



Government of Jamaica

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries



Annual Performance Report 2016 – 2017

“Achieving Growth Through Production”

May 9, 2017

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries Annual Performance Report 2016 - 2017

1.0 Purpose

The matter for tabling is the Performance report for the period April 2016 to March 2017 on the major programmes, initiatives, and project 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 (MICAFA) 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. Of equal importance is the role of the Ministry in facilitating and encouraging the growth and development of manufacturing and distribution; and in contributing to the strengthening of an environment supportive of business growth and development and of trade facilitation. This supportive environment will lead to strong private sector-led manufacturing and services sectors.

In seeking to drive local production and provide an enabling business environment, MICAFA has a critical role in facilitating the expansion, productivity and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jamaica. It is estimated that ninety percent (90%) of new employment stems from the MSME sector and that there is a direct correlation between MSME growth and inclusive economic growth. As such, MSME development is essential for **inclusive economic growth and job creation**. MICAFA, is therefore, challenged to improve financing opportunities and options; increase access to markets; strengthen linkages among the productive sectors along the value chain and provide business development support for the MSME sector.

All this means that there is 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 poles 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 2017 ranked Jamaica 67 of 190 countries, which was two places lower than 2015. However, in the subcategory, Paying Taxes, Jamaica improved by 39 places to rank 116. Jamaica also improved its ranking in the Trading Across borders category moving two places to 131. Despite falling six places to 12th position, Jamaica remained as the

best ranked country in Latin America and the Caribbean, for Starting a Business. As it related to competitiveness, the Global Competitiveness Report 2016/2017, which assesses the competitiveness landscape of 138 economies, ranked Jamaica 75 of 138 countries.

3.0 Overview of 2016 Performance of Key Sectors

In FY2016/17, the MICAF and its portfolio Departments and Agencies implemented programmes, initiatives and projects that will facilitate “... **innovative, sustainable and internationally competitive industries in agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing and services sectors**” (MICAF’s Vision 2017-2021). This was demonstrated in the calendar year 2016 performance of the agricultural, manufacturing and distributive trade sectors.

In calendar year 2016, the preliminary estimate for growth in the agricultural, manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors is 12.8 % and 0.2 % and 0.4%, respectively.

3.1 The Agricultural Sector

The year 2016 marked a year of renewed growth for the Agricultural sector. The sector underwent consecutive years of marginal declines between 2013 and 2015, due to hurricane Sandy and severe drought; however, in 2016 the sector grew by approximately 12.8%, driven by gains in Domestic Crops (17%); Poultry meat (11.5 %); Pork (38.9%); Eggs (16.2%); Coffee (28.8%); Banana (7.1%); Coconut (22.8%) and Cocoa (5.5%).

In addition to better weather conditions, targeted interventions and expanding infrastructure within the sector, as well as increasing linkages with other sectors of the economy, were drivers of this resurgence within the agriculture sector.

Sugar cane had its well-publicized challenges, and declined by 26.1%.

Domestic Agricultural Crops which include legumes, vegetables, fruits, condiments, cereals, plantains, potatoes, yams, other tubers and sorrel, recorded four quarters of growth (2.0 %, 13.9 %, 43.0 % and 19.2 % respectively). These contributed to an overall sub-sector growth of 17 % for the calendar year 2016.

With the exception of sugar cane, most of the other traditional crops recorded growth for the calendar year. Better prices and renewed interest in coffee drove production up by 28.8%. The coconut subsector recovered from the drought of 2015 and with the production support activities by the Coconut Board, grew by 22.8 %. Banana production continues to grow reflecting a production increase of 7.1 %. Although affected by the Frosty Pod disease during the year, cocoa still managed to record an increase in production of 5.5%.

Poultry meat production for 2016 was approximately 126 million kilograms, up by 11.4% over the 113 million kilograms produced in 2015. This was accompanied by approximately 16 % decline in the imports of chicken neck and back.

Egg production for 2016 was 174 million, up from the 150 million produced in 2015. The country continues to maintain full self-sufficiency in table egg production. The year also saw

sustained exports to the Eastern Caribbean for the first time, with several containers leaving the island monthly, amounting to in excess of three million eggs for the year.

Pork-production increased by 38.9 % to 9.9 million kg, the highest level of production ever achieved. Milk-production increased by 1.5%, from 11.9 million litres to 12.1 million litres.

Preliminary estimates for the production of meat from small ruminants (sheep and goats) and beef show that the production of small ruminant meat went up from 0.89 million kg in 2015 to 1.0 million kg in 2016, an increase of 12.4 %; while beef production was basically flat, moving from 7.6 million kg to 7.7 million kg, an increase of 1.3 %.

Employment

Employment in the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing Industries declined by 6,625 to 195,450 persons. This reflected declines in the number of males employed within the industry by 12,450 to 150,575 persons, as the number of females employed within the industry increased by 5,825 to 44,875 persons. Despite the decline in total employment within the industry, real value added for the industry grew by 13.5%, as output per worker increased by 17.3%.

Select Policy Initiatives

- Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Act¹
- Food Security Initiatives²
- Agro-Parks Development Programme³
- Clean Seed Programme⁴

3.2 The Manufacturing Sector

Real value added for the Manufacturing industry grew by 0.2 per cent and accounted for approximately 8.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product in 2016. This outcome resulted from growth in production from **Food, Beverages & Tobacco** sub-industry. For 2016, real value added for Food, Beverages & Tobacco was estimated to have increased by 1.1 per cent relative to 2015. 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 declined by 0.9 per cent relative to 2015. The performance was attributable to the output of the Petroleum Products sub-category which was lower compared to 2015. In contrast, there was increased output from the **Non Metallic Minerals, Rubber and Plastic Products** and **Chemical and Chemical Products** sub categories.

Employment

The Manufacturing industry employment level increased to 77 500 persons compared with 72 975 persons for 2015. The industry's share of the total employed labour force was 6.6 per cent relative to 6.4 per cent for 2015. Increased employment of both males and females contributed

¹ For details see page 8

² For details see page 39

³ For details see page 43

⁴ For details see page 48

to the higher employment level. The average number of males employed in the industry was 51 575 compared with 49 850 persons for 2015. The average number of females employed was 25 925, which was 12.1 per cent higher than 2015.

Select Policy Initiatives

- Development of the MSME sector⁵
- Development of the Manufacturing Sector Strategy⁶
- Revision of National Quality Policy ⁷

3.3 The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Sector

Preliminary GCT returns data showed a decline in the number of registered firms at both the micro (down 1.9 per cent to 6 093) and small (down 0.7 per cent to 3 578) firms. The total sales from MSEs fell by 4.0 per cent to \$44.4 billion, due to reductions in sales for both micro and small enterprises. There was growth in the volume and value of loans disbursed by some entities surveyed. Disbursements by the Development Bank of Jamaica, the main wholesale lender, increased by 41.6 per cent to \$2 026.1 million. Funds made available by the DBJ are disbursed through four channels with the allocation by channel being as follows:

- Micro Finance Institutions – \$1 505.9 million, up \$584.4 million
- Approved Financial Institutions (AFI) – \$405.4 million, up \$60.2 million
- Direct – \$33.9 million, up \$17.6 million
- National Peoples Co-operative Bank (NPCB) – \$80.9 million, down \$66.9 million.

Employment

The average number of employed Own Account Workers increased relative to 2015. There was an increase of 1.2 per cent in the average number of employed Own Account Workers to 417 700 persons. This improvement stemmed from an increase in the average employed number females in the Own Account Worker category which grew by 12 100 to 152 975.

Select Policy Initiatives

- Revision of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) Policy ⁸
- Establishment of the MSME Office at MICAFA in 2016⁹.
- Revision of the GOJ Public Procurement Regulations in collaboration with MOFP¹⁰
- Development of a Thematic Working Group (TWG)¹¹

⁵ For details see page 23

⁶ For details see page 21

⁷ For details see page 8

⁸ For details see page 8

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The Wholesale and Retail Sector

The Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair and Installation of Machinery industry (WRTRIM) recorded growth in real value added of 0.4 per cent and accounted for 17.4 per cent of overall Gross Domestic Product (Figure 1). Growth was bolstered by:

- improvement in the related Construction, Manufacture and Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries industries
- a 7.6 per cent real increase in remittances
- an increase in the stock of Loans & Advances to consumers
- an improvement in the annual average employment of 36 375 individuals
- a 32.9 per cent increase in the annual average Consumer Confidence Index
- a 14.9 per cent increase in the annual average Business Confidence Index.
- an increase in the stock of Loans & Advances to distributors
- higher volume (9.4 per cent) and real value (21.1 per cent) of Automated Banking Machine (ABM) and Point of Sale (POS) transactions.

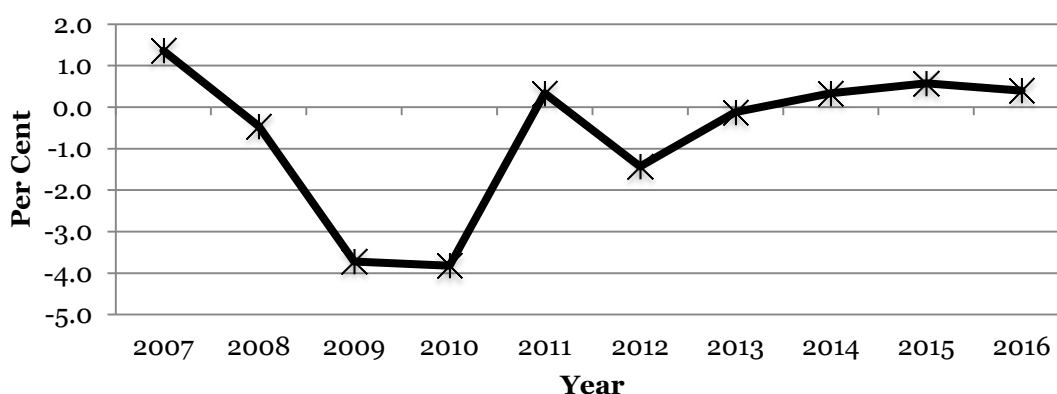


Figure 1: Real value added growth rate of Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair and Installation of Machinery Industry, 2007–2016

Analysis of preliminary General Consumption Tax (GCT) data revealed that six of the eight goods categories recorded higher sales compared with 2015 (Table 1). Of the six that increased Motor Vehicles, Auto Repairs & Accessories (18.8 per cent); Pharmaceuticals, Medical Goods & Cosmetics (10.8 per cent); and Textiles, Clothing, Shoes & Jewellery (7.6 per cent) recorded the largest expansion rates.

¹¹ For details see page 23

TABLE 1				
GROWTH IN GROSS SALES IN WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR & INSTALLATION OF MACHINERY, 2015-2016				
Goods Category	Sales Growth (%)		Per Cent of Sales (%)	
	2015r	2016p	2015r	2016p
Motor Vehicles, Auto Repairs & Accessories	19.1	18.8	8.2	10.1
Minerals, Fuels, Lubricants & Petroleum Products	-7.6	2.0	21.1	22.8
Wholesale & Repair of Household Goods & Office Equipment	9.1	4.1	9.2	10.0
Agriculture, Food, Beverages & Tobacco	0.7	-3.9	20.0	16.3
Textiles, Clothing, Shoes & Jewellery	8.3	7.6	1.2	1.4
Hardware, Building Supplies, Electrical Goods & Machinery	6.4	1.4	8.2	8.7
Pharmaceuticals, Medical Goods & Cosmetics	7.6	10.8	3.2	3.7
Other Wholesale & Retail Sale of Goods & Services in Specialized & Non-Specialized Stores	1.6	-2.3	27.3	27.6
TOTAL			100	100
p - preliminary				
r-revised				
Source: Estimated based on GCT data from Tax Administration of Jamaica				

Employment

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)¹²
- Revision and publication of the Brown Cane Sugar Standard (JS102:2016)¹³

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:

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4.1 Policy and Legislative Programme

The Ministry seeks to formulate and review policies and legislation in accordance with the objectives and goals of the Vision 2030. The policies and legislation support the Ministry's strategic priorities to facilitate an enabling planning, legislative, regulatory and policy framework. This is to ensure food security, sustainable use of agricultural land & 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 2016/2017

Policies

The Planned targets for 2016/17 were to develop and submit to Cabinet for approval:

a) Livestock Policy

The goal of the Livestock Development Policy is to address the challenges facing the sector as it relates to the farm animal genetic resources; nutrition and feeding; zoonotic control; value chain development, and the livestock support services of extension and research and development.

b) Youth in Agriculture Policy (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 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 clear pathways for transition and sustainability. The objectives of the policy are to provide a framework for:

- The creation of a strategic plan for youth involvement in the sector
- Creation of specific guidelines for access to land and other resources
- Youth participation in the sector's policy decisions
- Youth in agriculture education
- Coordination of rural and agriculture youth related activities
- Funding for rural youth and agriculture related programmes

c) 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.

d) National Consumer Policy

The National Consumer Policy will contribute to the promotion and protection of consumer/provider interests in relation to the supply of goods and the provision of services and; an increase in vigilance on the part of consumers so empowering them to make better informed decisions.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

Policies

a) Approval of the National Seed Policy and Plan by Cabinet.

The goal of the policy is to establish a sustainable seed system that ensures a consistent and reliable supply of clean, affordable and accessible seed in support of agricultural production, productivity, food security and biodiversity.

b) Approval of the National Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan by Cabinet.

The Action Plan will provide the road map to achieving the objectives of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy thus improving the food and nutrition security situation within the country. The goals of the NFNSAP are to:

- Promote the sustainable production of safe, affordable, nutritious, good quality Jamaican food commodities/products;
- Ensure access of households and individuals to sufficient, nutritious affordable food at all times;
- Promote nutritionally adequate, safe, affordable dietary intakes and other positive lifestyle behaviours throughout the life course; and
- Improve the food and nutrition security resilience of the national community to natural and socio-economic shocks and climate change.

c) Completion of final Draft Concept Paper for the National Consumer Policy and National Quality Policy

Legislation

- I. **The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority Act:** The Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament and is to be gazetted. The Act seeks to create a regulatory body that would replace the Coffee Industry Board, Cocoa Industry Board and the regulatory functions of the Coconut Industry Board and also absorb the Export Division of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries in relation to nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and pimento (spices).
- II. **The Fisheries Act:** The finalized Bill was submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber for approval and will be advanced to the Legislation Committee. The amendment to this Act seeks to repeal and replace the existing Act for the better management of the Fishing Industry.
- III. The ***Animals (Diseases and Importation) (Marking of Bovine Animals) Regulations, 2015*** was promulgated on December 22, 2016. The finalized Bill was submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber for approval. This legislation mandates ear-tagging of all bovine animals with the corresponding requirement of bovine passports for each animal required for movement of the same, for the purpose of traceability.
- IV. ***The Agricultural Loan Societies and Approved Organization Bill, 2017*** was approved at the Legislative Committee meeting held on March 27, 2017 for introduction in both Houses of Parliament. The Bill seeks to repeal the Agricultural Credit Board Act and *inter alia*, to transfer monitoring and inspection functions of the Agricultural Credit Board to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies and wind up the operations of the Board; to provide for registration and regulation of agricultural loan societies by or under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the certification of approvals.
- V. **The Companies (Amendment) Bill – Global Forum amendments:** The Bill was finalized and submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber for approval. The Bill is to be submitted to the Legislative Committee thereafter. The objective of the amendment is to bring Jamaica into 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.
- VI. **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.

VII. **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 review and for submission to the Legislation 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 Geographical Indications Act and Regulations*** Further drafting instructions were submitted to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel in March 2017. 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.
- d. ***Copyright (Licensing Bodies) Regulations*** are being developed to make provision for licensing bodies, otherwise referred to as collective management organizations (CMOs), to operate copyright licensing schemes. Consultations with the CMOs and other stakeholders are currently being undertaken. The consultations are being facilitated by the Ministry in collaboration with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO).

VIII. ***Other key activities undertaken in 2016/17:***

- 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 key stakeholders in the development of the Fisheries Bill
- 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. Consultation with key stakeholders in the development of the Protection of New Plant Varieties Bill and Regulations
- f. Consultation with key stakeholders in the development of intellectual property legislation

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

In 2017/18, the Ministry will seek to develop and submit to Cabinet for Approval:

- **Youth in Agriculture Policy**
The Ministry will seek to complete and submit to Cabinet for approval the Youth in Agriculture Policy.
- **Revised Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Policy**
The reviewed policy will refocus on the development of the micro, small and medium sized enterprises and refined the programmatic areas of business development support and capacity building, fostering 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 three (3) year implementation plan (reviewable) and a monitoring and evaluation framework will be added to the policy. The Policy is currently in final draft and it is anticipated that the revised Policy and attendant Implementation Plan will receive Cabinet Approval within the 1st quarter of FY2017/18.
- **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 submit to Cabinet for approval.
- **Revised National Quality Policy**
It is anticipated that the Ministry will submit the National Quality Policy 2017 to Cabinet early in the new FY and thereafter tabled in Parliament.
- **National Consumer Policy**
A concept paper is completed and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval. It is anticipated that a Draft National Consumer Policy will be completed for stakeholder consultation.
- **National Industrial Policy**
The Ministry will embark on the revision of the National Industrial Policy.
- **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 to be passed during the legislative year:

- **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
- **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.

- ***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.

- ***Patents and Designs Bill***

To replace and repeal Patents Act and the Design Act, in order to fulfil all the provisions of the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the USA/Jamaica Bilateral Treaty on Intellectual Property.

Regulations to be passed during legislative year:

- Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority Regulations (Spices, Coffee, Cocoa and Coconut)
- Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Regulations
- Motor Vehicle Import Regulations
- Copyright (Licensing Bodies) Regulations
- Fair Competition Act (Merger provisions)
- The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Regulations
- Fisheries Regulations
- Trade Mark Rules
- Companies Record Management Rules

Amendments to existing Acts/Legislation:

- ***Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act***

The Act is to facilitate importation, trade, storage etc. of animals and animal products with regard to safety and minimising the effect of disease.

- ***Agricultural Produce Act***

The Act is to strengthen and modernize this legislation for the purpose of effectively regulating movement of agricultural produce (traceability of agricultural produce from farm to fork).

- ***Companies (Amendment) Bill***

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

1. Incorporate and amend definitions to provide greater clarity
2. Improve provisions in relation to the incorporation of companies
3. Revise provisions in relation to Mutual Fund Companies
4. Address the transfer of shares
5. Improve provisions in relation to company meetings and proceedings

- ***Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill***

The Act is 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.

- ***Registration of Business Name Act***
To streamline the process by which the Registrar exercises discretion in relation to the registration of business names, etc.
- ***Protection of Geographical Indications Bill***
To ensure effective legal protection of geographical indications
- ***The Processed Food Act***
The Act is being amended to allow provisions for the requirement of “Export Certificate” to be replaced with “Distribution” Certificate. The Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) has indicated that it cannot incorporate the Export Certificate component of the *PFA* into ASYCUDA, and both agencies (BSJ and JCA) having consulted with each other have jointly recommended the immediate removal of the provisions relating to export certificates.
- ***Facilities for Titles Act***
To amend the Act 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
- ***Amendment of the Veterinary Act***
The Act is to be amended 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.
- ***The Plant Quarantine and Inspection Act***
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; and to repeal the Plants (Quarantine) Act.
- ***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.
- ***The Fair Competition Act***
To improve efficacy of the FTC in fulfilling its duties, including-
 - I. Restructuring the FTC to include an independent Tribunal with responsibility to adjudicate matters investigated by the Commission and hear appeals;
 - II. Allowing the Act to apply to all markets and industries, except where specifically exempted by another law; and
 - III. Generally, update the Act to ensure conformity with best practices in the markets with which the FTC is concerned.
- ***Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Act***
The amendment includes the following:
 - I. To increase the powers of FSPID inspectors to include:

- a) The right to seize equipment, related to any article to which the Act applies, which are defective.
 - b) 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.
- II. To amend certain definitions to give effect to new Provisions.
 - III. To allow the FSPID to pass the costs associated with removal, storage and/or destruction of infested or contaminated commodities to the offending party.
 - IV. To remove the powers that the FSPID has for licensing pest control operations in food areas but retain powers to certification of such activities.

4.2 Sugar Transformation Programme

In 2006, in response to changes to the European Union Sugar Regime, including a 36 per cent reduction in the price paid for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) sugar entering the EU market, the Government of Jamaica approved a strategy to restructure the sugar cane sector. The revised Jamaica Country Strategy for the Adaptation of the Sugar Industry: 2006 to 2020, approved in 2008, Phase II – *Revised Sugar Area Development Programme (SADP II)* - is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries through the Sugar Transformation Unit.

Aims and Objectives

To coordinate the effective implementation of the Revised Jamaica Country Strategy for the Adaptation of the Sugar Industry 2006-2020: to mitigate against the anticipated fallout from the preferential treatment of sugar. The three major components of the Revised JCS are:

- **Component 1:** *Strengthening the Commercial Competitiveness of the Sugar Cane Sector*
- **Component 2:** *Socio-Economic Development of the Sugar Dependent Areas*
- **Component 3:** *Support to National Policy Environment*

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Completion of AMS 2013 year 2 activities as per Financing Agreement by September 30, 2016; these include:
 - A minimum of 1,400 hectares (ha) replanted between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - The rehabilitation of a minimum of 80 Kilometres of feeder roads included in the agreed list is completed between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - A minimum of 80 socio-economic infrastructure projects as per agreed list are completed between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - An additional J\$ 100.0 M is injected into the SADP Training Fund between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - The SADP training Fund supported at least 600 persons living in SDAs in receiving training certificates/diplomas through Vocational and Educational Training and business advisory programmes between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - At least eighty (80) people trained under the SADP Training Fund have established small enterprises/businesses through loans, grants and technical assistance from the Training Fund between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - At least 300 Ha of cane production are set-up to use Green Cane Harvesting as a harvesting methodology between 01 Oct 2015 to 30 Sept 2016
 - A minimum of 300 Ha of additional drip and/or overhead (centre pivot) irrigation is funded and installed by independent farmers in the period between 01 Oct 2016 to 30 Sept 2017

- Prepare reports for submission to the Delegation of the European Union for assessment and disbursement of grant funds to the Government of Jamaica by end of the financial year.
- Prepare relevant close out documents for the project.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- The Sugar Transformation Programme was granted an extension of time from September 30, 2016 to September 30, 2017, with revision of targets to include activities relevant to improve the sugar industry and an increase of funding from €11M to €15M to be received upon fulfilment of agreed targets.
- 67.92km of 80.40km of cane roads rehabilitated in Sugar Dependent Areas.
- More than 1,210 of the projected 2,500 metric tonnes (MT) of packaged & bagged sugar exported by Golden Grove (1,145mt packaged and bagged) and Jamaica Cane Product Sales (65.9mt packaged only).
- A mandatory standard for the packaging and labelling of sugar for the retail trade was gazetted on December 31, 2016.
- Seven (7) socio economic projects completed sixty-eight (68) in progress and thirty-four (34) at varying stages between proposal writing and grant agreement stage.
- J\$150M was injected into the Training Fund
- Over 820 residents of Sugar Dependent Areas participated in vocational skills training courses offered by Heart Trust NTA. Over 500 are certified at the NVQL level; certification ongoing.
- Over Forty (40) certified beneficiaries received grants ranging from \$466k to \$1M to establish businesses in Sugar Dependent Areas. Businesses are in operation. For the second phase of the programme, one hundred and one (101) applicants have been shortlisted for business establishment.
- Approximately 120 hectares of canes harvested using the Green Cane Harvesting Methodology (chopper harvester and manual cut) in St. Catherine and Clarendon.
- Injection of over J\$200M into the Cane Expansion Fund to facilitate the planting of cane and for the installation of drip irrigation on farms. Approvals granted for over 280ha of cane to be outfitted with drip irrigation.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- Complete agreed activities for year 2 of the AMS2013 Financing Agreement by September 30, 2017.
- Prepare reports for submission to the Delegation of the European Union for assessment and disbursement of grant funds to the Government of Jamaica by end of the financial year
- Provide guidance for consultancy relating to the revision in the cane payment formula (recommendation of the Wint Commission of 2011) and the development of an economic and financial model for the sugar industry to include the production of ethanol.
- Prepare relevant close out documents for the project.

4.3 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 2016/17 are detailed below:

4.3.1 Commerce Division

Aims and Objectives

The overall focus of the Division is to develop policies that facilitate commerce and govern how business and trade activities are conducted within Jamaica.

The Division has responsibility to design, recommend and implement policies, strategies, legislations and programmes that will ensure a stable, competitive and transparent commercial environment which balances the interests of domestic and regional producers, importers, retailers and consumers.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Revision of the policy for the importation of used tyres
- Monitor specific industries and levels of imports
- Monitor selected commodities to ensure consistent and quality supplies of basic items to meet the demands of the market
- Intensify the support to the business sector
- Improve the policy support provided to the portfolio agencies
- Strategic review of portfolio agencies
- Increase the use of regional and international measures to improve domestic trade and exports
- Build and strengthen the capacities of exporters and manufacturers in targeted areas
- Expand the commerce databases; strengthen the linkages with other data providers and the application of data and data analysis.

Key Achievements for 2016/2017

- Enactment of the Trade (Prohibition of Importation) (Used Tyres) (No. 2) Order allowing for the importation of used tyres specifically for the sugar and agricultural sectors
- Successfully negotiated:
 - the duty free re-entry of poultry feed from Jamaica to Guyana
 - the re-export of Jamaican patties to Belize
 - the correct tariff classification for liquid sugar and plantation white sugar as an additional safeguard against imported products
- Facilitated sixty-four (64) import licences for importation of cement into Jamaica
- Provided business facilitation support to fifty-five (55) companies and individuals

- Processed eighty (80) 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 USD\$143,000,358
- Facilitated forty-two (42) safeguard applications 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
- Facilitated the approval of sixty (60) licences issued, seventy (70) notices of exemption and fifteen (15) extensions of exemption were approved in keeping with the statutory obligations under the Companies Act.
- One thousand five hundred and twenty-five (1,525) work permit applications were reviewed, one thousand two hundred and twenty-six (1,226) recommended for approval, two hundred and eighty-seven (287) deferred and twelve (12) refused
- Compulsory packaging and labelling requirements for brown cane sugar

Major Focus/Priority Programmes for 2017/2018

- Advance the implementation of the Pre-Shipment Inspection Certification requirement under the 2014 Motor Vehicle Import Policy
- Comprehensive Review of the Common External Tariff and Rules of Origin under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas
- Implementation of the compulsory packaging and labelling requirement for all types of sugar
- Finalize policy considerations with respect to the prohibition on the importation of all used tyres
- Activate the use of the CARICOM Interactive Market Place to increase exports
- Improve data capacity
- Management of CARICOM Monitoring Mechanisms
- Monitoring and Management of Commodity Imports
- Capacity building Programme for commercial and agricultural sectors
- e-Commerce facilitation
- Represent the issues of the commercial sector in regional and international fora
- Redesign the distributive trade arrangement to provide greater support in addressing the needs and challenges of stakeholders
- 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

4.3.2 Industry Division

Aims and Objectives

- To develop an enabling business environment which fosters and supports the establishment, survival and growth of manufacturing enterprises
- To increase the number of manufacturers and service providers who meet relevant international and domestic standards and accreditation
- To create a conducive business environment and requisite infrastructure that can adequately support the growth of the services sector
- To ensure the development and implementation of action plans for the manufacturing and services sectors as well as new/emerging industries
- To improve and streamline business facilitation systems
- To support industrial export development and expansion

Major Activities during FY2016/2017

- Peckham Bamboo Pre-Processing Project – Worked with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) through its Community Renewal Program as well as the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) to undertake the Peckham Bamboo Pre-processing project funded by the Organization of American States (OAS). The main objective of the project is for Jamaica to be producing and exporting by 2018 at least one bamboo bi-product (bamboo charcoal), through putting into production 40 hectares of land, training, and increasing employment opportunities. It is expected that this sector, once fully developed, will increase cross-border trade, diversify the economic base, and drive economic growth.
- Manufacturing Sector – continued to process applications for Manufacturing Status in order for companies to access fiscal incentives, specifically duty relief on productive inputs, under the Omnibus Regime.
- Scrap Metal Trade - processed applications for special permit for the export of restricted items under the Trade (Scrap Metal) Regulations, 2013.
A ban was placed on the export of copper material with effect from February 9, 2017. This was occasioned by the frequently reported theft of telecommunications service provider cables.
- Free Zone Secretariat/ Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Support – served as the technical secretariat for the Free Zone Council, which required it to process applications and administer the movement of items from the free zones. The Free Zone Act was repealed by the SEZ Act on August 1, 2016. All files relating to the Free Zones have been subsequently transferred to the SEZ Authority.
- National Export Strategy (NES II) - provided secretariat support for the NES II. MICAF has been designated lead on managing the implementation of strategies for the Agro-processing Cluster

- National Industrial Strategy - to increase the exposure of manufacturers to relevant and innovative production technologies as a foundation for internationally competitive industry structures.

Key Achievements for 2016/2017

- Provided Secretariat support for the National Export Strategy Phase II (NES II);
- Continued development of the framework to support and facilitate the growth and development of the bamboo industry;
- Completed and submitted Cabinet Submission for proposed implementation of a one-year pilot Alternative Development Programme geared towards transitioning current illicit ganja farmers into the regulated industry;
- Initiated the clean-up of illegally stored scrap metal debris on Spanish Town Road;
- Facilitated the export of 1,855 containers weighing approximately 34,027 tonnes and valuing Freight On Board (FOB) price of US \$7,752,009, for the period April 1, 2016 to March 17, 2017;
- Referred 231 applications for manufacturing status and packaging renewal letters to the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA). 82 joint site inspections were conducted with JCA and MICAFA to determine if applicants satisfy Manufacturing Status criteria. The number of manufacturers benefitting from the Productive Inputs Relief (PIR) Facility currently stands at approximately 371.

Principal Focus for FY 2016/2017

- Further Development of the Cannabis and Hemp Regime - Development of a Cannabis Policy; Transition of Traditional Ganja Farmers into the Regulated Cannabis Regime
- Further implementation of the Bamboo Products Industry Project- Development of a Bamboo Policy
- Improve data collection and analysis mechanism for the Productive Sectors
- Continue to support the development of the Manufacturing Sector consistent with the Omnibus Incentive Regime including embarking on a drive to sensitize and increase utilization of the PIR Facility
- Collaborate with external stakeholders to improve and expand capacity building programs, as well as access to financial resources for the Productive Sector
- Continue to provide technical support and strategic leadership to the National Export Strategy (NES) Secretariat and National Competitiveness Council (NCC) in implementation of the NES Phase II, and advancing the Business Environment Reform Agenda (BERA)
- Strengthening the monitoring and institutional development of assigned agencies
- Continue to improve the operational efficiency of the Industry Division

4.3.3 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Division

Aims and Objectives

To facilitate the development of a policy environment that will meet the GOJ vision of “inclusive growth” with a vibrant MSME sector making a contribution to sustainable employment and income generation.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Permanent establishment of the MSME Division in MICAFA as the focal point for MSME policy related issues.
- Complete limited review of the MSME & Entrepreneurship Policy (2013).
- Establish framework for national consultation.
- MSMEs agenda integrated in other critical local and regional development programs.
- Complete assessment of the SBDC Model Phase I and II.
- Complete policy recommendations with regards to the realignment and rationalisation of the Self Start Fund (SSF), Micro Investment Development Agency (MIDA).
- Regularisation of the operations of the Coordinating & Monitoring Unit in MICAFA.
- Complete Business Mentorship Programme.
- Complete ‘Catalogue of MSME Initiatives’ on the MICAFA website

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- Received approval from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on December 12, 2016 to establish the MSME Office as a permanent Division of MICAFA in the GOJ Establishment Act.
- Completed technical review of the MSME & Entrepreneurship Policy
- Provided comments to the final draft of the CARICOM Regional MSME Policy within the COTED deadline of December 31st 2016.
- Advocated for MSME inclusion in Public Procurement Offset Regulations at the Economic Growth Council (EGC) Procurement Working Group.
- Provided three rounds of comments on the draft Micro Credit Bill
- Completed assessment of SBDC Phase I and Phase II.
- Received Cabinet approval for the closure of SSF. All seven staff members were provided with notices of redundancy in FY 16/17.
- Completed review of the operations of the Secured Transaction Framework over the period 2014 – 2016.
- Regularised all CMU accounts and completed a procurement tender process for auditors. A five (5) year audit of the CMU commenced in 2016 and is still underway.
- Completed Concept Note in March 2017 on the reshaping of MIDA.
- Prepared Concept Note in March 2017 on the development of a secondary market under the Secured Transactions Regime.

- Submitted Cabinet Notes on the Annual Reports for MIDA, JBDC and SSF during FY 2016/17
- Represented MICAFA on (i) Linkages Council; (ii) MSME Financing Sub Committee of the Financial Inclusion Strategy (FIS) as well as (iii) JBDC (iv) MIDA (v) Self Start Fund (vi) Trade Board and (vii) Start Up Jamaica Boards.
- Commenced recruitment and staffing for the formal MSME Division.
- Established MSME Thematic Working Group in June 2016 in collaboration with PIOJ and hosted three quarterly meetings.
- Finalized MOU with the SBAJ to host the Caribbean MSME Conference.
- Submitted Cabinet Submission and Revised Concept Paper on Dormant Funds to Cabinet March 2017.
- Received approval for Cabinet Submission on the transfer of lands to JBDC.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- Completing the staffing of the MSME Division by June 30th 2017.
- Tabling of the Revised MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy as White Paper
- Commencing/ramping-up Implementation of the revised MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy
- Launching of the reshaped and refocused MIDA by September 2017.
- Finalizing closure of the Coordinating and Monitoring Unit (CMU) by December 2017.
- Finalizing closure and liquidation of the SSF.
- Establishing and operationalizing Phase One of the network model for business advisory services.
- Designing and implementing framework for data collection on the MSME Sector
- Providing technical support and advocacy towards the promulgation of the Micro Credit Act and Regulations by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Services.
- Working towards defining ‘formality’ of micro enterprises and explore readjusting the threshold of ‘formality’ for these enterprises.
- Building capacity of agro-processing MSMEs under the productivity incentive framework that is to be implemented.
- Executing capacity building programmes in business for farmers.
- Increasing incubator and factory space for MSMEs.
- Securing more funding for MSME projects and programmes through the writing of proposals for donor funding.
- Increasing support for social enterprises
- Developing a secondary market framework for tradeable collateral under the Secured Transactions Regime.
- Designing agreed monitoring and evaluation framework for the Secured Transactions Regime and implement programmes to increase the use of the STR by the micro sector.
- Executing the proposed MICAFA – International Finance Corporation (IFC) Cooperation Agreement to review the Secured Transactions Regime and develop recommendations and solutions to enhance and institutionalize the capacity of the STR to finance MSMEs.

- Designing and implementing a national MSME mentorship programme
- Implementing and monitoring the implementation of the MSME Policy.

4.3.4 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.
- To develop a National Services Industry Policy (NSIP).

Planned Targets for 2016/17

- Trade Facilitation (TF):
 - Initiation of stakeholder consultations on technical assistance and capacity building requirements to achieve TF reforms.
 - Complete formal notification of Jamaica's timelines and needs, for the implementation of Jamaica's TF commitments, to the WTO.
 - Complete work on the development of implementation plans for the TF Project Plan.
 - Re-engage the TF Task Force and provide guidance on the execution of the Single Trade Electronic Window (STEW).
- 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 longstanding 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.
- Trade in Services: Complete research and finalize drafting of Services Concept Paper as well as initiate and complete the Draft National Services Industry Policy (NSIP). Continued engagement in discussions with JAMPRO and JCC pertaining to the transitioning of the JCSI to the JCC.
- CARICOM BTAs: Continued stakeholder consultations and coordination with the private sector on outstanding market access and rules of origin issues.

Key Achievements for 2016/17

- Trade Facilitation (TF):
 - Completed stakeholder consultations on the technical assistance and capacity building requirements to achieve TF reforms.

- Completed formal notification of Jamaica's timelines and needs, for the implementation of Jamaica's TF commitments, to the WTO.
 - Completed work on the development of implementation and monitoring plans for Outputs 4 and 5.2 of the TF Project Plan.
 - Created Steering Committee to implement reforms under Activity 2.2 and Output 5.5 of the TF Project Plan.
 - Developed Advisory Agreement between MICAF and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) for the delivery of a National Trade Information Portal in completion of Output 4 of the TF Project Plan.
 - Advanced efforts towards the execution of the Single Trade Electronic Window (STEW). Funding has been secured and a suitable platform and consultant has been identified for its implementation.
- 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 to address emerging as well as longstanding 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/Units on trade and trade-related issues.
 - Trade in Services: Completed research and prepared draft Services Concept Paper as well as draft Ministry Paper in order to initiate work on a National Services Industry Policy (NSIP). JAMPRO and JCC also completed the transitioning of the Jamaica Coalition of Services Industries (JCSI) to the JCC.
 - 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 Agreement.

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Continue work on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Reform Agenda
- Continue support on private sector issues
- Continue support and guidance on Bilateral Trade issues
- Continue coordination and consultations on Regional Trade Issues
- Continue general trade policy support to internal stakeholders

4.4 Food Health and Food Safety Programmes

Food safety is an issue of growing importance due to several world-wide trends that contribute to increasing safety risks in food systems, such as the ever 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, food service industry, trade and commerce, public health and overall economic development.

4.4.1 GLOBALGAP Certification Programme

Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of this project is to operate more efficient and integrated Agro Park by implementing the GLOBALGAP 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 2016/2017

- 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
 - 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. GLOBALGAP Awareness
 6. Documentation and Process
 7. First Aid /CPR Training
 8. Global GAP Auditor Experience
 9. Train the trainer training in Food Safety Management Systems

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- Evaluation of tender for Global GAP Facilities to be placed in the agro-parks
- Listing of Crops finalized for each Agro Park
 - Yallahs Agro Park - **melon, onion and sweet potatoes,**
 - PGR - **pumpkin, hot pepper and ginger** (for which no clean planting material is available),
 - New Forest/ Duff House - **escallion, thyme, melon and hot peppers**
 - Ebony Park/Spring Plain - **pumpkin, sweet potatoes and red peppers.**
- On-going training of relevant stakeholders

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

In 2017/18, the establishment of GLOBALGAP infrastructures in select Agro-Parks will be completed and farmers will be trained in relevant GLOBALGAP procedures. It is expected that the four Agro-parks will submit their application for GLOBALGAP certification.

4.4.2 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
3. Information dissemination provided by the:
 - Training and Information Unit.

Planned Targets for 2016/17

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 2016/2017

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 organization 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 1794 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 2017/2018

The principal focus for the FSPID in 2017/2018 is obtaining ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 accreditations. Though continued surveillance and inspection Programmes at ports of entry and island-wide. 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.

4.4.3 Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection (PQ/PI) Programme

The Ministry through its Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection (PQ/PI) Branch has the primary responsibility for protecting Jamaica's agricultural sector from the entry and establishment of exotic pests and to ensure only the highest quality pest-free fresh produce are imported into and exported from the country. The Programme executes its mandate through 5 main units: two Export Complexes, the Pest Risk Analysis Unit, the Citrus Protection Agency and an Import/Export Unit (One Stop Shop). In addition, Officers are stationed at the Ocho Rios Cruise Pier and the Port Antonio Marina.

Aims and Objectives

To have sound Plant Quarantine inspection systems to safeguard Jamaica's agricultural sector and to provide quality export certification to allow for our competitiveness in international trade while complying with the relevant agricultural health and food safety standards

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Maintain a database for the import systems.
- Establishment of Jamaica Import Export Centre (JIEC) One Stop Shop in Montego Bay
- National certification programme for fresh agricultural produce and seeds
- Expand the fumigation facility to facilitate tarpaulin fumigation at the Kingston export facility
- Facilitate the implementation of the export phase of the E-Trade System/ ASYCUDA
- Establish a national certification programme for fresh produce
- Establish a hot water facility for the export of mangoes into the USA market
- Ensure compliance with food safety requirements
- Maintain the Preclearance Programme and ensure compliance
- Implement Mediterranean Fruit Fly surveillance programme island-wide
- Implement Citrus Black Spot Surveillance programme island-wide

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- 1,767 Inspections conducted for fresh produce import according to local and international guidelines with 10 Interceptions
- 3,304 Processing of Import permits
- The import systems database was reviewed and updated during the period
- 4 Pest Risk Assessments completed
- 7 Market access reports completed
- Jamaica's Regulated Pest lists were reviewed and updated.
- A temporary housing for the OSS in Montego Bay was agreed by the Port Authority and works will commence in the 2017/2018 to renovate and retrofit.
- Proposal for Canine Detection Programme completed and submitted for funding
- A temporary housing for the One Stop Shop in Montego Bay was agreed by the Port Authority and works will commence in the 2017/2018 to renovate and retrofit.
- 5521 Export Inspections conducted according to national and international guidelines.
- 242 interceptions of pest for which goods were rejected/ destroyed or treated.
- 922 Certification and Phytosanitary treatments conducted of agricultural produce
- Phytosanitary treatments conducted
- Proposal prepared for hot water treatment facility and tender process engaged. The Facility is expected to be funded under ACP II
- Manage the WTO/SPS Enquiry Point
- Conduct 2 Staff Sensitization Workshop on SPS Principles and Emerging Issues
- Inspect and audit fresh produce packing facilities against quarantine standards and food safety requirements.
- 23 new Facilities certified
- 31 Recertified
- 36 Farm Visits
- USDA-APHIS Preclearance Programme maintained and in compliance
- Mediterranean Fruit Fly island wide surveillance programme implemented
- Citrus Black Spot (CBS) surveillance programme implemented
- The diagnostic laboratory at the PRA Unit was completed and operationalized and currently is being used in fruit fly diagnosis

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- Citrus Black Spot surveillance is continued and disease is managed in accordance with established ISPMs
- Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) island-wide surveillance programme conducted according to required standards for two (2) consecutive years
- USDA-APHIS Preclearance maintained and in compliance with established protocols

- GMP implemented by exporters and they are compliant
- Stakeholders are increasingly compliant with the food safety requirements of trading partners
- Sound proposal for the construction of hot water facility and implementation by 2018
- Seek funding for the construction of the fumigation facility
- National Fresh Produce Certification Programme established in phase approach which is compliant with international standards and trade requirement
- Timely inspection and certification of exports and export facilities and the issuance of phytosanitary certificate (target:1400)
- One Stop Shop established in Montego Bay
- Canine Detection Programme established within agreed time frame
- Quarantine pest list prepared according to IPPC requirements and guidelines
- Pest Risk assessments conducted and phytosanitary recommendation in accordance to national and international standards
- Pest Diagnostic laboratory operationalized

4.4.4 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 and the Ministry of National Security to strategically combat the theft of agricultural produce in Jamaica.

Aims and Objectives

- To coordinate regular police operations to reduce the reported incidences of farm theft.
- To establish strategic partnerships for the development and implementation of the Plan of Action to address Praedial larceny prevention.
- Public Education – promote new fines and imprisonment for Praedial larceny offences.
- To enhance 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.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- **Enforcement and Compliance** – to reduce the reported incidences of praedial larceny and other farm theft by 9 per cent.
- **Legislative Amendments** – prepare and submit proposals to Cabinet for stiffer penalties including mandatory minimum sentences and alternatives to jails and fines.
- **Institutional Arrangement**- in collaboration with key stakeholders, sensitise police, the judiciary and Clerks of the Courts.

- **Public Education** – development and implementation of a Praedial Larceny Prevention Public Relations Campaign.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

Enforcement and Compliance

- For the financial year, **843 cases of praedial larceny were reported** to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).
- A total of 378 persons were arrested by the Jamaica Constabulary Force for breaches under the Agricultural Produce Act, Praedial Larceny Prevention Act, the Public Health Butchers Regulation and other legislations governing praedial larceny.
- Between April 2016 and April 2017, 89 persons were convicted for the theft of agricultural produce and livestock.
- 14,517 farms were visited by the Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination Unit to facilitate greater collaboration between the police, farmers and residents of rural communities,
- 1,504 slaughterhouses were inspected to ensure compliance with the Public Health Butchers Regulation.
- A total of forty-five (45) stolen animals were recovered and 137 pounds of unfit meat seized and destroyed.

Legislative Amendments

- **The Agricultural Produce Act** – the Draft Proposed Amendments to the Agricultural Produce Act was approved by the Attorney General's Chamber. The final draft will be submitted to Cabinet in 2017/2018.
- **Larceny Act**- Proposed amendments were made to Section 13 of the Larceny Act which defines Praedial larceny

Interagency Collaboration

The Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination Unit has employed a participatory approach to combat the theft of agricultural produce. In collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Office of the Chief Justice, the key partners within the criminal justice system have been sensitised and trained on praedial larceny related issues:

Sensitization of Parish Court Judges

In collaboration with the Office of the Chief Justice forty-six (46) Parish Court Judges were sensitised in a three-day workshop on the deleterious impact of praedial larceny on Jamaica, legislative amendments and systems of traceability being implemented by the Ministry. Other stakeholders who participated in the workshop were the Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN), Ministry of Justice, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority and Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Division.

Sensitization of Clerks of the Courts and Police

To facilitate greater collaboration between the police and Clerks of the Courts in the preparation and prosecution of praedial larceny cases, two (2) Praedial Larceny Workshops were conducted to sensitise and train Clerks of the Courts and police on farm theft related issues.

Public Education

- To sensitise students on the impact of praedial larceny on the Jamaican economy, public health and rural communities, the Unit organised a Praedial Larceny Prevention Essay Competition. A total of fifty-two (52) schools participated from across the island, inclusive of primary and secondary schools.
- To engender greater awareness on the impact of praedial larceny two (2) radio public service announcements and time signals were developed and placed on the air. The public service announcements encouraged farmers to register with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority and to issue a receipt for the sale of produce. The other PSA encouraged butchers to give the police twelve hours' notice of intention before slaughter.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- Mobilise the Jamaica Constabulary Force to carry out larceny focused patrols and operations across the island.
- Facilitate the establishment of Farm Watch Groups to build farmers capacity to reduce vulnerabilities to theft.
- Cabinet Submission of the Agricultural Produce Act and Draft Propose amendments of the Praedial Larceny Prevention Act.
- Develop a Praedial Larceny Prevention Squad within the Jamaica Constabulary Force.
- Identify and develop a cadre of Clerks of the Court & Judges to receive specialised training in the prosecution & adjudication of praedial larceny cases.
- Partnership with schools, churches and other civic bodies to educate the public on the extent, nature and magnitude of praedial larceny.

4.4.5 Veterinary Services Programme

The Veterinary Services Division of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries is the Competent Authority with the 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:

1. 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 2016/2017

The activities pursued under the National Animal Health Programme include:

- Animal Health – Animal Disease Prevention, Surveillance, Monitoring, Eradication and Control;
- Veterinary Quarantine Activities – review and approval of import permits and export health certificates; operating surveillance activities at ports of entry, operating the Quarantine Station at Plumb Point.
- Operating the Veterinary Diagnostic, Molecular Biology and Biochemical & Analytical Laboratories
- Veterinary Epidemiology and Veterinary Public Health Programme to encompass risk assessments, disease surveillance and monitoring and livestock production and processing of products of animal origin. Implementation of food safety programmes for products of animal origin,
- Veterinary Inspection and Certification of products of live animals and products of animal origin for export.
- Implementation of the National Animal Identification and Traceability System.
- Animal fertility, artificial insemination and embryo transfer programmes.

Given the varied nature of the activities and the limited number of technical personnel, the Veterinary Officers who have been assigned to work and supervise specified areas such as Quarantine Field and Laboratory are actively involved in:

- Disease Surveillance, Monitoring and Control and Emergency Response,

- Animal Identification and traceability,
- Review and approval of import permits,
- processing and issuing export veterinary health certificates,
- processing of customs entry/export health certificates,
- Inspection and certification programmes of fishery products, honey, milk, meat and meat products for export.
- Quarantine activities at the ports of entry.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS)

- The NAITS Database in active use and fully populated.
- The NAITS Public Relation Campaign was launched at Serge Island Farms Limited on February 10, 2017 by Hon. Karl Samuda.
- **10,208** heads of cattle identified with NAITS ear tags and passports issuance on-going.
- Notification of over **500** births has been received to date, with on-going identification and registration of those calves.
- Notification of death and slaughter for approximately 50 heads have been received with return of the cattle passports

Animal Health – Disease Surveillance Programmes/ Laboratory Testing and Analysis

- The Division continued surveillance programmes for the following diseases:
 - Bovine Tuberculosis and Bovine Brucellosis (cattle)
 - Newcastle Disease (poultry)
 - Avian Influenza
 - Classical Swine Fever
 - Leptospirosis
 - Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome
 - Pseudorabies
 - Mycoplasmosis
 - Swine Influenza (H1N1)
 - Swine Influenza (H3N2)
 - Salmonella (domestic layer (poultry))
- The Veterinary Diagnostic/Analytic Laboratory supports animal health programmes in the diagnosis of animal diseases through Bacteriology, Serology, Parasitology, Virology, and other diagnostic techniques.
- The Division's Diagnostic Laboratory continues to offer Leptospirosis Testing. Leptospirosis, a zoonotic disease transmitted in urine of infected animals, including rats, causes severe infection, fever, jaundice and sometimes death in affected animals and humans. During the period under review a total of **337** human samples were tested for Leptospirosis.

- The laboratory supports the Division's Food Safety Programme through the analysis for residues of antibiotics, heavy metals (lead, cadmium and mercury) bio-toxins, hormones, pesticides, etc. The Division food safety programme accounted for:
 - **12,517** bacteriological tests for food borne-diseases on various products (conch, lobster, chicken meat and beef, meat patties, dairy products)
 - Residue analysis of **1,582** tests for fish, conch, and lobster for the presence of pesticide, antibiotics and bio-toxins,

Veterinary Quarantine Activities included:

- Preparation and issuing of import permits for the importation of live animals and products of animal origin. The Division prepared and issued **17,165** Veterinary Import Permits.
- Veterinary inspection/surveillance at the ports of entry.
- Operating the quarantine station for imported animals
- Processing customs entries/export veterinary health certificates.
- **81** live animals for the release into the Veterinary Quarantine.
- Approximately **262, 500** Dozens of table eggs were exported from Jamaica.
- Monitoring of aircrafts at the two major international airports (MBJ, NMIA). This monitoring is in regard to the disposal of international garbage and the importation or transport of live animals and products of animal origin.
- Issuance of 1138 Veterinary Export Health Certificates.

Veterinary Inspection and Certification for Export

- The Division's officials continue to carry out inspections and monitoring for the purpose of Veterinary Health Certification of live animals, fishery products, meat patties, animal feeds, recycled animal/vegetable fats from fast-food outlets and other products of animal origin for export.
 - Inspection, registering, monitoring of 10 fishery processing facilities and 28 freezer/carrier vessels to facilitate the harvesting, transport and export of fishery products mainly to the European Union and U.S.A markets.
 - Inspection, registering and monitoring of 3 Milk Processing Facilities to facilitate the export of milk products.
 - Inspection, registering and monitoring of 6 Meat Processing facilities.

FACILITIES	#	LOCATION/LANDING
Fishery Processing	10	St. Catherine, Kingston, St. Thomas, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Clarendon
Milk Processing	3	St. Catherine, St. Andrew, St. Thomas.
Meat Processing	6	Hanover, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Kingston, Westmoreland, St. James
Fishing Vessels	28	Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Westmoreland, St.

FACILITIES	#	LOCATION/LANDING
		Elizabeth.

- The Veterinary Services personnel conducted 111 supervised inspections at approved landing sites (Conch – 31; Lobster – 84).
- Six (6) Veterinary Committee Meetings were held to facilitate the licensing of fishery processing establishments and fishing vessels.
- Preparation of Export Veterinary Health Certificates:

Type	Amount (kg)	# of Certificates
FISHERY PRODUCTS		
Conch	388,601.85 (856,711.64 lbs)	36
Lobster	300,140.40 (661,689.53 lbs)	146
MEAT PRODUCTS EXPORTED		
Meat Patties	339,909	

- The inspection and certification visits involved monitoring activities and the collection of samples from production and harvesting areas at sea (Pedro Banks), the inspection of vessels at the landing sites and the inspection and collection of samples at processing facilities (fishery, meat and milk and feed processors).

Livestock Fertility/ Artificial Insemination

This activity involved the collection, processing and storage of

- cattle semen - **10,887** straws
- generation of liquid nitrogen **6200** litres of liquid nitrogen generate

Veterinary examination of stud bulls -**23** bulls examined and maintained in stud. –

2017/2018

Principal Focus – 2017/18

In 2017/18, the Veterinary Services Division will continue to implement the National Animal Health Programme.

4.5 Food Security Initiatives

4.5.1 Sweet Potato Industry Plan

The Sweet Potato Industry Plan was born out of the need to establish a sustainable sweet potato industry to take advantage of the increasing demand for sweet potatoes, especially the United States orange flesh sweet potato varieties. The demand for potatoes is primarily driven by Europe and Canada with the UK being the main market. In the United Kingdom the ACP Programme has created market linkages with the Fresh Produce Consortium in the United Kingdom to purchase this potato from Jamaica through the Ministry's Agricultural Competitiveness Programme. The Fresh Produce Consortium is the largest association of purchasers in the United Kingdom market. The UK market purchased 180M pounds of sweet potatoes in 2014.

Aims and Objectives

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

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- 200 acres will be planted with 2,000 - 3,000 tonnes to be harvested for export.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- 44 acres in production with an expected 440 – 660 tonnes to be harvested
- 2 Demonstration plots established to expose the Beauregard variety to farmers

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- 80 acres to be planted
- 2,000 - 3,000 tons to be harvested
- Establishment of three satellite nurseries outside of the main one at Bodles Research Centre
- Generation of income by selling planting materials to farmers across Jamaica and the wider Caribbean
- Continue the trial of two new sweet potato varieties
- Distribution of two “clean” local varieties

4.5.2 Onion Development Plan

Onion is of economic importance in 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 sub-sector, 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

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- The establishment of 90 ha of onions in which 26 ha will be established in select Agro Parks.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- In 2016, Jamaica's local onion production provided 12% of onion consumed domestically.
- Three regional consultations were conducted in 2016 with buyers, farmers, input suppliers and financial institutions. The outcomes were projections for 140 ha of onions to be cultivated and an agreed price of \$120-\$130/kg.
- Training sessions were held for over 100 new entrant farmers in cultivation, cost of production and marketing of onions.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

At the end of FY2017/18, 200 ha of onions will be established in select Agro-Parks and onion production zones. This will achieve 40% self-sufficiency in onion production.

4.5.3 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 toward 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.

Aims and Objectives

To achieve local self-sufficiency in table Irish potato.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- 40% crop care support per hectare provided in the form of agro-chemicals per farmer.
- 2500 farmers benefitted
- 75 women and youth participating in programme
- four (4) farmer –field Schools (FFS) established
- seven (7) demonstration plots;
- Two (2) farm tours organized
- Marketing agreement/contract between farmers and buyers strengthened

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- 2790 farmers benefitted
- 962 hectares planted (still planting) of 1200 hectares targeted
- Yielded 12,800 tonnes reaped of 15,000 targeted (yield reduced due to drought)
- 624 women and youth participating in programme
- 1200 hundred farmers were assisted with 40% percent of their chemical requirements
- 8 demonstration plots established

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

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

4.5.4 Other Select Crops

Aims and Objectives

To improve the production and productivity of select sub-industries and to advance efficiency and adoption of best management practices with the aim of improving technical services to the agriculture sector

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Expansion of Yam production with specific focus on mini sett technology
- Explore export market opportunities for Irish Potato and other select crops

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- Two private sector linkages established for yam and sweet potato sub-industries

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- Expansion of Yam production with specific focus on mini sett technology
- Strengthen the development of a seed production programme for National Irish Potato Programme
- Explore export market opportunities for Irish Potato and other select crops

4.6 Agro-Parks Development Programme

In the 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 2016/2017

- The full operationalization of four (4) Agro-Parks – Yallahs, Spring Plain, Ebony Park and New Forest/Duff House
- Institutional framework for Global Gap programme for Agro-Parks including action plan

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

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 include supply and installation of pipes and fittings; 1800 m of on-farm water channel and re-establishment of 3,400 m access ways.
- **New Forest/ Duff House Agro-Park, St. Elizabeth**
Infrastructural works include 8000 m of farm access way and 2,300 m of water channel way. A contract is on-going for the establishment of a packing facility (90% completed).
- **Yallahs Agro-Park, St. Thomas**
Infrastructural works include 11,000 m of farm access way and 5,000 m on-farm water channel way.

In addition, the Ministry and its Agencies and Departments continue to provide extension service (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 – 2017/2018

Under Agricultural Competitiveness Programme, infrastructural works for the four (4) Agro-Parks will be completed as well as a select four (4) Agro-Parks will be outfitted in the next three (3) years to achieve GLOBALGAP 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 including the four (4) Agro-Parks supervised under the Agro-Investment Corporation.

4.7 Spices Development Programme

Aims and Objectives

To increase ginger, turmeric, pimento and nutmeg production by expanding acreages and improving productivity as well as increase operational efficiency and quality assurance procedures of Jamaican spices to capitalize on marketing opportunities.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- 120 ha open field ginger,
- 10 ha shade house ginger established
- Ratoon 22 ha of Turmeric
- establish 100 ha pimento
- Revised pimento manual
- produce 90,000 pimento seedlings
- produce 40,000 nutmeg seedlings
- Development of Technical Manual for Ginger

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- Production of clean planting material for ginger using tissue culture (in collaboration with Scientific Research Council)
- Complete draft Technical Manual for Ginger
- 23 ha open field ginger established
- 0.16 ha shade house ginger established
- 88 ha of pimento
- 46,000 seedlings pimento produced

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- Establish
 - 120 ha open field and 1.4 ha shade house cultivation of ginger
 - Turmeric - Ratoon 22 ha
 - Pimento - 170 hectares
 - Nutmeg - 114 ha of production
- Provide 30,000 pimento seedlings and 20,000 nutmeg seedlings
- Revised pimento manual completed and distributed
- Conduct a Pimento & Nutmeg farmers' census
- 190,000 ginger plantlets distributed
- 497 farmers GAP trained
- HACCP plan for ginger (dry and powdered) and nutmeg (whole and powdered) developed

4.8 Fisheries Development Programme

Aim and Objective

To facilitate the sustainable development and management of the capture and culture fisheries

Planned Target 2016/2017:

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 14 to 17.
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 2016 Spiny Lobster fishing season;
11. Monitor 100% of Industrial Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) landings, 30 data collection trips; assess impact of 2016 catch-per-unit-effort fishing activities on stock population

Key Achievements

1. 30% increase in Tilapia production (927.46 MT) in comparison with 2015;
2. A single spawning event for Pangasius successfully completed with 5% increase in larval survival.
3. Three (3) additional SFCAs established: East Boscobel SFCA; West Boscobel SFCA; and East Portland SFCA;
4. 60% Island shelf population assessed for abundance and distribution of sea cucumbers; Sea Cucumber Management Plan developed 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. Draft Fisheries Bill finalized and submitted to Attorney General's Department;
7. New Fisheries Regulations drafted;
8. New Stakeholder endorsed, Spiny Lobster Licensing Regime established
9. Conch Management Plan revised and new draft developed;
10. Data and information collected from 100% of Industrial Spiny Lobster landings; report prepared on the performance of 2016 Spiny Lobster fishing season.
11. Data and information collected from 100% of Industrial Queen Conch landings, Catch-per-unit-effort analysis report produced, National Total Allowable Catch for 2017 established.

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- 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 the 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 under-utilized fisheries e.g. sea cucumbers and marine crabs.
- Increase tilapia production by enhancing seed stock production.
- Implementation of Fisheries PPCR Project – Promoting Community-based. Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector Project.

4.9 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 2016/17

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
- Infrastructure and training facilities at Hounslow Demonstration Centre refurbished and operational to support industry stakeholders
- 3 small ruminant value chain clusters formed and operational
- Completion of abattoir waste treatment facility

Irish Potato Programme

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

Clean seed programme

- Implement clean seed production system for sweet potato
- Produce 1,500,000 clean sweet potato slips to supply 88 acres under the Sweet potato industry development programme
- Citrus certification programme
- Develop clean seed programme for Irish potato

Onion Development Programme

- Economically important pests kept below economic damage threshold in onion fields
- Identify high yielding onion varieties and effective herbicide treatments

Modernization/Accreditation

- Complete infrastructure refurbishing under ACP and PIOJ/EU EDES Programme to advance international accreditation of plant health laboratories for International ISO standard 17025

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

Apiculture

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

Key Achievements for 2016/17

Establishment of five plant clinics island wide

- Two fixed plant clinics and three mobile plant clinics were established. The locations for the fixed plant clinics are Ebony Park, St. Ann and Cascade, St. Ann. The mobile plant clinics are located at the Plantain Garden River (PGR), Yallahs and New Forest/Duff House agro parks. Approximately 267 farmers have benefitted from the plant clinics' pest and disease diagnostic services
- 39 plant doctors trained (this includes extension staff from the Coffee Industry Board)

Diversification of the Caribbean Livestock through Small Ruminants Production

- **Training abattoir facilities:** The assessment of the Bodles abattoir's existing waste treatment facility completed and recommendations made for upgrade; recommendations being addressed
- **Distribution of breeding stock:** 269 breeding animals distributed inclusive of sheep and goats to 5 agriculture training institutions and farmers; to date 73 off-springs born from animals distributed to date
- **Reproductive facility:** Officially opened; 70 lambs and 32 kids born in government flock at Hounslow
- **Feed & Fodder Resources:** New feed source developed from local forages and pelletized; 2 tons of Mombasa ensiled for fodder conservation programme at Hounslow
- **Training:** >100 farmers trained in small ruminant husbandry

Clean seed programme

- **Sweet potato:** The Ministry partnered with IICA, ACP and Propel funding counterparts to generate 1,470,000 clean sweet potato slips of the imported high yielding Beauregard sweet potato variety, to supply 77.5 acres which was sold to farmers
- **Hot pepper:** 9.64 Kg produced & sold for the establishment of 135 Ha; projected yields 1,936 tonnes of pepper, 12 % of national production

- **Citrus:** 25,792 certified bud-eyes harvested & sold to certified citrus nurseries through the Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency to produce seedlings which may establish 102 acres of orchard producing oranges worth 100M/year after 6 years.

National Irish potato programme

- Irish potato varieties which are high yielding (>20,000 Tonnes/Ha), late Blight tolerant and early maturing to be selected from 14 varieties currently under evaluation and further characterized for dry matter content >22% for their suitability for the fast food chain industry

Onion Development Programme

- Onion variety evaluation trial established with 8 varieties & Herbicide trial under evaluation
- <1 % crop loss of 21 Ha Fall Onion Crop due to impact by Beet Armyworm (BAW)
- Validated Mating Disruption technology for Beet armyworm moths
- 250 farmers trained to increase capacity for pest management & reducing crop loss

Sweet potato industry development

- Two local popular sweet potato varieties, yellow belly and Clarendon, cleaned up from pathogens by USDA, reintroduced into programme.
- Evaluated three new sweet potato varieties from the USA, Covington, Murasaki and Bonita, under field conditions for yield potential and tolerance to the sweet potato weevil a pest known to cause as much as 30% loss in quality of roots

Cassava & Sweet potato post-harvest characterization and utilization

- The Ministry partnered with the University of the West Indies and completed postharvest characterization studies of 21 Local Sweet Potato and 11 Colombian Cassava cultivars present in the *in situ* gene banks. Seven (7) cassava & 5 sweet potato varieties with high starch content identified with potential for agro-processing

Apiculture

- 176 new apiaries established;
- 2506 bee colonies established; this is an increase of 5.2% on the present honey bee stock which can produce 10,024 gallons of honey worth J\$60M
- >6,305 farmers trained
- Incidence of American Foulbrood Disease (AFB) disease is <5% meeting OIE threshold target

Modernization/Accreditation Plant Health Laboratories

- Lab infrastructure for 4 Plant Protection laboratories 75% completed; Labs equipped; Ongoing development of the SOPs & 10 training sessions for 20 staff members; towards facilitating accreditation of tests for supporting trade

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

Upgrade and restoration of Bodles infrastructure - Dairy unit and associated pastures

Clean seed programme

- Implement 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 and Onion Development Programmes

- Identification of high yielding late blight tolerant Irish potato varieties suitable for processing
- Identification of suitable high yielding intermediate onion varieties and effective herbicide treatments for onion production system under onion development programme
- Implement Area-Wide Management programme for Onion Spring crop on 72 Ha; aiming for <30% crop loss. No management =100 % crop loss

Plant Protection and Apiculture/Epidemiology and surveillance

- Implement Risk Assessment Tool to increase effectiveness of fruit fly surveillance and management programme
- Incidence of bee pests and disease <5%

Modernization and Accreditation of Plant Health Laboratories

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

4.10 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 2016/17, the Ministry began the 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. Complete the rationalization of the Cocoa Industry Board, the Coffee Industry Board, the Coconut Industry Board and the Export Division into a new regulatory entity: namely, Jamaica Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (JACRA)
- 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
- IV. Establishment of an MSME Division in the Ministry with responsibility to coordinate GOJ policies for MSME growth and development in Jamaica.

ISO Quality Management Programme

Aims and Objectives

The Division was set up to implement the ISO 9001:2015 QMS across the Ministry and its portfolio entities and then expanding to other MDAs. The Division will provide support in the activities necessary to bring the Ministry and its participating entities to the point of ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

Planned Targets for 2016/17

- Obtain and maintain ISO 9001 QMS Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) for 5 (five) entities of MICAF: FSPID, DCFS, MIDA, TBL and COJ
 - Pre-certification tasks to be completed
 - Two Mock Audits (# 1 and # 2) with corresponding Management Reviews to be conducted
 - Application to be made for ISO 9001:2015 Certification from NCBJ
- Obtain and maintain ISO 9001 QMS Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) for MICAF's Head Office along with supporting Divisions/Departments/Units
 - ISO 9001:2015 Team to be designated

- 17 pre-certification tasks to be completed for 12 Departments
- Mock Audits # 1 with Management Review to be conducted by 4th Quarter within the departments
- The Ministry of Finance and the Public Services formally approved the establishment of ISO Division in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries (MICAf)

Key Achievements for 2016/17

- Obtain and maintain ISO 9001 QMS Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) for 5 (five) entities of MICAf
 - Sensitization/ Awareness Sessions conducted: ADSC; DCFS
 - Received existing SOPs for review from: JBDC (75)
 - Drafted/developed SOPs for review from: JIPO (31); FCJ (>50); TBL (4); FTC (45)
 - Resumption ISO Meetings convened: JBDC; ADSC; DCFS; ADSC; TBL
 - Mandatory Procedures developed: TBL; FCJ; MIDA;
 - Draft Competence Records initiated: MIDA; TBL
 - Internal/External Customer Surveys completed & analyzed: FCJ; MIDA; DCFS
 - SOP Manuals reviewed from: FSPID (including Inspectorate)
 - Scope, Quality Policy & Objectives developed/reviewed: FCJ; MIDA; TBL
 - Internal Audit Training conducted: FCJ; TBL
 - Non-Conformance and Root Cause Analysis Training conducted: TBL, FCJ
 - Internal Mock Audit conducted & Report presented: FSPID Inspectorate
- Obtain and maintain ISO 9001 QMS Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) for MICAf inclusive of supporting Divisions/Departments/Units
 - ISO 9001:2015 Team designated
 - Sensitization/ Awareness Sessions/Workshops conducted: HRMD (2); ACB; FPMD; Accounts & Finance (4); ISO QS new staff
 - Documentation & Process Mapping Training conducted: ISO QS new staff
 - Received existing SOPs for review from: DIAS –HRMD (33); Communications (8)
 - SOPs submitted to Department for update/review: Industry (10)
 - Drafted/developed SOPs for review from: HRMD (3); ISO QS (3); Trade (5); Accounts & Finance (64); FPMD (1);
 - SOP Manuals reviewed from: FPMD (partial); ALMD (Lab)
- National Quality Policy reviewed by ISO QS Division staff including ISO ambassador Reginald Budhan, with the policy Coordinator
- Complete the staffing and build-out of the ISO Division in MICAf

Principal Focus for 2017/18

- Obtain and maintain ISO 9001 QMS Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) for 5 (five) entities of MICAF: FSPID, DCFS, TBL, FTC and COJ.
 - Two Mock Audits (# 1 & # 2) with Management Reviews to be conducted in 5 (five) entities by 3rd Quarter
 - Application to be made for ISO 9001:2015 Certification from NCBJ in 3rd and 4th Quarters for five entities
 - Annual Internal Audits and Management Reviews to monitor ISO Certification, to be conducted in 5 (five) entities
 - Pre-certification tasks to be in progress/completed by 5 (five) additional entities: JIPO, MIDA, CAC, JBDC and ADSC by 4th Quarter
- Obtain and maintain ISO 9001 QMS Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) for MICAF inclusive of supporting Divisions/Departments/Units
 - ISO 9001:2015 Team designated and active
 - Pre-certification tasks to be completed in 'Scoped' Divisions/Departments/Units at MICAF
 - 2 Mock Audits (# 1 & # 2) with Management Reviews to be conducted at MICAF in 3rd and 4th Quarters
 - Application to be made by MICAF for ISO 9001:2015 Certification from NCBJ in 4th Quarter
- To support and implement relevant/required aspects of the National Quality Policy on behalf of MICAF

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 – 2016/2017

- JACRA Act approved

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- To have the attendant Regulations to the JACRA Act approved
- To complete the process of staffing and assets transitioning and to develop recruitment procedures for new staff
- Establish and operationalize JACRA
- To assure the Financial Sustainability of JACRA by the institution of a viable, Licencing, Cess, and Cost-Recovery regime.
- Public Relations Programme on the New Body, both local and overseas.

4.11 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 which improve soil moisture retention. In addition, capacity building interventions will be undertaken to complement the establishment of these infrastructures and will involve training of communities in disaster risk management, natural resource management techniques and climate change adaptation.

Aims and Objectives

The major aim 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 2016/2017

- 5 Rain water 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 Filed School established
- 150 farmers trained and adapted Climate Smart Land Husbandry Best Practices

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- 10 Water harvesting, Irrigation and Production Schemes (IPS) established /augmented
- Continued implementation of 13 Water harvesting infrastructure and irrigation and
- 5 Land Husbandry Demonstration plots maintained and used for training farmer we in Climate Smart Land Husbandry practices >200 farmers and students of secondary and tertiary educational institutions
- 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, St Ann
- 184 farmers trained in Land Husbandry best practices
- Engage 12 schools at the secondary and primary level where students are 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 practice
- 18 Water Users Groups (farmers Groups) Mobilized, eight of which were formalised into legal entities to facilitate sustainability

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- 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

4.12 Agricultural Competiveness Programme

The Agricultural Competiveness Programme is an IDB/GOJ project that focuses on facilitating the 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 components; they are

1. Market access and market linkages development

To improve the capacity of organised small and medium sized 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 the 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

Aims 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 – 2016/2017

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
 - UK Trade Mission July 2016
- 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 Forrest 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 2016 and 2017.
- Execution of 7 training workshop 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 Cooperatives and Friendly Societies (DCFS)
- 457 individual training contacts.
- 80% 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, 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 & 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 R&D to facilitate research
- Provided overseas training in heavy metals including mercury analysis
- Facilitated 2 major workshop 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 2500 Food Safety Policy booklets developed and dispersed
- Facilitated the preparation and dissemination of Media communication package for food safety policy executed by NAHFSCC

- 2 Food Safety Expo 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 program 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, GlobalGAP version 5, Pesticides application (spray man calibration and application)
- Implementation of management systems, SSOPs, SOPs through Same page software for Global GAP program
- Employment of Farm Hands within Global GAP program
- Initiation of technical assistance for food safety assurance programs for VSD
- Development of promotional material for Animal Health issues for VSD
- Engagement of water quality contract for Global GAP program
- 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 workshop 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. Commissioning tentatively planned for June 2017.

- New Forest Duff House road and storm water channel works completed.
- Packaging Facility 90% complete for New Forest Duff House. It is anticipated that the structure will be completed in first quarter of calendar year 2017.
- A Water Based Analysis consultancy is being engaged to analyse the water quality in the agro parks for approx. US\$329k.
- Hounslow business plan received approval from the Bank in May 2016.
- Capacity support to MICAF increased during the May period with the move of the ACP PEU to the Ministry's office. The fourth floor of the Ministry was rehabilitated and works completed in June 2016.

Principal Focus for 2017/18

- 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
- 100% completion of the Export Platform
- 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, & HACCP
- Water quality assessment across four (4) Agro-Parks
- Hounslow Agro-Parks established and operationalized
- ISO Lab Accreditation of select Government Laboratories
- Operationalize the Packing Facility in New Forest/Duff House Agro-Park
- Infrastructure Works on VSD Parish facilities
- Refurbish Mobay Contraband Room
- Close- out Activities for the Programme

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AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BOARD (ACB)

Establishment of Department

The Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) is a department of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries. The ACB was established under the Agricultural Credit Board Act of 1961 with specific responsibilities of regulating and monitoring the National People's Cooperative Bank and other Agricultural Loan Societies.

Mission

The Mission of the Agricultural Credit Board is: "The effective supervision and regulation of Agricultural Loan Societies thereby enhancing the expansion and development of agricultural activities, economic growth and to improve the quality of life in rural communities".

Aims & Objectives

To evaluate the present status of the National People's Co-operative Bank by engaging in audits/inspections, prioritized according to the following:

1. Exposure to risk
2. Significance,
3. Quality of internal control
4. Governance
5. Human resource
6. Credit

Planned Targets for 2016/17

- Training of Employees
- Improvement in the areas of Inspection
- On- time evaluation of the Financials Information to determine financial and operational sustainability.

Key Achievements for 2016/17

In keeping with the thrust to restructure the NPCB given the take over and management by the Agriculture Credit Board, the emphasis of the audits and inspections for the period, was to monitor the Bank's adherence in keeping with following:

- Effective Corporate Governance
- Improvement in the internal controls
- Improvement in loan administration
- Reduction of bad debt, through improved collection policies
- Branch Network Optimization
- Improvement in internal Audit control
- Growth of the savings portfolio
- Profitability
- Improvement in the IT Infrastructure and Security

The activities included;

- Audits of the 30 largest loans of the NPCB
- Cash and Compliance Audits of the 13 high risk branches of the NPCB
- Analysis of the Debt Management Unit of the NPCB
- Audit of the six branches with the highest loan portfolio at risk (PAR)
- Audit of the five branches with the largest loan value at risk
- Audit of the delinquency rate of the NPCB's EZEE Biz loan portfolio
- Analysis of the NPCB staff loan portfolio.
- Analysis of savings portfolio to savings loan portfolio per branch
- Security Audit of the NPCB's ICT Unit.
- Training of ACB staff members in the following areas
 - Fraud and Forensic Accounting
 - Good Corporate Governance
 - Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism
 - Enterprise Risk Management
 - Effective Report Writing
 - Auditing

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Restructuring of travel pattern and Inspection plan
- Increase loan administration Audit of NPCB
- Increase visits to remote NPCB branches
- Increase training of Inspectors in areas financial statement analysis in line with best practices
- Push for the implementation of new credit policies and revision of the rules and by-laws of the NPCB
- Integration with the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies.

AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (ALMD)

Establishment of Agency

The Agricultural Land Management Division provides technical advice in soil (chemical and physical analyses), plant tissue and water samples to stakeholders within the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, farmers, students and researchers. The Division also participates in the development approval process by providing recommendations to National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Local Planning Authorities as well as other development partners. e.g. National Housing Trust.

Aims and Objectives

To promote modern sustainable agricultural land management practices in order to drive food security and enhance rural development in accordance with Government's policy.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- Revenue collections as at April 2016 to March 2017 **\$3,236,763.00**
- Continued implementation of ISO 17025 quality management requirements for accreditation of the Soil, Plant Tissue and Water Laboratory.
 - Completed design of data collection forms- customer feedback, Goods Evaluation, Sample collection
 - Prepared maintenance schedule for laboratory equipment
 - Prepared Master List of Control Documents
 - Standard Operating Procedures prepared - (3 laboratory procedures/methods and 6 business processes)
 - Review and updated ISO 17025 Quality Management Manual
- Laboratory analyses of samples - 370 soil, 36 water, 6 fertilizers, 1 compost and 30 plant tissue. Reports prepared and submitted to clients
- Participated in the Development Approval process by providing recommendations on proposals for change of use, subdivision of properties, issuance of licence to operate quarries and restoration of mined out lands.
- Inspection and assessment of properties:
 - 234 Subdivision assessment received – 80 % completed
 - 98 Inspection of quarries received – 7 % completed
 - 15 Change of land use requested – 85% completed
 - Assessment of mined out lands (Ore bodies)
 - JAMALCO Alumina Plant 13 ore bodies 46.39 ha restored to pasture
 - JAMALCO 16 ore bodies 16.26 ha restored to pasture
 - JAMALCO 15 ore bodies 77.02 ha of which 50.2 ha restored to pasture, residential subdivision 26.82 ha
 - ALPART UC RUSAL 19 ore bodies 32.36 ha inspected 29.36 pasture and 3 ha crops (sweet potato and carrots)

- Participated in public awareness of the role of the Division particularly as it relates to soil health
 - Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show, Geography Awareness Week and GIS Day 2016
 - Facilitated educational institutions for tours of the Soil Laboratory—University of the West Indies (Faculty of Life Sciences), College of Agriculture Education and Science (CASE) Montego Bay Community College and Edwin Allen High School
 - Dissemination of information provided by FAO to stakeholders involved in soil management
- Initiate projects to increase the utilization of geographic information system in agriculture
 - Map preparation for VSD, Plant Quarantine, Research and Development, RADA prepared land use data, land capability and soil characteristics information based on request.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- ISO 17025 Accreditation of selected procedures in the Soil Health, Plant Tissue and Water Laboratory
- Providing advisory services on management of agricultural lands
- Assessment of soil health in selected areas
- Implementation of components of the agricultural land use policy
- Public education on the importance of soil health

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.

Aims and Objectives

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) – anti-dumping, 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 FY 2016- 2017

- a) Implement and administer in Jamaica WTO-compliant trade defence laws: The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1999 (CDDSA) and Safeguard Act 2001.
- b) Industry Training and Help Desk Development to help producers to file cases in light of human resource constraints and high costs for data.
 - Deliver trade remedies training to seven (7) industries.
 - Two (2) Research and Analysis/Industry studies and reports.
- c) Facilitate the ongoing development of trade remedies and related legislation.
- d) Efficient and compliant administration of the Agency within GOJ and WTO rules.

Key Achievements for FY 2016- 2017

- The Executive Director was appointed as the Chairperson of a Dispute Settlement Panel at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland (the only person from a Caribbean territory to serve in this capacity).
- The Staff developed flexible training approaches and instruments to deliver training to industry and conducted tailored training for industries; and approximated the Help Desk concept.
- One industry offered a Draft Complaint and has received the Staff's feedback; and is preparing to submit its completed Complaint.
- The Staff also pursued completion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a potential training partner to help with funds for industry training.
- The Staff has upgraded mechanisms and method for collecting statistics of contact made with industry, which for the period, is approximated in Table below:

Telephone Calls	Emails	Consultation Meetings/Training Sessions
100	40	20

- The Staff pursued alliances with private sector stakeholders and public sector agencies at events (Expos etc.) held by associations in the year.
- Substantially all statutorily required reports submitted and actions taken.

Principal Focus for FY 2017- 2018

- a) Conduct Investigation(s) filed with the Commission; one complaint expected in Q1-2017/18
- b) Target Industry Stakeholder Engagement providing excellent service and expert advice, data analysis and monitoring reports.
- c) Deliver tailored training programmes.
- d) Pursue amendments to the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Bill.
- e) Develop a Help Desk to support industry in pursuing cases before the Commission.
- f) Develop public education social media platform to engage stakeholders.
 - Redevelop and maintain Website and Social Media content.
- g) Build business capacity for producers in Jamaica to take defensive action.
- h) Advise GOJ on trade policy; includes Jamaica's Fourth Trade Policy Review 2017.
- i) Compliant and efficient administration.
- j) Collaborate with other agencies and departments on matters of mutual concern.
- k) Develop Commission as a Centre of Excellence

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 2016/2017

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

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- In 2016, banana production and yield productivity increased by 26% and 44% respectively over the 2011 base year. Overall banana production in 2016 was also 8% above 2015, while plantain production was 13.1% above 2015. However, banana productivity in tonnes per hectare in 2016 was 8% below 2015 due to the impact of flooding which caused leaching of fertilizer from soils, and higher levels of Sigatoka disease on the traditional varieties. Hence, growers are being supplied with FHIA 25 banana, FHIA 21 and 20 plantains and FHIA 25 bananas, as these are disease resistant varieties.

2016	○ Production		Yield Productivity	
	Banana (T)	Plantain (T)	Banana (T/Ha)	Plantain (T/Ha)
1st quarter	12,670.10	9,591.00	3.1	1
2nd quarter	15,086.70	11,125.40	3.6	1.2
3rd quarter	15,578.00	11,719.00	3.6	1.1
4th quarter	15,367.00	11,000.90	3.1	1.0
2016 Total	58,701.80	43,436.30	13.4	4.3
Base Yr. 2011 Total	46,660.10	35,340.60	9.3	5.6
2016 Total % change on 2011 Total	25.8%	22.9%	44.1%	-23.2%
2015 Yr. Total	54,576.20	38,420.70	14.5	3.8
2016 Total %	7.6%	13.1%	-8.0%	13.2%

- In 2016, more than 60,000 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 future, as a result of the new small tissue culture bio-factory. It was provided by EU-funded Jamaica Banana Accompanying Measures Programme, at a cost of J\$2.5M.
- The Banana Board facilitated the Banana Export Expansion Programme (BEEP), which resulted in increased exports by 29% in 2016 over 2015. *In 2016, export fruits supplied amounted to 22,166 boxes (410,072 kilograms or 410.072 T).*
- The BEEP farmers in Portland, St Mary and St Catherine are benefitting from material input supplies, as well as infrastructures for storage of pesticides, fertilizers and eating facilities for workers. Other technological interventions included training, laboratory testing and samplings and other facilitations preparation for GLOBAL GAP certification. All costs relating to implementation and procurement of the services of an External Certification Body for audit, were covered totally by the Jamaica Banana Accompanying Measures Programme.
- The EU is also funding a new Value-Adding Facility to develop local by-products in the All Island Banana Growers Association at a cost of J\$20M in 2016/2017. 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.
- Tours and independent monitoring of beneficiary farms and infrastructures by the MICAF and EU agents have rated the JBAM programme a success thus far. The last tour was broadcast on TVJ's *Business Day* on Sunday February 26, 2017, the JIS *Calling Farmers* radio programme on Thursday March 3, 2017 and several other media publications. The four EU representatives present were very pleased. When asked by *RJR* how he felt about the JBAMs programme, Mr. Stefano Cilli, the EU delegation's Rural Development Programme Manager said, *"We are very, very happy"*.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- All activities will be on-going but focus will be on the following:
- On-going technology transfer and activities for GLOBAL GAP re-certification by the External Auditor in 2018 to maintain international standards of production.
- Operation of the new tissue culture bio-factory to build up to its capacity of 120,000 plantlets per year to increase production and productivity to meet demand.
- Continued operation of the regional nurseries to transfer, grow and distribute the plantlets of Robusta and FHIA bananas and plantains.
- 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.
- On-going implementation of the BEEP
- Implement planned visibility events and monitoring review at the close out of the JBAMs programme.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA (BSJ)

Establishment of the Agency

Statutory body established by the Standards Act of 1969

Aims & 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 FY 2016- 2017

Programmes/ Projects	Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2016-2017	Year-to-date Achievement as at February 2017
Facilitation of Trade, Market Access and Business Development	% completed on time in full (COTIF) for laboratory testing and calibration services and technical information enquiries	≥80%	86%
	# of laboratory tests and calibrations conducted	32,520	33,504
	# of standards completed	51	48
Human Capacity Development to support Industry Growth	# of human capacity building interventions provided for industry	60	48
	# of participants in human capacity building interventions provided for industry	120	119
Awareness building in standardization and related issues	# of promotional and educational activities	40	27
Financial Management	% rate of deviation of actual from budgeted operational revenue	≤5%	3% below budget

Key Achievements for 2016- 2017

- Published 19 standards 16 service standards (15 gaming standards and 1 road traffic safety) and 3 product standards (coffee, cocoa, brown cane sugar)
- Launch and promotion of 3 standards: Coffee, Road Safety and Organic Production and Processing
- 4 key standards promoted (cocoa, organic, spa and road safety).
- Facilitated FDA visits to 18 food facilities.
- 11 companies from the manufacturing, services, agricultural and small business sectors received awards for performance excellence (National Quality Awards 2016).
- Successful implementation of the International Trade Centre-funded HACCP Training for Food Exporters Project with 22 persons from 10 companies (5 - fresh produce, 5 - processed food) benefitting from theoretical and practical training in developing generic procedures and customized HACCP Plans.
- Launch of the National Accreditation Focal Point (NAFP) - The NAFP provides assistance (information, training, mentorship, etc.) to conformity assessment bodies (certification and inspection bodies and laboratories) seeking to attain international accreditation.
- Ensured consumer safety by conducting tests for plastic rice and lead in curry - all samples tested were void of contaminants.
- Two (2) tests conducted by the Metallurgy Laboratory, 10 additional tests conducted by the Microbiology and Chemistry Laboratories were accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC).
- The Volume Laboratory designated by the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality as the Caribbean Reference Laboratory for Volume.
- Support for the development of MSMEs included:
 - Provision of discounts valued at **J\$1.68M** on selected technical services to MSMEs under collaborative agreements with the Jamaica Agro-Processors Association, Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) and JAMPRO (Export Max II Programme).
 - Earnings from testing and calibration activities undertaken under the Standards Compliance Fee Programme was **J\$49,973,912.00**.
 - Services amounting to **J\$476,579.29** provided to clients under the DBJ/BSJ Voucher for Technical Assistance Programme. Renewal MOUs with the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association and the JBDC in support of the BSJ/Business Partnership Programme.
- The National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) certified a pharmaceutical company to ISO 9001:2008, resulting in an increase of the number of certified clients from 7 to 8 (comparison made with the previous financial year).
- CDB/GOJ Capacity Building for Market Access Project – (i) Conducted Packaging Industry Study and sensitized 150 packaging industry stakeholders on the key drivers and influences impacting the local and global packaging industry. (ii) Acquired 5 pieces of packaging testing equipment valued at over US\$65, 000.
- World Bank-funded Strategic Public Sector Transformation Project - Acquired 3 pieces of equipment valued at J\$226,869,962.50.

Principal Focus for FY 2017- 2018

- Continued execution of the projects listed under planned targets (above).
- Launch websites for BSJ, NCBJ, and the National Compliance & Regulatory Authority (NCRA).
- Establishment of the Petroleum Testing Facility (within the BSJ) and Petroleum Inspectorate (within the NCRA).

- Development/adoption of 60 standards and revision of the 106 outdated mandatory standards.
- Revision of the standards development strategy to focus on standards implementation and sale of standards.
- Revision of existing governing legislations (Standards Act, Processed Food Act, Weights and Measures Act) in accordance with the National Quality Policy.
- Transition BSJ's certification from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015.
- Continued implementation of the Energy Management Coaching Programme.
- Seek accreditation from JANAAC for 22 additional tests conducted by the Chemistry and Microbiology Laboratories and the 6 tests conducted by the Cement Laboratory.
- Continue to collaborate with stakeholders to develop and implement a system for the pre-packaging of retail sugar.
- Continue to collaborate with MICAFA and the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM) on the development of an institutional framework for the organic industry.
- Seek to expand the accreditation scope of the NCBJ to offer organic and food safety system certification services.

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 & 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 2016/17

- New Partnerships Established (base year);
- Licenses issued in keeping with regulations (base year);
- ALL applications reviewed & decisions made within 6 months of payment;
- Updated Regulations by March 2017;
- Enforcement & Monitoring Policy in Place by March 2017;
- Procurement of Track & Trace system by March 2017;
- Draft Communication Strategy by March 2017;
- Operationalize Agency (staff recruitment);
- Office location occupied by April 2017

Key Achievements for 2016/17

- Partnerships:
 - *Due Diligence Partners* - 6 new partnerships were established- NIB and the Narcotics Division; Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA); Financial Investigations Division (FID); National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA); Major Organized Crime Agency (MOCA); Military Intelligence Team (MIT).
 - *Government Industry Partners* – CLA partnered with MSTEM to facilitate applicants in Research & Development¹⁴. Efforts continued towards establishing a mutually beneficial working relationship with Ministry of Health.

¹⁴ Applications received from MSTEM were forwarded to CLA for processing.

- *International Partners* – The Board of Directors visited Colorado and Washington State in July 2016 to garner industry knowledge and network with existing regulatory entities in the field of cannabis.

In March 2017, the CLA also facilitated a visit to the island from a mission which consisted of members from the Netherlands and the USA.

- Licenses; Processing applications

- The Authority received a total of one hundred and eighty-six (186) applications. The data reveals that most of the applications received are for the retailer Licence type, which represents (32%) while the transportation licence has the least application with nine percent (9%).
- In December 2016, the first three (3) Conditional Approval Letters¹⁵ were issued. In February 2017, a total of twelve (12) Conditional Approval Letters were issued of which the Processor Licence type accounted for four (4), followed by Retailer and Cultivator. The Research and Development Licence type, being the least with two. To date, no conditional approval letter has been issued for the transport licence type.
- Site visits were undertaken for Bio-Tech R &D Institute, UWI Mona, Apollon Apothecaries Jamaica Ltd, Everyting Oily, Epican, and HR Jamaica Ltd
- No licenses have been issued to date.

- Updated Regulations by March 2017

- In May 2016, the Dangerous Drugs (Cannabis Licensing) Regulations were gazetted into law, and opened the path for the Authority to start accepting application for licenses.

- Enforcement & Monitoring Policy in Place by March 2017

- Draft prepared and currently undergoing review

- Procurement of Track & Trace system¹⁶ by March 2017

- A request for information (RFI) was issued in December 2016 and four (4) responses were received. The demonstrations for the Track and Trace systems were conducted in March. E-Gov will now seek to develop technical requirements based on the demos that have been conducted.

- Communication strategy

- Draft communication completed
- The Authority utilized public education forums, working group meetings, public events, conferences, media and news releases, as well as social media to communicate to stakeholders

- Operationalize Agency (staff recruitment)

- During the period the organization applied for and received approval for 18 posts within the CLA following from their approval of the organizational structure. To date, 12 posts have been filled with persons identified for the remaining.

¹⁵ Pre site visits

¹⁶ Data management information system

Principal Focus for 2017/18

- Establishing greater levels of partnerships with both local and international stakeholders.
- Developing an Alternative Development (AD) Project that will include partnering with several entities within MICAFA.
- Procuring of Track & Trace system
- Strengthening current regulations by making the necessary amendments that will be needed as the licit cannabis industry develops.
- Improving its communication efforts through increased public education programmes and partnerships with other stakeholders.
- Publishing its achievements in a monthly newsletter that will be made available to persons in the industry.
- Completing the full staffing of the organization within the FY2017/18, and have a clearly identifiable and established location from which to operate.
- Improving on the performance of the current cadre of staff by exposing them to both specialized local and international training in the cannabis industry.

COCOA INDUSTRY BOARD

Establishment of Agency

The Cocoa Industry Board was established under the Cocoa Industry Board Act of 1957. Governance provided by seven (7) members appointed by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries. Three (3) members are growers' representatives, chosen from five names submitted by the JAS Cocoa Growers Federation Limited. The CIB Financial Year is October 1, 2015- September 30, 2016.

Aims and Objectives

To develop and maintain a sustainable cocoa sector which will eventually improve the lives of all industry stakeholders.

Mission/Mandate

- To promote the interests and efficiency of the cocoa industry in Jamaica;
- To assist in its development and to promote the welfare of persons engaged in the industry;
- To secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, marketing, sale, importation and exportation of cocoa;
- Upon being required to do so by the Minister, to make recommendations to the Minister as to any matter directly or indirectly affecting, relating to, or connected with, the cocoa industry or persons engaged in the industry;
- To perform such other duties in relation to or connected with the cocoa industry or persons engaged in that industry as the Minister may require to be performed by the Board

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- 380 metric tonnes dried cocoa production
- Assist in the formulation of the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Authority (JACRA) Act and finalization of the implementation plan of JACRA

Key Achievements for October 2015 – September 2016

- Approval of the JACRA Act
- **The sector produced 279 metric tonnes dried for the crop year**, which is a 101 metric tonnes below projection for the period, resulted from the Frosty Pod Rot (FPR) disease which was confirmed in September 2016.

Principal Focus for October 2016 – September, 2017

- Implementation of the Frosty Pod Rot (FPR) management plan, for the containment/eradication of the disease for an estimated 2100 acres in four parishes.
- Continue to provide assistance in the formulation of the regulations for cocoa for the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) act
- The integration of the regulatory functions of the Cocoa Industry Board in the newly established JACRA and the commencement of its operation.

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 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 2016/2017

- Purchase land to establish a nursery
- Expand existing seed gardens
- Distribute 100,000 coconut seedlings
- Assist farmers to remove lethal yellowing diseased coconut trees
- Continue research in areas of Pathology, Agronomy, Botany and Tissue Culture

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- The Board distributed 36,975 coconut seedlings at a cost of \$9.5M to farmers
- Two shade houses were installed to improve germination of coconut seedlings
- Assisted farmers in removing lethal yellowing diseased trees
- Visits by the Board's Advisory Officers to 3,827 coconut farmers
- Delivery of fertilizer to farmers at a cost of \$5M
- Control of Ambrosia beetle in St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas, Clarendon and Hanover
- Experiments continued in areas of Pathology, Agronomy, Botany and Tissue Culture

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- The integration of the regulatory functions of the Coconut Industry Board in the newly established JACRA and the reconfiguration of the commercial operations under a new scheme.
- Continue to seek to purchase land to expand nursery
- Increase distribution of coconut seedlings to farmers
- Increase acreage in coconut at seed gardens
- Increase micro propagation in coconut tissue culture
- Continue research in areas of Pathology, Agronomy, Botany and Tissue Culture

COFFEE INDUSTRY BOARD

Establishment of Agency

The Coffee Industry Board was established under Chapter 64 of the Revised Laws of Jamaica on the 2nd of June, 1950 and held its first Board Meeting on the 23rd of June 1950. The execution of this meeting cemented the birth of the Coffee Industry Board of Jamaica.

Aims and Objectives

Strategic Goals for 2016 - 2021

- The Development & Diversification of a Global Marketing Plan for Jamaican Coffee
- To ensure that the CIB operates in an environmentally friendly manner consistent with Health, Safety, Environmental Standards and Regulations.
- To facilitate the sustainability and viability of the Coffee Industry.
- The facilitation and improvement of Production and Quality features of the Jamaican Coffee.

Strategic Objectives for 2016 - 2021

- To grow the Local Market and increase the number of International Markets to which Coffee is sold.
- Ensure that coffee 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 Coffee Products (VACP).
- To ensure that all Coffee Dealers trading in Jamaica Blue Mountain & Jamaica Hill Mountain Coffee are licensed and operate within the terms and conditions of their Licences.
- To ensure that coffee tested are in compliance with the applicable standards and taste profile.

Key Achievements for August 2015 – July 2016 (CIB Financial Year)

- Initiate at least 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 & Coffee Berry Borer Task Force comprising members of the JCEA by meetings and fieldwork on a quarterly basis consistent with the crop cycle and prolife in both BM and JHM ones at least 2 meetings for the duration of 2016/2017
- Remote access to RADA/ABIS System via CIB Staff providing detailed updates on new and existing Coffee Farmers in an ongoing basis by fully integrating our 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.
- Sensitise the farmers via coffee dealer, poster and arrange group and project meetings and tours on a quarterly basis

- Liaison with Coffee Dealers, Co-operatives, Associations and Stakeholders to determine event days and training needs, to establish partnerships and provide physical or financial support on a monthly basis
- Participation in 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 5 training sessions with Coffee Processors by members of the CIB Quality Assurance Team.

Principal Focus for Current Financial Year (August 2016 – July 2017)

- Continue to carry out activities to achieve strategic outcomes
- The full integration of the Coffee Industry Board in the newly established JACRA and the commencement of its operation.

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.

Targets for 2016/2017

- Complaints Settled: 85% annual resolution rate of complaints handled
- Advice/Information Provided: 100% requests for advice recorded and addressed
- Monies Secured: J\$16M
- Community Outreach: 100,000 people
- Number of activities (presentations, exhibits etc.): 372 presentations,
- Media Exposures (including interviews): 962
- New Media Exposures /SMS /Email Marketing: 11,648 (*email marketing only*)
- Production of New Consumer Education Material: 12
- Price Surveys: 28
- Additional Surveys /Research Studies: 11
- Publication of Survey Prices: 28
- Meeting of the Distributive Trade: 12

Key Achievements for 2016/2017

- Complaints Handled: 1,349
- Complaints Settled: 1,133 (84% annual resolution rate)
- Advice/Information Provided: 505 (100%)
- Monies Secured: J\$20.5 Mil
- Community Outreach: 97,890 people
- Number of activities (presentations, exhibits etc.): 354
- Media Exposures (including interviews): 1,059
- New Media Exposures /SMS /Email Marketing: 18,858
- Production of New Consumer Education Material: 36
- Price Surveys: 27

- Additional Surveys /Research Studies: 8
- Website Usage: 15,620 – visits (10,333 first timers)
- Publication of Survey Prices: 27
- Meeting of the Distributive Trade: 12
- Achieved a 69% brand recognition score¹⁷ achieved to date
- Jamaica (through the CAC) hosted CARICOM Secretariat for Level II training workshop for Consumer Standards on Risk Assessment and Product Safety in February 2017
- Provided institutional and technical capacity support to Bahamas and Dominica consumer protection authorities.
- MOU was signed with the OUR for further collaboration on consumer complaints and education
- Provided opinion and feed-back on legislation and policy documents including: Information, Communication and Technology Bill (2016); Banking Services (Amendment); Micro Credit Bill (2016); Draft Model CARICOM Consumer Protection Bill (2016)
- Continued representation on the Consumer Protection and Financial Literacy Working Group
- Continued representation by Chairman and CEO to petroleum marketing companies, Petro jam and Petro jam Ethanol to discuss compensation from stakeholders.
- Contributed to the development and population of the GOJ's Open Data Portal

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Finalize draft national consumer policy document; commence consultations;
- Implement research to rank consumer and provider perspective on ethical relations in the marketplace
- Implement programme to enhance complaints handling procedures among businesses
- Collaborate with Jamaica Customer Service Association to develop and implement a national customer service campaign (MTF Outcome #12);
- Conclude discussions to formalize collaboration with MOEY&I, PSOJ, JMA and Chamber of Commerce to include sensitization session for business community.
- Finalize and publish a simplified version of the CPA;
- Implement targeted education campaigns (Financial Literacy, Consumer Behaviour, etc.)
- Continue advocating settlement for consumers who lodged 'Bad Gas' complaints;
- Representation for CAC to oversee the Financial Services Consumer Protection Agency.
- Implement compliance and enforcement policy (in relation to CPA).
- Complete ISO 9001 implementation phase.
- Continuous upgrade Customer Management Software (CMS) (used to capture consumer complaints).

¹⁷ 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

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (DCFS)

Aims & Objectives

Under the Charity Act 2013, the Department is designated 'Charities Authority' with the responsible 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 Achievement for 2016/17

ACTIVITIES	PLANNED	ACHIEVEMENTS
Registration	35 Societies	132 Charities, 193 renew 23 F/S; 8 Co-op; 4 I & P
Audits	160 Societies for 268 Audit Years	104 Societies for 142 Audit Years
Investigations	Based on reports	3 Societies
Full and Partial Inspection	77	86 Societies
Financial Assessment	49	10 Societies
Pre-Audit Checks	91	39 Societies
Account System Development	10 Societies	36 Societies
Assessment of Systems & Internal Control	25 Societies	13 Societies
Amalgamation/Transfer of Engagement	6 Societies	4 Transfer of Engagement
Liquidation/Inquiry	As assigned by RCS	9 Liquidation / 13 Inquiry
Tech. Support and Business Counselling	210 Intervention	492 Intervention
Group Organization	80 Societies	46 Societies
Group Supervision	60 Societies	48 Societies
Research, Development Planning, Resuscitation	10 Societies	8 Societies
Training Movement	725 persons	981 persons

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Merger between the DCFS and the Agricultural Credit Board, pending the repeal of the Agricultural Credit Board Act.
- With the pending Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) Regulations for Credit Unions, DCFS will continue to embark on a proactive regulatory strategy to assist credit unions that were assessed and found to be facing serious challenges in fulfilling the prudential requirements in anticipation of when the Regulations are passed.
- ISO 9001 (Customer Care Delivery) certification in the upcoming financial year 2017/2018. Mock Audit to be undertaken by June 2017.
- Implementation of activities will be ongoing for Societies where intervention will be done through
 - Providing of technical assistance and continuous/vigilant monitoring of the Societies and Charities regulated by the Department.
 - Institutional Strengthening and Development of Groups and Societies to become viable enterprises
 - Education and Training of members, management and employees of Groups and Societies to upgrade their skills and enhance performance in the operation of these enterprises within the Movement.
- Expand the partnership between DCFS and stakeholders such as Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Ministry of National Security (Citizens Security and Justice Programme) and the National Irrigation Commission to provide institutional strengthening to Benevolent and Specially Authorized Societies.
- Continue to review the proposed BOJ Regulations by way of a meeting with DCFS and the stakeholders concerning the negative impacts on small Credit Unions.
- Drafting of the Charity Regulations to compliment the Act.

FAIR TRADING COMMISSION (FTC)

Establishment of Agency

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

Aims & 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, Actual Performance & Key Achievements for 2016/17

Programme/Initiative #1: Enforce the provisions of the FCA in relation to the conduct of business in Jamaica to reduce the incidence of anti-competitive business practices.

- Investigated 248 cases, covering 28 sectors. Of this:
 - 112 cases (38%) were closed
 - 58% of cases were from the Automobile & Telecommunications sectors
 - 43 of the cases investigated were motor vehicle model year matters for which the decision of the Court of Appeal was handed down in February 2017
- The Case Resolution Rate achieved was 55% vs target of 75%
- Accrued benefit from markets investigated: J\$960 million.
- Submitted amendments to FCA to the CPC
- The FTC was successful in the Court Appeal as the Court upheld the judgement of the Supreme Court in the matter of FTC v Crichton Automotive Limited.

Programme/Initiative #2: Demonstrate the benefits of competitive markets to promote a better understanding of the role and function of the FTC in fostering a competitive economic environment.

- Undertook/completed Market studies:
 - Target- 4 studies
 - Achieved- 3 completed (5 undertaken)
- Completed new sector studied that have not been reviewed in the past 5 years:
 - Target- 2 sectors
 - Achieved- 3 sectors
- Hosting discussion forums:
 - Target- 4
 - Achieved - 6
- Prepared publications:
 - Target: 5

- Achieved- 5
- Completed studies on motor vehicle insurance industry, micro-financing sector & changes to the suite of bundled telecommunication packages.

Programme/Initiative #3: Advise policymakers on the implications of existing and proposed policies to ensure that those policies do not result in the hindrance of competition.

- Created a TOR for study on the level of competition in the banking sector.
- Reviewed legislations/policies:
 - Target- 4
 - Achieved- 10
- Finalized & issued TOR & EOI for Consultant to assist with creation of Merger Control/Review Regime for Jamaica.
- Proposed Amendments to the Petroleum (Quality Control) Act & Final Report of the Petroleum Trade Reform Committee.
- Provided comments on Draft Microcredit Bill.
- Proposed changes to the Telecommunications Act, the Radio and Telegraph Control Act.
- Development of a Master Plan for Spectrum Management
- Reviewed:
 - Civil Aviation Air Transport Regulations.
 - legal & regulatory framework of ICT sector; draft ICT Act; competition in supply of fixed & mobile voice telephony & data services
 - “The Impact of Jamaica’s Treaty Obligations for Trade in Services on Ground Transportation & Tour Operator Services related to the Tourism Sector”.

Programme/Initiative #4: Maintain and enhance presence in the international competition arena to further facilitate the growth and development of the Staff of the FTC; and provide advice on regional competition issues to other CARICOM member States.

- Participated in international workshops:
 - Achieved- 8
 - Target- 4
- Drafted Policy for the Treatment of Mergers and Acquisitions in the CARICOM region.
- Undertook consultancy with the OECS Commission: “Development of a Framework for Consumer Protection in OECS Member States”.
- Competition, price control, monopolies and tax incentives within the context of consumer protection in the BVI.
- The CCC’s 2017 Work Programme & Budget as well as the CCC’s summary performance for 2016; and the importance of the CCC to Jamaica and the CARICOM region, and the benefits that may be derived by strengthening the CCC’s capacity.

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

Enforcement

- Appeal to the Privy Council in FTC vs Digicel/Claro will be heard in May 2017. FTC Staff is preparing to represent the FTC.
- Appeal to the Privy Council: settling the Court of Appeal's decision in respect of the FTC's powers to assess agreements.
- Model Year matters: obtaining redress in respect of the 43 matters that are in-house.
- Merger Review Regime/Provisions: Completing the work with the Consultant who will recommend the legislative changes that are necessary.
- Assessment of whether alleged exclusive agreements could foreclose the market for subscriber television services to existing and potential competitors.

Demonstrating the Benefits of Competition

- Assessment of legislation which governs the coffee, coconut and cocoa industries, to determine whether there may be provisions that are hindering the growth of the respective markets.
- Review of the respective markets for processed agricultural products.
- Exploring non-price competition in the micro-financing sector.
- Discriminatory conduct in the port services sector.

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. The HSRA has not yet been operationalized and no staff has been hired as at 31 March 2017.

Aims and Objectives

The the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act mandates the HSRA to:

- protect people and the environment from exposure to ionizing radiation to the maximum extent that is reasonably practicable;
- secure radioactive sources from misuse;
- promote an effective nuclear safety culture;
- achieve and maintain a high level of safety and security in facilities utilizing ionizing radiation sources;
- ensure availability of compensation for damage, loss and injuries caused by ionizing radiation;
- facilitate the beneficial and peaceful uses of nuclear technology; and
- facilitate compliance with Jamaica's international obligations under various conventions, treaties and agreements.

Major Activities and Achievements during FY 2015/2016

- Approval of posts to fully establish/operationalize the Authority
- Commenced staff recruitment processes of the Authority

Principal Focus for FY 2017/2018

- Fully staffing and operationalizing of the Authority
- Inspect facilities with ionizing radiation sources
- Process applications and issue authorizations for the operation of facilities
- Conduct an inventory of radiation sources in Jamaica
- Establish a Registry of ionizing radiation sources in Jamaica

JAMAICA 4-H CLUBS

Establishment of Agency

The Jamaica 4-H Clubs was established in 1940. In accordance to 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 island wide.
- 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 Island-wide.
- Centre Development to underpin training and model projects geared towards youth entrepreneurship

Targets for 2016/17

- To register 110,000 members
- To provide 220,000 training opportunities
- To award 150 scholarships
- To host 4 career workshops
- To establish 500 school gardens
- To establish 50 model gardens
- To establish 140 livestock farmers
- To host 16 expositions
- To train 150 youth in agricultural enterprise
- To increase awareness in 20,000 persons in healthy lifestyle
- To develop 4 products
- to develop 3 Centres of excellence

Key Achievements for 2016/17

- Registered 104,980 members
- Provided 217,866 training opportunities
- Awarded 183 scholarships
- Hosted 3 career workshops
- Established 497 school gardens
- Established 39 model gardens

- Established 712 livestock farmers
- Hosted 16 expositions
- Trained 146 youth in agricultural enterprise
- Increased awareness in 18,820 persons in healthy lifestyle
- Developed 3 products
- Developed 2 Centres of excellence

Principal Focus for 2017/18

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

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

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 varied 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 & Sheep Farmers Association and the Jamaica Fishermen Cooperative Society.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society also has established parish offices island-wide. 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 for 2016/2017 (in line with the Government of Jamaica & 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 affects 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 the development and advancement in the agriculture 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 – 2016/2017

- The implementation and management of Agricultural Projects, such as the National Red Peas, Corn and Breadfruit Planting Programme
- 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 Linkage 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.
- Engaged in multiple project implementations through forged alliances with organizations such as 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 the Farmer's Watch program in Clarendon and Portland. The program 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
- Pilot project for a Farmers Pension Scheme

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

- 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 and the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show.
- E-Farmers (ICT Access): The Society aims to empower 5000 farmers with information and communication assets and services that will increase their productivity and incomes, thereby protecting food security and livelihoods.
- Island wide 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.

JAMAICA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (JBDC)

Establishment of Agency

JBDC was established in 2001 as a limited liability company.

Aims & 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 & 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 2016/17

The JBDC's main priority goals and targets for 2016/2017 are as follows:

- Creating an enabling business environment
 - 300 MSMEs assisted with formalizing their operations through the registration of their businesses with the Companies of Jamaica
 - At least six (6) external market access events participation
- 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
- Increasing finance to the sector
 - Providing MSMEs with financial guidance
- Tackling Cross-Cutting Issues
 - MSME Research Development Initiative conceptualized and launched
 - The number of research publications and periodicals published

Key Achievements for 2016/17

- **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.
 - As at February 2017, 224 MSMEs are enrolled in the Monitoring Programme and are receiving handholding support via the JBDC Business Monitoring Programme.
 - 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.
- **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
 - Launch 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 have 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 2017/2018

- Reduce informality in the sector through sensitization sessions and expansion of 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 policy of enhanced national food policy. In this regard, the Jamaica Dairy Development Board is assigned the Mission of ensuring the achievement of the measurable targets established by the Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries through policy formulation, capacity building and the creation of a regulatory framework to drive the attainment of international competitiveness.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Concessional Loan Facility (Dairy and Beef) - \$35.8 M
 - Programme of working capital support
- Institutional Strengthening – \$ 36.8 M
 - Assistance provided to Agricultural Education Institutions to enhance the effectiveness of tutorial delivery and to facilitate the development of a skilled cadre of livestock agriculturists.
- Pasture Establishment – 45 ha.
- Dairy cattle herd expansion – 300 Heifers
- Introduction of nutritious and productive fodder cultivars
- Initiate Programme of Fodder Conservation
- Initiate promotional campaign to engender increased demand for milk
- Technological Adaptation - Mechanization of fodder harvesting.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- Concessional Loan Facility (Dairy and Beef) valuing \$14.2 M
- Establishment 175 hectares of pastoral land
- An expansion of 346 Heifers in local dairy cattle herd
- Introduction of 2 Brachiaria cultivars (Mulato 11 and Cayman) and Guinea Grass (*Panicum maximum*) for increased nutrition.
- Implemented a Programme designed to establish a hedge in fodder availability against the adverse impact of drought

- Successful launch of a national public awareness campaign to promote the value in consuming milk, and the importance of its nutritive value to the health and wellbeing of pregnant and lactating females; a corollary to stimulating increased demand for the product
- Technological Adaptation
 - Land preparation
 - Grass seeds (climate change adaptation)
 - Training to instruct farmers in the use of good agricultural practices (GAP).
 - Equipment acquired and leased to participating farmers.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

The main concepts to the strategic direction for the dairy sub-sector comprise enhancements to production and marketing, and enhancement to the enabling environment. This is to be realized through the following;

- Herd expansion, enhanced production, market intervention and training;
- Creating an enabling environment that will enhance investment in the dairy sub-sector.

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 2016/17

- Register Jamaican Rum as Geographical Indicator
- Execute public relations strategy/campaign
- Provide over 500 customers and over 1000 members of the public with IP information monthly
- Full automation of JIPO processes for public ease of access, registration and payment
- Make presentations on JIPO services and related information to stakeholders
- Provide training to stakeholders
- Participate in IP forums
- Process IPR applications
- Increase JIPO's earnings
- Increase clientele
- Advocate inclusion of IP in policies, strategies, programmes
- Facilitate and support the development and regulation of private sector components of the IPR system
- Implement the Madrid Protocol, the International Registration of Trade Marks
- Implement the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the International Registration of Patents
- Finalize Copyright legislation incorporating the CMO's under the copyright Act
- Finalize the passage of the pending Patents and Designs Draft Bill
- Finalize amendments to and passage of the Protection of Geographical Indications Bill

Key Achievements Over 2016/2017

- Registered JAMAICA RUM as a Geographical Indication on December 1, 2016

- Conducted training for the Intellectual Property Offices in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Made IP presentations to various stakeholders including senior citizens from the National Council for Senior Citizens and students from several primary, secondary and tertiary institutions, young entrepreneurs, industry professionals and government departments including the Administrator General's Department, Broadcasting Commission, Young Investors Club, University of the West Indies, Jamaica National Foundation, Northern Caribbean University, JCDC & HEART Garmex
- Participated in a JIS Think Tank
- Hosted business labs for new entrepreneurs under the Regional Entrepreneurial Asset Commercialization (REACH) Hub
- Provided training to sixty (60) potential and existing patent examiners under the ACP EU TBT Programme
- Received over two thousand two hundred (2,200) intellectual property rights applications
- Registered over two thousand one hundred and sixty (2,160) intellectual property rights
- Realized target of providing over one thousand customers per month with IP information
 - Assisted over 4000 customers on the telephone and 2207 in-house customers
- Participated in WIPO-USPTO Advanced Workshop on Intellectual Property Office Management and Administration.
- Participated in the 2016 Jamaica Music Conference as a panellist discussing "Protecting Musical Assets & Sync Licensing for Profit"
- Participated in 2016 in a Regional Patent Cooperation Treaty Training held in St. Lucia
- Voluntary Registration of Copy Rights is still in infancy but is showing signs of growth and has already generated a small income of \$201,000; still in its infancy but already showing some signs of growth
- Draft CMO regulation –several meetings have been held and correspondence exchanged with CMOs and Ministry. A great effort is being made to have this Bill passed

Principal Focus Over 2017/2018

- Working with the University of the West Indies and the University of Technology in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation on the hosting of Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) at both institutions
- Assessment of registration processing times with a view to increasing efficiency in the administration of the laws
- Scheduling hearings & rendering decisions for Trade Mark Opposition & Invalidity matters and continued participation in court proceedings
- ICT infrastructure upgrades to support efficient operation of the office and procuring necessary office equipment to support staff needs.
- Implementation of the Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC)
- Implementation of provisions of new laws once amended.
- Training of patent examiners

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 for 2016-17

The major targets for FY 2016/17 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. Acquisition of a building for JANAACs Corporate Offices

Key Achievements for 2016/17

- i. JANAAC made significant gains in realizing its corporate performance objectives in 2016/7. During the year, the Agency granted 6 accreditation certificates, bringing to 19 the number of laboratories it has accredited; representing 46.2% more than the 13 accredited at December 2015. Of the 19 accredited labs, 13 are testing labs and 6 medical labs. Noticeably, the Agency increased by 5 fold the number of medical lab accreditations; from 1 to 6 medical labs at December 2016.
- ii. JANAAC recorded strong levels of performance in the area of accreditation assessments in 2016/17. At the end of March, a total of 29 such assessments were conducted, a significant increase over the similar period.

- iii. JANAAC continued to reap success from its regional expansion strategy in 2016/17. In this regard, it is noteworthy that of the 6 accredited laboratories for the year, 4 are medical labs located in other Caribbean islands. The Agency has a presence in the following 6 other CARICOM States: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.
- iv. JANAAC conducted its first inspection body accreditation assessment exercise in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2017. Inspection Body accreditation is a critical service which will enable our inspection bodies to fully support economic growth.
- v. 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 Jamaica Observer and the Gleaner, thus enabling prospective clients and the public to obtain useful information on internationally recognized accreditation services.
- vi. JANAAC has recorded significant increases in revenue and profitability, thus surpassing its annual financial targets over the period. In this regard, the Agency continues to meet its impressive average operating ratios of 63.47%, and has successfully managed to keep its operating costs within budget.
- vii. JANAAC provided accreditation training to 267 technical assessors and other CAB personnel. This result in 45 or 20.3% more persons being trained in 2016/17 above the 222 personnel trained in 2015/16. During the year, the required 2 technical workshops/assessor conclaves were also conducted, thus enhancing the technical competence of 97 technical assessors and other CAB personnel.

Principal Focus for FY 2017-2018

Over the financial years 2017/18 – 2020/21, JANAAC will remain focused on achieving its strategic goals of growing in revenues from new and existing accreditation services; providing expert, competent, customer-centric services; developing and maintaining an effective and efficient accreditation process; and developing a high performance, customer-oriented, proactive, responsive and continuous improvement culture. To this end, for the upcoming 2017/18 fiscal year, the Agency plans to:

- i. award eight (8) accreditation certificates
- ii. facilitate 5 labs accreditation scope extensions
- iii. conduct 30 accreditation assessments
- iv. engage two inspection clients
- v. implement the QualTrax CMS in the 2017/18 fiscal year
- vi. provide 5 staff training and capacity building programmes
- vii. provide accreditation training to 180 new participants in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean Region
- viii. intensify its brand awareness and development efforts by hosting and participating in a number of public awareness and events, traditional and new media advertising and promotional campaigns, and new collateral material development to include a brochure for its Inspection Body Accreditation services

- ix. forge accreditation partnership arrangements with tertiary institutions and CABs to extend its accreditation offerings

MICRO INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED (MIDA)

Establishment of Agency

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 & 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 2016/17

Disbursement by MIDA:	\$180M
Collections:	\$180M
Number of Enterprises:	1,500
Number of Jobs Sustained & Created:	1,200

Key Achievements Year-to-Date for 2016/17

Disbursement by MIDA:	\$166.3M
Collections:	\$186.45.6M
Number of Enterprises:	1,396
Number of Jobs Sustained & Created:	1,863

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Re-branding

Re-structuring of MIDA and the implementation of the new policy directive from our parent ministry. This will involve:

- Getting Cabinet's approval for the restructured/Re-branded MIDA including new structure
 - Establishing criteria for selecting of wholesalers
 - Re-locating operations to MICAF
 - Promotional\sensitization campaign to promote the new direction of MIDA
- Legacy Issues
 - Collections of outstanding CDF loan balance
 - Winding-up of CDFs (assistance to be given by Department of Corporative Friendly Societies)
 - Sale of CDF assets
 - Archiving of clients' records

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 & 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.

Performance FY 2016/2017

Food Inspectorate

The Food Inspectorate is charged with the responsibility of protecting the health and safety of consumers of processed food by registering food processing establishments and monitoring these establishments for conformance with compulsory standards.

Indicators	Target FY 2016	Achievement
Number of food factories assessed for registration	700	642
% of factories in database that are registered	≥ 75%	76.6%
Number of food factory visits to monitor for ongoing compliance to regulations	2,400	2,379
Number of samples taken for testing	480	795

Legal Metrology Inspectorate

The mandate of the Legal Metrology Inspectorate is to ensure that consumers should receive the amount of goods declared on a pre-packaged product and where a measuring device is used the measurement should be accurate and within prescribed limits. In other words, consumers should get the amount of the goods that they paid for.

Indicators	Target FY2016	Achievement
Number of weighing and measuring devices tested and verified	≥ 6,400	5,977 tested Note: 636 non-compliant
Number of pre-packaged goods tested and verified	≥ 4,200	1,665
Number of gas nozzles tested	3,500	3,448 Note: 334 were rejected and had to be serviced and re-tested

Standards Compliance Inspectorate

The mandate of the Standards Compliance Inspectorate is to ensure that all products offered for sale in Jamaica comply with standards pertaining to health, safety, performance and labelling

requirements.: product imports are monitored at points of entry, and domestic market surveillance in the retail trade is also conducted to ensure there is conformance to labelling standards as well as compulsory product standards.

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Target FY2016</i>	<i>Achievement</i>
Number of inspection visits conducted at the ports of entry, importers' premises and in the domestic market (retail and wholesale outlets)	10,740	6,571
Number of block makers sampled	≥ 240	287
Number of sensitisation sessions conducted for various stakeholders to create awareness of regulations	≥ 4	Construction Industry stakeholders Laundry detergent stakeholders

Key Achievements for FY 2016/2017

- **Training** of all NCRA members of staff on the requirements for ISO17020 Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
- **Completed investigations into allegations of lead in curry.** Island-wide sampling was done to ensure that local supplies of curry powder/turmeric were not contaminated with lead above the maximum limit of 10parts per million (ppm). Thirty samples were analysed and test results indicated that their lead content were all within the maximum limit of 10 ppm. Results ranged from a high of 2.43ppm to a low of 0.157ppm
- **Completed investigations into allegations of plastic rice.** Seventy-four samples from over 20 brands from 5 countries, through 12 distributors/importers were collected from the retail trade at locations island-wide. Test results indicated no contamination with plastic.

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Official Launch of NCRA and media campaign. Strong Communication Programme to create awareness of NCRA's role as a quality management partner regarding compliance with the standards and regulations which are monitored for compliance
- Implementation of requirements to conform to ISO/IEC17020
- Establishment of Petroleum Inspectorate
- Needs Assessment of Stakeholders identified and addressed
- Organisation Structure developed
- Enforcement Framework, Sampling Plan and Risk-based Inspections implemented

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 & 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 2016/17 and Key Achievements for 2016/17

Planned Targets for 2016/2017	Key Achievements for 2016/2017
<u>Insolvency Administration</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 50 interviews 75% of applications processed and proposal or bankruptcy application filed Applications processed within 4 weeks 90% of notices issued in correct format and within the prescribed time 75% of visits required conducted Search letters issued in 75% of matters Disposable assets are identified and recovered within 3 months Seized assets are sold within 12 months 85% of active bankrupts attending Public Examinations 70% of active bankrupts complying with 	<u>Insolvency Administration</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14 interviews 62% of applications processed and proposal or bankruptcy application filed Applications processed within 4 weeks 100% of notices issued in correct format and within the prescribed time 100% of visits required conducted Search letters issued in 100% of matters Disposable assets are identified and recovered within 3 months Sale of seized assets in progress 60% of active bankrupts attending Public Examinations

Planned Targets for 2016/2017	Key Achievements for 2016/2017
Payment Order 11. 8 Trustee reports prepared and submitted 12. 4 applications for discharge filed 13. 24 dormant files reviewed and reactivated 14. 24 matters closed	10. 65% of active bankrupts complying with Payment Order 11. 11 Trustee reports prepared and submitted 12. 7 applications for discharge files 13. 2 dormant files reviewed and reactivated 14. 1 matter closed
<u>Income Generation and debt satisfaction</u> 1. \$400,000.00 earned from Bankruptcy Status Verification 2. 5% average interest earned on investment 3. \$630,000.00 earned from legal fees 4. 11 dividends paid 5. \$122.9M paid as dividends 6. \$7.4M earned as commission 7. 41 creditors benefitting	<u>Income Generation and debt satisfaction</u> 1. \$396,000.00 earned from Bankruptcy Status Verification 2. 5% average interest earned on investment 3. \$694,000.00 earned from legal fees 4. 20 dividends paid 5. \$131,695,289.02 & US\$600,000.00 paid as dividends; redundancy payments - \$21,642,814.15 to 212 persons 6. \$10,348,035.8 earned as commission 7. 76 creditors benefitting

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- 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 & 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.

Key Achievements for 2016/17

i. Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners

Fifteen (15) applications for trustee licences have been received by the OSI. Three (3) have been fully processed and two (2) trustee licences granted; the processing of twelve (12) applications has been postponed pending the establishment of the requisite insolvency course. (This has been the case since FY 2015/16).

In FY 2016/17 the two trustee licences granted have been renewed pursuant to the Insolvency Act.

Consultations between MICAF, OSI and Norman Manley Law School (NMLS) are on-going and it is projected that the insolvency course will be established as soon as practicable.

ii. Supervision of Insolvency Administration

Over fifty preliminary assessments of potential insolvency clients conducted; the Government Trustee was appointed to act in thirty (30) matters to date (this includes the latter half of 2015); in the current financial year the Government Trustee was appointed to eighteen (18) insolvent matters. Seven (7) certificates of assignment have been issued. Overall supervision of insolvency estates conducted to ensure trustees are carrying out their duties in accordance with the Insolvency Act.

iii. Recruitment of Staff

The OSI has begun recruitment of all critical staff. Presently interviews for all positions have been held. The recruitment of the new Supervisor of Insolvency and Licensing and Compliance Officer has been completed, and the process for the other positions will be completed when the issues with accommodation have been dealt with.

iv. Accommodation

The OSI has leased office space on the second floor of the Caldon Building to house one faction of the Insolvency Regime, namely the OGT. At present refurbishing of the office space is taking place by the Facilities Section of MICAF and on completion the designated staff members will be relocated.

v. Sensitization Sessions

The OSI in collaboration with the office of The Chief Justice and with the support of MICAF and the Government of Jamaica/World Bank Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Project have conducted the sensitization of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal.

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

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.

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. Recruitment of Staff

The completion of the recruitment for all critical staff will take place within the first quarter.

iv. Sensitization Sessions

The OSI will continue having sensitization sessions to ensure all relevant stakeholders are informed of the new insolvency regime. Presently, sensitization sessions for the insolvency practitioners are slated to take place in the first quarter. Sensitization sessions for Parish Court Judges and the wider public are being discussed.

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 of any size. To provide a reliable agricultural marketing information service.
- To assist in the implementation of specified rural development projects.

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

Farmer Training

RADA's operations are centered on the provision of agricultural information to farmers and other stakeholders within the agricultural sector. This extension service is largely provided by officers stationed across the island in the established 98 extension areas. The Authority operates from 13 parish offices which are supported by one Corporate Office located in Kingston. For the period under review a total of **2,353** farmers training sessions were targeted to benefit **39, 000** farmers.

National Irish Potato Programme

As a national strategy geared towards food security and a sustainable agricultural sector, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries through its extension arm, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) continues to play an important role in supporting farmers' island wide through the National Irish Potato Programme. The Irish Potato Programme is geared towards achieving 100% of the national demand (15 Million Kilograms) for table potatoes. Total proposed budget for the Programme was **\$1,135,235,918.00**. To meet this demand, a total of **1200** hectares was targeted to include **2500** farmers for the period

under review. The Programme sought to assist farmers within the Irish Potato Belts of Christiana (Manchester) and Guys 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, likewise invaluable technical assistance from RADA's Extension Staff.

Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme

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.

A total of 54 roads were targeted for rehabilitation under the programme with an amount of J\$250 M being budgeted for its implementation. The Programme was expected to benefit an estimated 11,506 farmers directly island-wide, in addition to the incalculable increase in agricultural production both for local consumption and export. The expected results from this intervention are as follows:

1. Increase in market access for farmers
2. Increase in domestic crop and livestock production
3. Improvement in household income

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

Farmer Training

A total of **1,694** training sessions has been achieved to date benefitting **31, 420** farmers island-wide.

National Irish Potato Programme

- Total allocation to date for the Programme amounts to **\$71, 300,000.00**.
- During the 2016-2017 planting seasons, fall to spring some **772.07** hectares (64% of total acreage targeted) of Irish potato has been established to date by **1,972 farmers** representing 79% of targeted number (2500) of farmers.
- Through collaborative efforts of Agro Grace, Newport Fersan, Producers of Onion and Potato Association (POPA) and RADA, a series of **18 workshops** were successfully delivered in the key Irish Potato Production Areas benefitting **1,325 farmers**.
- 4.5 acre demonstration plots were established with funding from the Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) Project in the parishes of Trelawny and St. Ann.
- In addition, through funding from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), a total of **682 farmers have benefitted thus far from text messages advising on best practices**. To date each targeted farmer received 73 text messages, with a total of 49,786 messages transmitted.

Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme

A total of J\$250M was approved for the implementation of this programme. **To date, 39 roads have been completed totalling 82.4 km with an expense of J\$166.3M.** The remaining J\$83.7 M has been committed and works on these roads are at varying stages of completion.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

1. Field Services and Operations

- Farmer Training Enhancement- Farmer Field School Entrenchment into Operations
- Full Operation of the Agro-Processing Incubators (Funded by JSIF)
- Full implementation of RADA's Electronic Reporting System
- 15% increase in farmer updates
- Mainstreaming of Climate Change and Gender into RADA's Operations
- Continued support towards the National Irish Potato and Onion Development Programmes and other local and internationally funded programmes

2. Technical Services

- Crop Care and Plant Health/Food Safety – FSMA Centred
- Land Husbandry – Climate Smart Approach
- Livestock Development – Small Ruminants
- Increase in population of livestock through herd improvement
- Tractor Service Improvement
- Implementation of the Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme

3. Corporate Services

- Strategic Business Continuity
- Greater Corporate Accountability
- Implementation of information technology solutions to satisfy the needs of internal and external clients
- Enhancement of Staff Relations

SCJ HOLDINGS LIMITED

Establishment of Agency

June 2008 under the Sugar Privatization Policy

Aims and Objectives

Specific functions are to:

1. Manage all Government Sugar Lands
2. Promoting viable investments in the remaining Government sugar lands;
3. Use the Lands to support expansion in Agriculture production
4. Act as an agent to interface between investors and the Government Agencies;
5. Monitor the performance of the investors in relation to the agreements;
 - Remedying all pre-existing environmental breaches on the divested estate;
 - Separating the infrastructure on the estates between the new investors and those displaced sugar workers and other entities;
 - Relocation of displaced sugar workers from properties leased to the investors;
 - Separation of managed lands from Investors leased Lands;
 - Monitoring of the New Investors in the implementation of their business plans;
 - Providing home ownership opportunities to former sugar workers.
6. Transferring all Government sugar lands to SCJ Holdings Limited;
7. Regularizing existing tenants on sugar lands;
8. Prevent squatting, misuse and unplanned development on sugar lands

Planned Targets for 2016/2017

- Generate 300 new Jobs
 - These jobs will be generated from investments in paper factory, rum bottling Plant, the housing factor, leasing of additional lands, solar farms, housing construction industrial parks and tree planting
- US\$40.0m Inward Foreign Direct Investment
 - Inflows to set up solar farms, paper factory, housing construction, industrial part and rum bottling plant.
- Export of Agricultural Goods valuing US\$2.78m
 - By providing 580 additional hectares of land for agriculture production export earnings will increase.
- Additional 3 sites (50Mw) establish to support Expansion of the Renewable Energy Sector
 - Leasing of lands to establish solar farms.
- An additional 200 houses in Sugar Dependent Area
 - Of the current fifteen housing proposals being analysed, it is projected that five projects to produce 3,500 houses will commence in the financial year and 200 houses solutions will be completed in FY2016/17.

- An additional 200 hectares of sugar land will be put into production.
- Foreign Exchange Savings valuing US\$10.0M
 - It is expected that targets set for solar and agriculture production will contribute to the reduction of imports of food and oil.

Key Achievements – 2016/2017

- 850 new jobs generated from investments in the operation of Long Pond Sugar Factory, housing, leasing of additional lands, and tree planting
- Inward Foreign Direct Investment valuing US\$9.320m through inflows to housing construction, industrial part and rum bottling plant.
- Export of Agricultural Goods valuing US\$5.23m through the establishment of 567 hectares of land yielding export earnings. This includes US\$1.8M from export of Sugar made at Long Pond.
- 2 sites (50Mw) solar farms
- 471 housing solutions sold
- 127 ha New Hectares of sugar land will be put into production.
- Foreign Exchange Savings valuing US\$3.210M through the export of limestone.

Principal Focus – 2017/2018

SCJ Holdings Limited (SCJH) for the year period 2017-2018 being a wholly owned Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Company will operate its business consistent with the applicable policies of Government, ensuring at all times that our operations support the Government's developmental objectives.

For this financial year SCJH's projects are expected to generate:

- increased production of agricultural products such as sugar, castor oil and vegetables
- housing start up for over 1,000 housing solutions to benefit former sugar workers and the general public
- the creation of 1,300 new jobs in the agriculture, housing and manufacturing sectors
- foreign investment of approximately US\$40.0M
- promotion of agro- processing through development of Industrial Agro-Parks
- a culture of innovation and creativity through cutting edge learning utilizing practical experiences and social engineering
- effective monitoring of the divested Sugar Estates
- company revenue to ensure sustained positive cash- flows
- increase in youth involvement in agriculture

This operating framework is expected to generate inflows to fund the planned work programme such as the Government's Post Divestment Obligations as set out in the various Sale and Purchase Agreements with the new investors in the Jamaican sugar sector.

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)² 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 2016/2017

- System of management and monitoring of commodity regimes (Refined Sugar & Milk Powder) based on Cabinet decisions
- Secure financing for implementation plan of the Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF)²
- Review list of items requiring import and export licensing.

Key Achievements for 2016/2017

- Financial performance within budget
- Net contributor to the Consolidated Fund (contribution to date – April 2016-February 2017 is \$286.12M)
- Active and ongoing participation in the dissemination of trade-related information to the public through collaboration via workshops/seminars
- 98% of total import/export applications issued in conformity with policy and procedures
- 85% of motor vehicle dealers are certified/recertified within twenty (20) days.

Principal Focus for 2017/2018

- Provide secretariat services to the Trade Facilitation Task Force (TF)² of Jamaica
- Single Trade Electronic Window (STEW) fully implemented
- Implement a comprehensive database for trade information (Jamaica Trade Portal)
- Implementation of Motor Vehicle Dealer Disclosure/Pre-Shipment Inspection Programme
- Carry out lead-agency role for Market Access and Trade Information Cluster for National Export Strategy - NES2 and support-agency role in Light Manufacturing Cluster and Logistics Cluster
- Legislative review and amendments to the Trade Act (Law 4) 1955
- Implementation of a Quality Management System (ISO: 9001) to improve internal company policies and operating procedures.

Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries
May 9, 2017