

Ministry Paper /2015
Agro Park Development Programme

1.0 Purpose

The matter for tabling is an update on initiatives being undertaken for the Agro Park Development Programme.

2.0 Background

An Agro Park is an area of intensive, contiguous, parcel of land for agricultural production which seeks to integrate all facets of the agricultural value chain from pre-production to production, post harvesting and marketing. All these activities are being executed by the Agro-invest Corporation (AIC) within the framework of a tripartite partnership involving the Government, the farmers/investors and marketing entities. The following are features of Agro-Parks:

- The requisite infrastructure and facilities
- An environment that supports integrated, sustainable agricultural production, processing and logistics
- Processes are integrated along a value chain in a deliberate way
- Partnerships involving Government, farmers/investors & marketing organizations

Agro-Parks are being strategically implemented across Jamaica with the following objectives:

- Substitution of imports to reduce food import bill which is close to US\$ 1B annually
- To support increase of agricultural produce
- To support industries by providing consistent supply of raw material
- To supply greater portions of food supplied the hotel industry

3.0 Operations of the Agro Parks

The Agro Park programme is being operationalized by the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC) and has responsibility for:

- Selecting investors and executing leases. Farmers are selected competitively
- Installing the infrastructure and facilities on the parks
- Providing Park Managers and dedicated Extension Specialists
- Coordinating the provision of services to the Parks through government agencies/departments

Overall Impact

With these parks implemented, the overall impact is expected to be as follows:

- Over 5000 people will benefit directly and indirectly spanning investor/farmers and employees.
- 20,000 acres of land brought into production over the next 5 years.
- Import substitution over 56,500 tons of produce normally imported, to be produced locally.
- Estimated J\$1.5B in private sector investment
- Estimated foreign exchange earnings/savings of up to J\$6.5B/ US 56M at the end of year 3.

To date, nine Agro Parks have commenced implementation. The 9 Agro Parks implemented this financial year (2014/15) are as follows:-

- i. Amity Hall - *St. Catherine*
- ii. Ebony Park - *Clarendon*
- iii. Yallahs - *St. Thomas*
- iv. Plantain Garden River – *St. Thomas*
- v. New Forest/Duff House - *Manchester, St. Elizabeth*
- vi. Hill Run - *St. Catherine*
- vii. Meylersfield - *Westmoreland*
- viii. Spring Pain - *Clarendon*
- ix. Sweet River Abattoir (Multi specie) - *Westmoreland*

4.0 Overview of All Agro Parks

Total lands of 2,711 ha targeted under the Agro Parks initiative for 2014/15 under the MOAF's Strategic Business plan. Of this amount 1,821 ha are under the direct management of Agro Invest. The remaining amounts of 890 ha are under the management of private investors. Of the 1,821 under AIC's management, 1,546 ha have been leased representing 84.89% percent. The remaining 16.11% is at different stages of lease agreement processing.

The implementation of additional Agro Parks being planned for the financial year 2015/16 is as follows:

- I. Hounslow/ Spring Ground - *St. Elizabeth*
- II. Unity/Nonsuch - *St. Mary*
- III. Seven Rivers - *St. James*
- IV. Sunderland - *St James*
- V. Enfield - *Westmoreland*

The implementation of these Agro Parks would see an additional 1,533 ha of underutilised lands

being brought into production. The current Agro Parks have a total of 396 participating farmers. The main crops include sorghum (76 ha reaped to date) and hay (26 ha) for local animal feed substitution; onion, ginger, vegetables, fruits and tubers. Currently, a total of 18,880 bushels of sorghum, 7,200 bales of hay, 210,833 kg of onions, 34,500 kg of fish and 1,625,863 kg of vegetables, tubers and fruits have been harvested. Along with the 396 farmers, the Agro Parks employ 1,032 labourers. The table below details the land resource available and distribution.

Table 1. Land Availability and Distribution

Agro Park	Hectares Targeted	Hectares Leased	Hectares in Prod. as at 7/3/2015	Production (kg) as at 29/3/2015
Plantain Garden River (PGR)	117	117	38	166,029
Yallahs	102	Private	22	160,833
Amity Hall	947	664	172	344,107
Hill Run (Fish)	121	Private	96	34,500
Ebony Park	567	398	151	751,277
Spring Plain	465	367	12	93,904
New Forest/Duff House	356	Private	263	320,546
Meylersfield	36	Private	0	0
Sweet River Abattoir*		Private	0	0
Total	2,711	1,546	754	1,871,196

*Cluster acreages to be determined

Table 2. Summary of current employment at the 8 Agro Parks

Agro Parks	# of	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Plantain Garden	40	40	80	160
Amity Hall	24	35	40	99
Ebony Park	70	113	225	408
Yallahs	90	105	45	240
Hill Run	16	28	7	51
New Forest/Duff	149	172	92	413
Spring Plain	7	10	40	57
Totals	396	503	529	1,428

5.0 Achievements in the current Agro Parks

5.1 Amity Hall, St. Catherine

5.1.1 Access to Land

Amity Hall property consist of 1,296 ha of which 850 ha is designated for the Agro Park

- 664 ha have been leased to date
- The remaining lands are designated as wetlands and riparian
- 24 investors currently producing a mix of crops
- One large investor producing sorghum and another producing hay

5.1.2 Infrastructure: Overall cost – J\$163.6M

- Clearing main drains – 15,555 m
- Cleaning of internal drains -1,126 m
- Reconstruction of main road – 5.5 km
- Installation of irrigation system -61 ha
- Irrigation control systems – 15
- Land clearing - 385 ha
- Installation of electrical pole lines – 16
- Cleaning & river training to the Black River
- Construction of changing room & bathroom facilities
- Security system - Installation of 4 gates at main entrance/exits

5.1.3 Production as at March 29, 2015. 512,716 kg (1,127,975 lbs)

Table 3. Production To-date by Crop

Crops	Harvested (kg)	Crops	Harvested (kg)
Sweet Pepper	11,087	Tomato	17,780
Hot Peppers	30,873	Cantaloupe	5,146
Pumpkin	115,985	Watermelon	2,127
Cucumber	21,566	Onion	11,306
Sweet Potato	68,464	Papaya	8,040
Sorrel	7,984	Carrot	3,350
Okra	30,249	Moringa	1,116
Leafy Vegetables	5,146	Castor Bean	2,023
Other Crops	170,412		
Total	512,716		
Sorghum	18,880 bushels		
Hay	7,200 bales		

5.1.4 Planned Production 2015/16

Table 4. Projected production by crops (192 ha)

Crop	Hectares
Cassava	100
Sweet Potato	30
Pumpkin	25
Scotch Bonnet Pepper	10
Onion	10
Irish Potato	5
Okra	5
Cucumber	4
Tomato	3
Total	192

5.1.5 Employment

75 currently persons employed (35 permanent, 40 temporary)

5.2 Plantain Garden River (PGR), St.Thomas

5.2.1 Access to Land

- Plantain Garden River property consists of 117 ha with 40 active farmers
- 117 ha have been leased to small farmers and 14 ha have been leased to 1 investor who will provide additional post-harvest infrastructure and marketing logistics

5.2.2 Infrastructural development: Overall cost - J\$112.4M

- Land clearing- 56.7 ha
- Clearing of internal drains – 1200m
- Clearing mains drains – 800m
- Farm road construction – 1.5km
- Installation of irrigation systems – 54 ha
- Construction of main canal crossing using culvert structure
- Changing room facilities

5.2.3 Production as at March 29, 2015

Table 5. Production by crop - 166,029 kg (365,263 lbs)

Crop	Harvested (kg)	Crop	Harvested (kg)
Pumpkin	61,682	Sorrel	6,200
Scotch Bonnet Pepper	37,208	Cucumber	4,750
West Indian Red Pepper	19,429	Tomato	1,377
Onion	16,872	Callaloo	2,340
Ginger	12,851	Sweet Potato	2,955
Irish Potato	364		
Total	166,029		
Plantain (bunches)		572	
Banana (bunches)		112	

Source AIC 2015

5.2.4 Planned Production 2015/2016

Table 6. Projected Production by Crop (84 ha)

Crop	Hectares
Pumpkin	20
Onion	20
Irish Potato	18
Sweet Potato	10
Ginger	4
Scotch Bonnet	4
West Indian Red Pepper	4
Sorrel	2
Callaloo	2
Total	84

5.2.5 Employment

120 persons employed (40 permanent, 80 Temporary)

5.3 Ebony Park, Clarendon

5.3.1 Access to Land

- Ebony Park property consists of 567 ha
- 398 acres have been leased to date with 169 ha remaining
- 75 investors currently producing a mix of crops
- Applicants being processed to allocate 169 ha

5.3.2 Infrastructure Development: Overall cost – J\$11.2M

- Irrigation main line – installation of 2,400m of 10” pipes
- Irrigation main line – installation of 770m of 8” pipeline
- Land clearing – 30 ha
- Fencing for office area

5.3.3 Production as at March 29, 2015

Table 7. Production To-date by crop - 751,277 kg (1,652,810 lbs)

Crop	Harvested (kg)	Crop	Harvested (kg)
Sweet Potato	140,033	Cherries	17,045
Pepper (W. I. Red)	112,077	Cucumber	11,295
Pumpkin	73,511	Cabbage	9,433
Cassava	65,510	Yellow Yam	7,766
Watermelon	48,958	Cantaloupe	5,380
Tomato	45,918	Sorrel	5,305
Pepper (Scotch Bonnet)	44,270	Carrot	3,686
Okra	41,335	Irish Potato	3,264
Papaya	31,139	Pulses	2,580
Sweet Pepper	30,953	Pak choi	2,446
Dasheen	23,996	Escallion	1,210
Onion	22,041	Lettuce	1,118
Cherries	17,045	Cabbage	9,433
Cucumber	11,295	Other Crops	1,008
Grand Total	751,277		

Peanut (qt)	1,881
Corn (doz)	866
Banana (bunches)	471
Plantain (bunches)	280

5.3.4 Planned Production

2015/2016

Table 8. Projected production by crop

Crop	Hectares
Sweet Potato	81.3
Pumpkin	21
Onion	12.3
Hot Pepper	12
Irish Potato	10
Cassava	10
Sweet Pepper	6
Sorrel	5
Watermelon	5
Carrot	5
Total	167.6

Employment: Currently 338 persons employed (113 permanent, 225 temporary)

5.4 Spring Plain, Clarendon

5.4.1 Access to Land

- Spring Plain property consists of 465 ha
- 367 ha have been leased to date with 98 ha remaining
- Applicants being processed to allocate 98 ha
- Informal settlers currently occupying sections of property and are in production are to be regularised

5.4.2 Infrastructure *(Expended - J\$227,427,765.96 and is being funded by the IDB)

*(Irrigation not included)

- Upgrade waterways 1,800 m
- Improve farm access ways 3,400 m
- Installation of irrigation delivery/interconnectivity system
- Site clearance (61 ha)

5.4.3 Production as at March 29, 2015 - 93,904 kg (206,589 lbs)

Table 9. Production To-date by Crop

Crops	Harvested (kg)	Crops	Harvested (kg)
Cassava	25,286	Tobacco	3,671
Sweet Potato	20,366	Tomato	2,738
Pumpkin	13,947	Sorrel	1,989
Papaya	13,970	Cabbage	1,296
Pepper (W.I. Red)	5,109	Escallion	1,282
Lettuce	3,864	Carrot	205
Other Crops	181		
Grand Total	93,904		

Banana (bunches)	764
Plantain (bunches)	548
Corn (doz.)	6,758

5.4.4 Planned Production 2015/2016

Table 10. Projected Production by Crop (91.2)

Crops	Hectares
Onion	40.5
Sweet Potato	22.7
Cucurbits	12
Vegetables	8
Cassava	8
Total	91.2

5.4.5 Employment

15 persons employed – 8 permanently and 7 temporarily

5.5 Yallahs, St. Thomas

5.5.1 Access to Land

All of the lands (102 ha) involved in this Agro Park are privately owned

5.5.2 Infrastructural Works - Expended - J\$69,547,653.43 and is being funded by IDB

- Farm access ways – 11,000 m
- Rehabilitate access ways – 5,000 m
- Irrigation infrastructure (built under a previous IDB project)

5.5.3 Production as at March 29, 2015

Table 11. Production To-date by Crop

Crop	Harvested (kg)
Onion	160,833
Total	160,833

Onion is the main crop being produced at Yallahs. To date, 160,833 kg have been harvested.

5.5.4 Production Planned 2015/2016

Table 12. Projected Production by Crop (40.3 ha)

Crop	Hectares
Onion	32.3
Sweet Potato	8

5.5.5 Employment

Employment created so far is 75 (35 permanent and 40 temporary)

5.6 Duff House/New Forest, Manchester

5.6.1 Access to Land

- All lands in this project are privately owned
- Total land available is approximately 356 ha

5.6.2 Infrastructural Works - Expended - J\$63,265,699.59 and is being funded by IDB

- Construct grading and packaging/processing facility (60 X 40 ft)
- Upgrade waterways 2,300 m
- Improve farm access ways 8,000 m
- Irrigation Infrastructure (built under a previous IDB project)

5.6.3 Production as at March 29, 2015 320,545 kg (705,200 lbs)

To-date, 323 ha of cumulative crop production

Table 13. Production To-date by Crop

Crop	Harvested (kg)
Escallion	219,500
Callaloo	37,182
Cabbage	15,273
Scotch Bonnet	9,318
Thyme	9,818
Watermelon	26,136
Tomato	3,318
Total	320,545

5.6.4 Production Planned 2015/2016

Table 14. Projected Production by Crop (196.6 ha)

Crop	Hectares
Thyme	44.5
Escallion	89
Cucurbits	24.7
Exotic Vegetables	20.4
Hot Peppers	9
Sweet Peppers	9
Total	196.6

Employment – Currently employ 181 persons (75 permanent and 106 temporary)

5.7 Hill Run, St. Catherine

5.7.1 Access to Land

All of the lands in this Agro Park are under private tenure
Total land is approximately 121 ha

5.7.2 Infrastructure and logistics Cost - J\$133M (J\$33M IDB; J\$100M World Bank JSIF)

- Irrigation water conveyance system to be constructed to supply good quality water in meeting food safety standards in an environmentally sustainable manner. To be implemented on phased basis.
- Marketing and Consumer Sensitization Campaign currently being addressed by ACP
- PPP Marketing collaboration is in progress with construction of mobile Live Sale outlets

5.7.3 Production of Tilapia as at March 29, 2015

Table 15. Production of Tilapia

Product	Harvested (kg)
Fish	34,500

5.7.4 Production Planned 2015/16 - 260 pond acres (of which 60 pond acres are newly established)

5.7.5 Employment: Currently 35 persons employed (28 permanent and 7 temporary)

5.8 Meylersfield

The Meylersfeild Agro Park involves the processing and canning of Ackee and Callaloo as well as the production of fish. The canning operation will see the production of 5,760 cases (138,240 cans) of ackee in PY1 to increase to 14,800 cases (355,200 cans) by PY5. In addition, 191 cases (4,572 cans) of callaloo will be produced in PY1 to increase to 565 cases (13,560 cans) by PY5. Ackee and callaloo are the main focus under this enterprise as both are favorites among the Diaspora as well as Caribbean nationals worldwide. The food fish enterprise will see the

marketable production of 99,119 lbs of fresh fish in PY1 to increase to 105,727 lbs in the subsequent years.

Infrastructure Costs - J\$44,832,007 being funded by the European Union (EU)

Road rehabilitation 813 m² (100% complete)

Installation of Electrical Pole lines 393.19 m (100% complete)

Construction of processing (canning) facility 342 m² (30% complete)

Production at Meylersfield - 5 acres of Ackee orchard established

Planned production 2015/2016 - 14 ha of vegetables, ackee, plantain and banana.

Employment – Projected employment set at 181 persons (75 permanent and 106 temporary)

5.9 Multi-species Abattoir

The Ministry of Agriculture has provided a grant of J\$27M to support the construction of a J\$277.3M Multi species abattoir in Sweet River, Westmoreland.

- The operational model of the abattoir has essentially been that of a cluster farm concept whereby the proposed abattoir is at the centre of the community where it establishes formal and contractual relationships with producers.
- This will be done through the formation of alliances with farmers' associations that could include Jamaica Pig Farmers Association (JPFA), Jamaica Goat Farmers Association (JGFA) and the Jamaica Sheep Farmers Association (JSFA) which will be vital to the success of this Equity Financed PPP.

Current Status

- **Clustering:** Identifying farmers within clusters for partnerships in the targeted parishes of Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Hanover and St. James
- **Determining Stock Supplies:** Dialogue commenced with key stakeholders to examine the capacity to supply stock. Stakeholders include Hounslow facility, 4-H, UWI, New Port Genetics, goat, pig and sheep farmers associations

Expected Benefits

- Construction of 12,000 sq ft fully automated processing facility by April 30, 2015
- Construction of effluent treatment facility to treat waste generated from the plant
- Monthly throughput of 2,625,000 kg of pork
- Monthly throughput of 315,500 kg of chevon and mutton
- Plant direct Employment - 50
- Farm direct employment through contracts - 1,200
- Trucker direct employment - 10
- Annual foreign exchange savings of US\$ 9M

Production Projection For Pigs & Small Ruminants

YEAR	No. Farmers	PIGS	No. Farmers	GOATS	SHEEP
2015	100	9,000	50	200	50
2016	150	18,000	125	500	100
2017	200	19,000	200	1,000	200
2018	250	20,000	350	1,500	400
2019	300	20,000	400	2,000	500
TOTAL	-	86,000	-	5,200	1,250

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