
  6. Documentation and Process
  7. First Aid /CPR Training
  8. Global G.A.P Auditor Experience
  9. Train the trainer training in Food Safety Management Systems
  10. Build out Global G.A.P Compliant Produce Handling Infrastructure in the named agro-parks
  11. The provision of planting material, chemicals, fertilizers, wash hand stations, chemical storage boxes, portable toilets, plastic harvesting and storage crates,

plastic pallets, record keeping books and food handlers permits and equipment and supplies to aid certification.

### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- Completion of two (2) Global G.A.P facilities placed in the agro-park
- Listing of crops finalized and being produced for the each agro park certification programme
  - Yallahs Agro Park – **Hot pepper, cantaloupe**
  - PGR - **pumpkin, hot pepper**
  - New Forest/ Duff House - **melon, cantaloupe and hot peppers**
  - Ebony Park/Spring Plain - **pumpkin, sweet potatoes and red peppers.**
- Training of relevant stakeholders is completed
- The provision and delivery of inputs, equipment and supplies completed.

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

In 2018/19, the establishment of GLOBALG.A.P infrastructures in select agro-parks will be completed and farmers will be audited in relevant GLOBALG.A.P procedures. It is expected that at least three (3) agro-parks will submit their application for GLOBALG.A.P certification.

### **4.3.2 Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Programme**

The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division (FSPID) was established in 1958 “to make provision of food and for the prevention of loss of food by infestation and for purposes connected therewith” and operates under the Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation (FSPI) Act (1958) and Regulations (1973). The Division is an external Department of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### **Aims & Objectives**

The Division is mandated to ensure the wholesomeness of all food and feed entering commerce in Jamaica which is achieved through:

1. Regulatory inspection and disinfestation services conducted by the Inspectorate and Disinfestation Unit
2. Laboratory services conducted by the:
  - Entomology Laboratory
  - Rodent Biology and Control Laboratory
  - Microbiology Laboratory
  - Pesticide Residue and Mycotoxin Laboratory
  - Postharvest Technology Laboratory
  - Information dissemination provided by the Training and Information Unit.

## **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

### *Inspectorate Unit*

- 18,428 inspections
- 817 disinfestation operations
- 193 statutory notices for non-compliance
- 217 export certificates issued
- 1,415 analyses conducted

### *Laboratory Services*

- 600 rodent bait stations set
- 24 rodent control programmes
- 60 rodent control inspections
- 65 inspections (Postharvest Unit)
- 6 farm visits

### *Training and Information Unit*

- 4 training programmes/lectures
- 8 exhibitions

## **Key Achievements for 2017/2018**

### *Inspectorate Unit*

- During the reporting period the Inspectorate Unit carried out 14,129 inspections, 1,277 disinfestation operations and submitted 975 food samples for laboratory analyses. The number of statutory notices served on persons and organizations for non-compliance with the FSPI Act was 903. Four Hundred and Twenty-six (426) export certificates were issued. The Unit condemned over 25.79MT of food/feed commodities, which were found to be infested/contaminated.

### *Laboratory Services*

- Laboratory services conducted 4,078 analyses to determine the levels of biological, physical and chemical contaminants. In the Postharvest Technology Unit, the activities are mainly adaptive research, transfer of information to farmers and green groceries and research aimed at extending the storage life of fresh fruits and vegetables. This Unit participated in 9 training seminars, conducted 247 inspections and made 19 farm visits. Rodent Biology and Control Unit carried out 14 Rodent Control Programmes, setting 1,794 rodent bait and glue stations and conducted 41 inspections.

### *Training and Information Unit*

- The Training and Information Unit conducted and/or coordinated 10 training Programmes in food storage, integrated pest management and fumigation for pest management professionals, food industry personnel, UTech and FSPID staff, JAS parish



officers, public health inspectors and students. The FSPID also participated in 10 exhibitions for JAS, 4-H and career days at 6 schools.

#### *Administration*

- The FSPID continued working towards ISO/IEC accreditation for laboratories and inspections (ISO 17025 and 17020 respectively) as well as ISO 9001 certification.

#### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

The principal focus for the FSPID in 2018/2019 is obtaining ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 accreditations through continued surveillance and inspection programmes at ports of entry and islandwide. FSPID aims to prevent and control infestation and contamination of food/feed reaching the public and to enhance food security by preventing and/or reducing spoilage/waste.

#### **4.3.3 Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection (PQ/PI) Programme**

The legal framework that provides guidance for the operations of the Branch is the Plants (Quarantine) Act (1993) and its Regulations and the Agricultural Produce Act (1926).

#### **Aims & Objectives**

- To prevent the entry and establishment of exotic pests by the use of appropriate measures to safeguard our borders; thus protecting the integrity of Jamaica's agricultural sector.
- To ensure that only the highest quality, pest free agricultural commodities are exported and imported in compliance with national and international agricultural health and food safety standards.

#### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

- Export Certification

The Plant Quarantine Branch is the competent authority for the certification of agricultural produce being exported. The Branch planned to conduct ***One Thousand and Four Hundred (1,400) inspections of commodities for export and conduct certification and phytosanitary treatments, inclusive of 100 off-site fumigation services***, to ensure that the highest quality of agricultural commodities are exported.

In a drive to improve the agricultural export system, the Branch planned to embark on a pilot programme for the export phase of the E-Trade System/ ASYCUDA and host exporter sensitization sessions to raise awareness of the E-Trade System.

- Fresh Produce Packing House Certification

The Branch is responsible for the certification and compliance of agricultural packing facilities. For the year, the Branch planned to audit the fresh produce packing facilities against food safety requirements and assist exporters in preparing their Food Safety Plans, as well as monitor exporters' operations for the implementation of and compliance with Good Manufacturing

Practices (GMPs). Training of inspectorate and exporters in GMP and food safety requirements for fresh produce was also planned.

- Import Inspection and Issuance of Phytosanitary Permit

The Branch is the competent authority regulating the import of plants, plant produce and other regulated articles. The Branch planned to conduct ***One Thousand and Two Hundred (1,200) inspections for fresh produce imported into the country and process Eight Hundred (800) import permits.***

- Surveillance / Survey

The Branch is responsible for the survey of quarantine and regulated pests. In line with this role, the Branch planned to implement a sustainable all-island identification and surveillance programme. The Branch planned to continue and expand the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) Surveillance Programme.

The target of the Citrus Black Spot Surveillance was to conduct a delimiting survey and implement the management programme.

- Pest Risk Analyses and Market Access Proposals

The Branch conducts Pest Risk Analyses (PRAs) to assess the potential harm associated with imported commodities. The Branch planned to conduct four (4) PRAs and develop phytosanitary recommendations and additional declarations as needed for the safe importation of fresh produce.

The Branch prepares Technical Market Access Proposals (TMAPs) for all Jamaican fresh produce entering new markets. The Branch had a target of eight (8) TMAPs for the year.

- Canine Detection Programme

The Branch planned to reengage the prospect of a Canine Detection Programme through consultation, resubmission of a programme proposal, site selection and staff training. It was proposed that kennels would be built for the programme or an MOU established with other Government agencies to house the dogs.

- Agricultural Cess Programme

The Branch planned to begin exploring the concept of an agricultural cess on undeclared plants and plant produce and to prepare a proposal for submission.

- Jamaica Import Export Centre (JIEC) in Montego Bay

The Branch planned to collaborate with the relevant agencies to establish a JIEC One Stop Shop in Montego Bay. The target was to have the Port Authority and the committee approve the site, initiate the tender process for refurbishing of the building and employment of staff to provide the necessary services.

- Hot Water Treatment Facility

The Branch planned to establish a Hot-Water Treatment site at the Kingston Export Complex to facilitate first time trade of mangoes to the US and reintroduction of mangoes into the EU

market. To initiate the facility, the Branch planned to engage the tender process, finalize specifications, design and costing, and conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

- Tarpaulin Fumigation

The Branch is embarking on a new fumigation facility to treat the agricultural export of yam into the US market to satisfy the mandatory condition of entry. The Branch planned to finalize the lease agreement between the Norman Manley International Airport Ltd. and MICAF and complete the preliminary construction work.

- GOJ/USDA-APHIS Preclearance Programme

The Preclearance Programme is a collaborative programme between MICAF and the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS). Jamaican exporters of fresh produce to the USA benefit greatly from this programme as it guarantees fast-track movement of Jamaica's agricultural exports through U.S. ports. The Branch planned to maintain this programme and ensure its compliance by publishing the commodities covered by the programme and conducting collaborative training of the inspectors.

- Modernization of Plant Quarantine

In keeping with emerging international trends, the Branch is in need of a modern staff structure and the physical facilities to deliver the level of service required to meet international requirements of a National Plant Protection Organization. The Branch planned to engage a consultant and meet with relevant stakeholders to initiate the process.

Staff enhancement targets under the modernization include updating and publishing the existing Plant Quarantine Standard Operational Procedures, development of a staff-training curriculum, capacity development in line with the International Plant Protection Convention and a staff recognition programme.

The Branch also planned to revise the Plants (Quarantine) Act to include recommendations of the Plant Health Policy and the Model Plant Health Legislation. A robust public education programme aimed at having all stakeholders cognizant of regulatory standards was also a projection of the modernization.

## **Key Achievements for 2017/18**

- Export Certification

The Plant Quarantine Branch conducted Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifteen (5,715) inspections for export. The pilot programme for the export phase of ASYCUDA was tested and all commodities are now reflected on the system. The Branch conducted One Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-Two (1,422) certification and phytosanitary treatments and One Hundred and Eighteen (118) off-site fumigation services.

- Fresh Produce Packing House Certification

All fresh produce packing facilities have been audited. The GMP Manual was completed and disseminated to stakeholders.

- Import Inspection and Issuance of Phytosanitary Permit

The Branch conducted One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Four (1,794) inspections of imported fresh produce and Three Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty- Six (3,656) import permits were processed. The Import Permit System was also updated this year.

- Surveillance/Survey

The Branch partnered with the Research and Development Division and RADA to revamp the Medfly Programme by training and retraining Two Hundred and Fifteen (215) stakeholders in fruit fly surveillance and drafting the National Non- Native Fruit Fly Manual. Plant Quarantine Officers serviced Eighty-Four (84) Medfly traps.

The Branch conducted a delimiting survey for Citrus Black Spot to determine the spread of the disease.

Two (2) technical data sheets were completed and the regulated pest list was updated.

- Pest Risk Analyses and Technical Market Access Proposals

Four (4) Pest Risk Analyses and two (2) market access proposals completed.

- Canine Detection Programme

Provisions were made for a Canine Unit to be established at the Kingston and Montego Bay Airports and an operational plan was developed. There have also been discussions with the Canine Division of the Jamaica Constabulary Force regarding possible collaboration.

- Agricultural Cess Programme

The Branch is seeking a new channel to table the proposal and other ways to gain revenue from illegal imports.

- Jamaica Import Export Centre (JIEC) in Montego Bay

The Port Authority of Jamaica proposed that an existing building be retrofitted to house the JIEC. The building has been finalized and equipment/furniture is being procured.

- Hot Water Treatment Facility

Two draft TORs were submitted for the facility and a meeting was held with ACP in regards to funding.

- Tarpaulin Fumigation

The lease agreement for the site has been finalized and awaits the drawings from the Facilities and Property Management Division (FPMD) to be completed.

- Modernization of the Plant Quarantine Branch

Consultants were engaged on the modernization of the Branch. They presented a report of their findings.

The revision of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) has been completed and the manual was submitted for editing. Officers have been trained in Plant Quarantine Standards, Risk Based Sampling, Produce Safety, Analysis of Plant Health, Food Produce Rule, Preventive Control in Human Foods, USDA Fumigation Course, Accounting, Proposal Writing, Supervisory Management, and Basic Computer Skills.

As hoped, the public's awareness of the Plant Quarantine Branch has increased with the airing of a JIS Think Tank, publication of several articles in the major newspapers and social media postings.

- **Frosty Pod Rot Management Project**

The Ministry decided to renew its thrust in the management of the Frosty Pod Rot disease of cocoa due to the trade ban implication for Jamaica's fresh produce export. The project is currently under way with a project team and the contract for the management practices is pending approval from the National Contract Commission (NCC).

Several stakeholders have been sensitized about Frosty Pod Rot Disease including Four Hundred and Seventy (470) farmers and Seventy-eight (78) MICA staff.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

The Plant Quarantine Produce Inspection Branch will continue to facilitate trade of agricultural produce while protecting Jamaica through conducting TMAPs in line with the Ministry's priority export crops, collaborating with USDA/APHIS on the Preclearance Programme and the Jamaica Customs Agency on ASYCUDA completion and sustainability.

Phytosanitary treatments of fresh produce for export will continue with a focus on helping exporters to improve fresh produce packing facilities to meet the USA Preventive Control for Human Foods Standard.

The Branch will also collaborate with the Research and Development Division and RADA to declare Jamaica Medfly Free by the end of 2018 and implement management strategies for the Frosty Pod Rot disease. Extension work will continue with the citrus farmers, as the Branch provides support for the outbreak of diseases.

### ***Major Programmes***

The Plant Quarantine Branch will focus on advancing the major programmes initiated in the previous year. The JIEC One Stop Shop in Montego Bay will be operationalized and funding obtained to begin the preparatory work for the Hot Water Treatment Facility and the Tarpaulin Fumigation site.

The Branch will move forward with the modernization activities by implementing the findings of the Consultancy. The SOPs will be implemented across all the Units of the Branch and revision of the relevant legislation will be a priority for 2018/2019.

All Plant Quarantine Inspectors will be trained in Food Safety and at least six (6) will be trained as Preventive Control Qualified Individual Lead Instructors. A designated officer will be trained in the Canine Programme by the Mexican Government.

The Public Relations programme will continue, focusing on pests of high quarantine importance, such as Medfly and Tropical Race 4. Stakeholders will also be sensitized on plant quarantine.

#### **4.3.4 Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination Programme**

The Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination Unit was established on March 2, 2015. The Unit is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Ministry of National Security to strategically combat the theft of agricultural produce and livestock in Jamaica. The Unit comprises of an administrative arm spearheaded by the Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordinator, and an enforcement arm led by the National Praedial Larceny Prevention Officer.

##### **Aims and Objectives**

- To coordinate regular police operations to reduce the reported incidences of praedial larceny.
- To establish strategic partnerships for the development and implementation of a plan of action to curtail the theft of farm produce.
- To modernize the legislative framework for praedial larceny prevention and risk reduction.
- To increase the participation of farming and fishing communities in praedial larceny prevention and risk reduction.
- To sensitize and train members of the justice system in the investigation and prosecution of praedial larceny cases.

##### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

###### Enforcement and Compliance

###### **1. To conduct:**

- 48 intelligence led police operations
- 36 Joint operations with the Public Health Department
- 72 Stop and Search operations
- 200 patrols of farming communities

2. Establish at least 20 Farm Watches to build farmers' capacity to reduce vulnerabilities to theft.
3. Develop and establish Praedial Larceny Prevention Units in each parish.

#### Legislative Amendments

4. Review and propose amendments to the Praedial Larceny Prevention Act.
5. Cabinet submission of the Agricultural Produce Act.
6. Prepare manual of Praedial Larceny Legislations for partners in the justice system.

#### Institutional Arrangement

7. Conduct specialized training for Police Officers, Clerks of the Courts and Parish Court Judges in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of praedial larceny cases.
8. Collaborate with key stakeholders to develop technological solutions to combat praedial larceny.
9. Coordinate public-private integration to establish facilities for impounding stolen animals.
10. Establish at least four (4) Praedial Larceny Prevention Committees in 'hotspot' parishes to coordinate praedial larceny prevention activities.

#### Public Education Campaign

11. Launch of Praedial Larceny Prevention Essay Competition for primary and secondary schools to sensitize students about praedial larceny.
12. Production and placement of at least two Public Service Announcements and Time Signals to sensitize the public.
13. Production and placement of television ad on praedial larceny.

### **Key Achievements 2017/2018**

#### Enforcement and Compliance

- 29 intelligence-led operations were carried out by the Unit which led to the arrest of 224 perpetrators and 42 convictions. The operations also resulted in the recovery of 61 stolen animals.
- 25 joint operations were carried out in collaboration with the Public Health Department, which resulted in the recovery of 6,110 pounds of meat unfit for human consumption.
- 40 Stop and Searches were carried out across the island.
- 4,704 larceny-focused patrols were coordinated in farming communities.
- 75 Farm Watch Groups were established to strengthen farm security and facilitate the development of better relationships between farmers and local law-enforcement officers.
- Six (6) Agro-Enforcement teams were established in the parishes of St. Thomas, Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Hanover and St. Mary.

### Legislative Amendments

- Proposed amendments were made to the Praedial Larceny Prevention Act to increase the fines and include a provision for Victim Impact Statement. The Victim Impact Statement will allow praedial larceny victims the opportunity to participate during sentencing of the convicted person.
- The proposed amendments to the Agricultural Produce Act was submitted the Cabinet. The proposed amendments will increase the fines from \$250,000 JMD to up to 3 Million Dollars or five years' imprisonment.
- A compendium of Praedial Larceny Legislations was developed and disseminated to Police Officers and Clerks of the Courts who received specialized training in the investigation and prosecution of praedial larceny cases.

### Institutional Arrangement

- Two (2) specialized trainings were conducted for Police Officers and Clerks of the Courts in the investigation and prosecution of praedial larceny cases. A total of thirty-two (32) Police Officers and sixteen (16) Clerks of the Courts from the parishes with highest incidences of praedial larceny were trained. The parishes were Manchester, St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, Clarendon, Trelawny and St. Ann.
- The Unit collaborated with Slashroots Foundation in exploring how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) could enhance anti-praedial larceny interventions in Jamaica. An Agro-Check app was developed that will allow police personnel to verify the sources of agricultural produce by using their smartphones to log into the Agricultural Business Information System (ABIS). The Unit is currently waiting on the approval of the Jamaica Constabulary Force for the pilot testing of the application.
- Due to lack of approval from the St. Mary Parish Council, the facility for impounding animals in St. Mary was not established.
- Two (2) Parish Committees were established in the parishes of St. Thomas and Trelawny to strengthen the Unit's collaboration with stakeholders at the parish level and to address praedial larceny related issues affecting the parishes.

### Public Education Campaign

- The Unit launched a Praedial Larceny Prevention Poster and Essay Competition in a bid to educate youths in primary and secondary schools on the impact of farm theft in Jamaica. This years' competition focused on solutions/strategies that may be implemented by farmers to prevent the theft of their farm produce. Primary school students were tasked to create posters, depicting security measures that may be



employed by farmers to protect their agricultural produce, while high school students were tasked to write an essay outlining the same.

- Two (2) PSAs and two (2) Time Signals were developed and placed on air to sensitize the public of the health risks associated with the consumption of stolen agricultural produce and for farmers to get registered with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority.
- In collaboration with Crime Stop Jamaica, a television feature was produced and aired during prime time to sensitize the public on the deleterious impact of praedial larceny in Jamaica and strategies being implemented by the Unit to combat the theft of farm produce.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Mobilize the Jamaica Constabulary Force to carry out praedial larceny operations and patrols across the island.
- Facilitate the establishment of Farm Watch Groups to build farmers' capacity to reduce vulnerabilities to theft.
- Draft proposed amendments to the Praedial Larceny Prevention Act to include Victim Impact Statement and increase the fines and sentencing options.
- Conduct specialized training for partners in the justice system.
- Establish Praedial Larceny Victim/ Witness Care Unit.
- Host Praedial Larceny Prevention Strategy Workshop to develop a plan of action.
- Partner with schools, churches and other civic bodies to educate the public on the extent, nature and magnitude of praedial larceny in Jamaica.
- Develop and strengthen Praedial Larceny Prevention Units in hotspot areas.

### **4.3.5 Veterinary Services Programme**

The Veterinary Services Division of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries is the Competent Authority with responsibility for the administration and implementation of the country's National Animal Health Programme. The primary laws which govern the administration of the Division are as follows:

- Animal (Diseases and Importation) Law {1943} and its Regulations
- Aquaculture Inland Marine Products and By-Products (Inspection, Licensing and Export) Act 1999 and Regulations and the Meat and Meat By-Product Act, 1999

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To prevent the entry and establishment of exotic animal/zoonotic diseases into Jamaica.
- To safeguard the livestock industry and welfare through improved animal health and increased production and productivity.
- To improve veterinary public health status.
- To facilitate the trade of live animals and products of animal origin.
- To enhance food safety of products of animal origin.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- Registration of cattle farms and tagging of cattle. At least 2,000 heads of cattle per quarter identified with NAITs ear tags and passports issued.
- Issue cattle passports. Monitor cattle movements.
- Conduct risk assessments and investigate reported disease occurrences.
- Artificially inseminated stud animals kept healthy and tested for diseases. Semen collected and stored using liquid nitrogen.
- Active and passive surveillance conducted for animal diseases.
- Permit applications accepted and reviewed. Import permit applications approved.
- Ships and aircrafts inspected. Cargo aboard vessels inspected. Disposal of international garbage supervised.

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

- Physical infrastructure and equipment upgrade continued for the facilities and general offices operated by the Veterinary Services.
- Physical structure and equipment upgrade for the laboratories of the Veterinary Services Division completed.
- Utility services enhancement, inclusive of plumbing and electricity, completed for the main offices of Veterinary Services and the full functioning of a generator, ensuring that the operations of the laboratory and offices located on the Veterinary Complex are no longer affected by power outages.
- National Animal Quarantine Station at Plumb Point renovated and is in full operation.
- National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS) implemented across the island. More than **9, 260 heads** of cattle were tagged in the financial year.
- Maintenance of **9, 230** straws of bull semen for artificial insemination of cattle.
- Maintenance of **252** straws of local goat semen and **535** straws of imported goat semen for artificial insemination of goats.
- Staff training and development of operational manuals to meet international certification requirements by Veterinary Services continued.
- Laboratory accreditation **ISO/IEC 17025** acquired for the laboratory. Approximately **13, 142** samples were received and analysed at the laboratory.
- Increasing levels of export of animal products to several regional markets and international markets. These include live and frozen lobster and frozen conch meat, meat patties, dairy products, animal feed, poultry and poultry product.
- Regional market access sought for poultry and pork by way of risk assessments.
- Facilitation of inspection visit by the General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) to seek market access for live Jamaican Spiny lobster exports to China.
- Continued registration of privately owned establishment with subsequent identification & registration of the cattle population kept thereon.

- Continued sensitization of various stakeholder groups to bring awareness and achieve buy-in of the NAITS towards the goal of compliance.
- Animal health surveillance for notifiable diseases conducted across Jamaica.
- Continued monitoring of fishery harvesting and processing for export.
- Continued facilitation of export of animal products, including animal feed, meat patties, dairy products, poultry, pork and beef products.
- Continuation of the design and implementation of Antimicrobial Resistance Plan and related activities.
- Maintenance of protocols at ports of entry to minimize risk of disease entry.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Continued registration of privately owned establishments with subsequent identification & registration of the cattle population kept thereon.
  - At least 2,000 heads of cattle per quarter identified with NAITS ear tags and passports issued.
  - Continued sensitization of various stakeholder group, to bring awareness and achieve buy-in of the NAITS towards the goal of compliance.
- Veterinary health surveillance for notifiable diseases conducted across Jamaica.
- Continued monitoring of fishery harvesting and processing for export.
- Continued facilitation of export of animal products, including animal feed, meat patties, dairy products, poultry, pork and beef products.
- Continuation of the design and implementation of Antimicrobial Resistance Plan and related activities.
- Maintenance of protocols at ports of entry to minimize risk of disease entry.

## **4.4 Food Security Initiatives**

### **4.4.1 Sweet Potato Industry Plan**

The Sweet Potato Industry Plan was born out of the need to establish a sustainable local sweet potato industry and to take advantage of the increasing demand for sweet potatoes, especially the United States orange flesh sweet potato varieties via the UK market.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

To improve the livelihood of farmers growing varieties of sweet potato; and to export large volumes of local and orange flesh sweet potato thereby contributing to GDP through foreign exchange earnings.

#### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

- Establishment of a satellite nursery outside of the main one at Bodles Research Centre
- Continue the trial of two new sweet potato varieties.
- Distribution of two “clean” local varieties.

#### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- Draft MOU with the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) for the production of “clean” sweet potato seeds of both local and Beauregard varieties.
- Sweet Potato Production Manual developed and distributed.

#### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

- Weevil Management Handbook for Farmers
- Distribution of virus-free and certified planting material for two local varieties – yellow belly and Clarendon.
- GLOBAL G.A.P. certification for agro-parks set to grow Beauregard sweet potatoes for export
- Reduction of cost of production through increased use of equipment calibrated to cultivate sweet potatoes.

### **4.4.2 Onion Development Plan**

Onion is of economic importance to Jamaica. This condiment is required in the fresh produce market as well as for agro-industry. Approximately 10 million kg of onion are consumed in Jamaica annually. The Onion Production Programme is geared towards facilitating the sustainable development of the onion subsector, thereby reducing permanent dependency on imports, and achieving self-sufficiency in onion production.

The implementation of the Onion Development Plan will promote the increase in onion production in suitable production areas and designated agro-economic zones. The programme is managed by a technical working group that comprises representatives from various Divisions of the Ministry.

The group ensures that participating farmers are trained in the various aspects of onion production. Areas of focus include site selection, land preparation, pest and disease control, crop establishment, plant nutrition, irrigation, post-harvest practices, and marketing. The programme, which is funded through a combination of grants, loans and private investments, is also supported by buyers who enter into marketing contracts with the farmers.

### **Aims and Objectives**

To reduce Jamaica's dependency on imports and to achieve up to 40% self-sufficiency in onion production by 2020 and an overall 70% by 2022.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- The establishment of 90 ha of onions in which 26 ha will be established in select agro parks.
- Project to become a national programme, spanning 12 parishes.
- Includes non-irrigated farms
- 200 farmers targeted
- Total Budget \$30M

### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- 41 hectares planted in the fall planting season, according to reports. This as the sustained heavy rains and flooding destroyed established fields while preventing the establishment of others that were prepared.
- Commitments received to produce 93 hectares in the spring planting season.
- 226 farmers planted
- Two main private sector investors engaged in production in partnership with 63 farmers
- 12 buyers engaged – Minimum agreed price is \$60.00/lb.
- Actual \$ 10M

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

- At the end of FY2018/19, 200 ha of onions will be established in select agro-parks and onion production zones across the island. This will achieve 20% self-sufficiency in onion production.
- To facilitate entry of larger investors into the production of onions, using a mother farm concept

### **4.4.3 The National Irish Potato Programme**

Jamaicans consume some 15 million kg. of table Irish potato on an annual basis. The Irish Potato Programme is geared towards achieving 100% of the national demand by 2018. The Ministry has been instrumental in leading this effort towards 100% import substitution. This initiative requires increased production and improved productivity, along with unified efforts of all key players in the agriculture sector, including farmers, buyers, extension personnel and researchers. Access to high-quality seeds, provision of high quality extension support, farmers' capacity building through training, use of best crop and pest management practices and market linkages are indispensable factors for the sustainable development of the Irish potato industry.

### **Aim and Objective**

To achieve 100% self-sufficiency in table Irish potato.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- 1,200 hectares planted
- 2,500 farmers benefitted
- 40% crop care support per hectare provided in the form of agro-chemicals per farmer.
- Marketing agreement/contract between farmers and buyers strengthened.

### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- 2,898 farmers benefitted
- 769 hectares planted (still planting) of 1,200 hectares targeted
- Yielded 3,838 tonnes reaped of 17,000 targeted (yield reduced due to drought)

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

The Ministry, through the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, will continue to ensure the local self-sufficiency of table Irish potato through effective extension service

### **4.4.4 Strawberry Development Plan**

The Ministry also has a specific objective to increase local production of strawberries, which can provide viable business opportunities for local producers. Data obtained from the Plant Quarantine Inspection, showed that in 2016, Jamaica imported 63,120 kg of strawberries. The study also shows that the hotel sector demand 24,647 kg of fresh strawberries per month. While the project has attracted interest, it should be noted that initiation of a larger scale project would not be possible until August 2018, due to the following factors:

- Funding support
- Unavailability of planting material, as most of local producers are not willing to sell runners
- Absence of formal contract with external nursery to supply high number of seedlings for 2017 fall planting, the ideal time for the short day varieties.

### **Aim and Objective**

Strawberry production initiative has the following objectives:

- Import substitution and strengthening of marketing linkages between primarily producers, local supermarket chain and the tourism sector.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- Building a nucleus of local strawberry growers equipped with good agricultural practices and capable of producing high quality suckers (runners) and fruits.
- To initiate small-scale project for production of the planting material for 2018 fall planting.

### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- Approximately 650 seedlings of the ‘Festival’ variety are currently available at the Top Mountain Research Station
- A core group of strawberry producers was strengthened through capacity building and production initiative support.
- Marketing linkages with supermarkets and hotels were strengthened.
- Producers were linked to microfinance entities and inputs suppliers for expansion.
- A Strawberry Production Technical Working Group was formed and is functional.
- Through collaborative efforts with R&D and other stakeholders, a Technical Guide for Strawberry Production in Jamaica was developed. This includes cost of production for growing strawberries under protected environment and open-field conditions; validation of varieties suitable for local conditions, crop nutrition, pest management, harvesting/post-harvest handling and food safety.
- Initial support for increase in production provided by MICAFA with expectation of development of growers’/ NGOs partnerships for sustainable production.
- A report with recommendations for construction of greenhouse was submitted to ACP.
- Procurement initiated
- Participated in North America Strawberry Growers’ Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, USA.

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

- By establishing 0.8 acres (0.08 Ha) of strawberry to supply planting material for expansion for an additional 2.6 ha by August 2018.
- Pilot project will provide drip irrigation system for 0.2 acre, plastic mulch, pesticides and fertilizer; soil analysis for each participating farmer. Farmers’ equity will be the cost of labour.
- Agreement to be made that by June –July 2018 new runners to be made available to MICAFA/RADA for expansion, while farmers will benefit from the fruit sale and some of the funds will be returned to support production.
- Suckers will be distributed to newly identified farmers.
- Group should be established for core cluster of producers.
- During 2017/2018, MICAFA and RADA to initiate larger project for expansion in Manchester / Trelawny belt.

## 4.5 Agro-Parks Development Programme

In a bid to support the Government of Jamaica's efforts at debt management, the Ministry continued its implementation of its Agro-Parks Development Programme by providing access to lands with requisite infrastructure to support investments in the production of selected crops directed towards import substitution and replacement, as well as the provision of raw material for agro-processing and non-traditional exports. ***This initiative seeks to reduce our annual food import bill, which is trending down from US\$1billion in 2014 to US\$687.7million as at October 2015, thereby saving scarce foreign exchange as well as to earn scarce foreign exchange.***

### Aims and Objectives

To reduce the food import bill and increase exports, save foreign exchange, as well as increase foreign exchange revenue.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- The full operationalization of four (4) agro-parks – Yallahs, Spring Plain, Ebony Park and New Forest/Duff House
- Institutional framework for Global G.A.P. programme for agro-parks, including action plan

### Key Achievements – 2017/2018

The Ministry, through its IDB-funded Agricultural Competitiveness Programme (ACP), expended **J\$ 220m** to provide necessary infrastructure works such as roads, water channel access ways, drains and sanitation facilities, irrigation infrastructures and post-harvesting facilities; marketing linkages and cluster group dynamics training to fully operationalize four (4) agro-parks:

- **Ebony Park and Spring Plain Agro-Park, Clarendon**  
Infrastructural works included supply and installation of pipes and fittings; 1,800 m of on-farm water channel and re-establishment of 3,400m access ways.
- **New Forest/ Duff House Agro-Park, St. Elizabeth**  
Infrastructural works included 8,000 m of farm access way and 2,300 m of water channel way. A contract is ongoing for the establishment of a packing facility (90% completed).
- **Yallahs Agro-Park, St. Thomas**  
Infrastructural works included 11,000 m of farm access way and 5,000m of on-farm water channel way.

In addition, the Ministry and its Agencies and Departments continue to provide extension services (technical advice) to the nine (9) agro-parks including the four (4) agro-Parks established under the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC), an entity under the Ministry responsible for economic growth and job creation.



Under the ACP, the current 4 established agro-parks have a total of **427 participating farmers, along with 950 labourers.**

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

Under the Agricultural Competiveness Programme, infrastructural works for the four (4) agro-parks has been completed, as well as a select two (2) agro-parks will be outfitted in the next three (3) years to achieve GLOBAL G.A.P. certification. In addition, a new Agro-Park will be established in Hounslow, St. Elizabeth.

The Ministry and its Agencies and Departments will continue to provide extension service (technical advice) and select input materials such as clean seeds to the ten (10) agro-parks.

## 4.6 Fisheries Development Programme

The Fisheries Division was established in 1948 and administers the Fishing Industry Act (1975) and Fishing Industry Regulations (1976).

**Aim:** To facilitate the sustainable development and management of the capture and culture fisheries

### Objectives:

#### 1. Increase aquaculture production

- a. Increase production in the tilapia producing subsector by 10%.
- b. Facilitate diversification of the production of food fish species by conducting spawning and grow-out trials of *Pangasius* sp.

#### 2. Enhance capture fisheries production

- a. Establish one (1) additional Special Fishery Conservation Area by March 2018.
- b. Develop a system for the sustainable management of underutilized fisheries (e.g. sea cucumber and marine crabs)

#### 3. Improve fisheries governance

- a. Facilitate the improvement in fisheries governance by continued review of the Draft Fisheries Bill, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the establishment of the National Fisheries Authority

#### 4. Improve Fisheries Management

- a. Develop management and monitoring systems for key fisheries, e.g., conch, lobster.

### Planned Targets 2017/2018:

1. Increase national Tilapia production by 10%.
2. Develop hatchery protocol for the production of *Pangasius* larvae.
3. Increase total number of Special Fishery Conservation Areas (SFCAs) from 17 to 18.
4. Develop new fisheries: (a) Assess sea cucumber population; (b) Develop sea cucumber management plan; (c) Develop protocol for exploratory sea cucumber fishing;
5. Develop protocol for exploratory marine crab fishing;
6. Finalize draft Fisheries Bill;
7. Revise and draft new Fisheries Regulations for selected fisheries;
8. Improve Spiny Lobster Licensing Regime;
9. Revise Conch Fishery Management Plan;
10. Monitor 100% of Industrial Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*) landings, 52 data collection trips; analysis of 2017 Spiny Lobster fishing season;
11. Monitor 100% of Industrial Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) landings, 30 data collection trips; assess impact of 2017 catch-per-unit-effort fishing activities on stock population.

## Key Achievements

1. 93% increase in Tilapia production (1,160 MT) in comparison with 2015;
2. 2 spawning trials conducted successfully and 3,800 juvenile fish stocked in ponds which represented an increase in larval survival from larvae to juveniles of 171% in comparison with 2016 (1,400).
3. One (1) additional SFCA established (White River), which brings the total number of SFCAs to 18.
4. 100% Island shelf population assessed for abundance and distribution of sea cucumbers; Sea Cucumber Management Plan drafted and endorsed by stakeholders; terms, conditions and methodology for exploratory sea cucumber fishing developed;
5. Terms, conditions and methodology for exploratory marine crab fishing developed;
6. Review of draft Fisheries Bill approx. 80% completed. It has been reviewed by the Legislative Committee, passed in the Cabinet, and is now to be laid with the Houses of Parliament.
7. Transformation of the Fisheries Division to an Authority is under way, 14 job descriptions approved and to be costed, site for new building identified, proposal being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for international donor funding.
8. New Fisheries Regulations drafted and being reviewed by MICAFA's Legal Department and the Chief Parliamentary Council;
9. New stakeholder endorsed, and Spiny Lobster Licensing Regime established.
10. Revised Conch Management Plan finalised.
11. Data and information collected from 100% of Industrial Spiny Lobster landings.
12. Data and information collected from 100% of Industrial Queen Conch landings, Catch-per-unit-effort analysis report produced, National Total Allowable Catch for 2018 established.

## Principal Focus for 2018/2019

- Improve fisheries governance (Completion of review of the Draft Fisheries Bill, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and the establishment of the National Fisheries Authority).
- Improve the management of capture fisheries by increasing monitoring and surveillance on key fisheries, i.e., conch and lobster, and will include implementation of the new Spiny Lobster Licensing Regime, monitoring of landings and preparation of reports on the performance of the fishing season), special fisheries conservation areas and the development of management plans for underutilized fisheries, e.g., sea cucumbers and marine crabs.
- Increase tilapia production by enhancing seed stock production.
- Implementation of Fisheries Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Project – Promoting Community-based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector Project.

## 4.7 Research and Development Initiatives

**Aims & Objectives:** To maximize the number of improved and scientifically validated technologies to increase quantity, quality and value of small farmer production output

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

#### **Bodies Redevelopment Programme**

- Upgrading of dairy milking parlour and Crop Research Seed Room
- Resurfacing of North Bodles Main Road
- Rehabilitation of irrigation system and domestic water supply
- Improved breeding systems using AI and ET
- Improved forage resources
- Identify effective bioactive forages for controlling gastro-intestinal parasites that affect pasture-raised small ruminants

#### **Diversification of the Caribbean Livestock through Small Ruminants Production**

- Small ruminant sheep and goat breeding stock expanded by 25% with progeny of improved traits distributed to satellite breeding sites
- 30 farmers benefit from improved stock
- 3 small ruminant value-chain clusters formed and operational
- Develop exit strategy

#### **Clean Seed programme**

- Implement clean-seed production system for sweet potato
- Produce Go sweet potato slips to supply nurseries such as CASE
- Citrus certification programme; staging of Bodles Citrus Day
- Develop clean-seed programme for Irish potato and ginger

#### **Onion Development Programme**

- Evaluation of mating disruption technology
- Development and implementation of Beet Armyworm Risk Assessment Tool
- Economically important pests kept below economic damage threshold in onion fields
- Identify high-yielding onion varieties and effective herbicide treatments

#### **Irish potato Programme**

- Identification of Irish potato varieties yielding 20T/Ha+; dry matter content >22% with late blight tolerance for value addition

#### **Strawberry Production Programme**

- To initiate small scale project for production of the planting material for 2018 fall planting

#### **Sweet Potato and Cassava Characterization**

- Identify high-yielding cassava varieties with desirable traits for processing from imported germplasm
- Release top 4 high-yielding varieties to stakeholders for on-farm trials
- Characterize local sweet potato germplasm to identify varieties with value-added potential

#### **Cocoa Frosty Pod Research**

- Identify local clones of ICS 95 at Orange River Station for tolerance to CFP

### Apiculture

- 100 new apiaries established
- 1,000 new colonies established
- 1,000 farmers trained
- Incidence of bee pest and disease <5%

### Modernization/Accreditation

- Completed infrastructure refurbishing under ACP and PIOJ/EU EDES/EPA 1 to advance international accreditation of plant health laboratories for ISO standard 17025.

## **Key Achievements for 2017/18**

### Bodies Redevelopment Programme

- Resurfacing 2km of road at North Bodles completed.
- Design and costings of dairy barn completed.
- Irrigation system and domestic water supply rehabilitated.
- Rehabilitated twenty-four (24) Ha of pastures in collaboration with the Jamaica Dairy Development Board.
- Renovation of dairy milking parlour to support assessment of productivity of the Jamaica Hope and other dairy breed of animals completed.
- First trial completed and report finalized re investigation of the use of Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) leaves as an anthelmintic control of gastro-intestinal parasites of goats; research presented at the Regional Veterinary Conference in November 2017; 2<sup>nd</sup> trial initiated using neem, jack fruit seeds and soursop leaves.
- Rescue of fifth line of Jamaica Hope cattle and expansion of Jamaica Black cattle, using Embryo Transfer technology
- Completed renovation of Phase 1 of the Crop Research Seed Room to facilitate research in seed production, store germplasm for Plant Genetic Resource and Food for Agriculture for Jamaica and the region.

### Diversification of the Caribbean Livestock through Small Ruminants Production ACP and New Zealand Project

- **Artificial Insemination** on 60% of herd with improved nutrition, using selenium and vitamin E to boost animal fertility; 2 ewes and 2 does were pregnant; **embryo transfer (ET)** on a phased basis conducted on 65 ewes. A total of 13 offspring, which include four (4) purebred Dorper lambs and nine (9) purebred Dorper weaners produced.
- **Distribution of breeding stock:** A set of thirty animals (5 males and 25 females) were distributed inclusive of 20 sheep and 10 goats, to Ebony HEART Academy, Knockalva, Dinthill High School, CASE and the Sam Motta DTC. For CASE, four (4) off-springs were born directly from the ewes granted and 11 off-springs from the ram granted. Ebony HEART has 5 offspring directly from ewes granted and 43 off-springs from the ram granted. For Sam Motta DTC, 10 off-springs directly from the ewes bought and granted. At Hounslow 71 kids and 26 lambs were born. There are currently 15 weaner rams, 15 weaner ewes, 5 weaner bucks and 5 weaner does on the ground ready for distribution. To date, a total of 158 animals were distributed islandwide.

- **Feed & Fodder Resources:** 50lbs of pellets were made to date, utilizing *Leucaena sp.*, Pangola hay and Quick Stick; increased production useful for substituting for feed, both dairy and goat herds.
- Six acres of mulberry, Trichantera and mombasa, Mott Dwarf, Mulatto Cayman have been established to support both ET animals and conservation by pelleting.
- Live weight app for sheep, goat and cattle using body measurements, was developed for Android phones; further upgrade under way.
- Exit strategy completed and submitted in collaboration with CARDI

### **Clean Seed Programme**

- CASE was provided with clean foundation material to grow out and mass production to G2 and G3 slips for sale to farmers. 1048 G0 slips and 1,000 G1 slips of the Beauregard variety have been transferred to CASE. Local sweet potato varieties - Yellow Belly, Uplifter and Clarendon cleaned up, and declared virus-free included in the programme.
- *Citrus Certification Programme* ongoing; Over 24,000 certified bud-eyes harvested and sold to 9 certified citrus nurseries through the Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency to produce seedlings, which may establish 102-acre orchard-producing oranges worth 100M/year after 6 years. Bodles Citrus Day held to promote the expansion of citrus production and expose stakeholders to citrus varieties and their uses. Over 100 stakeholders, including farmers, students, nursery operators and input suppliers, were in attendance.
- *Irish Potato Seed Programme:* 1292 cultures of 8 varieties of Irish potato are being maintained for the production of micro- “seed” tubers.
- *Sweet Potato Programme:* 956 clean tissue culture plants were produced and sold to stakeholders; 64 containers established as source of foundation (G0) planting material for Beauregard and cleaned up local varieties of Uplifter and Yellow Belly; 2<sup>nd</sup> generation (G1) material produced and sold to CASE for production of 3<sup>d</sup> generation (G2) planting material.
- *Ginger Programme:* Ongoing initiation and subculturing of three varieties; FAO Value Chain Project (TCP/JAM/3602/003) initiated construction of greenhouse as hardening facility for tissue culture ginger; agreement signed with Belgium company to support local tissue culture agencies to produce clean foundation material of ginger; and successfully produced portray plants at Montpellier and evaluated them under two nutrient regimes with possibility of having two cycles of ginger /year for clean planting material under greenhouse conditions.
- *Hot Pepper:* National Development Programme developed; 24.55 Kg of seeds produced and sold for the potential establishment of 346 Ha of SB pepper.

#### National Irish Potato Programme

- Five Year National Development Programme developed for 2017-2021.
- Performance evaluation of 16 Irish potato varieties in 3 field locations over two growing seasons completed.
- Bristol Pride, a Canadian variety useful for processing and table potato, outperformed other varieties; 13 of the 16 varieties were high-yielding (>20,000Kg/Ha), susceptible or with variable resistance to late blight, suitable for fresh and/or processing sourced from both Canada and Netherlands identified. The Irish potato industry stakeholders are to determine which varieties to evaluate in a commercial trial in 2018

#### Onion Development Programme

- Three varieties were identified, which performed in one completed onion variety evaluation trials with 8 short days and intermediate varieties; 2<sup>nd</sup> trial under way at 3mths; pre-plant and post plant herbicide efficacy trials completed; three herbicides compatible with onion.
- Research and extension staffs collaborated to improve the monitoring component of the area-wide Beet Armyworm (BAW) Management Programme. This involved the development of an early warning system, which utilizes both a risk assessment tool with the BAW pest forecasting that measures field and environmental data to determine the level of risk for a beet armyworm increase throughout the year and make early interventions to reduce crop loss.
- A second evaluation was conducted using BAW mating disruption technology in Colbeck, St. Catherine, which kept the population below the action threshold.
- First validation trial of biological control viral agent for management of beet armyworm completed; the viral agent combined with insecticide was more effective than insecticide alone. Effective use of this environmental-friendly treatment may reduce the need for frequent pesticide application.

#### Sweet Potato Industry Development

- Sweet potato weevil management trial was completed at Bodles, in collaboration with IICA, on two varieties, using *Beauveria bassiana* (bio-control agent) and an insecticide; trial to be repeated in 2018/2019.

#### Strawberry Programme

- Nucleus plot (0.2 Ha) was established as a source of planting material at Top Mountain in St. Andrew to supply fall crop in 2018/19.

#### Cassava & Sweet Potato Post-Harvest Characterization and Utilization

- Varieties with suitable starch content (>25 %) to be utilised under the Red Stripe Research Project. Suitable crops for intercropping with cassava identified for evaluation in conjunction with local cassava farmers and Red Stripe and Ja REEACH.

- Cassava trial of 8 varieties completed. Post-harvest characterization completed on 4 Colombian varieties at Montpellier; four promising high-yielding varieties were identified for commercial evaluation.

#### Cocoa Frosty Pod Research

- Frosty Pod of Cocoa Management Programme: At the Orange River Station in St. Mary: five trees identified from ongoing evaluation of trees of ICS 95 clone, which have shown tolerance to frosty pod in other countries. These trees are to be evaluated for use as source of planting material for resuscitation of the cocoa industry.

#### Apiculture

- 163 new apiaries were established; 2308 new colonies established; 4,028 farmers trained; and 2,864 of 3,614 hives inspected in 175 apiary visits for pest and diseases.
- No AFB detected; incidence of pests and diseases <5%, incidence of American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) disease was <5%, meeting OIE threshold target.

#### Modernization/Accreditation Plant Health Laboratories

- Lab infrastructure for 3 of 4 plant protection laboratories were 100% completed by ACP/EU EDES/EPA 1; EPA 2 continuing upgrade in one lab (75% completed); labs equipped; Lab. manual completed and submitted to JANAAC and 12 training sessions were held for 20 staff members towards facilitating accreditation of tests for supporting trade; labs applied for certification and in process.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

#### *Upgrade and restoration of Bodles infrastructure*

- Overhaul of the security system
- Dairy parlour and barn facilities to be rehabilitated
- New Piggery Unit to be constructed (PHASE 1)
- Animal performance testing facility to be constructed
- Upgrade of irrigation and solid waste disposal systems
- Aeroponics and hydroponics systems to be constructed for Sweet Potato Clean Seed Programme
- Biological control facility to rear species for managing key pests of major crops
- Fertigation house and pesticide storage facilities to be constructed
- Renovation of the Post-Harvest Laboratory
- Renovation of Phase 2 Crop Research Seed Room with support from CARDI/IDB
- Ongoing certification of laboratories
- Commercialization of services - Fruit tree parks
- Hiring of specialised consultancies for DNA specialists
- Renovation of the sanitary and office spaces



*Clean Seed Programme*

- Implement production of micro-tubers for Irish potato seed production system; increase seed production capacity by 12% and expand production of certified clean material of sweet potato and ginger.

*Livestock Research and Improvement*

- Expand utilization of assisted breeding technologies, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer in small and large ruminants.
- Climate-resilient feed and feeding systems.

*National Irish Potato, Onion and Strawberry Development Programmes*

- Commercial evaluation of industry-selected high-yielding late-blight tolerant Irish potato varieties suitable for table and processing to be done
- Identification of suitable high-yielding intermediate onion varieties for onion production system under Onion Development Programme
- Assessment of area-wide management programme for onion spring crop; aiming for <30% crop loss.
- Expansion of production of planting material at Top Mountain and other locations to meet 2018 spring crop in collaboration with ACP & RADA.

*Plant Protection and Apiculture/Epidemiology and surveillance*

- Ongoing implementation of Area-wide Pest Management and Risk Assessment Tool for beet armyworm monitoring with RADA; increase usage of risk assessment tool for fruit fly surveillance and management programme
- Encourage establishment of new apiaries and colonies, train new entrant farmers, surveillance for AFB to maintain incidences of bee pests and diseases <5%
- Research in Cocoa Frosty Pod Disease

*Modernization and Accreditation of Plant Health Laboratories*

- 2 laboratories accredited under the International Standard 17025 by 2017/18

## 4.8 Modernization and Transformation of the Ministry and its Entities/Divisions Programme

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries is always seeking to raise the bar on performance, especially on its ability to deliver first-class service to its clients. The Ministry therefore, is in a continuous cycle of development and enhancement of itself as a regulator and a service delivery entity. Following on other recent initiatives, the Ministry is focused on the restructuring of critical Divisions and facilitating the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Ministry. Therefore, during FY 2017/18, the Ministry began implementation of the following programmes

- I. An ISO QMS Programme to implement the ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) across the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies
- II. The rationalization of Cocoa Industry Board, Coffee Industry Board, Coconut Industry Board and Export Division into a new regulatory entity, namely Jamaica Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (JACRA) and
- III. a strategic review and amalgamation of the Agriculture & Fisheries portfolio and the Industry & Commerce portfolio for greater efficiencies and effectiveness to serve its clients.

### 4.8.1 ISO Quality Management System Programme

#### **Establishment of Division:**

As a developing country, the quality of public service compared to developed countries is way below acceptable standards. In recognition of this, the Government, with the support of multinational institutions has been implementing several public sector modernization and transformation type projects. It is now recognized that in order to ensure that transformation is sustainable, the ISO 9001 Quality Management System is the modern approach. Implementation of ISO 9001 and its independent certification and monitoring system provide a platform for the delivery of high quality public service and continual improvement. The Ministry obtained Cabinet Decision # 06/15 dated February 9, 2015 for Cabinet submission # 46/2014 entitled ***'Implementation of ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS)'*** in which Cabinet endorsed the intent of MICAF to implement the ISO 9001 QMS and agreed that the implementation of the System should proceed in the Ministry and its portfolio entities. Approval was granted by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service for the establishment of the ISO Quality Systems Division, with effect from December 12, 2016, with five posts on the Establishment. An ISO Ambassador has been engaged to promote the implementation of ISO across MDAs.

#### **Aims and Objectives:**

The mandate of the ISO Quality Systems Division of MICAF is to promote, implement and provide technical assistance to Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the implementation of quality standards with emphasis on ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems to the point of ISO 9001 certification.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/18:**

***(i) To complete 80% of ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 4 (four) entities of MICAF: FSPID, DCFS, TBL and JBDC; (ii) To initiate pre-certification tasks in 4 (four) additional entities: COJ, FTC, JIPO and CAC***

- 80% of pre-certification tasks to be completed, inclusive of:
  - ✓ SOP and other Quality Management System documentation developed;
  - ✓ Risk matrix developed;
  - ✓ Interested parties identified and requirements outlined;
  - ✓ QMS documents, inclusive of controlled forms;
  - ✓ Internal and external customer service surveys conducted;
  - ✓ Competence and training records developed;
  - ✓ Quality Management System Manual compiled;
  - ✓ Non Conformances and Root Cause Analysis training conducted
  - ✓ Internal Quality Audit Training conducted
  - ✓ Mock audit with corresponding management review and verification audit to be conducted

***To complete 40% of ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 13 support and 10 technical (Units/Branches/Divisions) services of MICAF***

- 40% of pre-certification tasks to be completed, inclusive of:
  - ✓ Awareness/sensitization training conducted;
  - ✓ SOP documentation developed;
  - ✓ Other Quality Management System documentation developed (overview, Scope, Quality Policy, Quality Objectives)
  - ✓ Risk matrix developed;
  - ✓ QMS documents, inclusive of controlled forms

### **Key Achievements for 2017/18**

***(i) To complete 80% of ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 4 (four) entities of MICAF: FSPID, DCFS, TBL and JBDC; (ii) To initiate pre-certification tasks in 4 (four) additional entities: COJ, FTC, JIPO and CAC***

- Status of completion of pre-certification tasks: [IP = in progress]
  - ✓ SOP and other Quality Management System documentation developed: FSPID, DCFS, TBL [IP], JBDC [IP], COJ [IP], FTC [IP], JIPO [IP], CAC [IP]
  - ✓ Risk matrix developed: FSPID, DCFS, JBDC, TBL [IP], COJ [IP], CAC
  - ✓ Interested parties identified and requirements outlined: IP at FSPID, DCFS, TBL, COJ, CAC
  - ✓ QMS documents inclusive of controlled forms: FSPID, DCFS, TBL, JBDC [IP], COJ [IP], FTC [IP], JIPO [IP], CAC [IP]
  - ✓ Internal and external customer service surveys conducted: FSPID, DCFS, TBL, JBDC [IP], CAC, COJ
  - ✓ Competence and training records developed: IP at FSPID, DCFS, TBL, JBDC

- ✓ Quality Management System Manual compiled, inclusive of SOPs: FSPID, DCFS, TBL [IP], JBDC [IP], COJ [IP], FTC [IP]
- ✓ Non Conformances and Root Cause Analysis training conducted: FSPID, DCFS, TBL
- ✓ Internal Quality Audit Training conducted: FSPID, DCFS, TBL, COJ
- ✓ Mock Certification Audit conducted: FSPID, DCFS, TBL. These entities, plus the JBDC, are expected to be certified by June 2018.

***To complete 40% of ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 13 support [S] and 10 technical [T] (Units/Branches/Divisions) services of MICA***

- 40% of pre-certification tasks to be completed, inclusive of:
  - ✓ Awareness/sensitization training conducted: 100% [T]; 100% [S]
  - ✓ SOP documentation developed: In progress: 100% [T]; 70% [S]
  - ✓ Other Quality Management System documentation developed (Overview, Scope, Quality Policy, Quality Objectives): In progress: 65% [T]; 58% [S]
  - ✓ Risk matrix developed: In progress: 40% [T]; 45% [S]
  - ✓ QMS documents inclusive of forms, controlled:  
In progress: 40% [T]; 38% [S]

***National Quality Policy reviewed by ISO QS Division staff with the policy Coordinator; submitted to Cabinet Office in December 2017 - approved as Green Paper; currently being reviewed for comments by stakeholders and the general public.***

***In other Ministries, Departments and Agencies:***

- Work has commenced to achieve a high level 'buy in' in other Government agencies, which include:
  - ✓ Jamaica Customs Agency
  - ✓ Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency
  - ✓ Factories Corporation of Jamaica
  - ✓ Island Traffic Authority
  - ✓ National Works Agency
  - ✓ Registrar General's Department
  - ✓ Management Institute for National Development

Funding of some aspects is expected to be provided by the Strategic Public Sector Transformation Project under component 5 (Standards Implementation).

**Principal Focus for 2018/19:**

***To complete ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 4 (four) entities of MICA: FSPID, DCFS, TBL and JBDC in order to seek certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ)***

- 100% of pre-certification tasks to be completed
- Mock audit with corresponding Management Review and Verification Audit to be conducted

- Application for ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification from NCBJ to be made

***To complete 75% of ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 4 (four) additional entities of MICAF: COJ, FTC, JIPO and CAC***

- 75% of pre-certification tasks to be completed, inclusive of:
  - ✓ SOP and other Quality Management System documentation developed;
  - ✓ Risk matrix developed;
  - ✓ Interested parties identified and requirements outlined;
  - ✓ QMS documents inclusive of forms, controlled;
  - ✓ Internal and external customer service surveys conducted;
  - ✓ Competence and Training Records developed;
  - ✓ Quality Management System Manual compiled;
  - ✓ Non Conformances and Root Cause Analysis training conducted
  - ✓ Internal Quality Audit Training conducted

***To complete ISO 9001:2015 QMS pre-certification tasks for 13 support and 10 technical (Units/Branches/Divisions) services of MICAF, in order to seek certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ).***

- 100% of pre-certification tasks to be completed
- Mock audit with corresponding Management Review and Verification Audit to be conducted
- Application for ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certification from NCBJ to be made

***To support and implement relevant/required aspects of: The National Quality Policy on behalf of MICAF; ISO 9001:2015 certification in MDAs***

#### **4.8.2 Rationalization of select commodity boards and The Export Division**

Arising from the Government's policy to minimize its role in commercial activities, including the processing and marketing of agricultural products, Cabinet by its Decision 28/14 dated July 28, 2014 gave approval for the rationalization of three Agricultural Commodity Boards, namely, The Coffee Industry Board, The Cocoa Industry Board, the Coconut Industry Board, plus the Export Division of the then Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. Furthermore, this project was endorsed by the Government in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as being one which would further the cause of Public Sector Modernization and Transformation.

The Ministry was mandated to divest the commercial assets of these entities and to fuse their respective regulatory functions into a single regulatory body to be nomenclated: The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA). This body would regulate quality standards, certify products for both local and export markets; regulate local and export trading in these products; issue licences and permits to facilitate trading; as well as finance its operations from the fees collected from importers and exporters of the products, in the form of licences, cess, and services rendered by the Body.

It was further agreed by Cabinet that the new entity should be established as a **Statutory** Body.

### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- JACRA Act Regulations approved by both Houses of Parliament, thereby rendering JACRA fully legal
- JACRA operational as of January 2, 2018

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019 [see Agency reports]**

- JACRA is now fully established and handed over to the new Board and Management for executive direction.
- Rationalization Project will close out

## **4.8.3 Establishment of New Entities, Posts and Divisions**

### ***MERGERS***

#### **Agriculture Credit and Subsidies Board (ACB) and the Department of Co-Operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS)**

The merger of these two Divisions took place effective October 2015 as one established entity. However, a further review was undertaken to ensure that the functionality of the amalgamated entities is aligned to meet the strategic goals and objectives of the entity.

The review was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and they had some concerns /clarifications on the submission. These were dealt with at a special meeting with the Permanent Secretary and other stakeholders.

We have now received the MOF&P final draft of the entity, which has since been checked and verified by the Ministry's Organizational Unit who will now make the final submission for approval of the amalgamated entity.

#### **Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA)**

The new entity commenced operations effective January 1, 2018. The senior positions of the newly formed entity were advertised in the press. The applications have been reviewed and recruitment for the top positions was held and selections made. There is now an appointed CEO who started in the post effective April 1, 2018.

The other recruitments will take place soon.

## ***NEW ENTITIES/DIVISIONS***

### **Hazardous Substance Regulatory Authority (HSRA)**

This entity has been established with effect from July 18, 2016. All posts for this new entity were advertised in the press. We have completed the recruitment process for all positions on the established entity. The selected applicants have been duly notified and all should be on board by June 1, 2018. We are still in dialogue for the selection of the Director General post.

### **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Division**

The new MSME Division will ensure policy coherency, manage and monitor policy interventions while building a reservoir of data on best policies. This Unit was implemented effective December 12, 2016. All posts have been advertised for this entity. Recruitment for all posts was completed in December 2017 and all members of staff were in place by February 2018.

### **ISO Quality Systems Unit**

The ISO Quality Systems Unit was established to focus on certifying Government and other entities that will thus transform and modernize business processes which will enhance their international competitive advantage. All posts for this Unit were advertised in the press. Recruitment for all the post's with the exception of one has been completed.

### **Strategic Planning, Performance Management and Project Management Directorate (SPPMPMD)**

A submission was made to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service by the Organizational Consultant for a review of Divisions, consequent on the merger of the Ministry. This submission included the Corporate/Strategic Planning and Evaluation Division and the Project Management and Coordination Division. This review was undertaken to rationalize and amalgamate the structure and staffing of the Divisions.

Approval for the newly formed Division was received in October 2017. The new posts have been advertised and full staffing is expected to be completed within the first quarter of FY2018/19.

## **4.9 GOJ/Adaptation Fund – Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Improve Livelihoods and Increase Food Security**

This project is a GOJ/Adaptation Fund initiative that will assist in building Jamaica's adaptive capacity in accordance with the objectives of Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan and Jamaica's Second National Communication on Climate Change. The project will involve water harvesting and management; erosion and flood control and techniques that improve soil moisture retention. In addition, capacity-building interventions will be undertaken to complement the establishment of these infrastructure and will involve training of communities in disaster risk management, natural resource management techniques and climate change adaptation.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The major aims of the Project is to increase livelihoods security of the population in the targeted communities and to increase the overall climate resilience of the agricultural sector. The key objectives include:

1. To improve the irrigation water supply infrastructure in the identified communities, with construction/rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems.
2. To provide a more consistent supply of irrigation water that will allow for year round production of crops grown by the small farmers in all targeted communities.
3. To promote rainwater harvesting as a means of increasing crop production, both in terms of volume and variety of vegetables, condiments and root crops
4. To ultimately improve the quality of life (through increased earnings) for farm-families, as farmers will be engaged in year-round crop production instead of being limited to the rainy periods.
5. To mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts through the implementation of best practices and promotion of climate smart agriculture and proper water and land management.
6. Reduction in the cost of crop production

### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

- 5 Rainwater harvesting infrastructure implemented
- 30 small grants approved to establish land husbandry infrastructure on farm holdings
- 4 Water Users Groups established /rehabilitated
- 20 small grants established to assist in the production of ornamental horticultural crops such as onions and Irish potato
- 6 land husbandry Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established
- 150 farmers trained in adapted Climate-Smart Land Husbandry Best Practices



### **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

- 10 Water Harvesting, Irrigation and Production Schemes (IPS) established /augmented
- Continued implementation of 13 water harvesting infrastructure and irrigation
- 5 Land Husbandry Demonstration Plots maintained and used for training over 200 farmers and students of secondary and tertiary educational institutions in Climate Smart Land Husbandry practices
- 30 land husbandry infrastructure small grants implemented, resulting in the establishment of:
  - 18,112 units of land husbandry infrastructure to include:
    - hillside ditches
    - individual basins
    - live barriers
    - drop structures among others
- Extension officers engaged in land husbandry FFS - 6 Land Husbandry Farmer Field School in the parishes of St Thomas, St Catherine, Manchester, Trelawny, St Mary and St Ann
- 184 farmers trained in land husbandry best practices
- Engaged 12 schools at the secondary and primary level where students were exposed to the concepts of climate-smart agriculture Students from high schools as well as at least one teachers' college, participated in the FFS learning to implement Climate-Smart Land Husbandry best practices.
- 18 Water Users Groups (farmer's groups) mobilized, eight of which were formalised into legal entities to facilitate sustainability.

### **Principal Focus – 2018/2019**

- Continued implementation of 13 water-harvesting infrastructure and irrigation and productivity schemes to benefit over 12 farming communities.
- Complete implementation of small grants for land husbandry infrastructure.
- Finalize capacity-building programmes for farmers and technical officers through the social and technical interventions.
- Install additional 100 on-farm drip irrigation systems.
- Provide production and productivity grants.

## 4.10 Agricultural Competiveness Programme

The Agricultural Competiveness Programme is an IDB/GOJ project that focuses on facilitating linkage of the primary productive sector with the marketing chain, with the view of generating greater value through market access and export promotion through three main component. they are

### **1. Market access and market linkages development**

To improve the capacity of organised small and medium-size farmers to undertake efficient and market-oriented production processes and to enhance management and organisational capacities to access national and international markets.

### **2. Food quality and safety management systems**

To establish an Agricultural Health and Food Quality Management System that will contribute to improving the competitiveness of Jamaican agriculture as well as the health status of the human population, through the production of safe and good quality agricultural products and food for local consumption and export.

### **3. Agri-Business Value Chain Development**

To promote the integration of farmers and/or farmer organisations into agricultural value chains while also contributing to the stimulation of private-sector involvement in the sector through

- a. Provision of infrastructural works in Agro-Parks
- b. Institutional strengthening of Agro-Investment Corporation - investment arm of the Ministry.

## **Aim and Objectives**

The project aims to support the development of a modern, efficient, internationally competitive and sustainable agricultural sector - opening and expanding domestic and international market access and opportunities for Jamaican products

## **Key Achievements – 2017/2018**

### **Component 1**

- Marketing skills training conducted through 4 workshops with 4 clusters
- Farmer field school trainings in onion, pineapple and Beauregard sweet potato production
- Validation of the US South Florida and Northeast Markets
- Execution of 8 training workshops for producers and RADA/MOAF marketing officers in Export Management
- Facilitation of missions:
  - Export market platform development in Miami, Florida
  - American Spice Trade Association Annual General meeting
- Facilitation of 28 additional marketing contracts in the Yallahs Agro Park to supply dynamic local market for onions (a total of 86 existing contracts)

- Facilitation of marketing contracts in New Forest/Duff House Agro-Park to supply 40,000 lbs of scallion per week to Grace Processors Ltd.
- Facilitation of marketing contracts in Spring Plain/Ebony Agro-Parks for the supply of assorted vegetables to Everything Fresh Ltd for supply to the Tourism/Hospitality Sector for 2017.
- Execution of 7 training workshops for RADA, MICAF and ACP personnel in “Farmer Enterprise Management.
- Execution of 36 cluster development training sessions with producer organizations resulting in **four (4) legally registered Producers’ Organisation (POs)** in the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS)
- 457 individual training contacts.
- 100% completion of Export Market Platform

## Component 2

- ICT equipment (Lot 1-3) and peripherals procured and delivered to support VSD, PH, MOH, FSPID and AIC
- Procurement of a legal consultant to prepare legislation relating to Food Safety Policy
- National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS) Programme – Purchase of external hosting, procurement of security paper, ear tags and cattle passports, and restraint equipment
- Procurement of PR Consultancy to prepare radio drama, TV ads, brochures and media jingle for the NAITS Programme
- Facilitated 8 workshops – Pest Surveillance and Pest Identification and Recognition
- Facilitated 2 workshops – OIE disease-free status for two diseases
- Purchased and delivered delta traps, inserts and trimmed lure for West Indian Fruit fly project
- Purchased and delivered equipment for Medfly Project
- Procurement of equipment and supplies for MOH-EH, VSD, FSPID/MIIC, Bodles Plant Health labs, PQ Risk Analysis Unit and RADA (lots 1-3)
- Facilitated training in Risk Management for PQ and VSD
- Procured architectural services to redesign vet offices
- Procured and delivered RT-PCR real time mini kits to RandD to facilitate research
- Provided overseas training in heavy metals, including mercury analysis
- Facilitated 2 major workshops to train over 150 farmers in personal protective equipment and environmental management
- Provided training in ISO 14001 and 22000 Food Safety and Environmental Implementation Systems
- Purchased and delivered elevator bucket for metal detector for Export Division
- Dissemination of National Food Safety Policy – Over 2,500 Food Safety Policy booklets developed and dispersed
- Facilitated the preparation and dissemination of media communication package for Food Safety Policy executed by NAFSCC

- 2 Food Safety Expos executed
- Provided Training for Papine Market vendors on Food Safety
- Food Safety Management System training for Cottage Industry
- National Food Safety Survey executed
- Engagement of a GLOBAL GAP Implementers and 3 Compliance Officers
- Implementation and purchase of Microsoft sharepoint programme for the Ministry
- Purchase of GLOBAL GAP equipment and stationery for RADA and Agro-Park Growers
- Contracting of GLOBAL GAP Farm Assurers (Guardian Harvest Inc)
- Initiation of procurement of GLOBAL GAP infrastructure for New Forest Duff House, PGR, Yallahs, Spring Plain and Ebony park Agro Parks
- Initiation of Pesticides survey and research project (workshops, data analysis, equipment and stationery, PR campaign)
- Benchmark and reconnaissance visits for GLOBAL GAP to California and Jamaica by the GLOBAL GAP Implementers and Farm Assurers
- Workshops for farmers and MICAFA staff in Quality Management system, GAP awareness, HACCP, Plant protection, Integrated Pest Management, Documentation And Process Management and Root Cause Analysis, Food Safety, First Aid, Food Safety Management Systems, Farm Assurer Management
- Certification workshops in Food Handlers certification, Lead Auditor, GLOBAL GAP version 5, Pesticides Application (spray man calibration and application)
- Implementation of management systems, SSOPs, SOPs through Same Page software for GLOBAL GAP programme
- Employment of Farm Hands within GLOBAL GAP programme
- Initiation of technical assistance for food safety assurance programmes for VSD
- Development of promotional material for animal health issues for VSD
- Engagement of water quality contract for GLOBAL GAP programme
- Purchase of equipment and supplies for MOH/EH, VSD, FSPID, MICAFA, Bodles, Plant Health labs and RADA (lots 4-6)
- Purchase and delivery of refractometer
- Purchase of medfly project supplies for Plant Quarantine Division to facilitate monitoring
- Refurbished Bodles Plant Health Labs for certification
- Construction of Contraband Room at Montego Bay Export Complex
- Refurbished Quarantine lab at Plumb Point
- Refurbished 2 parish offices for VSD in Hanover and Portland
- Completed 3 workshops to prepare and evaluate the implementation plan to implement the National Food Safety Policy

### **Component 3 – Agro-Parks Development Programme**

- Supply and installation of pipes and fittings, supply and installation of pumps and pump houses, and the construction of storm water channels and access roads completed in the Spring Plain Agro-Park.

- New Forest Duff House road and storm water channel works completed.
- Packaging Facility 100% complete for New Forest/Duff House.
- Hounslow Agro-Park established
- A water based analysis consultancy is being engaged to analyse the water quality in the agro parks for approx. US\$329,000.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/19**

- GLOBAL GAP certification of four (4) Agro-Parks – Ebony Park/Spring Plain, Plantain Garden River (PGR), Yallahs and New Forest/Duff House.
- GAP Infrastructure works in Ebony Park/ Spring Plain, PGR, Yallahs and New Forest/Duff House
- GLOBAL GAP training
- Implementation of National Pesticide Survey
- Training in Surveillance of the West Indian Fruit Fly
- Results Presentation ceremony for the Pesticide Survey and Research
- Hire three (3) national consultants to provide Technical assistance for the implementation of food safety assurance requirements in supported value chains (Prepare procedures manuals and for integrated food safety assurance based on GAP, GMP, and HACCP
- Water quality assessment across four (4) Agro-Parks
- Spring Garden Agro-Park established and operationalized
- ISO Lab Accreditation of select Government Laboratories
- Refurbished Montego Bay Contraband Room
- Close- out activities for the Programme
- Commence the implementation of ACP Bridging Project

## 5.0 Departments, Agencies and Board Summary Reports:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| ANTI-DUMPING AND SUBSIDIES COMMISSION (ADSC) .....                  | 70  |
| BANANA BOARD .....  | 72  |
| BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA (BSJ) .....                             | 76  |
| CANNABIS LICENSING AUTHORITY (CLA) .....                            | 79  |
| COCONUT INDUSTRY BOARD .....  | 82  |
| CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSION .....                                   | 84  |
| DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (DCFS) .....      | 87  |
| FAIR TRADING COMMISSION (FTC) .....                                 | 89  |
| HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (HSRA) .....              | 92  |
| JAMAICA 4-H CLUBS .....   | 94  |
| JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (JACRA) ..... | 96  |
| JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (JAS) .....                            | 98  |
| JAMAICA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (JBDC) .....               | 101 |
| JAMAICA DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (JDDB) .....                        | 104 |
| JAMAICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (JIPO) .....                   | 106 |
| JAMAICA NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACCREDITATION (JANAAC) .....            | 108 |
| MICRO INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED (MIDA) .....            | 111 |
| NATIONAL COMPLIANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NCRA) .....               | 113 |
| OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT TRUSTEE (OGT) .....                        | 115 |
| OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF INSOLVENCY (OSI) .....                  | 117 |
| RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RADA) .....               | 120 |
| TRADE BOARD LIMITED (TBL) .....                                     | 129 |

## **ANTI-DUMPING AND SUBSIDIES COMMISSION (ADSC)**

### **Establishment of the Agency**

The Commission was established under the 1999 Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act (CDDSA). Implementation of the Safeguard Act (SA) 2001 was added to the mandate of the Commission.

### **Aim and Objective**

The core mandate of the Commission is to defend productive and manufacturing activity in Jamaica under the Trade Remedy Rules framework to which Jamaica is signatory as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) – antidumping, subsidies and countervailing duties and safeguard measures. The Commission provides expert advice and analysis to facilitate legislation, policy, negotiations, training and consultation, as well as investigation to defend producers in Jamaica.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

- a. Implement, administer and educate stakeholders regarding international trade defence laws (trade remedies): - The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1999 and Regulations and the Safeguard Act 2001 and Regulations.
- b. Conduct investigation(s), if any, which are filed with or initiated by the Commission, in accordance with the requirements of the Acts and Agreements.
- c. Build business capacity for producers in Jamaica to take trade remedy defensive action through consultations, seminars, workshops and instructional material. Deliver trade remedies training to seven (7) industries. In this process, target specific industries and businesses; provide excellent service, expert advice, import data research and analysis to them.
- d. Develop the expertise of Commissioners and Staff by training and experience.
- e. Compliant and efficient administration so GOJ requirements are met, including audits, performance, financial, regulatory and other reports submitted timely.

### **Key Achievements for 2017/18**

- The staff conducted tailored training interventions for eight (8) companies. Overall, the staff contacted and worked with fifteen (15) companies and nine (9) industries.
- The Staff activated the Help Desk with no additional resources. One (1) industry, which previously submitted a draft complaint continued to revise its complaint with the hand-holding attention provided. Also, one law firm also accessed customized training.
- The Commission staged an informative launch of the 2018 Trade Remedies Seminar Series on Friday, March 23, 2018 at Terra Nova Hotel, Kingston.

- The staff visited the factory floor or plant of five (5) companies and used the improved knowledge of the production processes to assist the industries in use of the remedies.
- The training efforts represented progress towards fulfilling the undertaking to train industries under Vision2030 National Development Plan Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) 2015-2018 and contributed to the Annual Progress Report.
- The staff reviewed, analyzed and compiled comments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, as requested; this included:
  - Jamaica's Fourth WTO Trade Policy Review.
  - A proposed rollover trade agreement between CARIFORUM and the United Kingdom (UK) post the exit of the UK from the European Union (Brexit).
  - The 2016 USA Strategy for Trade with the Caribbean.
  - Evaluation by ECLAC of the economic and social impact of possible trade negotiations between Jamaica and Central America, Mexico and other countries.
- The Commission pursued completion of the draft of amendments to the 1999 Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act.
- The Commission complied with the submission of required reports.
- Two years of Annual Reports are being completed.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Focus on mandate - Implement, administer and educate stakeholders regarding international trade defence laws (trade remedies): - The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1999 and Regulations and the Safeguard Act 2001 and Regulations.
- Conduct investigation(s) filed in accordance with the legislation and agreements.
- Advance the Help Desk concept further to help industries to file complaints.
- Advise on policy and review, advise and facilitate regarding legislative amendments including that of the Draft Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Bill.
- Increase public awareness of trade remedies, primarily by use of social media.



## THE BANANA BOARD

### Establishment of Agency

The Banana Board is a statutory body established October 1, 1953 under the *Banana Board Act*, which is aligned with the *Banana Insurance Act* of 1946. The Board's affairs are governed by a Board of Directors, which comprises eight (8) members, who are appointed by the Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF).

### Aims and Objectives

- **Overall Objective:** To reduce poverty and improve revenues in the banana dependent communities.
- **The Specific Objective or Purpose:** To increase production and productivity in farms and agribusiness enterprises.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- Increased banana production to 30% above 2011 levels
- Increased yield productivity to 7.5% above 2011 levels.

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

1. In 2017, banana production and yield productivity increased by 39% and 43% respectively over the 2011 base year, both surpassing the targets. Overall, banana production for 2017 was also 10% above that of 2016, while plantain production was 6% above production in 2016. However, banana productivity in tonnes per hectare in 2016 was 1% above what it was in 2017. This was due to the impact of heavy rains and flooding, which caused leaching of fertilizer from soils, and consequently higher levels of Sigatoka disease on the predominantly traditional varieties.

Growers are being supplied with FHIA 25 banana, as well as FHIA 21 plantains, for development of the value chain in the local market because these are disease-resistant varieties.

**Table 1. National Banana Production for 2011-2017**

| 2016                              | Production |              | Yield Productivity |                 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|                                   | Banana (T) | Plantain (T) | Banana (T/Ha)      | Plantain (T/Ha) |
| 1st quarter                       | 14,958.60  | 10,601.40    | 3.1                | 0.9             |
| 2nd quarter                       | 16,470.90  | 11,377.80    | 3.2                | 1.1             |
| 3rd quarter                       | 15,962.50  | 11,981.00    | 3.7                | 1               |
| 4th quarter                       | 17,422.70  | 12,132.00    | 3.3                | 0.8             |
| 2016 Total                        | 64,814.70  | 46,092.20    | 13.3               | 3.8             |
| Base Yr 2011 Total                | 46,660.10  | 35,340.60    | 9.3                | 5.6             |
| 2017 Total % change on 2011 Total | 39%        | 30%          | 44.1%              | -23.2%          |
| 2016 Yr Total                     | 58,701.80  | 43,436.30    | 13.4               | 4.3             |
| 2017 Total % change on 2016 Total | 10%        | 6%           | -1%                | -12%            |

**Table 2. National Banana Production for 2011-2017**

| Year   | Total Volume Production (T) | Annual % Change on Base Year | Remarks                          |
|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2017   | 64,814.7                    | 38.9                         |                                  |
| 2016   | 58,701.8                    | 25.8                         |                                  |
| 2015   | 54,576.2                    | 17.0                         | Severe drought.                  |
| 2014   | 53,034.4                    | 13.7                         | Severe drought.                  |
| 2013   | 33,294.8                    | -28.6                        | Decrease due to Hurricane Sandy. |
| 2012   | 45,980.3                    | -1.5                         | Decrease due to Hurricane Sandy. |
| 2011** | 46,660.1                    | Base year                    |                                  |

- b.** In 2017, more than 13,827 T of high-yielding FHIA varieties (for cooking and by-product development) and Williams varieties (for export expansion) were distributed. Seedling supplies will increase significantly in the medium term, as a result of the newly established small tissue culture bio-factory. The bio-factory was provided by EU-funded Jamaica Banana Accompanying Measures Programme, at a cost of J\$2.5M and became operational in June 2017.
- c.** The Banana Board facilitated the Banana Export Expansion Programme (BEEP), which resulted in increased exports by 31% in 2017 over 2016. In 2017, fruits supplied for export amounted to 29,034 boxes (537,129 kilograms or 537.13 tonnes). Penetration of the export market to Trinidad was pioneered in the last week of December 2017, and weekly exports are ongoing.

**Table 3. National Banana Exports for 2011 - 2017**

| Year | Total Volume Exported (T) | Annual % Change on Prior Year |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2017 | 537.1                     | 30.0                          |
| 2016 | 410.1                     | 29.0                          |
| 2015 | 318.8                     | 51.4                          |
| 2014 | 210.6                     | 189.0                         |
| 2013 | 78.0                      | ∞                             |
| 2012 | -                         | -                             |
| 2011 | -                         | -                             |

**Table 4. Total Volume of Bananas Exported in 2016 and 2017 and Value in Jamaican Dollars**

|                              | 2016            |                |                         |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Country                      | Number of boxes | Weight (Kg)    | Value (Ja. \$)          |
| Cayman Islands               | 11,401          | 12,876         | \$ 21,810,827.24        |
| Canada                       | 10,921          | 202,038        | \$ 25,947,611.74        |
| England                      | 0               | 0              | -                       |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>22,322</b>   | <b>412,957</b> | <b>\$ 47,758,438.98</b> |
|                              | 2017            |                |                         |
| Cayman Islands               | 14,962          | 276,797        | \$ 28,618,223.90        |
| Canada                       | 13,025          | 240,962        | \$ 34,361,765.93        |
| England                      | 30              | 555            | \$ 55,717.50            |
| United States                | 117             | 2,164          | \$ 244,694.54           |
| Trinidad                     | 900             | 16,650         | \$ 1,468,935.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>29,034</b>   | <b>537,129</b> | <b>\$ 64,749,336.87</b> |
| <b>2017 % Change on 2016</b> | <b>30</b>       | <b>30</b>      | <b>36</b>               |

- d. The 17 BEEP farmers in Portland, St Mary and St Catherine benefitted from material input supplies, as well as grant infrastructure; for storage eating facilities for workers (costing \$20m), input materials (pesticides and fertilizers costing \$20M over two year-period: 2016 and 2017). Other technological interventions included trainings, documentation, records, signage; laboratory testing and sampling, inspections and internal audits and other facilitations were provided in and through The Banana Board's Quality Management System (QMS) for GLOBAL G.A.P. certification.
- e. GLOBAL (G.A.P.) certification was achieved by The Banana Board and 52 banana farmers through an initial external audit in April and unannounced re-audit in October 2017. All costs relating to implementation and procurement of the services of the external certification body for audit were provided by the Jamaica Banana Accompanying Measures Programme.

The QMS implementation and external audit costs amounted to \$14m. Audit for re-certification is scheduled for mid-2018.

- f.* The Banana Board audited and certified an additional 88 banana farmers for the domestic market using the *Banana Board's Protocol for Domestic Banana Production*.
- g.* The EU also funded a new value-adding facility to develop local by-products through the All Island Banana Growers Association at a cost of **J\$20m**. The EU also provided another **J\$50m** in the prior year to procure input supplies to make available to farmers in a revolving loan programme.
- h.* Tours and independent monitoring of beneficiary farms and infrastructure by representatives of MICAFA and EU had rated the JBAM's programme a success. The Visibility events throughout 2017, the final year of the Jamaica Banana Accompanying Measures Programme culminated in the celebration of Banana Week (October 15 to 21), Banana Day (December 15), and a pullout in the major local newspapers (February 18, 2018). All events were documented on the Internet and several print and voice to air media publications.
- i.* MICAFA and the EU, which co-funded the *Banana Board Grant Contract for Technical Services 2* in total amount of **EUR 1.9m** over four years, were very pleased with the achievements. The implementation period for Grant Contract ended on January 25, 2018, after a three-month extension to the original 48 months.

### Principal Focus for 2018/2019

All activities will be ongoing but focus will be on the following:

1. Ongoing technology transfer and activities for GLOBAL G.A.P re-certification by the external auditor in 2018 to maintain international standards of production.
2. Operation of the new tissue culture bio-factory to build up to its capacity of 120,000 plantlets per year, in order to increase production and productivity to meet demand.
3. Continued operation of the regional nurseries to transfer, grow-up and distribute plantlets of Robusta and FHIA bananas and plantains.
4. Implement the strategic option recommended by the consultant for sustainability of the technical services to the Banana Industry with *joint funding by*:
  - GOJ,
  - *application of cess on by-products,*
  - *new revenues from the bio-factory and other products and services.*
  - supplemented by other donor funding to implement needed programmes by the stakeholders of the banana and plantain industry.
5. Ongoing implementation of the BEEP
6. Implement the newly proposed four-year project titled, **Jamaica's Climate Change Resilience and Mitigation in Agriculture (MICCA)/Climate Smart Agriculture Project (CSAP)**. The Concept Note for the project was endorsed by MICAFA and approved by the Public Investment Management Committee (PIMSEC) for development of the full proposal and presentation by April 30, 2018.

## BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA (BSJ)

### Establishment of the Agency

Statutory body was established by the Standards Act of 1969

### Aims and Objectives

The BSJ undertakes trade facilitation, business development and consumer protection activities in connection with standardization, metrology and conformity assessment. The main activities of the BSJ are facilitating the development of standards; conducting laboratory tests; calibrating instruments; certifying products and management systems; delivering training courses and educating stakeholders on standardization, metrology, and conformity assessment issues.

### PLANNED TARGETS FOR 2017-18 (April 1, 2017 – FEBRUARY 28, 2018)

| Programmes/<br>Projects  | Performance<br>Indicator   | Annual<br>Target<br>2017-2018 | Year-to-date<br>Achievement as at<br>February 2018 |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| National Quality<br>Infrastructure<br>and Systems<br>Programme | # of standards completed   | 50                            | 47   |
|  | # of standards for which<br>implementation is facilitated                                      | 5                             | 4  |
|  | # of companies assisted in<br>implementing food safety and<br>maintaining a food safety system | 15                            | 47   |
|  | # of training solutions provided to<br>external stakeholders                                   | 44                            | 41   |
|  | # of new products/ agricultural<br>produce certified   | 4                             | 2  |
|  | % completed on time in full<br>(COTIF) for laboratory testing<br>and calibration services      | ≥80%                          | 81%  |

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2017/2018 (April 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018)

- Published 125 standards; another 47 standards completed (awaiting Minister's approval)
- Launch and promotion of 5 petroleum codes – liquid petroleum products, liquefied petroleum products, petroleum-based lubricants, product chain of custody, and biofuels.
- Spearheaded the development and implementation of a framework for the proper packaging and labelling of retailed brown cane sugar and granulated sugar.
- 17 additional tests conducted by the Chemistry Laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC) during the period. Maintained accreditation for an additional 37 accredited tests conducted by the Chemistry (15), Microbiology (19), Metallurgy (2), and Packaging (1) Laboratories.
- Accreditation of the Volume Metrology Laboratory and re-accreditation of the Mass Metrology Laboratory

- Support for the development of MSMEs included:
  - Provision of discounts valued at **J\$1.58m** on selected technical services to 57 MSMEs under collaborative agreements with the Jamaica Agro-Processors Association (JAPA) and the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC).
  - Services amounting to J\$752,446.60 provided to 7 clients under the DBJ/BSJ Voucher for Technical Assistance Programme.
  - Renewal of MOUs with the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association and JAPA - eligible members receive financial and technical support
  - Provision of technical guidance to 47 food facilities and facilitated visits of Food and Drug Administration Inspectors to 16 of these facilities.
- 41 training courses delivered to 482 external persons.
- The National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) certified 2 companies to ISO 9001:2015. Total number of certified companies - 10
- Continued transformation of the BSJ under the Strategic Public Sector Transformation Project:
  - Upgraded the Mass and Dimensional Metrology Laboratories with the installation of a controlled environment for reduced uncertainties due to temperature and humidity fluctuations.
- Expanded the Energy Efficiency Testing Laboratory – capacity to simultaneously test refrigerators and freezers increased from 6 to 16 units; new capacity introduced to test room air conditioning units up to 36,000 BTU.
- BSJ designated by the Office of Utilities Regulation as the testing agency for electricity and water meters and instrument transformers (as per the Meter Testing Administrative and Operational Protocol for the Electricity and Water Meters in Jamaica).
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Science Energy and Technology and the National Compliance and Regulatory Authority (NCRA) to develop a framework for the effective regulation of petroleum products.
  - Established a Petroleum Testing Facility to test petroleum products - 4 pieces of equipment obtained to conduct 5 tests (other 11 tests outsourced to Petrojam). Petroleum Inspectorate established within the NCRA.
- Entered into collaborative agreements with:
  - the Western Visionaries Co-operative Society Ltd. and the College of Technical and Vocational Studies to provide technical support to address unemployment, as well as soil erosion and land slippage, in the Woodsville community and environs (Hanover) – through the cultivation of bamboo and creation of bamboo products.
  - the International Code Council (ICC) to support implementation of the National Building Code.
- Launched new websites for the BSJ and the NCBJ.
- Continued implementation of the Peckham Bamboo Project:
  - Trained and certified 80 young persons (18-35 years) from communities in and around Peckham (Clarendon) in bamboo preservation and the production of bamboo by-products, using the bamboo in light emitting (LED) technology.
  - Trained 16 farmers in organic bamboo production techniques and in using the tissue culture method to plant bamboo.
- Conducted/facilitated 25 promotional/educational sessions – areas covered included local regulatory requirements for processed foods; good manufacturing practices; local packaging and labelling requirements; standards requirements for blocks, brown cane sugar, electrical appliances, coconut water; packaged water; regulations under the US Food Safety Modernization Act; the National Petroleum Code; and the importance of metrology in trade, healthcare and business transactions.

- Facilitated research by a UWI chemistry student in the BSJ's Chemistry Laboratory who focused on the chemical characterization of Jamaican Black Castor Oil.
- Successfully transitioned BSJ's Quality Management System certification from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015.

### **Principal Focus for FY2018/19**

- Promote/implement the National Standardization Strategy 2018-21
  - Facilitate development/adoption of 65 standards for food products, construction materials, cannabis, tourism services, and electrical products.
- Continue to assist companies to implement appropriate standards solutions - areas of focus include tourism services – spa, castor oil.
- Continue to assist food companies that export to understand and comply with market access requirements of major trading partners (USA and Canada).
- Launch a new packaging laboratory and provide 5 new packaging testing services (paper, cardboard and plastic).
- Strengthen gas testing capabilities (Chemistry Laboratory) – acquisition of equipment and training of 3 analysts.
- Seek accreditation for 5 petrol tests (Chemistry Laboratory) and 5 cement tests (Cement Laboratory). Seek accreditation for tests conducted by the Aggregates and Concrete and Masonry Laboratories.
- Transition accredited laboratories to the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17025
- In collaboration with the International Code Council, coordinate the National Training Consortium to support implementation of the National Building Code – will provide training to building practitioners/professionals.
- NCBJ - Offer certification to ISO 22000 (food safety management) and organic certification.
- Prepare and send of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Council for the establishment of the NCRA.
- Revise existing governing legislations (Standards Act, Processed Food Act, Weights and Measures Act).
- Continue to implement project to accredit BSJ's Industrial Training Unit to offer ISO/IEC 17024 certification to persons and offer certificate training programmes.

## CANNABIS LICENSING AUTHORITY (CLA)

### Establishment of the Agency

The Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) was established in 2015 under the Dangerous Drug (Amendment) Act 2015 (DDA).

### Aims and Objectives of the CLA

The Authority's aims and objectives are outlined in its Corporate Imperative (CI) which are highlighted in the organization's Strategic Plan and are listed as follows:

- To build partnerships with key stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the cannabis industry;
- To efficiently administer the Cannabis Industry Regulations;
- To effectively communicate key messages regarding the Industry;
- To create an efficient and effective organization and workforce.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

1. Licenses issued in keeping with regulations
2. ALL applications reviewed and decisions made within 6 months of payment of the appropriate fees
3. Enforcement and monitoring actions in keeping with regulations and site visit undertaken in a timely manner
4. New Partnerships Established
5. Procurement of Track and Trace system by March 2017
6. Messages disseminated in keeping with agreed communication strategy
7. Required staff recruited as per established structure
8. Office location occupied by April 2017

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

Licences issued in keeping with regulations; ALL applications reviewed and decisions made within 6 months of payment of the appropriate fees.

The Authority received a total of **two hundred and twenty-three (223) applications**. The data revealed that most of the applications received are for the Cultivator's Licence Category, which represents (35%), while the Transportation Licence had the least number of applications with nine per cent (9%). A total of **eleven (11) licences were issued** by the Cannabis Licensing Authority and broken down in the licence types as follows:

- Five (5) Cultivator's Licences - three (3) Tier One; and two (2) Tier Two
- Three (3) Processing Licence (Tier One)
- Three (3) Retail (Herb Houses)



### Licences Issued to Date by the Authority

|              | Processor | Cultivator | Retailer | R and D   | Transporter | Total     |
|--------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
|              | 3         | 5          | 3        | --        | --          | 11        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>3</b> | <b>--</b> | <b>-</b>    | <b>11</b> |

During the FY2017-2018 a total of 92 of Conditional Approval Letters were issued. However, 35 conditionally approved applicants requested extension of these approvals because of an inability to find resources to complete the process. A total of 8 applications were refused during FY2017-2018, because of the failure due to fit and proper determination. A total of 2 applications were withdrawn by applicants during FY2017-2018, and the main reason given for withdrawal related to property concerns.

### Enforcement and Monitoring Actions in keeping with regulations and site visit undertaken in a timely manner.

The Enforcement and Monitoring Division conducted the following activities:

- Total # of Conditional Briefing for FY2017-2018 – 89 briefings for conditionally approved licensees;  
(A conditional approval briefing is a meeting with an applicant that has been conditionally approved for a licence. The applicant is briefed by the Director of Enforcement and Monitoring concerning all security requirements that the site and the applicant must meet to pass the site inspection and for the final granting of a licence).
- Total # of Site Visits for FY2017-2018 – 53, of which 32 were for pre-licensing site inspections, 5 were for escort of start-up planting material, 4 were for initial cultivation plant count/verification of plant count, and the remaining 11 were for various enforcement activities;
- Total # of enforcement and Monitoring activities for FY2017-2018 (inclusive of escorts provided) – 4 harvest monitoring, 7 sale escorts of which 3 were for cultivation sales and 4 for oil sales;
- Other special Enforcement activities that were undertaken during the period – 7 inventory verifications, 4 surveillance system functionality checks, 1 licensed activity verification check.

### New Partnerships Established

**Government Industry Partners** – CLA is currently working on an Alternative Development (AD) Project, along with the Industry Division of MICA and RADA to transition traditional cannabis cultivators (illegal growers) into a regulated space. The CLA is also working closely with the community-based Growers Associations within the same AD project.

**International Partners** – The CLA has participated in the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD) Dialogue Forum on Alternative Development (AD) and has benefitted from the sharing of

lessons/experiences in cannabis and other narcotic crops as well as exposure to other regulations consistent with the AD concept.

Messages disseminated in keeping with agreed communication strategy

The Authority presented in several stakeholder events throughout the period to include academia, business and community-based audiences. An increased media presence evolved from improved media relations, resulting in an increased number of radio and television interviews, and articles published. Advertising placement was done through newsprint advertisements brochures, newsprint advertisements and digital sign boards were developed to increase the reach of public-education efforts alongside the update of the CLA website and social media platforms.

Staff recruited as per established structure; office location occupied by April 2017

During the period, the Authority lost 2 staff members, bringing the total staff to 10, which is 55% of the established structure of 18.

The target for the occupancy of the new office location was not met and has been deferred to 2018. The Authority continues to function as efficiently as it can from the space provided at MICAFA and with minimal staff.

**Principal Focus for 2018/19**

The Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) will continue to focus on its four core corporate imperatives (CI) for the FY 2018/19 period. During the period the Authority will seek to:

- Strengthen its processes for timely issuing of licences;
- Strengthen the monitoring and compliance activities;
- Acquisition of a centralized track and trace system to ensure the integrity, transparency and accountability within industry;
- Restructure the CLA to realize its targets and meet its stated mandate;
- Strengthen its communication strategies;
- Increase resource allocation to the Authority to facilitate the performance of its statutory obligation.

## COCONUT INDUSTRY BOARD

### Establishment of Agency

The Coconut Industry Board was established under the Coconut Industry Control Act, Cap. 62, enacted in 1945 and consist of nine members, four of whom, including the Chairman, are appointed by the Minister with the responsibility of Agriculture and Fisheries. The remaining five are elected by registered coconut growers and must themselves be registered coconut growers or the attorneys for such registered coconut growers or the managing directors or managers of companies which are registered coconut growers.

The Board promotes the interests and efficiency of the coconut industry, encourages the production of coconuts and regulates the purchase, sale and exportation of coconuts, as well as the importation of coconut products and substitutes.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- Purchase land to establish nursery.
- Expand existing seed gardens.
- Distribute 100, 000 seedlings.
- Assist farmers in marketing coconuts by purchasing 1,000,000 nuts for sale in the Coconut Shop.
- Assist farmers to remove Lethal Yellowing diseased trees.
- Continue research in areas of Pathology, Botany, Agronomy and Tissue Culture.
- Export seed nuts.

### **Key Achievements for 2017/2018**

- The Board distributed 65,423 coconut seedlings, of which 55,757 seedlings at a cost of \$9M were given free to farmers under the Board's Planting programmes along with free fertilizer and weed grant valued at \$3.03M.
- The Board purchased 795,721 coconuts at a cost of \$46,057,458 during 2017 for sale in its Coconut Shop at 18 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10.
- 42,500 seed coconuts with F.O.B. value of US\$135,500 were exported to Florida in the United States of America.
- Assisted farmers by removing 4,752 Lethal Yellowing diseased trees.
- Control of Ambrosia Beetle in the parishes of St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas, Clarendon and St. Elizabeth.
- Production of 783 seedlings of the Special Malayan Dwarf Yellows, of which 96% were distributed to farmers. Continued monitoring of these plants which have not succumbed to the LY disease.
- Continued hybridization activities at Barton Isles Seed Gardens in St. Elizabeth for the production of Maypan and Brapan varieties.

- Commencement of replication of various varieties (including rare varieties) at the Field Gene Bank in Plantain Garden, St. Thomas.
- Participation in the "Caribbean Coconut Development Project" spearheaded by ITC/CARDI and the TROPICSAFE - 2020 HORIZON FUNDED PROJECT for research on insect-borne prokaryotic -associated diseases in tropical and sub-tropical perennial crops.
- Conduct of experiments on pre-nurseries, vermicomposting, effectiveness of fertilizer, and effects of mother palms on germination.
- Conduct work in coconut tissue culture to establish protocols for multiplication.
- 2,134 regular farm visits to new, existing and potential growers to provide technical assistance, support and to disseminate relevant information by advisory officers.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Continue to acquire land to expand nurseries, seed garden and to establish commercial activities (including farm, construction of coconut water factory).
- Increase seedling distribution to farmers.
- Increase acreage in coconuts at existing seed gardens.
- Increase number of seeds set in nurseries.
- Increase micro-propagation in coconut tissue culture.
- Continue research in areas of Pathology, Agronomy and Botany.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSION

### Establishment of Agency

The Agency was formerly known as the Prices, Commission which was established in 1971 based on amendments to the Trade Act of 1970.

The Consumer Protection Act (2005), as amended in 2012, established the CAC as a statutory body empowered to promote and protect consumer interests in relation to the supply of goods and the provision of services in order to ensure protection of life, health and safety of consumers and others.

### Aims and Objectives

The overall objective of the Commission is to promote and protect the interests and welfare of consumers in Jamaica.

### Planned Targets for 2017/2018

- 85% annual resolution rate of complaints handled
- 2,106 complaints handled
- 100% requests for advice recorded and addressed
- J\$16m secured for operational activities
- Community Outreach to 130,500 people
- 372 presentations to public
- 900 media exposures (including interviews)
- 15,651 new media exposures /SMS /Email Marketing (*email marketing mainly*)
- 16 production of new consumer education material
- 28 price surveys
- 10 additional surveys /research studies
- 28 publications of survey prices
- 6 meetings with the distributive trade

### Key Achievements for 2017/2018

- 1,516 complaints handled including 423 'bad gas' complaints
- 1,134 complaints settled (75% annual resolution rate)
- 532 advice/information provided
- J\$17.7m secured (11% above target)
- 86,261 people impacted through community outreach
- Number of activities (presentations, exhibits, etc.): 390
- Media Exposures (including interviews): 595
- New Media Exposures /SMS /Email Marketing: 9,124
- Production of New Consumer Education Material: 20

- Price Surveys: 28
- Additional Surveys /Research Studies: 9
- Website Usage: 17,915 – visits (12,752 first timers); 36,787 pages downloaded
- Publication of Survey Prices: 28
- Meeting of the Distributive Trade: 6

### **Other Achievements**

- The Cabinet Submission for the National Consumer Policy was drafted and is expected to be presented to Parliament early in the new FY.
- The CAC's Ethical Relations in the Marketplace Study established a baseline score for the perceived level of ethical relations between consumers and businesses. The study revealed that 45.3% of consumers said Jamaican businesses behaved generally ethically in the past year while 54% of businesses said that consumers generally behaved unethically.
- The CAC achieved a brand recognition score<sup>9</sup> of 73% among consumer audiences polled.
- Engaged in a number of partnerships, the most significant being the signing of an MOU with the Office of the Public Defender and draft MOU with the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority regarding handling consumer complaints.
- Participated in extensive consultations with the Bank of Jamaica, Financial Services Commission, the Office of Technical Assistance, US Treasury and other stakeholders towards the development of a suitable consumer protection framework for deposit taking institutions. The framework is proposed to be submitted by June 2018.
- Selected mobile application developer to build the CAC Mobile App.
- Upgraded the CAC website's Price Enquiry tool (gives consumers online access to price data)
- Continued representation on the Consumer Protection and Financial Literacy Working Group.
- Continued representation by Chairman and CEO to petroleum marketing companies, Petrojam and Petrojam Ethanol, to discuss compensation from stakeholders as it related to contaminated petrol.
- Implemented education /sensitization programmes, which highlight emerging consumer issues, including those related to the e-commerce landscape. Consequently, World Consumer Rights Day 2018 was celebrated under the theme "Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer: Access, Security and Protection. The CAC hosted a major seminar and outside broadcast on Cyber Security and Data Protection. Public displays were exhibited in parish libraries islandwide.

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<sup>9</sup> Brand recognition survey is a trend analysis of expo /trade show audiences sampled at on various points within the year. This score is the last score recorded as the last event sampled in Q3

## **Principal Focus for FY2018/2019**

- The Business Environment
  - Finalize draft national consumer policy document; commence consultations;
  - Implement interventions based on researched results from consumer's and provider's perspective on ethical relations in the marketplace.
  - Implement programme to enhance complaints-handling procedures among businesses.
- Collaboration and Partnerships
  - Conclude discussions to formalize collaboration with JCAA, PSOJ, JMA and Chamber of Commerce to include sensitization session for business community.
- Education
  - Finalize and publish a simplified version of the CPA;
  - Implement targeted education campaigns (Financial Literacy, Consumer Behaviour, etc.)
- Enforcement /Compliance and Advocacy
  - Continue advocating settlement for consumers who lodged 'Bad Gas' complaints;
  - Implement compliance and enforcement policy (in relation to CPA).
- Governance
  - Complete ISO 9001 implementation phase.
- Technology
  - Continuous upgrading of Customer Management Software (CMS) (used to capture consumer complaints).
  - Develop CAC mobile App
  - Implement new Voice over IP Telephone system
  - Implement Interactive Voice Application for complaints and price enquiry
  - Upgrade Network Infrastructure

## DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (DCFS)

### Aims and Objectives

Under the Charity Act 2013, the Department is designated 'Charities Authority' with responsibility for the registration, regulation, administration and governance of Charitable Organizations desirous of benefiting from tax relief within Jamaica.

The Department's mandate under the jurisdiction of all these Acts and associated regulations is focused primarily at ensuring the safety of the Societies' assets, the protection of members' savings and investments and the protection of other stakeholders' interests.

### Planned Targets and Key Achievements for 2017/18

| ACTIVITIES  | TARGET                            | ACHIEVEMENTS   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. % of applications (Groups) processed within agreed timeline</b> | 90%                               | Thirty-four applications were processed and ten (10) were finalized within the 60 days turnaround time frame                                     |
| <b>% of applications (Charities) processed within agreed timeline</b> | 90%                               | A total of one hundred and ninety-four (194) applications received and one hundred and forty-eight (148) processed within the agreed time frame. |
| <b>2. % of renewals processed within established timeline.</b>        | Based on reports                  | 90% of renewal applications received processed within agreed time frame  |
| <b>3. % of groups attaining legal status within agreed timeline.</b>  | 90%                               | Twenty-five entities registered to date and seven (7) were registered within the stipulated time frame.  |
| <b>4. # of Societies receiving technical assistance</b>               | 716                               | 1,032  |
| <b>5. # of inspections carried out</b>                                | 125                               | 77 for 58 entities   |
| <b>6. # of Societies monitored /assessed</b>                          | 238                               | 249 for 242 entities   |
| <b>7.# of pre-audits carried out</b>                                  | 50                                | 63 for 60 entities   |
| <b>8.# of audits carried out</b>                                      | 128 Societies for 248 Audit Years | 94 Societies for 153 Audit Years   |
| <b>9. # of investigations completed</b>                               | As assigned by RCS                | 9  |



### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- 120 Societies' audits conducted for 145 Audit Years.
- 40 Societies assessed
- 75 groups processed within the agreed timeline and 60 attaining legal status
- 70 applications processed within standard timeline with requisite documentation
- 177 inspections carried out
- 69 Societies / registered charitable organizations monitored/assessed
- 700 individual participates in session, resulting in improvement in record keeping and good governance.
- Amendment to the Co-operative Societies Acts and associated regulations,
- Proposed amendments to the Charities Act sent to Chief Parliamentary Counsel
- Review Friendly Societies Act

## **FAIR TRADING COMMISSION (FTC)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

The Fair Trading Commission was established in 1993 under the Fair Competition Act.

### **Aims and Objectives**

As the administrative body of the Fair Competition Act (FCA), the aim of the Fair Trading Commission is to maintain and encourage competition in the provision of goods and services in Jamaica with a view to promote economic efficiency, which will lead to competitive prices and a wider range of products for consumers. The ultimate objective of the FTC is to foster economic growth through the promotion of competition.

### **Planned Targets**

- 70% case resolution rate
- Four (4) market studies and competition advocacy activities undertaken
- Six (6) legislation or policy related activities undertaken/reviewed for effect on competition
- Six (6) areas/sectors discussed with policymakers

### **Key Achievements**

- 77% Case resolution rate
- Eleven (11) pieces of legislation or policies were reviewed for effect on competition and recommendations were made to the appropriate Ministry, Department or Agency. This work covered seven (7) sectors, namely: (a) Telecommunications; (b) Banking; (c) Finance; (d) Petroleum products; (e) Construction; (f) Petrojam's fuel pricing policy; (g) Tourism (Destination Management Cos.). The legislation or policies were:
  1. Area Code and Numbering Plan Area
  2. OUR: improving service contracts of telecommunications firms
  3. Work of the Financial Inclusion Steering Committee which includes the Consumer Protection and Financial Literacy Working Group
  4. Codes of conduct and legislative amendments for petroleum products market
  5. Legislation that governs the Fisheries market
  6. Transportation arrangements in the tourism sector, specifically between hotels and destination management companies
  7. Jamaica's 4<sup>th</sup> Trade Policy Review in the WTO
  8. Amendments to the FCA
  9. Privy Council Judgment: implications for FCA and FTC and Jamaica's framework for competition policy

10. Undertaking a consultancy that will guide the process of creating Jamaica's Merger Review Regime
11. Review of the 2017/2018 Work Plan and Budget of the CARICOM Competition Commission

- *Moneylending Industry Market Study:* Examined the nature of competition in the moneylending market as well as other structural features. The report discusses the demographic profile of clients; the main reason clients access this market, the basis on which suppliers attract clients and the main strategies employed by suppliers.
- *Port Services/Special Economic Zone Study:* Assessment of the Jamaican ports, the economic environment in which they operate and how well they are positioned to enhance the proposed SEZ. Preliminary findings indicate that competition along the logistic chain on which Jamaica exists is high; but at the local level, competition appears to be limited.
- *Tourism – Destination Management Companies:* Investigation into whether the integration of foreign based destination management companies (DMCs) in the domestic market is in breach of the FCA. Preliminary findings are that overseas travel agencies have been exerting significant buyer power in the market for ground transportation services between tourist destinations in Jamaica. Further, that this is likely harming the local DMCs by reducing the level of revenues generated which means that if there is no intervention, the local destination management companies are all likely to exit the market in the foreseeable future.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019:**

#### Assessment of Legal Issues/Matters

Banking and Finance: (a) Continuing work with the Bank of Jamaica on the examination of legislation and policies that govern financial inclusion. (b) Completing a market study on assessing the level of competition in the banking sector.

Agriculture: Review of legislation and policies that govern the markets for coffee, cocoa and fisheries, with a view to strengthening competition in these markets by, for example, removing barriers to entry and other factors that may be limiting growth of the markets.

Telecoms: Completing judicial proceedings in the FTC v Digicel 'merger' matter as well as matters involving several used car dealers on the model year issue.

### Economic Studies

Construction: Assessment of the impact on the market for construction services, of concessions given to Chinese construction companies for use in GOJ construction contracts.

Digital Economy: Examination of several aspects of the growing digital economy and ecommerce, such as the impact of net neutrality, disruptive technologies, emerging applications and software, for example in the banking sector, and firms' responsibilities and rights.

### Institutional Strengthening

Merger Review Regime: Completing the consultations and drafting of provisions for Jamaica's merger review regime that is to be included in the FCA. Also, completing and implementing the required administrative procedures/processes for the regime; and improving the staff's technical capacity to handle merger applications.

## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (HSRA)

### Establishment of the Agency

The Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority (HSRA) was established by the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act 2015 to regulate and monitor all activities, practices and facilities involved in nuclear technology and ionizing radiation sources for the protection of public health and safety. It began operation on 4 September 2017 with the employment of three (3) staff members.

### Aims and Objectives

The aim of the HSRA is to facilitate the protection of people, property and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous substances through implementation of programmes, projects and activities to ensure the safety and security of those substances in line with international regulations, standards and best practice.

The main objective is to regulate all activities, practices, apparatuses, and facilities which utilize or contain ionizing radiation sources, nuclear technology and connected activities for the protection of people, property and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- Establishment of HRSA

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

1. **Staffing of the Authority:** ensuring that all the critical technical staff for the proper functioning of the agency is in place. To date the following posts have been filled and the staff are on the job:
  - Director of Quality Assurance and Research
  - Director of Authorization and Training
  - Director of Inspection and Enforcement
  - Technical Officer - Authorizations
  - Inspector – Medical Sources
  - Inspector – Industrial Sources

In addition, candidates have accepted offers for the positions of Registrar and Administrative Officer.

2. **Training and Capacity Building:** this is critical because the Authority is the first of its kind in Jamaica and the competences do not exist in the market. All staff has gone through introductory training provided by the Director General Designate. In addition, all staff will be provided with extensive training over the next 1 -2 years beginning with

the Director of Quality Assurance and Research and the Inspector for Industrial sources. They will both participate in the 6-month Post Graduate Education Course (PGEC) on Radiation Protection and the Safety and Security of Radiation Sources in Malaysia. The course begins 23 April 2018.

- 3. Securing International Assistance for building the Capabilities of the Authority and the Competences of Staff;** In this endeavour, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has approved assistance to Jamaica worth approximately €300,000. Through this project HSRA staff will receive the training indicated above and the authority will receive equipment necessary for the execution of its functions. The terms and timeframe for this assistance was negotiated with the IAEA Technical Cooperation Division during a mission to the IAEA led by the Director General Designate and the Board Chairman as well as other staff members.

In addition to the funding from IAEA, the HSRA led by the Director General Designate and the Board Chairman are in discussions with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Authority (USNRC) seeking to access further assistance in developing the Ionizing Radiation Regulatory Infrastructure for Jamaica. The first meeting towards this end was held in Washington DC on 15 March 2018 following an invitation from the USNRC for the Director General and the Chairman to attend their annual Regulatory Information Conference. The meeting was very positive on assistance to Jamaica and the expectation is that the assistance from the USNRC will fill the gaps left by the assistance from the IAEA. Additionally, there are types of assistance which may be accessed from the USNRC which the IAEA is not able to offer.

### **Principal Focus for FY2018/19**

- Full operationalization of the Authority

## JAMAICA 4-H CLUBS

### Establishment of Agency

The Jamaica 4-H Clubs was established in 1940. In accordance with the 4-H Act in 1966, it is a youth training organization committed to developing outstanding leaders with marketable skills. The organisation's core function is to provide training to persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty-five (25) in the areas of agriculture, home economics, social skills, entrepreneurship, environmental awareness and healthy lifestyle.

### Aims and Objectives

- To maximize the percentage of youth contribution to agriculture and enterprise development
- To manage the National School Garden Programme islandwide.
- To spearhead the National Youth in Agriculture Programme with the view of increasing the level of agricultural education and involvement of Jamaica's youth in farming.
- To register and maintain 4-H Clubs Islandwide.
- Centre Development to underpin training and model projects geared towards youth entrepreneurship

### Planned Targets for 2017/2018

- To register 110,000 members
- To provide 200,000 stimulatory training opportunities
- To provide 1400 mastery level training opportunities
- To award 150 scholarships
- To establish 500 school gardens
- To establish 50 model school gardens
- To establish 140 new livestock farmers
- To train 150 youth in Entrepreneurship and Agricultural Enterprises
- To increase awareness of 20,000 persons in healthy lifestyle

### Key Achievements for 2017/2018

- Registered 92,714 members to date
- Provided 267,340 stimulatory training opportunities
- Trained 1,432 youth to mastery level in agriculture and related areas.
- Awarded 176 local agricultural scholarships to CASE, Ebony Park, other secondary institutions and three scholarships at Earth University. Scholarships valued at **\$49.4m**
- Established 472 school gardens
  - 74 climate smart model school gardens valuing US\$200,000.00
  - Installed 3 green-houses valuing **J\$3.5m**
  - Supported and maintained other gardens

- Established 344 new livestock farmers
- Provided empowerment training for 558 youth
  - Youth farmers trained and given venture capital inputs
  - Critical training areas of focus include tractor operation, small engine repairs, housekeeping, and apiculture
  - 93 agricultural tractor operations maintenance personnel trained and certified

### **Principal Focus for 2018/19**

The main issues facing this Programme are inadequate budgetary funding and the challenges associated with micro businesses. As such, the principal focus includes:

- Sourcing of grant funding to provide entrepreneurial training and support for youth.
- Integration of climate smart agriculture in school gardening.
- Provision of increase training opportunities for members.
- Promotion of organic farming initiatives.
- Establishing partnership with key stakeholders to promote youth in agriculture.
- Providing Mastery training for which persons are awarded with NCT-VET certification and an official 4-H badge of certification.



## **JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (JACRA)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

Effective January 1, 2018, the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) commenced operation. Under the JACRA Act 2017 the Coffee Industry Board, Coconut Industry Board, regulatory functions of the Coconut Industry Board and specific aspects of the Export Division, MICAFA, have been subsumed under JACRA.

### **Aims and Objectives - Strategic Goals for 2017 - 2021**

- The development and diversification of a global marketing plan for Jamaican coffee, cocoa, coconut and spices.
- To ensure that the CIB/JACRA operates in an environmentally friendly manner consistent with Health, Safety, Environmental Standards and Regulations.
- To facilitate the sustainability and viability of the coffee industry/JACRA.
- The facilitation and improvement of production and quality features of all the commodities under JACRA
- To grow the local market and increase the number of international markets to which coffee, cocoa, coconut and spices are sold.
- Ensure that JACRA commodities processed for the local and international markets are in compliance with food safety laws and regulations and adhere to environmental standards and regulations.
- To promote the equitable treatment of all stakeholders.
- To encourage and facilitate the use of value added products (VAP) for all commodities under JACRA.
- To ensure that all Commodity Dealers are licensed and operate within the terms and conditions of their licences.
- To ensure that quality tests are in compliance with the applicable standards.

### **Planned Targets for August 2016 – July 2017**

- Four (4) trade mark and foreign importer licences to be issued based on referral.
- Approx. (8) inspections of works facilities to be conducted for new licensees. The provision of training in the use of chemicals, soil and leaf sampling techniques.
- Maintenance of database with 8,000 JBM and JHM farmers.
- Conduct fifty (50) coffee farmers meeting and four (4) educational tours per region.
- Conduct four (4) coffee dealers meeting and fifty six (56) Surveys re: pest and disease infections.
- The provision of training of eighteen (18) CIB staff.
- To arrange/host four (4) coffee trade shows and encourage VACP.
- Number of brand infringements should not exceed 20% of total Licensees.
- Eighty percent (80%) of the coffee dealers should achieve the coffee quality testing pass rate. Approximately One Hundred and Sixty (160) inspections and Twenty (20) training

sessions to be conducted with coffee processors by members of the CIB quality assurance team.

### **Key Achievements for August 2016 – July 2017 (CIB Financial Year)**

- Initiated at least two (2) strategic meeting between the CIB/JCEA/ coffee dealers and stakeholders to discuss market opportunities and issues affecting the Industry for the duration of 2016/2017
- The Promotion of an Integrated Pests Management System and the continued collaboration with the Coffee Leaf Rust and Coffee Berry Borer Task Force comprising members of the JCEA by meetings and fieldwork on a quarterly basis, consistent with the crop cycle and profile in both BM and JHM ones at least 2 meetings for the duration of 2016/2017.
- 3599 farmers in St. Andrew, St. Thomas and Portland regions have been registered and can be accessed online. Verification of GSP Coordinators for these farms is still in progress. Activities ongoing to integrate the Farm Registration and Activity Tracking Systems (FRATS) into the RADA/ABIS System by December 2017 to include the training of CIB staff in the full utilization of both systems.
- Sensitized the farmers via coffee dealer, posters and by arranging group and project meetings and tours on a quarterly basis
- Liaison with coffee dealers, co-operatives, associations and stakeholders to determined event days and training needs, to establish partnerships and provide physical or financial support on a monthly basis.
- Participation in two (2) agricultural shows: RADA Open Day and Denbigh Agricultural Show for the duration of 2016/2017.
- Greater policing and issuance of warning letters. Also greater collaborative efforts with all stakeholders including licensed traders, ambassadors and the police to identify infringements locally and overseas, at least 2 taskforce engagements locally for the duration of 2016/2017 in the Major Tourist Resort Areas (MTRAs)
- Approx. 40 inspections and five (5) training sessions with coffee processors by members of the CIB Quality Assurance Team.
- Twenty-one (21) employees have been trained. This represents fifty-one percent (51%) of the staff complement.

### **Principal Focus for Financial Year (August 2017 – July 2018)**

- Continue to carry out activities to achieve strategic outcomes.
- Integration of all commodity Boards in the newly established JACRA
- To provide appropriate framework for the issuing of licenses for respective commodities
- To strengthen framework for the management of Frosty Pod Rot and Coffee Leaf Rust diseases.

## **JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (JAS)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

The JAS was incorporated under the Jamaica Agricultural Society Act 1941. The organisation serves as an umbrella organization consisting of various affiliated commodity Boards and associations to include Jamaica Citrus Growers Association, Pimento Growers Association, Cocoa Industry Board, All Island Cane Farmers Association, Coconut Industry Board, All Island Banana Growers Association, Coffee Industry Board, Jamaica Livestock Association, Ministry of Agriculture Export Division, Sugar Industry Authority, Jamaica Goat and Sheep Farmers Association and the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Society.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society also has established parish offices islandwide. Each parish has within its structural framework an Association of Branch Society (ABS) that consists of branches within the farming communities. Each ABS is governed by the President and the Executive Body elected by the farmers for representation in the decision making process of the Society.

### **Aims and Objectives**

To ensure the protection and promotion of farmers' interests through a vigorous, independent and financially viable organization providing services to farmers and assisting them to gain access to resources provided by government and other agencies; and to enhance GLOBAL policy initiatives in order to achieve social and economic development of the rural sector.

### **Planned Targets (in line with the Government of Jamaica and the Ministry's Policies)**

#### **To advocate for the protection and promotion of the farmers' interest by:**

- a) The provision of extension services to foster social and economic development of farmers and rural communities.
- b) Participating in capacity building, information and technology transfer, geared towards improving the ability of farmers to manage their farms as a business
- c) To influence policy decisions that affect the farming community
- d) To develop and maintain viable organized community based organizations
- e) To seek assistance on behalf of farmers in gaining access to resources

#### **To foster domestic agricultural production for Jamaican farmers by:**

- a) Supporting research and development in new methodologies and farming techniques in agricultural production and output
- b) Encouraging "best practices" in agricultural development
- c) Fostering efficiency and effectiveness in agricultural production, output and distribution
- d) Disseminating information and technology transfer to the farming community.

**To promote development and advancement in the agricultural sector by:**

- a) Supporting ventures in agri-business as a means of increasing value added within the agricultural sector.
- b) Providing marketing assistance to the farming community
- c) Creating a national space to facilitate farmers' engagement and participation in the country's development.

**Key Achievements- 2017-18**

- The continuation of the “**Eat Jamaican**” campaign that aims at promoting the nutritional and socio-economic benefit of eating locally produced foods and ultimately reducing the imports of food, in line with the Government of Jamaica's Growth Agenda and Food Security and Nutrition Policy
- Promotion of agriculture through parish shows and the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show.
- Stakeholder participation on the **Tourism Linkages Taskforce** established by the Ministry of Tourism which will be used as a basis to re-engineer Jamaica Agricultural Society Commercial Enterprises Ltd (JASCEL) and the Central Marketing System which will be underpinned by market access for farmers' produce in an organized framework.
- Engagement in multiple project implementation through forged alliances with organizations such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Organisation of American States (OAS), The Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS)
- Partnering with the Ministry, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), the Judiciary and the farmers in the promotion and sale of Agricultural Produce Receipt Books to enable traceability in the sale of agricultural produce under the National Praedial Larceny Prevention Programme.
- Partnered in the launching of additional Farmer's Watch Programmes in Clarendon and Portland. The programme had significant success in the parishes of St. Thomas and St. Elizabeth. The journey to win the war against this cancer that has cost the sector in excess of \$5B annually is by no means complete.
- The launch of a national blood drive for farmers
- Launch of an Entrepreneurial Group Support Project which seeks to foster viable and sustainable agro-ventures within communities with the ultimate goal of economic independence
- Partnered with the COK Co-operative Credit Union to design a micro-pension plan exclusively for farmers. The retirement scheme allows large and small-scale farmers, between the ages of 18 to 70 to deposit up to 20% of their earnings tax-free

### **Principal Focus – 2018-19**

- The promotion of advancement and achievement within the agricultural sector
- Facilitating farmer engagements, consultation and participation on national issues within the agricultural sector
- Promotion of agriculture through parish shows, expos and the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show
- E-Farmers (ICT Access): The Society aims to empower 5000 of our members with information and communication assets and services that will increase their productivity and incomes, thereby protecting food security and livelihoods.
- Islandwide roll out of a Farmers Pension Scheme
- Promotion and sale of agricultural produce receipt books to enable traceability in the sale of agricultural produce under the National Praedial Larceny Prevention Programme.
- The marketing of products on behalf of farmers
- The organization and execution of farmers' meetings in all parishes
- Increase membership by 10%

## **JAMAICA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (JBDC)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

JBDC was established in 2001 as a limited liability company.

### **Aims and Objectives**

To pursue developmental policies that foster sustainable modernization and growth in the productive sector, effective modernization of the business environment, cost-effective delivery of technical and marketing services through highly committed, competent and motivated employees.

The objectives are:

- i. To facilitate the development of a dynamic MSME sector
- ii. To ensure growth through assistance in the modernizing of companies and developing innovative products and sectors
- iii. To develop solution oriented services for the productive sector by providing workshops, business start-up kits and modernization kits
- iv. To increase the awareness and desire of the public for authentic Jamaican products
- v. To improve the overall efficiency of the JBDC through the development of human resources

### **Planned Targets for 2017/18**

The JBDC's main priority goals and targets for 2017/2018 are as follows:

1. Creating an enabling business environment
  - 300 MSMEs assisted with formalizing their operations through the registration of their businesses with the Companies Office of Jamaica
  - Participation in at least six (6) external market access events
2. Facilitate MSME development and growth through Business and Technical Support Services
  - At least 60 workshops delivered (scheduled and customized)
  - 300 MSMEs registered in the Monitoring and Handholding Programme and receiving business guidance
  - Plan and execute Small Business Expo 2017, Mobile Business Clinic Initiative and GEW 2017 to increase information and support to the sector
3. Increasing finance to the sector
  - Providing MSMEs with financial guidance
4. Tackling Cross-Cutting Issues
  - MSME Research Development Initiative conceptualized and launched
  - The number of research publications and periodicals published

## Key Achievements for 2017/18

- Creating an Enabling Business Environment
  - 519 MSMEs were assisted with the registration of their business
  - Local manufacturers continue to receive market access support through the provision of brand exposure, participation in trade shows and in-store promotions. To this effect, clients through Things Jamaican participated in eleven (11) external promotional events (JBDC SBE, JMA and JAPEX).
- Facilitate MSME Development and Growth through Business and Technical Support Services
  - 59 workshops (scheduled and project related) have been delivered to MSMEs in areas such as: product development, business development, proposal writing and applied research. Over 980 MSMEs have participated in these training sessions
  - JBDC received accreditation from the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) for its Tapping into Donor Funds Proposal Writing Workshop ® and the Research Coaching for HR Practitioners Workshop. JBDC was granted the status of Recognized ILM Centre in Jamaica and St. Lucia. ILM, Institute of Leadership and Management, is the leading provider of leadership and management qualifications in the UK and part of the wider City and Guilds Group: a GLOBAL leader in skills development.
  - Executed Small Business Expo 2017, Mobile Business Clinic Initiative and GEW 2017 to increase information and support to the sector; over 1408 MSMEs and industry stakeholders participated in the events which featured over 50 workshops and presentations on various topics including financing and business opportunities.
- 5. Tackling Cross Cutting Issues
  - The JBC Research Agenda was completed and is currently being implemented.
  - Completed the following Survey Reports
    - National Employee Engagement Survey
    - Mobile Money Survey
    - JBDC Customer Satisfaction Survey
  - Launched the MSME Research Development Initiative which is geared at strengthening the capacity of enterprises in designing and executing business related research to strengthen their operations.
- Facilitating Access to Financing
  - JBDC continued to implement its Tapping into Donor Funds Proposal Writing Workshop with the execution of three (3) workshops; two were held in Jamaica and one in St. Lucia. Over \$127 Million in grant funding has been received by participants of the JBDC's Proposal Writing Workshops since November 2013
  - JBDC assisted 13 MSMEs to secure \$37.5 Million in grant funding through the IGNITE Project.

- 24 MSMEs were provided with financial handholding and assistance in areas of financial planning and forecasting, QuickBooks, financial modelling, costing and pricing etc.
- 296 MSMEs were sensitized about financial literacy

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Reduce informality in the sector through sensitization sessions and expansion of the Business Monitoring Programme
- Promote and foster the integration of R&D in business processes through coaching and mentorship
- Execution of the JBDC Accelerator Programme
- Execution of business and technical training focusing on Business Model Design, Marketing, Strategic Planning and Product Development
- Implementation of a producer's accelerator Programme through Things Jamaica to stimulate market access (local and international)
- Full roll out of the Financial Literacy and Access to Financing Programme
- Execute specialized projects with focus on increasing financing to the sector such as GEW 2017 and continuation of the Tapping into Donor Funds Workshops



## JAMAICA DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (JDDB)

### Establishment of Agency

The Jamaica Dairy Development Board was established under Act No. 4 of 2009, with offices situated at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries at Hope Gardens, Kingston 6 in the parish of Saint Andrew.

### Aims and Objectives

The Jamaica Dairy Development Board was established primarily for the purpose of promoting and fostering the development of the dairy sector with particular emphasis on promoting local milk production, processing, marketing and other trade in dairy products. The revitalization of the dairy sector forms a major element of the Government's National Food and Nutrition Security Policy. In this regard, the Jamaica Dairy Development Board is assigned the Mission of ensuring the achievement of the measurable targets through policy formulation, capacity building and the creation of a regulatory framework to drive the attainment of international competitiveness.

### Planned Targets for 2017/2018

- |  |   |              |
|--|---|--------------|
| • Number of dairy cattle in production   | - | 6,800        |
| • Area of forages established            | - | 30 ha.       |
| • Percentage increase in milk production | - | 10%          |
| • Total milk Production                  | - | 13,300,000 L |

### Key Achievements, 2017/2018

- |  |   |              |
|--|---|--------------|
| • Continued concessional loan availability to dairy farmers  | - | \$84,000,000 |
| • Pasture establishment  | - | 175.3 ha.    |
| • Total milk production  | - | 13,342,108 L |
| • Continued rehabilitation of teaching dairy farms to engender greater output of trained personnel to service the dairy cattle sub-sector  |   |              |
| • Improved technology transfers through farmer training and the conduct of workshops   |   |              |
| • Continued engagement with farmer groups to improve competitiveness and enforce adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP's)   |   |              |
| • Continued collaboration with RandD in making conserved fodder available to dairy farmers to mitigate the adverse impact of drought and excess rain on animal production and productivity |   |              |
| • Sustained the availability of fodder cultivars that are high in nutritive quality and are high yielding, to facilitate enhanced milk production  |   |              |
| • Facilitated and engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation arrangements with stakeholders to aid the process of technology transfer.  |   |              |

**Principal focus for 2018/2019**

- Pasture rehabilitation and establishment;
- Concessional loan availability;
- Technology transfer:
  - Mechanization of harvesting fodder
  - Mechanization of milking in rural communities
- Environmental amelioration through climate-smart initiatives;
  - Increased assistance to fodder conservation and other climate resilient feeding strategies
- Institutional strengthening:
  - Assistance to agricultural educational institutions to enhance the effectiveness in the training of a skilled cadre of livestock professionals.
- Training of producers and trainers to engender capacity building within the livestock sub-sector;
- Facilitation of and engagement in bilateral and multilateral cooperation/assistance programmes to aid in the process of technology transfer
- Expansion of Jamaica's dairy cattle population through the existing Heifer Redeployment Programme
- Re-development and expansion of a programme of herd recording to aid on-farm decision making, and to facilitate the evaluation of the productive potential of Jamaica's dairy cattle population.

## JAMAICA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE (JIPO)

### Establishment of the Agency

The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) was established on February 1, 2002 as a statutory authority under provisions of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office Act.

### Aims and Objectives

- To establish and administer a modern and effective intellectual property rights system that will act as a catalyst for international competitiveness, facilitating economic growth and national development.
- To create a robust ecosystem for intellectual property in Jamaica to attract investments in high-grossing industries that will facilitate the growth of local industries, thereby enabling all Jamaicans to benefit from the three critical areas that are necessary for a strong IP environment: Protection, Sharing/income generation and Enforcement.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

- Preparation of documentation to facilitate the amendment of **The Protection of Geographical Indications Act**
- Preparation of and submission of information and documentation on amendments to **The Trade Marks Act** to the Ministry to enable Jamaica to join the Madrid Protocol
- Finalise all requests for information and documentation to **The Patents and Designs Act** to enable to Jamaica to join the Patent Cooperation Treaty once the law had been passed
- Finalise all the information and documentation under the WIPO internet treaties to allow for the further amendment of **The Copyright Act**
- Conduct training and facilitate access to training in intellectual property rights
- Upgrade equipment

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

- Submission of documentation and information to the Ministry to enable Geographical Indications Bill to be sent to the Attorney General's Chambers
- Submission of documentation and information to the Ministry to enable The Trade Marks Bill and Rules to be sent to the Attorney General's Chambers
- Submission of the documentation and information to the Ministry to enable The **Patents and Designs Act** to be sent to the Attorney Generals Chambers
- Intellectual property rights presentations made across the island
- Processed over 3000 applications for registration of intellectual property rights
- Media coverage on TVJ, CVM and Business Access TV, appearance in the Gleaner and the Observer and the JIS website

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Digitization of files for records management and generation of the journal
- Further upgrade and recovery systems associated with the Management Information Systems to be implemented
- Complete work initiated at the Ministry of Education Youth and Information towards creating intellectual property rights material for children
- Formulate a public awareness campaign about intellectual property focusing on cultural industries, innovation and the effects of infringement on the economy
- Working on ways to increase access to finance for IP based industries
- Ongoing review of IP legislation with a focus on the draft Bill on New Varieties of Plants to provide for protection of breeders of new varieties

## JAMAICA NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACCREDITATION (JANAAC)

### Aim and Objectives

JANAAC's mandate extends to the provision of accreditation services to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) namely: public and private sector laboratories, Inspection bodies, and Certification bodies; technical training for assessors and laboratory personnel; as well as provision of appropriate technical information on accreditation to its stakeholders. The Agency has three mission critical objectives, namely:

- Assist in trade facilitation by ensuring that its accredited CABs are recognized GLOBALLY by trading partners. This is enabled through JANAAC's Signatory status to the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA's) with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and the Multilateral Agreement (MLA) with Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC).
- Enhance competitiveness by encouraging Jamaican entities to produce goods of consistently high quality that are compliant with international standards; international trade agreements, such as the World Trade Organisation's Technical Barrier to Trade Agreement (WTO/TBT); as well as international best practice and local regulations.
- Support consumer wellbeing through improved stakeholder confidence in the quality and integrity of goods and services supplied.

### Planned Targets and Achievements FY2017/18

The major targets for FY 2017/18 are listed below.

- i. Commence Inspection Body Accreditation
- ii. Improve project efficiencies
- iii. Increase revenue from accreditation
- iv. Increase client pool
- v. Improve Regional and International brand recall
- vi. Acquire a building for JANAACs Corporate Offices

JANAAC continues to meet and surpass the targets aligned with its mission critical objectives. A summary of the significant accomplishments and milestones achieved by the organization during the period under review are provided.

- i. JANAAC made significant gains in realizing its corporate performance objectives in 2017/8. During the year, the agency granted 11 accreditation certificates, bringing to 30 the number of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) it has accredited; representing 83.33% more than the 6 accredited during the previous fiscal year. Of the 11 accredited CABs, 6 are testing labs; 4 medical labs; and 1 Inspection body.
- ii. JANAAC recorded strong levels of performance in the area of accreditation assessments in 2017/18. At the end of March, a total of 18 such assessments were conducted, a significant increase over the similar period.

- iii. JANAAC continued to reap success from its regional expansion strategy in 2017/18. In this regard, it is noteworthy that of the 11 accredited CABs for the year, 2 testing labs, 1 medical lab and 1 inspection body were in other Caribbean islands. The agency has a presence of six (6) other CARICOM states excluding Jamaica. These are: The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.
- iv. JANAAC awarded its first inspection body accreditation certificate to the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards Inspection Body in March 2017. Inspection Body accreditation is a critical service which will enable our inspection bodies to fully support economic growth.
- v. JANAAC during the fiscal year submitted an application for an extension of scope to the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation Multilateral Agreement to include Inspection Body Accreditation to the ISO/IEC 17020 Standard. The application was approved by the IAAC executive committee and JANAAC will be peer evaluated in December 2018 to determine if signatory status will be awarded.
- vi. JANAAC continues to pursue important brand development and awareness initiatives. In this regard, the agency continues to successfully publish its *Accreditation: the Business Advantage* feature in the Jamaica Observer and the Gleaner, thus enabling prospective clients and public to obtain useful information on internationally recognized accreditation services.
- vii. JANAAC continues to record strong revenue and profitability and has successfully managed to keep its operating costs significantly within budget.
- viii. JANAAC provided twenty-six (26) training courses up from nine (9) in 2016/17, training a total of 352 participants. This is an 87% increase in the persons trained in the previous fiscal year. Consequent to the need for capacity building the income from training was significantly reduced due to the amount of nonpaid training delivered.
- ix. JANAAC implemented its accreditation management system and partnered with the Swedish Accreditation Board to train 10 team members over a six-month period to build capacity and increase our capabilities to expand our inspection body and calibration laboratory accreditation services.
- x. JANAAC during the fiscal year hosted a regional quality infrastructure training programme for the Caribbean sponsored by the UNIDO. The training program was aimed at building project planning competence and strengthening the national quality infrastructure.
- xi. JANAAC also partnered with the MICAF to host the validation workshop for the National Quality Policy.

## Principal Focus for FY 2018/2019

The JANAAC has for the first time developed a ten year strategic model to govern its operations that has a key outcome of organisational sustainability with less reliance on Government subvention. The three year strategic business plan (2018/19 – 2021/22) is an important subset of this ten year plan. JANAAC will remain focused on achieving its strategic goals of growth in revenues from new and existing accreditation services; growth in its national and regional customer base; providing expert, competent, customer-centric services; developing and maintaining an effective and efficient accreditation process; and developing a high performance, customer-oriented, pro-active, responsive and continuous improvement culture.

To this end, the agency plans to award ten (10) accreditation certificates each year.

Mission Critical Enablers include:

- Supporting legislation and regulations requiring mandatory accreditation of inspection bodies and medical and food labs
- Expanding efficient and effective accreditation process
- Automating business processes
- Building regional and international accreditation stakeholder relations

The JANAAC celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018 and JANAAC will use this milestone event to launch several key brand development activities centred around the theme: **“JANAAC 10 years affirming quality building trust”**, key among which is the publishing of an anniversary commemorative magazine. We also plan to intensify our international brand development efforts by hosting the General Assembly for the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation in the second quarter in addition to participating in a number of public awareness events, the JMA/JEA trade exposition as well as traditional and new media advertising and promotional campaigns, and development of new collateral material.

## MICRO INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED (MIDA)

### Establishment of Agency

The Micro Enterprise Development Agency (MEDA) was incorporated under the laws of Jamaica on July 4, 1991 as a limited liability company (limited by shares). It subsequently changed its name to Micro Investment Development Agency (MIDA) on November 18, 1991. MIDA had an initial share capital of 1000 @ \$1 each.

### Aims and Objectives

The Micro Investment Development Agency exists to promote sustainable growth in the micro enterprise sector through the provision of financial services, networking with partners to promote and facilitate the delivery of non-financial services to those wishing to start or expand their businesses so as to create employment and wealth through a highly efficient and well-motivated staff.

The overall objective of MIDA is to promote, encourage and facilitate the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Jamaica as a principal means of achieving improvement in the economic well-being of individuals who desire to get into self-sustaining economic activity.

### Planned Targets for 2017/2018

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Disbursement:           | \$300 million |
| Enterprises Funded:     | 1,800         |
| Jobs Sustained/Created: | 1,200         |

### Key Achievement for 2017/2018

| <u>Categories</u>       | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Disbursement by MIDA:   | \$157.72M    |
| Total repaid:           | \$174.03M    |
| Disbursement by MFOs:   | \$185.44M    |
| Job Sustained/ Created: | 1,707        |
| Enterprises Funded:     | 1,553        |



### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

MIDA will focus on the following:

1. Wholesale funds to an approved retailer (JNSBL) for retailing to the productive sector
2. Continue to act as fund manager on behalf of MICAFA.
3. Act as investment fund manager for “idle” funds now resident with the Coordinating and Monitoring Unit (CMU).
4. Explore the possibility of introducing new products for the MSME sector, for example, Factoring and Lease-Financing.

## **NATIONAL COMPLIANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NCRA)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

The National Compliance and Regulatory Authority (NCRA) was established on January 4, 2016. The NCRA was formerly the Regulatory Division of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica. Activities of the NCRA are governed by the Standards Act; Processed Food Act and the Weights and Measures Act.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The overall mission of the NCRA is to protect the Health, Safety and Fairness in Trade for the Jamaican consumers and to ensure that Jamaican products are highly competitive in the international market.

### **Strategic Goals for 2017/2018**

- To promote the compliance level of regulated products with the applicable regulations and standards
- To ensure equity in trade through undertaking legal metrology activities
- To assess the compliance of processed food establishments with the applicable regulations
- To protect consumers, punish violators and deter violations of legislation and non-compliance with standards
- To ensure existence of an effective legal measurement system for trade

### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- Trade facilitation activities promoted to conduct port inspection based on risk
- 75% of food factories assessed for registration
- 5% increased inspection of block makers to boost compliance with applicable standards
- 120 regulatory samples to be inspected, collected and tested
- Enforcement action taken to boost consumer health and safety and protection against deleterious products
- Pre-packaged goods inspected, assessed and verified for accuracy of weight of products offered to consumers
- LPG cylinders tested and verified for safety and accuracy of weight
- Engage in capacity building/ institutional strengthening activities for team members
- Boost staff morale through team building activities

## **Key Achievements for 2017/2018**

- 808 food processing establishments monitored during the period
- 72% of food establishments registered as per Standards Act
- Seven (7) sugar repacking facilities registered
- The coordination of the functions of the National Codex Committee in Jamaica continues to be facilitated by the Food Inspectorate Department.
- 100% inspection and sampling of petroleum imports since October 2017
- 4416 petrol nozzles inspected and tested for compliance
- 100% of all local bottled water processors inspected and sampled
- 100% of all local bottled coconut water processors inspected and sampled
- Piloted awareness sessions for processors of bottled water and coconut water based on inspection results
- Conducted islandwide sampling of petrol dispensed from service stations
- 1945 packages of prepackaged goods sampled and verified for the weights of the products
- 34% of block factories registered as at February 2018 compared to 25% as at April 1, 2017
- 120 brands of tissue submitted for microbiological analysis. There is an 87% pass rate
- 11 sub-standard LPG free standing stoves and hotplates denied entry into the marketplace to protect consumers
- Two 20ft containers of rice re-exported due to contamination with insect parts
- 800 extension cords destroyed due to failure to meet standards specification
- 7834 flour snacks imported as potato chips destroyed to protect consumers
- 100% of staff trained in ISO/IEC: 17020 standard
- 100% of Food Inspectors trained in Food Safety Risk Analysis
- Two (2) team-building activities and staff engagement sessions facilitated

## **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- NCRA legislative process completed
- ISO/IEC 17020 implemented
- Petroleum Inspectorate established
- Development of ASYCUDA profiles for all products with compulsory standards and the risk assessment database developed
- Sensitization and stakeholder engagement sessions conducted with industry participants and with processors (bag juice); importers (appliances) distributive trade (rice, flour and cornmeal; users of measuring devices (scales)
- Boost compliance in the construction and food industry
- Boost staff morale through change management and staff engagement sessions

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT TRUSTEE (OGT)

### Establishment of Agency

The Office of the Government Trustee (OGT) was established by the Insolvency Act 2014 ('the Act') which came into effect on January 1, 2015. The Act repeals the Bankruptcy Act (BA) pursuant to which individual bankruptcy was previously administered and makes substantive amendments to those sections of the Companies Act which provide for the winding up of insolvent companies. The Act, which has as its objective the rehabilitation of insolvents makes provision for both corporate and personal insolvency. The Act also introduces a proposal mechanism by which debtors can seek assistance to resolve financial difficulties prior to bankruptcy.

### Aims and Objectives

To contribute to the strengthening of investor confidence in Jamaica by providing a comprehensive and efficient insolvency service. The objectives are to ensure:

- Efficient administration of estates
- Proper management of and accounting and reporting for estate and departmental funds
- Maximum income generation and debt satisfaction
- Reliable Insolvency Status Verification
- Increased public knowledge of insolvency and insolvency administration
- Improved staff competence and well maintained infrastructure
- Development of internal policies and improvement of procedures

### Planned Targets for 2017/18 and Key Achievements for 2017/18

| Planned Targets for 2017/2018                                     | Key Achievements for 2017/2018                           |
|---|--|
| <b><u>Insolvency Administration</u></b>                           | <b><u>Insolvency Administration</u></b>                  |
| 1. 20 new matters commenced                                       | 1. 26 new matters commenced                              |
| 2. 95% of visits required conducted                               | 2. 100% of visits required conducted                     |
| 3. Search letters issued in 95% of matters                        | 3. Search letters issued in 70% of matters               |
| 4. Disposable assets are identified and recovered within 3 months | 4. No disposable assets were identified and recovered    |
| 5. Seized assets are sold within 12 months                        | 5. Sale of seized assets in progress                     |
| 6. 85% of active bankrupts attending Public Examinations          | 6. 92% of active bankrupts attending Public Examinations |
| 7. 70% of active bankrupts complying with Payment Order           | 7. 65% of active bankrupts complying with Payment Order  |
| 8. 5 Trustee reports prepared and submitted                       | 8. 11 Trustee reports prepared and submitted             |
| 9. 4 applications for discharge filed                             | 9. 6 applications for Automatic Discharge filed          |
| 10. 12 dormant files reviewed and reactivated                     | 10. 0 dormant files reviewed and reactivated             |
| 11. 24 matters closed   | 11. 3 matters closed                                     |

| <b>Planned Targets for 2017/2018</b>  | <b>Key Achievements for 2017/2018</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b><u>Financial Investigations Reporting, Management and Accounting for Estates and Companies</u></b>   | <b><u>Financial Investigations Reporting, Management and Accounting for Estates and Companies</u></b>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Records ceased and reviewed within 2 weeks of appointment/1<sup>st</sup> contact</li> <li>2. Report on debtor's financial position prepared within 1 week of reviewing records</li> <li>3. Statements of account provided within 3 days of request</li> <li>4. Bank balances reviewed monthly and funds identified for investment</li> <li>5. At least 80% of available funds invested</li> <li>6. Average of 5% interest earned on investment</li> <li>7. \$630,000.00 earned from legal services</li> <li>8. \$1.581M earned as commission</li> <li>9. Claims admitted/rejected within 2 weeks of receipt</li> <li>10. Declaration published within 1 week of decision to pay dividend</li> <li>11. 11 dividends totaling \$26.35M paid</li> <li>12. 123 creditors benefitting</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Records partially ceased but not within time period</li> <li>2. Report on debtor's financial position prepared within 1 week of reviewing records</li> <li>3. Statements of account provided within 3 days of request</li> <li>4. Bank balances reviewed monthly and funds identified for investment</li> <li>5. At least 80% of available funds invested</li> <li>6. Average of 3% interest earned on investment due to a decline in market rates</li> <li>7. \$630,000.00 earned from legal services as all sales are pending</li> <li>8. \$1.581M earned as commission</li> <li>9. Claims not admitted/rejected within 2 weeks of receipt</li> <li>10. Declarations published within 1 week of decision to pay dividend</li> <li>11. 10 dividends totaling \$5,253,039.38 paid</li> <li>12. 25 creditors benefitting</li> </ol> |

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Expeditiously assist debtors in applying for assistance under the Insolvency Act
- Efficiently administer debtors' affairs for the benefit of their creditors
- Effectively restore debtors to position of financial stability/viability
- Significantly increase public awareness of the Office of the Government Trustee and confidence in the insolvency regime

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR OF INSOLVENCY (OSI)

### Establishment of Agency

The Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency was established pursuant to the Insolvency Act, 2014 that came into force on January 2, 2015. The office was operationalized on an interim basis with an Interim Supervisor of Insolvency appointed. In August 2016 a permanent supervisor was appointed and the process of fully operationalizing the office was strengthened.

### Aims and Objectives

To regulate the insolvency regime of Jamaica, ensuring that it is in keeping with international best practices thereby bolstering the economy and strengthening investors' confidence in the commercial sector of Jamaica.

### Planned Targets for 2017/18

1. Regulate Insolvency Practitioners
  - Issue  $\geq 4$  trustee licences and renew two (2); appoint counsellors; issue directives to/convene meetings with trustees
2. Supervise Insolvency Administration
  - Assess 50 applications; appoint the Government Trustee in  $\geq 40$  cases; provide 419 paid insolvency searches and earn revenue of \$1,257,000.00
3. Build capacity within the Office
  - Train six (6) members of staff; recruit five (5) members of staff
4. Promote new insolvency regime
  - Conduct/attend 7 sensitization sessions
5. Facilitate amendments to legislation
  - Review legislation; note anomalies or errors and make recommendations

### Key Achievements for 2017/18

#### i. Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners

Two (2) trustees' licences were renewed earning \$12,000.00. Two (2) counsellors appointed. One (1) directive emphasising the duties and obligations of relevant parties, issued to all trustees. One (1) oral hearing regarding the conduct of a trustee held. One (1) caution letter sent to individual not appointed trustee acting as one. Three (3) meetings to provide clarity on varying issues held with trustees.

**ii. Supervision of Insolvency Administration**

One hundred and forty-two (142) individuals sought information about assistance available under the IA. Thirty-nine (39) preliminary assessments of potential insolvency clients conducted and twenty-two (22) matters referred to the OGT. Nineteen (19) Certificates of assignments issued four (4) as a result of default under proposal proceedings; the Government Trustee appointed to act in fourteen (14) and private trustees appointed in the remaining five (5). Eight (8) notices of intention to make proposal filed, followed by the filing of nine (9) proposals. Four (4) applications for Receiving Order received. Four (4) Receivership Reports received. Twenty-Four (24) applications for extension of time processed: 12 proposals and 12 assignments. 1,803 unpaid insolvency searches conducted and 907 paid searches earning \$2,721,500.00.

**iii. Capacity Building of the OSI**

Two (2) members of staff received external training and one (1) internal training session conducted. Five (5) members of staff were recruited.

**iv. Promotion of the New Insolvency Regime**

Four (4) sensitization sessions were conducted in conjunction with the Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Project and MICAF. Five (5) sensitization sessions were conducted by the OSI following requests by other organizations.

**v. Facilitate Amendments to the Legislation**

The OSI made recommendations regarding the amendment of the Scheme of Distribution. S202 (Ranking of Claims) had an anomaly in the ranking of a secured creditor and will be amended by the Companies Act. Contact made with Legal Department, regarding trustee required to conduct solvent liquidation and broadening the category of persons who may become trustees.

**Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

**i. Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners**

To establish the insolvency course and process all outstanding and future applications for trustee licences. The OSI will continue to regulate trustees, renewing, altering, suspending or cancelling licences when appropriate. The OSI will also seek and recommend alternative measures if course not established by MICAF/NMLS by the 3<sup>rd</sup>Qtr of 2018/2019 FY.

**ii. Supervision of Insolvency Administration**

The principal focus of the OSI under this area is to assess potential insolvency clients and refer matters to the appropriate trustee, as well as issue certificates when required to do so. The OSI will continue the overall supervision of insolvency estates conducted to ensure 100% of estates are administered in accordance with the Insolvency Act.

**iii. Public Education/Sensitization Sessions**

The OSI will continue to participate in attending and/or conducting sensitization sessions to ensure all relevant stakeholders are informed of the new insolvency regime.

**iv. Facilitate Amendments to Legislation**

As the first amendment to the IA is due in 2020, the OSI will continue reviewing the legislation; facilitating feedback from insolvency practitioners regarding its operation; making recommendations when necessary and preparing report on provisions to be amended; will also seek amendments to critical sections during the 2018/2019 FY.



## **RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RADA)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries. RADA was established under the Rural Agricultural Development Authority Act of 1990, replacing the Land Authorities Act and began its operation on August 1, 1990. It is Jamaica's chief Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Agency. RADA is committed to promoting the development of agriculture in Jamaica, as the main engine of economic growth in rural communities, through an efficient, modern and sustainable extension service which will enhance the national economy and improve the quality of life of rural farm families.

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To enhance the development of farming through an effective, efficient and sustainable Extension Service.
- To supplement information to rural development agencies, thereby assisting to advance improvements in rural infrastructure.
- To provide the supplemental social services required for the improvement of the quality of life of farm families.
- To provide technical advice to farmers. To provide a reliable agricultural marketing information service.
- To assist in the implementation of specified rural development projects.

### **Main Activities-Planned Targets/Achievements 2017/2018**

#### **1. Farmer Training**

##### **Planned Targets**

In our commitment to promote the development of agriculture in Jamaica, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority continues to place emphasis on its core role of providing technical agricultural extension services to farmers.

This extension service is largely provided by officers stationed across the island in the established 98 extension areas. A total of **2,353** farmers training sessions were targeted for the period to benefit **39,000** farmers.

## **Achievements**

RADA provides a cadre of professionals who are experts in their field and as such facilitate training of farmers and farm families in both rural and urban areas across Jamaica. The ultimate aim of our training programme is to enhance the livelihood of farmers and farm families, improve agricultural practices, broaden their income basis and build their productive capacity.

In this regard, a total of **2,884** training sessions has been achieved to date resulting in **33, 755** farmer exposure islandwide. The training sessions delivered ranged from climate smart practices, training in protected agriculture, marketing, good agricultural practices, livestock development and home economics and social services.

## **2. National Irish Potato Programme**

### **Planned Targets**

RADA continues to support the implementation of the Irish Potato Programme as a national strategy geared towards food security and a sustainable agricultural sector. The programme, which is an initiative for import substitution which focuses on reducing the annual food import bill, continues to be a success despite the many challenges. The main objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To supply 100% of national demand (15 million kg) for Irish potatoes in keeping with the Ministry's/RADA's Production, Marketing and Productivity Plans;
- Increase productivity by 11% or to 17 tons per hectare.
- To provide crop care and productivity support in the form of agro- chemicals for 40% of the targeted hectares requirement to a maximum of two hectares (2 ha.) per farmer; (Pesticides, Fertilizer; Soil Amendments)
- To establish nine (9) validation plots on which participatory training will be kept.
- To organize two (2) farm tours; experience tours for farmers not directly benefitting from training within validation plots.

## **Achievements**

The programme sought to assist farmers within the Irish Potato Belts of Christiana (Manchester) and Guy's Hills (St. Catherine, St. Ann, St. Mary) and other areas (St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Andrew, St. Thomas) with planting material and crop care support in the form of chemicals for 40% of the requirement per hectare and technical assistance from RADA's extension staff.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions experienced during October-December 2016, the National Irish Potato Programme 2016/2017 (September 2016 - July 2017) was a great success, achieving 99% of the targeted production of local potatoes for food consumption. As a result of this, continued efforts were made to drive production for the 2017/2018 period.

The 2017/2018 programme commenced in August 2017 with engagement meetings conducted in Hounslow, St. Elizabeth and Mavis Bank, St. Andrew. To-date 2,387 farmers have planted a total of 735 hectares for the 2017 – 2018 crop seasons. A total of 19 farmer sensitization meetings have been completed islandwide.

**Table 1: Summary of Programme Achievements (Period: February 2018)**

| Activities                                   | Targets            | Achievements To Date | Remarks             |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| No. of Farmers                               | 2,500              | 2,387                |                     |
| Hectares Planted                             | 1,200              | 735                  |                     |
| Hectare Reaped                               | 1,200              | 208                  |                     |
| Tons Reaped                                  | 15,000             | 2,856                |                     |
| Budget (2017 – 2018)                         | \$1,645,820,310.00 | 50 Million           | 2017 to 2018 season |
| Sensitization Workshops                      | 16 sessions        | 19                   |                     |
| Number of Farmers Benefitting from Workshops | 2,000              | 3,445                |                     |

### **3. Onion Development Programme**

#### **Planned Targets**

Jamaica imports on average 8 Million kilograms of onions per annum at an average cost of USD 3,854,753.00 (JMD 384,254,710.00). There has been a significant decline in onion production over the past 20 years; from 4,200 tonnes in 1996 to 1,162 tonnes in 2015 (AMID/MICAF). Productivity during this period averages 12 tonnes per ha, while some other countries are averaging between 35-50 tonnes per ha. In order to address this significant decline, since 2014, the MICAF has implemented the Onion Development Programme (ODP) to increase local production and import substitution. The programme is managed by a Technical Onion Development Committee (TODC) which includes representatives from MICAF and RADA.

The approaches taken for 2017/2018 crop are different from those taken during 2014-2016, when only farmers with irrigation were taken into consideration for the programme. Based on requests from RADA management and favourable considerations by the Ministry, both farms with irrigated and non-irrigated fields were targeted.

For the 2017 Fall crop planting season, a total of 238.31 hectares were targeted initially to include 661 farmers. Due to prevailing weather conditions a number of parishes had reviewed the initial targets for Fall planting, which was reduced to 218.8 hectares.

### **Achievements**

To date, a total of **41.82 hectares of onion** has been planted involving **200** farmer's island wide. This represented only 19.1% of the targeted 218.8 hectares. The parishes of Clarendon, St. Ann, Hanover and Trelawny have reported that 3.9 hectares of onion were destroyed due to heavy rains in January 2018. It is important to note that due to the prolonged rainfall between September and December 2017, land preparation and planting activities were seriously affected. The unfavorable weather conditions also contributed to the increase in incidents of fungal and bacterial diseases on crops established in October – November 2017. As a result, the fall planting season had to be extended to the first week of January 2018, to facilitate planting. Farmers affected in this regard were encouraged to plant during Spring (March 2018), using suitable varieties (Orlando and Caballero).

Support provided by MICAF and RADA:

- (i) seeds for up to 2 acres;
- (ii) soil analysis
- (iii) access to specialized implements (bed shaper)
- (iv) technical support (MICAF and RADA)

## **4. Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme**

### **Planned Targets**

The objective of the programme is consistent with the developmental priorities of the Government of Jamaica. As such, the programme was designed to assist in the rehabilitation of farm roads across Jamaica towards the growth and improvement of the agricultural sector, in specially targeted high production areas.

The expected results from this intervention are as follows:

- Increase in market access for farmers
- Increase in domestic crop and livestock production
- Improvement in household income

A total of 63 roads were targeted for rehabilitation under the programme with a budgeted amount of J\$380 M for its implementation. The Programme was expected to benefit an estimated 17,000 farmers directly island-wide, in addition to the incalculable increase in agricultural production both for local consumption and export.

## **Achievements**

Of the 63 roads to be rehabilitated under the 2017/2018 programme, a total of 46 roads, totalling 77.68km have been completed to date. Expenditure to date has amounted to the sum of \$290m. Seventeen (17) roads are still remaining to be completed and are at various stages of completion.

## **2018/2019 Programme**

A total of 109 are targeted for rehabilitation under the programme for the financial year 2018/2019, totaling 166 km. The budgeted amount for the implementation of this programme is estimated at J\$729m.

## **5. Production Incentive Programme (PIP)**

### **Planned Targets**

Programme Goals and Objectives:

The Programme was developed to incrementally increase the production and productivity of small and medium size farm families /farmers across Jamaica.

A total of 15,000 farmers /farm families were targeted to benefit during the financial year 2017/2018, with support from 450: ¼ acre drip irrigation systems; 10,000 bags of fertiliser, 6000 bags of Irish potato seeds, 10,000 units of vegetable seeds and 10,000 units of agro-pesticides.

Targeted outcomes: Increase the production of the beneficiaries by 5% and productivity by a minimum of 2%.

### **Achievements**

The Authority has received J\$160m to date to advance the stated objectives and goals. This dollar amount represents 64% of the programme projects for the financial year 2017/2018. As a result, the programme outputs have been revised to address the funding limitations. Notwithstanding this, the PIP has benefitted 12,217 farmers, with a total of J\$197,743,400 committed to date.

This impact has resulted in:

- A total of 610 hectares of Irish potato being planted as of February 2018, involving 2,387 farmers;
- 30 farmers benefitting from ¼ acre drip irrigation systems,
- 40 livestock farmers benefitting from climate smart animal husbandry systems

- Distribution of pesticides and vegetable seeds to aid eight thousand farmers (8,000) affected by torrential rains of mid to late 2017.
- Additionally, special aid to 2,000 coffee farmers affected by torrential rain

## **6. Agro- Processing Incubators**

### **Background**

The Social Services/Home Economics Unit (SS/HE Unit) within RADA forms an integral part of the Extension Delivery System. It integrates the needs, interest and potentialities of rural women and youth into the design of training programmes, projects and activities aimed at enhancing their quality of life and that of their families and communities. Training focuses on the development of their social, economic, as well as intellectual well-being.

Stemming from the work done with these families several products have been developed over the years. Some persons have been able to do small-scale production within their homes however, have been unable to access the wider markets due to a lack of suitable processing space for food safety and not being able to produce the volumes required to satisfy the market demands.

It was against this background that the RADA requested the assistance of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) to establish seven (7) Incubator Processing Facility (IPF) across the parishes. At the onset, there were difficulties in identifying suitable land spaces and as a result some parishes were not able to benefit under this project, while others identified spaces too late and as such could not have been included in the project implementation.

### **Beneficiaries**

The incubators are intended to create jobs, benefit farmers with a reliable market and satisfy consumers with value-added convenience foods and other products made from local raw materials. The facilities will also provide an alternative to deter import of similar items. RADA will provide technical assistance and guidance to persons and groups engaged in agro processing who require a HACCP-compliant facility. RADA will also use the Agro- Processing Incubators to provide training and will be directly engaged in production for product development and demonstrations when the facility is not in use, thus guaranteeing 100% utilization of the facility.

### **Project Outcomes**

Microprocessors will increase their volume of production and enter the wider market with their products. In the future, they are expected to transition into the export markets.

### **Expected Duration**

The duration of the operation is expected to be continuous. Clients will be able to expand their markets and continue to increase their volume of production. Through promotion activities, the operation will be able to attract new processors for its sustainability.

### **Collaborating Entities**

Other entities that will be collaborating with RADA include:

- Bureau of Standards Jamaica
- Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC)
- Public Health Department
- Scientific Research Council (SRC)
- Social Development Commission (SDC)
- Jamaica 4-H Clubs

### **Marketing Arrangements**

The processors are responsible to market their products, however, some assistance will be provided by a JSIF-contracted company. The SS/HE Unit and Incubator Manager will also provide support in this area.

Promotional activities will be assisted by JSIF. Other promotional exercises will be assisted by the RADA SS/HE and Public Relation and Communication Units.

### **Products**

These will include herbs, spices, sweet and savoury preserves, pickles, juices, sauces, confectionaries, etc.

### **Achievements 2017/2018**

To date seven (7) agro-processing facilities sited in the parishes of St Catherine, St Elizabeth, St Mary, St James, Trelawny, Hanover and Westmoreland have been completed. The period also saw the official launch and handover of the St. Elizabeth Agro-Processing Incubator, which was carried out on June 29, 2017. These facilities have been funded by The World Bank, through the JSIF REDI Project, at a cost of \$241,255,576. The facilities will provide a food safe environment for processors at the community level to increase their production to reach the wider market.

Each facility has also been equipped with high-quality equipment to meet all the required standards (PHI, BSJ, etc.). The logistics for each processor to pay a user fee charged per hour was also worked out. All the relevant training for RADA SS/HE staff and the community processors has already been completed. Follow-up training is ongoing by the RADA parish staff.

An estimated 80 processors within ten (10) parishes have been sensitized and are ready for production.

### **Plans 2018/2019**

It is expected that initiation of the operations will start with the facility in St Elizabeth for the 2018/ 2019. The necessary certifications are being processed and plans are being made to ensure complete compliance. A total of 110 products are projected to be processed, once all the facilities become operational. It is expected that fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices will be processed in these facilities. High allergen foods such as meats and milk, etc., which will easily cause cross-contamination will not be accommodated. The majority of beneficiaries' form part of the RADA Social Services/Home Economics groups within the parishes that have been trained by the RADA staff. There are also several independent persons who await the use of the facilities as their homes and other places are deemed not suitable for processing or they lack the required equipment.

It is proposed that the initial start-up cost for all seven (7) facilities will amount to approximately J\$35m.



## **Principal Focus for FY2018/2019**

### **Field Services**

- Farmer Training /Farmer Field School Expansion
- Agro- Processing Incubators
- Irish Potato Production Programme
- Onion Development Programme
- Strawberry Production Initiative
- Livestock Development Programme (Small Ruminants)
- Marketing / Post Harvest
- Production Incentive Programme

### **Technical Services**

- Plant Health/Food Safety
- Drone Technology for Agriculture
- Farm Road Maintenance Programme
- Soil Conservation/ Land Husbandry
- Tractor Service /Farm Mechanization Programme
- Protected Agriculture
- Crop Care
- Mainstreaming of Gender and Climate Change into Operations

### **Corporate Services:**

- Improved Corporate Governance Standards
- Continuous Staff Training Programme
- Employee Retention and Promotion Programme
- PR and Communications Programme
- Infrastructural Development
  - Parish Offices (Hanover, Westmoreland)
  - Areas Offices
- Income-Generating and Cost-Saving Initiative

## **TRADE BOARD LIMITED (TBL)**

### **Establishment of Agency**

The Trade Board Limited is a regulatory agency which was established on December 13, 1982. The Company operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA) and the legal authority of Section 12 of the Trade Act (1955).

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To effect amendments to the Trade Act (Law 4) 1955 to reflect and define the evolving role and functions of the Trade Board Limited
- To provide secretariat services to the Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF)<sup>2</sup> of Jamaica
- To review and make recommendations to effect amendments to the Electronic Transaction Act 2007 towards the creation of a secure system for communication and conducting business over the Internet through full implementation of the Government of Jamaica Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- To participate in the integration process of the Trade Board Information System (TBIS) with other Government systems to manage trade-related transactions for border regulatory agencies (Jamaica's Single Trade Electronic Window-STEW/ASYCUDA-Automated System for Customs Data and Port Community System - PCS)
- To further assist in developing the country's trade policy framework to ensure closer monitoring of the Rules of Origin governing the nine (9) trade agreements which the agency oversees. This include the verification/re-verification of products and production processes to ensure conformity to criteria governing the abovementioned arrangements
- To increase facilitation of trade and commerce by building public awareness of the benefits available under the various trade agreements
- To develop effective procedures to regulate and monitor the importation of motor vehicles and motorized equipment and the certification/re-certification of motor vehicle dealers and auto brokers based on the amended Motor Vehicle Imports Policy 2014 (Ministry Paper 36/14)
- To create a secure system for communication and conducting business over the Internet through full implementation of the Government of Jamaica Public Key Infrastructure
- To monitor regimes for specified commodities (Refined Sugar, Milk Powder) as per Cabinet mandate
- To develop a business plan to support the financial and operational needs of the agency.

### **Planned Targets for 2017/2018**

- Cabinet Submission/Regulations to be developed pursuant to implementation of Used Motor Vehicle Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) and other provisions of the 2014 Motor Vehicle Import Policy (MVIP) - Ministry Paper 36/14.

- The design and development of the operational architecture of the Single Window completed and preparing for the next phase of the implementation framework
- At least seventy-five per cent (75%) of technical preparation/information to facilitate establishment of Jamaica Trade Information Portal (JTIP) completed.
- Eighty per cent (80%) of scrap metal registration and motor vehicle certification/re-certification services integrated with TBIS
- Set of procedures/guidelines for motor vehicle dealers developed
- Public sensitization programme conducted
- Review of organizational structure
- Training and development of staff members
- Recruitment of appropriate staff as necessary
- Development and implementation of internal policies and procedures for ISO:9001 – 2015 Quality Management Systems (QMS); training seminars/workshops and audits conducted

### **Key Achievements for 2017/2018:**

- Financial performance within budget
- **Positive net contributor to Government coffers (Tax Administration Jamaica and Accountant General's Department). Contribution to date - April 2017 to February 2018 - is \$309.71m.**
- Implementation of Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Disclosure/Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) Certification with effect from February 1, 2018
- Active and ongoing participation in the development of Single Trade Electronic Window
  - Implementation of write-offs against TBL licences in Customs ASYCUDA
  - Deepening of the integration of the Trade Board Information System (TBIS) and ASYCUDA (automatic validation of key licence fields in ASYCUDA)
- List of items requiring import and export licensing revised and circulated to the relevant stakeholders
- Active and ongoing participation in the dissemination of trade-related information to the public through collaboration via workshops/seminars.
- Ninety-eight per cent (98%) of total import/export applications issued in conformity with policy and procedures
- Eighty per cent (80%) of dealers are certified/recertified within twenty (20) days
- Training seminars conducted and preparations made for mock audits relating to ISO:9001 2015 QMS certification
- In-house training conducted regarding the procedures relating to Used Motor Vehicle Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI)
- Information from Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) certificates utilized in the processing of licences for used motor vehicles with specific reference to vehicles originating in Japan.

### **Principal Focus for 2018/2019**

- Implement Jamaica Trade Information Portal (JTIP) entailing, inter alia, establishment of a comprehensive database of trade/trade-related information in support of Trade Facilitation Initiative
- Continue in role as lead agency for Market Access and Trade Information Cluster for National Export Strategy Phase 2 (NES 2)
- Legislative review and amendments to the Trade Act (Law 4) 1955
- Implementation of a Quality Management System (ISO:9001 2015) to enhance internal policy and operating procedures pursuant to continuous improvement
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of Used Motor Vehicle Pre-Shipment Inspection (PSI) activity including, inter alia, assessing potential expansion of Pre-Shipment Inspection to additional jurisdictions.

## 6.0 Conclusion

Throughout the medium term, the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA), will play a leading role in tackling several key interlinked constraints that continue to inhibit private-sector-led investments in the agricultural and business sectors, with the aims of enhancing the overall resilience of Jamaica's business environment, and strengthening the country's international competitiveness framework. These should result in increased production and the expansion of the capacity of the agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors to drive inclusive economic growth.

In FY2018/19, the MICAFA will continue, amend and/or expand our programmes, initiatives and projects to increase our successes. These will be pursued through two main approaches - the fostering and promotion of **Local Industrial Development and Export** and for sustainability of this development the provision of **an Enabling and Facilitating Environment** for development of local industries, businesses and the wider economy.

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**Audley Shaw, CD, M.P.**  
**Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries**  
**April 24, 2018**