



Ministry of Agriculture
& Fisheries

MINISTRY PAPER

/2021



Performance
REPORT
2020-2021

**OPPORTUNITIES
SECURED...**

Stimulated Sustainable Growth
In Agriculture & Fisheries Sector

May 12, 2021

Ministry Paper /2021

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries Performance Report 2020 – 2021

1.0 Purpose

The matter for tabling is the Performance Report for the period April 2020 to March 2021 on the priority initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the development of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector in Jamaica.

2.0 Background

In FY2020/21, COVID-19 pandemic and the GOJ's countermeasures had a profoundly negative impact on Jamaica's agricultural sector. An immediate and ongoing impact was the reduction of markets (demand) for select local produce and livestock due to the closing down of the Tourism sector and other export markets. This and other impacts were further compounded by the impact of adverse weather on the agricultural sector - periods of droughts followed by excessive rainfall and ultimately the country's food security, rural development and economic growth. Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF) had to review its medium- term trajectory in order to continue to be the driver of the production of primary agricultural produce, livestock and fisheries; strengthened supply chains; and value chain development.

The Ministry revisited its priority policies and its targets to implement initiatives geared towards this new economic landscape. Key to this landscape was **food security and sustainability**. This led to the focus of priority initiatives under the **Ministry's Agriculture COVID-19 Recovery Project [\$1.35B]**.

Parallel to these initiatives the Ministry continued to adjust the targets of other support initiatives under its key programme – **Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security** which were impacted by COVID-19 and GOJ's countermeasures including a reduction in its overall budget. The Ministry and its portfolio entities prioritized its limited resources to "build-back" the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector with better resilience for both the COVID-19 impacts and climate change.

3.0 Overview of 2020 Performance of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and bad weather, in FY2020/21, the MOAF and its portfolio entities implemented initiatives that continued to facilitate “the development of an **innovative, inclusive, sustainable and internationally competitive agriculture and fisheries sector**” (MOAF’s Vision 2020/21 – 2023/24). There was a 1.4 per cent decline in Real Value Added for the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing industry relative to 2019 and the industry accounted for 7.8 per cent of Total Real Value Added (see Figure 1 below). The reduced performance stemmed mainly from combined effect of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 and adverse weather conditions on the economy.

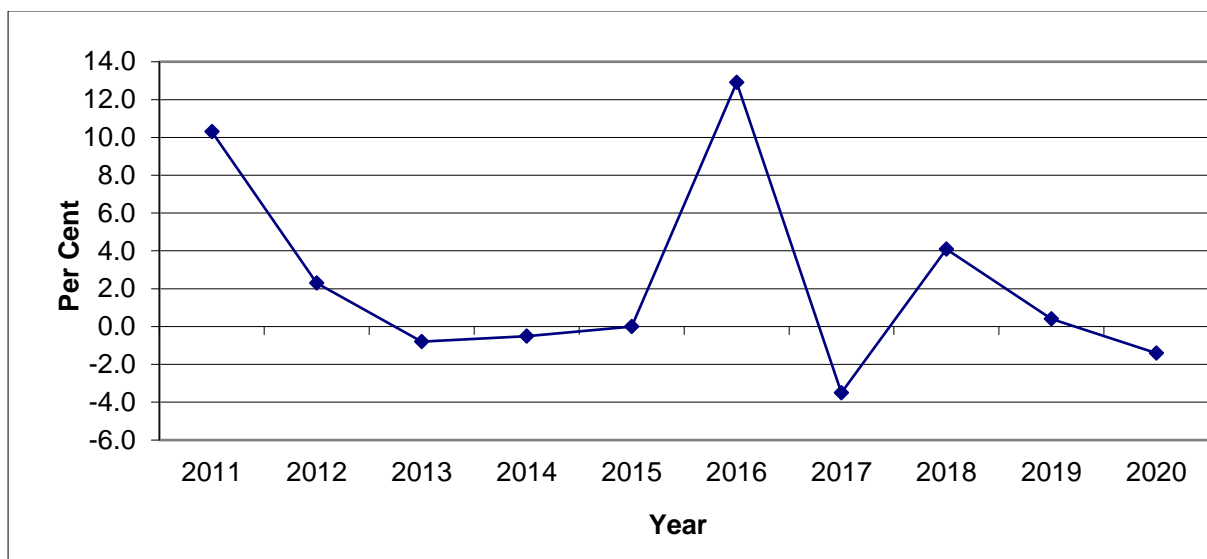


FIGURE 1: REAL VALUE-ADDED GROWTH RATE FOR THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, 2011-2020

However, for 2020, quarterly performances were mixed, evidenced by expansions in January--March and July--September; and contractions in April--June and October--December. Drought conditions impacted the April – June production, while the above-normal weather conditions during October and November led to widespread flooding which resulted in damage to crops and livestock which reduced output. The accumulated rainfall for 2020 was 1,733 mm relative to 1,387 mm for 2019.

| | Jan – Mar 2020 | Apr- Jun 2020 | July – Sept 2020 | Oct – Dec 2020 |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Overall Growth compared with 2019 | 10.7% | -8.5% | 9.8% | -6.1% |

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, the sector was on a growth trajectory recording its highest production in the January to March quarter of 2020 of some 195,000 tonnes, with **an overall growth of 10.7% when compared to the similar quarter in 2019**. Unfortunately, the fallout from COVID-19, GOJ’s countermeasures and the closing of markets, were felt immediately by farmers and was reflected in the decrease of production in the April – June quarter. The April - June quarter estimates for domestic production reflected a **decline of approximately 6.6% in total production**. This was due to larger declines in traditional export crops, which declined by 11.9 per cent. The Ministry immediately responded with recovery initiatives. These produced simultaneous result of removing the excess of goods produced in the January – March 2020 due to the closing of the markets¹; provision of inputs for future production² and boosting of farmers’ confidence.

In addition, the Ministry through National Irrigation Commission³ and Rural Agricultural Development Authority commenced distribution of water and tanks to farmers impacted by the double whammy of drought and COVID-19 impacts through the **Support to the Drought Mitigation Programme Initiative**⁴. These initiatives led to **a growth of 1.8% in the July – September 2020** period in the sector. This reflected a **production increase of 9.8%, approximately 698,000 tonnes in domestic production**.

Parallel to the above, initiatives such as the Production Incentive Programme⁵, was re-organized to facilitate the recovery of the industry, amidst the pandemic. Activities also continued under the Agricultural Competitiveness Programme Bridging Project (ACPBP) ⁶ and the Essex Valley Agricultural Development Project (EVADP)⁷. The Rural Agricultural Development Authority

¹ See page 14 for further information on MOAF’s Buy-Back Programme Initiative

² See page 15 for further information on the Special Production Incentive Programme Initiative

³ See page 82 for National Irrigation Commission’s Summary Performance for FY2020/21

⁴ See page 17 for further information for Initiatives under the Response to COVID-19 Recovery Programme

⁵ See page 90 for Production Incentive Programme’s Summary Performance for FY2020/21

⁶ See page 31 for further information on ACPBP Summary Performance for FY2020/21

⁷ See page 37 for further information on EVADP’s Summary Performance for FY2020/21

(RADA)⁸ continued its drive to promote the development of agriculture and enhance the efficiency in the industry, by offering farmers support in the areas of extension service, irrigation and marketing, aimed at improving efficiency in the industry.

The excess rains which followed the drought led to a decline **in production of 6.1% in the October – December 2020**. Despite this, the Ministry double down on its recovery programme through further support of the production incentive programme and ongoing implementation of the drought mitigation programme.

The fisheries sub-sector was impacted by COVID-19 and adverse weather. The assistance provided and ongoing activities are expected to not only build-back the fisheries industry⁹ but strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the sub-sector for the future production. ***The total fisheries production for the calendar year 2020 was 12,906 MT, a 4.5% decrease from 2019 (13,518.69 MT).***

Data from the Planning Institute of Jamaica's (PIOJ) Agriculture Production Index (API) revealed that gross output contracted for the sub-industries Traditional Export Crops, Animal Farming and Fishing, while Other Agricultural Crops recorded an increase. Earnings from exports of traditional agricultural commodities (coffee, banana, citrus, cocoa and pimento) were valued at US\$18.5 million compared with US\$16.1 million. Reduction in earnings were recorded for two of the five traditional crops – Citrus (Fresh Fruits), by 53.1 per cent to US\$383, 000 and Cocoa, by 23.3 per cent to US\$348,000. Earnings from the export of Banana and Coffee grew by 25.6 per cent and 32.7 per cent to US\$726,000 and US\$15.9 million, respectively. The latter accounted for 85.5 per cent of total export earnings by the industry compared with 74.3 per cent of earnings in 2019.

Preliminary data shows a decline in the January – March 2021 period but the Ministry remains focus on increasing the sustainability of the agriculture and fisheries sector and maintaining food security.

⁸ See page 88 RADA's Summary Performance for FY2020/21

⁹ See page 16 and 80 for Fisheries Recovery Initiatives for FY2020/21 and Principal Focus for FY2021/22

Employment

The average employment¹⁰ for the Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing industry contracted by 350 persons to 188,100. However, there was a 1.4 percentage point increase in the industry's share of total employed labour force. The average number of females employed in the industry increased to 47,350 from 45,450, while the average number of males employed declined from 143,000 to 140,750. The male/female share of employment within the industry was 74.8 per cent and 25.2 per cent, respectively, compared with 75.9 per cent and 24.1 per cent in 2019.

¹⁰ Average Employment represents data for July and October of 2019 and 2020. This reflects the implementation of a change in Jamaica's Industrial Classification from 2005 to 2016, which has implications for industry composition. At the time of writing comparable data was only available for July and October.

4.0 MOAF's Summary Financial Report

The revised budget for 2020/21 for both Capital and Recurrent heads of expenditure for the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (MOAF) as a result of the Third Supplementary Estimates was **Six Billion Four Hundred and Twenty-One Million Seven Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$6,421,770,000.00)**

The budget and expenditure depict budget for the Ministry – MOAF by way of the Second Supplementary Estimates and Third Supplementary Estimates.

Summary of Budget

| HEAD | Approved 2020/21 | | | Revised 2020/21 3rd supplement | | | Increase / Decrease in Budget | % Change |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | Revised Budget (incl. AIA) \$'000 | AIA Provision \$'000 | Net (AIA) Budget \$'000 | Revised Budget \$'000 | AIA Provision \$'000 | Net (AIA) Budget \$'000 | | |
| Recurrent | 5,017,440 | 841,746 | 4,175,694 | 5,284,616 | 853,319 | 4,431,297 | 0 | 5% |
| Capital | 1,499,173 | 0.0 | 1,499,173 | 1,137,154 | 0.0 | 1,137,154 | 0 | 24% |
| Totals | 6,516,613 | 841,746 | 5,674,867 | 6,421,770 | 853,319 | 5,568,451 | 0 | 15% |

Expenditure Summary

For the periods to March 2021, the new Ministry, MOAF utilised respectively 94% and 81% of the revised budget for the Recurrent and Capital heads, an overall utilisation of 90% for both Recurrent and Capital. Approximately, **98%** of recurrent revenue inflow, Warrant and Appropriations-in-Aid combined, has been committed or expended. The Capital Head has committed or expended **98%** of its revenue inflow.

For the period available funding was approximately **\$5,888.4M of which \$5,356.4M** was funded from the Consolidated Fund or multi-lateral grants and **\$531.9M** earned from Appropriations-in-Aid.

| HEAD | Approved/Revised Budget | Funding received (Warrant & AIA) | Expenditure & Commitments (Quarter 3) | Expenditure to Warrant/AIA Rate | Budget Utilization Rate |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | % | % |
| Recurrent | 4,423,297 | 4,423,297 | 4,339,818 | 98% | 98% |
| Recurrent - AIA | 853,319 | 531,935 | 510,562 | 96% | 60% |
| Sub-Total Recurrent | 5,276,616 | 4,955,232 | 4,850,380 | 98% | 94% |
| Capital | 1,137,154 | 933,134 | 915,891 | 98% | 81% |
| Total MOAF Budget | 6,413,770 | 5,888,366 | 5,766,271 | 98% | 90% |

Appropriations -In- Aid (AIA)

The AIA collection rate was 62% for the period to March 2021 for the Ministry.

| Head | Approved AIA Budget | AIA Collections (October 2020 to March 2021) | AIA Collection Rate |
|-----------|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | % |
| Recurrent | 853,319 | 531,935 | 62% |

5.0 Policy and Legislative Development Framework

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

Aims and Objectives

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 agribusiness environment.

Policy Development Planned Targets for 2020/21

The Planned policy for 2020/21 was to develop and submit to Cabinet for approval:

- I. National Organic Agriculture Policy and Implementation Plan
The Ministry will seek to complete and submit to Cabinet for approval the Organic Agriculture Policy.

Policy Development Key Achievements

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, focus shifted to matters geared at bolstering the agricultural sector, as such policy development was delayed.

Policy Development Principal Focus for FY2021/22

- I. National Seed Policy and Plan
Cabinet Decision No. 12/19 dated 29 April 2019 approved the adoption of the National Seed Policy and Action Plan, for tabling in Parliament as a White Paper. Therefore, implementation of the policy will be done for FY2021/22
- II. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan
Establish an Inter-ministerial committee to commence implementation of policy.
- III. National Plant Health Policy
Revision/updating of the policy by the committee was established (led by the Plant Quarantine and Plant Inspection Branch

IV. Youth in Agriculture Policy

Updating/revision of draft policy document and secure funding to conduct an agricultural census.

Legislation Development Planned Targets for 2020/21

- 2 legislations to be repealed and 1 legislation for amendment submitted for enactment
- Drafting instructions issued to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel
- 2 draft Bills submitted to Attorney General's Chambers for review
- Bills tabled in the Parliament
- 2 draft Cabinet Submissions submitted to Attorney General's Chambers for review

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

Bills passed by the Legislation Committee of Parliament & Approved by Cabinet for introduction into Parliament

- **Tobacco Industry Regulation (Validation and Indemnity) (Repeal) Bill, 2021** - passed by Legislation Committee of Parliament on February 10, 2021, approved by the Cabinet on March 15, 2021 - Cabinet Decision No. 12/21 and **tabled in the House of Representatives on March 30, 2021**
- **The Agro Investment Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021** – passed by Legislation Committee of Parliament on February 10, 2021, approved by the Cabinet on March 22, 2021 - Cabinet Decision No. 14/21 and sent for printing

Other Achievements - Orders/Regulations Promulgated

- **The Fisheries (Declaration of Close Season) (Conch, *Genus Strombus*) (No. 2) Order, 2020** came into effect on April 1, 2020
- **The Colbeck (Irrigation Area) Order, 2020, Resolution and the Colbeck (Irrigation Area) Order, 2020** came into effect on November 13, 2020
- **The Spring Garden (Irrigation Area) Order, 2020, Resolution and the Spring Garden (Irrigation Area) Order, 2020** came into effect on October 16, 2020
- **The Fisheries (Declaration of Close Season) (Conch, *Genus Strombus*) Order, 2021** came into effect on March 1, 2021 and ended March 31, 2021
- **The Fishing Industry (Conservation of Conch (*Genus Strombus*)) Regulations, 2000, National Total Allowable Catch, 2021**, gazetted on March 1, 2021
- **The Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Farm Gate Price) Order, 2021**, gazetted on February 19, 2021

- **The Fishing Industry (*Spiny Lobster*) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020**, gazetted on April 15, 2020 in direct response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

**Relevant MOAF
Priority Policy:**

PP7. Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and its portfolio entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Programme: | 001 Executive Direction and Administration |
| Sub-Programme: | 02 Policy, Planning, and Development |
| Priority Initiative(/s): | Executive Oversight and Support |

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22:

- Tobacco Industry Regulation (Validation and Indemnity) (Repeal) Bill, 2021 – The Tobacco Industry Regulation Act is repealed
- The Agro Investment Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 – The Agro-Investment Corporation Act is amended and the Agricultural Marketing Corporation Act is repealed
- The Plants (Quarantine) Act – Repealed and replaced with new legislation called “The Plants Health Act”
- The Agricultural Produce Act – The Act is Amended;
- The Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act - Repealed and replaced with new legislation called “The Animal Health Act”
- The Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Act – Obtain Cabinet’s Decision for Act to be amended

Other matters categorised as work-in-progress:

Legislation Impacted by the GOJ Policy on Categorization and Rationalization of Public Bodies (Cabinet Decision No. 20/18 dated June 4, 2018)

- **The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority Act** - to be amended to merge the relevant functions of the Banana Board into JACRA. The amendment of the JACRA Act will also seek to address certain recommended changes advanced by some stakeholders.
- **The Jamaica Agricultural Society Incorporation Act** - to be repealed and the Society to become a non-governmental organization.
- **The Banana Board Act** - to be repealed so that JACRA takes on the relevant functions.
- **The Veterinary Act** - to be amended (in order to assign a body corporate status to the Jamaica Veterinary Board.
- **The Jamaica 4-H Clubs Act-** The Jamaica 4-H Clubs Board of Management to become a non-governmental organization.

Updating of Monetary Fines

The necessary process will be undertaken to amend several pieces of legislation reflecting low outdated monetary fines. These are as follows:

- a) Agricultural Small Holdings Act
- b) Animals (Artificial Insemination Control) Act
- c) Animals (Control of Experiments) Act
- d) Banana Insurance Act
- e) Bees Control Act
- f) Cruelty to Animals Act
- g) Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act
- h) Irrigation Act
- i) Meat and Meat Products and Meat By-Products (Inspection and Export) Act
- j) Morant and Pedro Cay's Act
- k) Sugar Industry Control Act
- l) Sugar (Reserve Funds) Act

5.0 MOAF's FY2020/21 Performance

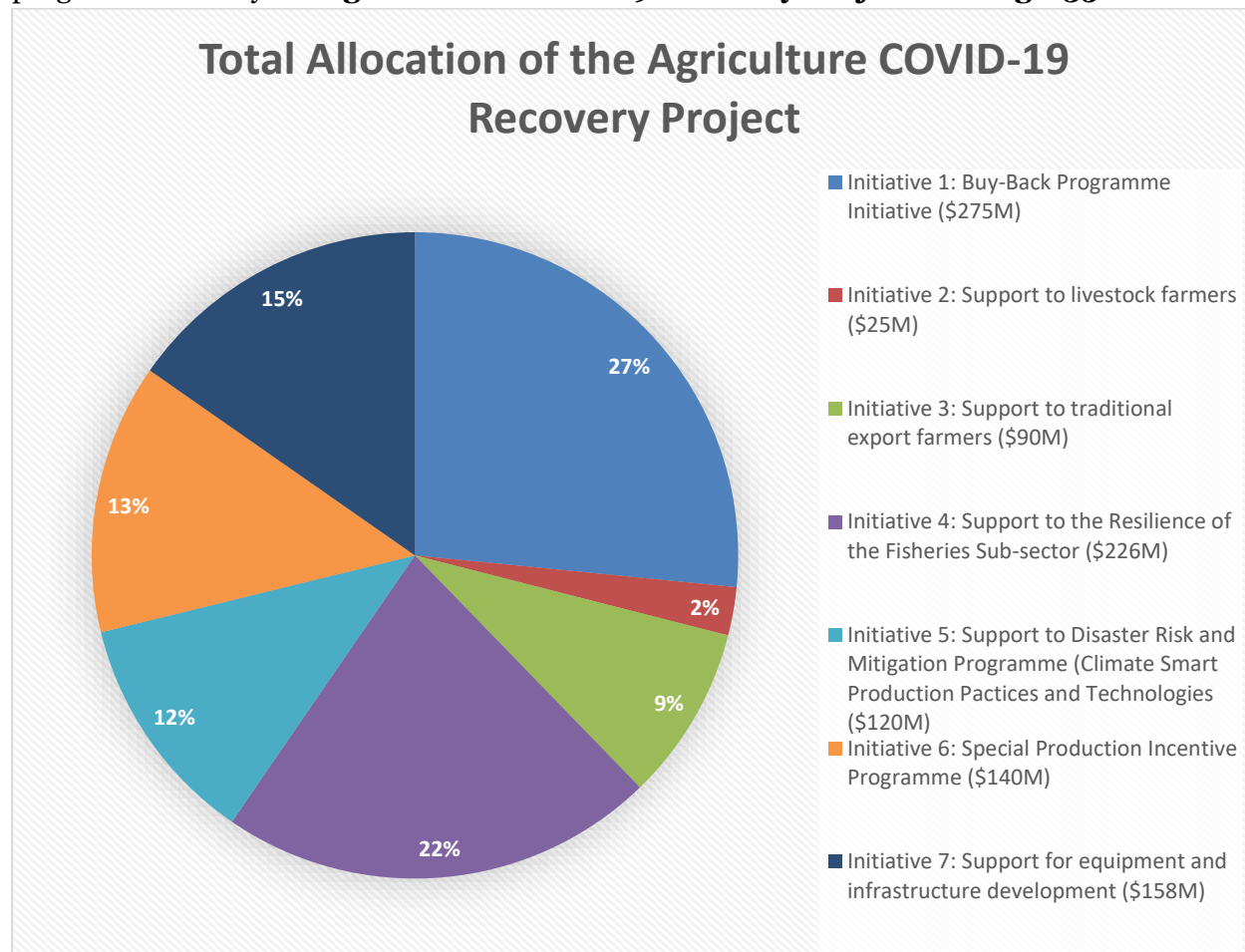
The Ministry and its portfolio Agencies implemented their initiatives within the framework of GOJ's strategic priorities, the National Vision 2030 MTF 2018 – 2021, the Economic Growth Agenda “5 in 4” Plan, the GOJ's COVID-19 Recovery Plan and the current state of the agriculture and fisheries sector:

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5.1 COVID-19 Response for the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector

In FY2020/21, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries implemented an immediate response programme namely the **Agriculture COVID-19 Recovery Project** valuing **1.35B dollars**:



5.1.1 Buy-Back Programme Initiative

On the advent of the first case of COVID-19 in Jamaica in March 2020 with the subsequent closure of the Tourism sector, restrictions on travel, gatherings and community lockdowns, an immediate assessment was made of the effect on the agriculture sector as it related to the country's food supply. The assessment showed that there was significant excess of all domestic crops in the field and farmers were accumulating continuing losses.

One of the Ministry's main responses was initiating a produce "buy-back" programme to assist in the movement of the excess production in the fields from farmers to consumers. The Ministry allocated \$240 million towards moving the excess produce and securing the services of farmers. Similarly, Ministry received an additional \$35 million from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support this initiative in the Eastern parishes.

Activities and Achievements

- To date, the value of produce purchased through the Ministry's "Buy-back" programme initiative is **\$275 million impacting over 2,000 farmers directly and over 30,000 farm families indirectly.**
- The initiative has moved in excess of **2 million kg of produce.**
- **A provision of** subsidies for eggs, poultry and pig farmers totalling \$25m
- In addition, organized in collaboration with the Ministry, farmers have made direct contributions to quarantined communities and institutions of approximately **\$15 million**

The initiative achieved its goals of providing a secure and fair market for many of the farmers who found themselves with excesses of produce caused by the sudden close down of the tourism sector and the marketing channels that supply it. New marketing channels were created and the programme served to create and drive entrepreneurship and innovation in the food distribution systems.

5.1.2 Special Production Incentive Programme

In addition, to the impacts of COVID-19 and GOJ's Countermeasures, the agricultural sector suffered from flood damages caused by heavy rains in October and November leading to loss of outputs.

Thus, the Agriculture COVID-19 Recovery Project allocated \$140M to a ***Special Production Incentive Programme*** to boost production and revive the economic activity of the agricultural sector.

Activities and Achievements

Main activities are as follows:

- a) **ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT** (back hoe, tractors/implements and drones), to strengthen the mechanization and introduce new technology to the sector.
- b) **MATERIAL INPUTS**
This involves the procurement of agro-chemicals, greenhouse mesh and plastic liners to boost agricultural production and productivity

5.1.3 Support to Build the Resilience of the Fisheries Sector

The COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted the fish production and value chain with varying negative impacts; from the loss of markets both local and overseas, to higher input costs causing significant increases in operational expenses. It is estimated that the fisheries sector lost up to US\$23.1 million during 2020¹¹, due to COVID-19, as per the following breakdown:

- Capture Fisheries - US\$20.9 M
- Aquaculture - US\$2.2 M

While the basic production systems are still intact with most small-scale fishers and fish farmers still being able to produce and sell at farm gate, the slow down or loss of markets has had the contingent effect of slowing down production operations. Similarly, there has been an increase in the cost of input materials such as mesh wire for fishers and chemicals required for aquaculture that must be imported from overseas. Also, because of the slowdown in the sales of fish and bad weather, many fishers are going offshore less frequently resulting in loss of fishing gear.

These factors have resulted in increases in the unit cost of production per fish sold. To improve productivity in the sector, some level of recapitalization will be necessary for both fishers and fish farmers.

Activities and Achievements

- The COVID-19 Enforcement Measures were amended through the Disaster Risk Management Act, The Disaster Risk Management (Enforcement Measures) (No. 4) (Amendment) Order, 2020, to reduce the restrictions on fisheries sector workers. The Second and Third Schedules were amended to exempt “Persons employed/engaged to/in catching, landing, or processing of fish pursuant to a license or permit issued under the Fisheries Act. The amendment became effective on April 28, 2020.
- Approximately **260 fishers from St. Catherine and St. Mary** fishing beaches that were subject to Lockdowns and were unable to go to sea received grants in the form of vouchers with a total value of \$8 Million. They lost or suffered damages to their fishing equipment that were at sea during the period and were thus not attended to. These included primarily trap fishermen, and some net and line fishers.
- Approximately **5,000 licensed fishers** across **137 fishing communities** benefitted from grants in the form of vouchers with a total value of **\$67 Million**. Each fisher was provided a voucher valued at **\$15,000.00**, adequate to purchase one roll of fish mesh wire (or equivalent fishing gear).

¹¹ The assumption is a loss of up to 50% in sales in a worse-case scenario due to local social distancing and loss in overseas markets.

- **Thirteen (13) conch industrial operators and eighteen (18) lobster and finfish industrial operators** were provided with grants totalling **\$83 Million**.
- **Seventy-Two (72) fish farmers** were provided grants to procure fish feed and fingerlings totalling **\$20 million dollars**.

5.1.4 Support to Disaster Risk and Mitigation Programme

In FY2020/21, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries revamped the Disaster Risk Management and Mitigation Committee, which is a part of the National Disaster Risk management structure, currently implementing the climate-smart framework and strategy plan which was developed for the sector.

Weather-related events such as drought, torrential rainfall and high temperatures, triggered by climate change have been impacting the agricultural sector with higher frequency. The Ministry continues to support recovery efforts. Our Agricultural Disaster Risk Management Programme remains critical response for future disasters.

Activities and Achievements

- The Ministry trucked approximately **276,000 gallons of water to 136 farmers** who had experienced threats or damage to crops as a result of drought conditions. Additionally, some 500 water tanks were distributed to farmers across the island to farms in key production areas.
- The Ministry awarded a contract for the distribution of 2,000 ¼ acre irrigation kits valued at \$125 million, covering 500 acres of land.
- **Ten (10) catchment ponds** are currently undergoing rehabilitation – three (3) in St. Elizabeth that will be utilized for greenhouse purposes, four (4) in Manchester, and three (3) in St. Ann. These will be used for to support green houses and open field irrigation systems.

5.1.5 Support to select livestock and commodities producers

In FY2020/21, the Ministry also provided in support to the following livestock and commodities through incentives; infrastructural development and/or input provision. They are

| Type of Producer | Support Provided |
|--|--|
| Cane, cocoa and Coffee farmers [90.6M] | Establishment of land for cane farmers at long pond, St. Elizabeth |
| | Distribution of resilient cocoa seedlings to farmers |
| | Distribution of inputs and supplies for coffee farmers |
| Small ruminants and bees [\$25M] | 605 farmers received Mineral blocks and General Maintenance Feed across the island |
| | A total of 43 out of 141 first aid kits were procured and distributed to farmers in St Ann, St Thomas, St Catherine, Westmoreland, Hanover and St Elizabeth. |
| | A total of 48 does and 33 bucks were procured and distributed under the programme |
| | A total of four machines were procured during the period and distributed to selected parishes |
| Fruit trees [\$418M] | Renovation of infrastructure & procurement of equipment; repairs to fruit tree nursey and shade house; construction of seedling house; procuring of tractors |

5.1.6 Total Expenditure under COVID-19 Recovery Project

| COVID-19 Response | Allocation | Expenditure | Description |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Buy-Back Programme Initiative | | | |
| Produce Buy Back | 200,000,000.00 | \$199,900,000 | |
| FAO Buy Back support | 35,420,000.00 | \$28,36,000.00 | Donation from FAO |
| SUB-TOTAL | 235,420,000.00 | \$228,336,000.00 | |
| Support to livestock farmers | | | |
| Small Ruminants | | \$20,500,000.00 | Grant for Small Ruminants Development Programme in lieu of funds disbursed from PIP for Produce Buy Back |
| SUB-TOTAL | | 20,500,000 | |

| COVID-19 Response | Allocation | Expenditure | Description |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Support to the Resilience of the Fisheries Sub-sector | | | |
| Fingerlings/Frys | 67,000,000.00 | 10,000,000.00 | Grant for Procurement of tilapia advance fries for aquaculture industry |
| Fishing equipment/gears | | 8,000,000.00 | Mesh wire to fishers affected in St Cath & St Mary |
| Refrigerated containers | | 24,000,000.00 | Grant to procure refrigerated containers for Fisheries |
| Feed | | 10,000,000.00 | Fish Feed to assist 72 farmers |
| New Fishery Development | | 15,000,000.00 | Grant for New Fishery Development Project |
| SUB-TOTAL | 67,000,000.00 | \$67,000,000 | |
| Support to Disaster Risk and Mitigation Programme (Climate Smart Production Practices and Technologies) | | | |
| Water and irrigation equipment | 126,000,000.00 | 109,283,300.00 | Procurement of 2000 ¼ acre irrigation kits |
| Catchment Areas/Ponds | | 2,740,570.64 | Payment for Catchment tank - R & D Division |
| Trucking of Water | | 1,348,947.78 | Trucking of water to non- irrigable farm areas |
| SUB-TOTAL | 126,000,000.00 | 113,372,818.42 | |
| Grant to Farmers | | | |
| Special Production Incentive: Response to Flood Damage | \$432,000,000.00 | \$140,000,000.00 | Grant for flood assistance programme – fertilisers, pesticides and greenhouse repairs |
| Grant to artisanal fishers | | 75,000,000.00 | Mesh Wire for 4740 small scale fishers |
| Sanctuary Management | | 30,277,600.00 | Support to Fisheries Sanctuaries Programme |
| Industrial Fishers | | 83,000,000.00 | Grant for industrial fishers. |
| Ornamental Fish Farmers | | 1,000,000.00 | Grant to procure feed and equipment for ornamental fish farmers |
| Beekeepers | | \$5,000,000.00 | Grant for Bee farmers |
| Cocoa Germplasm - Orange River | | \$8,138,920.00 | Grant for provision of clean seed cocoa |

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| COVID-19 Response | Allocation | Expenditure | Description |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Grant for coffee farmers | | \$80,000,000.00 | Grant to Coffee Assistance Prog |
| | | \$15,000,000.00 | Grant assistance to Jamaica Coffee Growers Association |
| SUB-TOTAL | 432,000,000.00 | 437,416,520.00 | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | |
| Tractor and implements | 141,000,000.00 | 90,000,000.00 | Grant for procurement of tractors - RADA |
| Other Implements | | 3,848,156.00 | Grant Assistance for purchase of equipment - AIC |
| Water Trucks | | 35,000,000.00 | Grant for procurement of water trucks - NIC |
| Backhoe | | 38,000,000.00 | Grant for procurement of backhoe - RADA |
| Drones | | 5,000,000.00 | Grant for procurement of drone - RADA |
| SUB-TOTAL | 141,000,000.00 | 171,848,156.00 | |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | | | |
| Shade houses/nurseries | | 5,403,304.07 | Repairs to Fruit Tree Nursery - R & D Division |
| Accessway/Land Preparation | | 2,500,000.00 | Provision of seedling house - indicator plants Clearing of 3,600 acres of cane land for All Cane Island |
| SUB-TOTAL | 34,000,000.00 | 7,903,304.07 | |
| Total | 1,035,420,000.00 | \$1,046,376,798.49 | Excess funds sourced from MOAF recurrent budget |

5.2 MINISTRY SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

5.2.1 Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination

On March 2, 2015, the Praedial Larceny Prevention Coordination (PLPC) Unit was established on March 2, 2015, by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (now Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries), in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security. The National Praedial Larceny Prevention Programme was developed as a priority initiative to aid MICAF in its bid to ensure that our farmers reap what they sow and create an enabling environment for continued investment in agriculture. The initiative is geared towards the protection of farmers of Jamaica through partnership with stakeholders, sharing information, effective enforcement and coordinating activities using innovation and technological advancements.

The overall goal of the Unit is to create and/or operationalize policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for the reduction of incidences of praedial larceny and other farm theft island-wide. To achieve this, the Unit will seek:

- To strengthen the legislative framework for treating with praedial larceny related cases with the Courts
- To maintain a public education campaign that focuses on the socio-economic implications of praedial theft and the promotion of a zero-tolerance approach to theft.
- To establish and maintain strategic partnerships for the development and implementation of praedial larceny prevention activities/programmes/policies.
- To facilitate the continuous training and development of the police and judiciary.
- To increase the participation of farming and fisher communities in praedial larceny prevention and risk reduction through effective community policing.

Planned Targets for 2020/2021 (Redacted following budget cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

- At least 24 police operations conducted monthly
- At least 24 farm visits conducted
- 12 security assessments conducted
- 4 specialized training sessions conducted
- Development of praedial larceny database for reported cases
- At least 3 parish seminars held
- Production of 2 Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Praedial Larceny Prevention competition held
- 4 parish seminars held

Key Achievements for FY2020/21

Of the targets planned for 2020/2021, the following was achieved:

- With the decentralization of the enforcement arm of the Unit – and instructions given for units to be established in all 19 geographic police division - to date, seven such units have been established across seven (7) police divisions and each has been assigned a motor vehicle – Trelawny, St. Catherine North, St. Catherine South, Clarendon, St. Mary, St. Elizabeth and St. Thomas.

There has been:

- 139 reported cases of praedial theft for intervention
 - 4,810 farm visits conducted in farming communities across the island
 - 10 security assessments conducted
 - 10 praedial larceny intelligence led operations conducted
 - 73 animals recovered and /or returned to their respective owners
- To create greater awareness and to strengthen the enforcement initiatives of the JCF in praedial larceny investigation, prevention and risk reduction, two (2) police sensitization workshops were carried out to educate officers on how to effectively investigate praedial larceny cases and prepare case files. A total of Sixty-Four (64) JCF officers were training across policing divisions of St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine North & South, Clarendon, Manchester, Portland, St. Mary, St. Thomas and Trelawny.
 - The legislative review for the Agricultural Produce Act was completed internally and recommendations have been advanced to the Legal Services Unit for further legislative work. Revisions have been proposed to include an increase in the types of crops and livestock covered under the Act; adjustment to the receipts to be used by farmers and dealers and the expansion of the definitions in the legislation.
 - The Unit utilized a number of mediums to continually sensitize the general populace, ranging from interviews on Power 106's Farm Talk, News Talk and Nationwide FM; the production and placement of radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and sensitization sessions. The Unit conducted nine (9) Virtual Town Hall meetings), in light of the COVID-19 restrictions, with farmers and stakeholders such as the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Veterinary Services Division (VSD). These Town Hall meetings had multiple satellite locations to facilitate the participation of farmers with no internet connectivity.
 - A Virtual Town Hall “Strategies to address praedial larceny”, was conducted during the first quarter and broadcasted via Jamaica Information Service social platform (Facebooks and YouTube), with a viewership of over 13K on Facebook.

- The second Virtual Town Hall “Reducing the Theft of Goats this Yuletide Season and beyond” - was held during the 3rd quarter via Zoom and targeted predominantly goat farmers.
 - For the 4th quarter, seven (7) Face-to-face/Virtual Town Hall meetings have been conducted in St. Catherine South, Clarendon, St. Thomas, St. Mary, St. Catherine North, Trelawny, and St. Elizabeth.
 - Since August 2020, Know the Facts content regarding praedial larceny related legislations have been developed in partnership with the Communications and Public Relations Unit for upload on the Ministry’s social media pages.
- The Unit participated in a total of 18 sensitization sessions and conducted ten (10) radio interviews geared towards providing updates on the efforts of the Unit; the production and placement of two (2) Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that were aired on radio during the 1st and 3rd quarters. These were geared towards providing farm safety tips to prevent theft, during the onset of COVID-19 in Jamaica and during Christmas.
 - The Unit held Essay and Jingle Competitions targeting students at the primary and secondary levels at the end of the 3rd quarter to spread knowledge regarding the impact of praedial larceny on the local economy and farming communities. The competition closed on February 14, 2021; however, the Awards ceremony was postponed within the context of covid-19 restrictions. Presentations will be made at a later date.

Principal Focus for FY2021/22

For the upcoming financial year, the focus is to effectively develop frameworks for reducing praedial larceny, which will be strengthened by networking and partnerships with key stakeholders and encouraging greater use of technology to assist with the securing of farms.

| | |
|---|--|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) : | PP1. Promote Market- Driven Production PP7. Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry and entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects |
| Programme: | 001 Executive Direction and Administration |
| Sub-Programme: | 02 Policy, Planning and Development |
| Priority Initiative (/s) | Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships - National Praedial Larceny Prevention and Coordination |
| Budget for FY2021/21 | \$ 11,372,000.00 |
| Priority Initiative | Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership |

Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22:

Institutional Arrangement

- Pilot Roll-Out of the Agricultural Wardens Programme to strengthen the fight against praedial larceny and to assist the police in carrying out enforcement activities – identification and training of recruits (subject to Cabinet approval).
- The execution of six capacity building sessions with members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, and members of the judiciary.

Public Education

- The execution of public education initiatives such as seminars/town halls in hotspot areas across the island.
- The development and placement of a TV PSA on local networks, and the continued placement of radio PSAs.
- The creation of a pamphlet with graphic illustrations on agricultural larceny, associated legislations, reporting and safety measures to adopt on property.

Enforcement & Compliance

- The continued investigation of reported praedial larceny cases, to include police operations, farm visits and security assessments.
-

5.2.2 Public Gardens

Mission: To maximize the conservation of biodiversity in the public gardens and scenic avenues for research, education and recreation.

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

- 634 plant species conserved and maintained
- 7,500 persons using public gardens for recreation and/or research
- 2,500 of plant sales, 400 soil sales, 10 rentals agreements and 4 plant maintenance services acquired to generate income for AIA
- 5% increase in access to local and endemic plants/plant species (876 local and endemic plants)
- 16,000 plants generated (propagated) for sale/rental
- Host at least one (1) show and participate in one (1) for the financial year
- Facilitate the five (5) years rehabilitation project at Castleton Botanical Gardens through the PIOJ/EU

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

- *Target: 634 plant species conserved and maintained*
 - 636 plants species were conserved maintained.
 - Gardens and Scenic Avenues were well maintained for the period under review. New plants were consistently introduced in the Gardens and Scenic Avenues. The Nursery has been propagating new plants from plant collection drives to be replanted in the Botanical Gardens for the Financial Year. **[13 plant/species conserved and maintained for Jan-March period]**
- *Target: 7,500 persons using public gardens for recreation and/or research*
 - 12,319 persons utilized the gardens for recreation and or research. The Gardens was utilized by various clients, both locally and international. As well as schools, businesses and individuals. **[4,448 persons using the public gardens for Jan – Mar 2021 period]**
- *Target: 2,500 of plant sales, 400 soil sales, 10 rentals agreements and 4 plant maintenance services acquired to generate income for AIA.*
 - A total AIA of \$2,865,880.00 was acquired through 2,505 plant sales, 358 soil sales, 22 plant rental agreements, 4 plant maintenance services. **[617 plant sales, 80 soil sales, 9 rentals and 1 maintenance for Jan – Mar 2021 period]**
- *Target: 5% increase access to local and endemic plants/plant species*
 - The installation of a herbal garden at Castleton Botanical Gardens
 - Botanical survey being conducted in the Gardens & Scenic Avenues
 - Soil analysis throughout the Gardens & Scenic Avenues **[13 new plants/ species for the Jan – Mar 2021 period]**

- *Host the Division's Botanical/Horticultural Seminar and participate in exhibitions/shows/webinars for internal & external entities*
 - The Division's Botanical & Horticultural Seminar was held February 26, 2021 with the Honourable Minister Floyd Green, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries as Guest Speaker.
 - The Division also participated in the Agricultural Land Management Division (ALMD) World Soil Day Technical Forum.
- *Facilitate the five (5) years rehabilitation project at Castleton Botanical Gardens through the PIOJ/EU*
 - Funding has been secured from the European Union
 - The Steering Committee has been finalized
 - The Terms of Reference for the Consultant have been completed
 - The tendering process has begun for Technical Assistants
- *Target: 16,000 plants generated (propagated) for sale/rental*
 - A total of 18,163 plants have been generated (propagated) to assist with conservation of species, beautification of the gardens and acquiring of the Division's AIA **[5,019 plants generated for sale or rental for Jan – Mar 2021 period]**

Issues and Mitigation Measures

The difference between the planned quarterly targets and the current achievements is based solely on the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects. Since the outbreak, the gardens and scenic avenues were closed. Although they reopened in June, visitors are still being cautious in terms of going into public spaces as there is a constant increase in the number of cases. This also caused a reduction in plant and soil sales. Drought is also a factor at Castleton & Cinchona Botanical Gardens resulting in decreased propagation.

- To increase visitorship health & safety trainings were held and protocol signs strategically placed in all gardens. The Gardens' flyer was designed & placed on the Ministry's media platforms.
- To increase the number of new plants collected the Division is requesting the assistance of Forestry Department, National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA), Institute of Jamaica (IOJ), and the University of the West Indies (UWI) along with donations from different entities. The Division also intends to embark on plant collection drives throughout different areas. An exotic fruit tree germplasm will be established in all gardens in collaboration with Orange River Research Station, with the first one beginning at Castleton Botanical Gardens.
- To increase plant and soil sales nursery flyer was designed & placed on the Ministry's media platforms, introduce new plant and new soil amendment products. To increase the number of plants generated the Division will aim to source seeds and viable plant parts along with sponsorships being sought for tanks & pumps.

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

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|---|---|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) | PP1. Promote Market-Driven Production PP3. Build a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 25 Management of Zoos and Gardens |
| Priority Initiative (/s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conservation and maintenance of biodiversity in public gardens and scenic avenue ○ Oversee management of zoo |
| Budget: | \$45,205,000.00 |
| Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22: | |

1. Increase in access to local and endemic plants
 - A 5 % increase in the plant species in the three (3) Botanical Gardens and two (2) Scenic Avenues.
 - The four (4) Botanical Gardens and two (2) Scenic Avenues maintained and operational within agreed standards.
 - Acquire two additional Gardens or Scenic Avenues
2. Increase Staff capacity
 - Train at least 20 members of staff in plant conservation.
 - Train at least 12 members of staff in customer service/tour guides and enroll at least 12 members of staff in a literacy programme.
3. Develop rehabilitation projects in collaboration stakeholders.
 - Liaise with Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo)/Tourism Enhancement fund (TEF) to fund the development of one (1) Project in the Gardens - Holland Bamboo Scenic Avenue.
4. Facilitate research activities in the Public Gardens
 - Facilitate two (2) research activities.
5. Conduct educational seminars shows and exhibitions.
 - Conduct one (1) shows/ exhibitions in the Gardens and One (1) Botanical/Horticultural Seminar.
6. Increase in Climate Resilient approaches in Public Gardens
 - Establish one (1) rainwater harvesting system and one (1) solar pump or gravity fed system in the Gardens.
7. Increase income generated to achieve a \$3.5 Million AIA
 - Achieve plant sales of at least 3500, 450 soil sales, 15 rentals agreements and 4 maintenance services.
 - Acquire three (3) horticultural and landscaping projects
8. *Increase in the awareness of the Public Gardens and its role in preserving bio-diversity*
 - The hosting of the Division's Botanical/Horticultural Seminar
 - Participation in internal & external entities exhibitions/shows/webinars
 - Conduct at least six (6) zoom sessions at selected schools
 - Attract atleast 10,000 visitors from both local and international visitors.
 - Publication of medicinal and endemic plants in the Botanical Gardens
9. Renovation/rehabilitation of existing facilities
 - Renovation of Bath Botanical Gardens geared towards a heritage/historical look
 - Major re-planting exercise at Holland Bamboo Scenic Avenue
 - Acquiring irrigation for Holland Bamboo Scenic Avenue

- Renovation of bath & restrooms and construction of an Office at Fern Gully Scenic Avenue
- Installation of lighting and plumbing at Cinchona Botanical Gardens
- Renovation of Head Office Shade house

10. Marketing of the Gardens

- Acquiring logo for the Division
 - Production of Division's calendar
 - Development of marketing profile for each Garden for the purposed of conservation and ecotourism
 - Acquiring of the Division's social media platform
-

Upcoming Plans for the Sector

One of Executive Management's Initiative is to acquire a Garden/Scenic Avenue in each parish. This will include but not be limited to acquiring the Independence Park in St. Elizabeth and the Climate Change Park in St. Catherine for the 2021/2022 Financial Year. Strategies to execute this plan will include but not be limited to dialogue with environmental agencies such as the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) for approval and also to identify additional potential sites. Other agencies such as the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) will be contacted so as to request budgetary support. If approval is granted, Memorandum of Understanding will be presented.

5.2.3 Transformation and Modernization

Corporate Services

Mission:

An efficient, modern, productive and customer-centric Corporate Services Division that is empowered to facilitate the achievement of the strategic priorities of the Ministry and its entities.

Planned Targets for 2020/21

- 65% of external clients satisfied
- 80% of internal clients satisfied
- 50% of targeted trainings facilitated
- 22 staff recruited and stationed
- 14 Succession Planning initiatives implemented
- 1 new policy/procedure developed
- 1 ICT upgrade conducted to Network connectivity
- 80% of procurement request completed with standard guidelines

Modernization initiatives for 2020/21:

- JAS inception Report submitted

Key achievements for 2020/21

- 76% external customer satisfaction rate [**76% external customer satisfaction for the Jan – Mar 2021 period**]
- 80% internal customer satisfaction rate [**79.8% internal customer satisfaction for the Jan – Mar 2021 period**]
- 2 focus group meetings (Brandon Hill Farmers Meeting and Customer Feedback system meeting) [**both meetings were held in the quarter**]
- 70% of targeted trainings held with 197 staff members trained
- Final draft ICT policy submitted
- Upgraded Helpdesk and website platforms in October 2020 and March 2021 respectively
- 70% of resolution of customer service issues
- 72% of Procurement requested completed
- Succession Planning initiatives executed:
 - Revised proposed PQ/PI organizational structure submitted
 - R&D proposed organizational structure to be review
 - Proposed organizational arrangements for the merger of the Banana Board and JACRA
 - ASSFPL Company wind up (AIC Merger) pending approval. The legislative activity being finalized.

Modernization initiatives implemented:

- Submission of final report on the proposed organizational structure for MICAFA

Issues and mitigation

- No designated budget for the modernization programme. However, supplementary budget made to support available to support programme.

Principal Focus for FY2021/22

| | |
|--|---|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies): | PP7. Strengthen the capacity of ministry and entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects |
| Programme: | 001 Executive Direction and Administration |
| Sub-Programme: | 01 Central Administration |
| Priority Initiative (/s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Resources Management ● Administration and Asset Management ● Information Technology & Communication ● Documentation and Records Management ● Strategic Direction and Performance Management |
| Budget for FY 2021/22: | \$665,322,000.00 |

Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22:

- Customer Satisfaction rating (External and Internal)
- Information Management Services
- Staff Training and Recruitment
- Modernization Activities
- Procurement of goods and services
- Facilities, equipment support and maintenance system

5.2.4 Agricultural Competitiveness Programme Bridging Project (ACPBP)

The ACPBP is designed and implemented to facilitate the placement of Jamaica in a competitive position that will provide solutions to the structural challenges that are confronted by the local agriculture sector, whilst at the same time providing an opportunity and laying a solid foundation to fully exploit the market potential which exist for Jamaican fresh produce, locally and internationally. The aim is to;

- Increase in productivity in agro-enterprises in the Spring Garden Agro-Park
- Greater market access for growers in and around the project area.
- Improving access, management and efficient use of arable land while achieving environmental sustainability.
- To minimize the importation of fresh strawberries on the island
- To minimize the pest population of the West Indian Fruit Fly

Planned Target for 2020/21

Component 1: Development of the Spring Garden Agro-Park

- Completed Cadastral survey
- Designed and Implementation of Irrigation system completed
- Design and the Supply and Installation of Pipes and fittings completed
- The design and Construction of Pump House completed
- Supply and Installation of Pumps and Manifolds completed
- The supply of transformer and JPS electrification of the project area completed
- Working Drawings for the Packaging Facility completed and approved by the Portland Parish Council.
- The Design and Construction/Rehabilitation of the Packaging Facility
- The construction on On-farm Access Ways and water Channel Ways
- Training of the Spanish river completed

Component 2: Capacity Building towards Value Chain Development

- On-farm water management training conducted
- Farmers group provided with support to develop business plan.
- 3 conflict resolution training conducted.
- 1 accounting/book keeping training conducted.
- 2 major markets identified for growers to sell their produce into.
- 12 farmers were assisted to sell directly into identified markets based on type of produce required by the market.
- 22 Farmers assisted to purchase inputs collectively to benefit from economies of scale.
- 3 workshops held to highlight fertilization and pesticide application techniques (insecticide and fungicide) in banana cultivation.
- 37 Farmer taught crop care over 33 training session.

Component 3: Support to the development of the strawberry Industry

- The identification of 5 strawberry varieties for trial at Bodles, Orange River, CASE and J4-H Salisbury Plain.
- The procurement of 5 patented varieties from the USA for trailing to be led by the R&DD team
- The procurement of inputs and supplies for R&DD, J4-H Clubs, RADA and CASE for trailing
- The Construction of office facility at the Top Mountain Research station
- The electrification of facilities construction at the Top Mountain Research Station
- The construction of a state-of-the-art Greenhouse at the Top Mountain Research Station

Key Achievements for 2020/21

Component 1: Development of the Spring Garden Agro-Park

- Cadastral and GIS surveying of the project area completed
- Implementation of Irrigation system completed
 - Supply and Installation of Pipes and fittings completed
- Construction of Pump House completed
- Supply and Installation of Pumps and Manifolds completed
- The supply of transformer and JPS electrification of the project area completed
- Working Drawings for the Packaging Facility completed and approved by the Portland Parish Council.
 - Tender evaluated and recommended contractor approved by the Public Procurement Committee (PPC)
 - Cabinet submission completed. Submission held since approval is now awaited from the Ministry of Finance to divert funding from the Spring Garden Agro-Park to the Spring Plain Agro-Park for the Mango Industry Development Programme.
- Design and Completion of comparable estimates for Road and Drainage networking completed
 - Roads & Drains: - Tender evaluation completed and submission to PCC is underway
 - Evaluation completed and was favourably reviewed by the Sector Committee.
 - Evaluation will be passing on to the PCC by Sector Committee for their approval and onward recommendation to the Cabinet Infrastructure Committee for final approval.
- River Training Phase 1
 - Target off track: - No funding is available to support this activity

Value Chain Development

- 3 on-farm water management training conducted for the financial year.
- 4 farmers group provided with support to develop business plan.
- 3 conflict resolution training held.
- 1 accounting/book keeping training conducted.
- 2 major markets identified for growers to sell their produce into.
- 12 farmers were assisted to sell directly into identified markets based on type of produce required by the market.
- 22 Farmers were assisted to purchase inputs collectively to benefit from economies of scale.

- 3 workshops were held to highlight fertilization and pesticide application techniques (insecticide and fungicide) in banana cultivation.
- 37 Farmer were taught crop care over 33 training session.

Component 2: Capacity Building of the Ministry

- Twelve (12) employees were prepared for the PMI exams. The training was facilitated over 5 days by Project Management Global Institute.
- The procurement of furniture, equipment and supplies for Economic Planning and Policy, Accounts, Project Management and Coordination, Facilities and Property Management and the Technical Services Directorate.

Component 3: Development of the Strawberry Industry

- The identification of 5 strawberry varieties for trial completed
- 5 patented varieties from the USA procured and delivered to the team at R&DD for trailing
- Inputs and supplies procured and deliveries are continuing to R&DD, J4-H Clubs, RADA and CASE for trailing
- An office facility constructed and operational at the Top Mountain Research station
- The electrification of facilities construction at the Top Mountain Research Station completed
- The design and construction of a state-of-the-art Greenhouse at the Top Mountain Research Station completed and handed over to the R&DD team.

Principal Focus for 2020/21

**MOAF Relevant
Policy Priorities:**

- PP1.** Promote Market Driven Production
- PP4.** Implement the Agri-Business Strategy
- PP5.** Implement the modernization of the agricultural sector
- PP7.** Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry and entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 26 Agro-Industry Development |
| Priority Initiative | ACP Bridging Project |
| Budget for FY2021/22 | J\$128.730 M |

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22

Support to the Development of the Mango Industry:¹²

- The clearance of sixty (60) acres of land to establish mango orchard
- The Supply and Installation of Pipes and Fittings (Main Irrigation System for 60 acres)
- The Supply and Installation of Pipes and Fittings (On-Farm Irrigation System for 60 acres)
- The Construction of a Pump House
- The Supply and Installation of Pumps and Manifolds
- The rehabilitation/Construction on On-Farm Access Ways and Water Channel Ways
- The propagation of Julie and East Indian Mango Seedlings

OR

Development of the Spring Garden Agro-Park

- The Design and Construction/Rehabilitation of the Packaging Facility
- The construction on On-farm Access Ways and water Channel Ways
- Training of the Spanish river

¹² The above will be dependent on the MoF&PS approval.

5.2.5 Rehabilitation of Research Centres (Bodles Redevelopment Project - BRP)

The main objective of the BRP is to rehabilitate selected facilities at the Bodles Research Station which impact directly the level of support given to farmers. This will include

- Rehabilitation of offices, residences and sanitary facilities;
- Overhaul of security systems;
- Construction of dairy cattle barn;
- Design of a new piggery;
- Upgrade of irrigation system and solid waste disposal system;
- Renovation of Bio-Control Laboratory;
- Construction of aeroponics/hydroponics system;
- Rehabilitation of crop research and customer service offices;
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening.

Planned Targets and FY2020/2021

- Barbwire fencing and drain covering for cattle barn
- Construction of perimeter wall
- Installation of security paraphernalia for wall
- Renovation of animal nutritional lab
- Renovation of milking system
- Upgrade domestic pipeline and storage
- Purchase farm tractors
- Complete security access and ICT upgrade at apiculture office lab, library and green house at PEQ
- Renovation of hardening facility
- Construction of Chlorination House at the domestic well
- Design of houses for farmhands
- Construction of bio-digester
- Recommissioning of the domestic well
- Procurement of RFID Herd Management system
- Renovation of greenhouses

Key Achievements for FY2020/2021

- Completed Barbwire fencing and drain covering for cattle barn
- 95% of parameter wall contract implemented
- Installed security paraphernalia
- Animal nutritional lab completed.
 - Testing of equipment set for April 2021.
 - The ISO 17025 certification process was completed
- 40% completion of milking system (completion of system expected for May 2021)

- Excavation works and pipeline laying commenced in February 2021. 500meters laid to date (40% of works completed)
- Tractors have been purchased, awaiting delivery of equipment
- Completed security access at apiculture office lab, library and greenhouse at PEQ. ICT upgrade is well under way for the library and apiculture office. Awaiting the server, switch and UPS for completion of the upgrade.
- 99% of the renovations done for hardening facility
- Completed the chlorination house at the domestic well
- 90% of the design for houses for the farm hands (delays due to the changes requested by the Parish Council)
- Applications for permits for the bio-digester completed and designs completed
- Motor for well replaced electrical transformers reinstalled
- Procurement for the RFID Herd management system commenced
-

Issues

- some contract implementation time was extended
- procurement issued escalated to steering committee and permanent secretary

Principal Focus for FY2021/22

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|---|---|
| Relevant MOAF Priority(/ies) policy: | PP7. Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects |
| Programme: | Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | Agricultural Research and Development |
| Budget for FY2020/21 | J\$150 M |
| Key Activities: | |

- **On-going Implementation of the BRP project**
 - New Piggery design completed and drawings and plans sent to relevant agencies for approval
 - Additional remedial works for Dairy parlour milking system to be completed
 - Practical completion for the animal nutritional lab
 - Upgrade of domestic pipeline and storage
 - Delivery of tractors
 - Construction of bio-digester
 - Procurement and installation of RFID herd management system
 - Completion of Hi-tech greenhouses

5.2.6 Essex Valley Agricultural Development Project (EVADP)

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) in July 2017 received grant funding from the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF) administered through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to £35,515,000, towards the cost of the Essex Valley Agriculture Development Project (EVADP) with an original implementation date of August 31, 2022 but now extended to June 2023.

Transformation of the Irrigation sector is essential to sustainable growth of agriculture in Jamaica. The effects of climate change is projected to result in more frequent and longer periods of drought and more unpredictable rainfall patterns with more intensity when it occurs. This has the effect of severely reducing the dependability of rainfall as the primary source of water for agriculture. The project will positively impact the livelihoods of over 700 farmers on 718 hectares of land in the Essex Valley community of St. Elizabeth, through the provision of irrigation water and improved access to local and global agricultural markets. It also promotes the use of agro-processing facilities to take off excess production.

The major components under EVADP are:

1. Improved Irrigation Systems
2. Enhanced Agricultural Production and Marketing Facilities and Systems (EAPMS)
3. Energy Efficiency Renewable Energy
4. Technical Assistance

The expected outcome of EVADP is “Enhanced production and productivity of farmers in a socially inclusive, gender equitable and climate sensitive manner.”

Planned Targets for FY 2020/21

- Two (2) additional wells drilled;
- Completion of final irrigation systems designs and commencement of supervision of works;
- Pipe Storage Yard equipment acquired;
- Designs of Administrative and Global Gap Buildings completed;
- Tariff Study completed;
- Budgeted Expenditure: J\$442.378M

Key Achievements for F/Y 2020/21

- One (1) additional well drilled but not productive;
- Irrigation designs completed and contracts out to tender;
- Backhoe acquired;
- Schematic designs of Administrative and Global Gap buildings 90% completed;
- Tariff Study completed.
- Actual Expenditure: J\$261.762M (60.60% spend)

Principal Focus for 2021/2022

**Relevant MOAF
Priority Policy:**

PP5. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Programme: | 181 - Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 22 - Irrigation Services |
| Budget (for FY2021/22): | \$605M -EVADP \$300M - SPAD |
| Priority Initiative (/s): | Irrigation Projects: EVADP and SPAD |
| Key Activities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well Drilling – Completion of one additional well in adjacent aquifer for sustainability • Award of supply and works contracts under the Improved Irrigation Systems Component and commencement of construction • Award of Administration and Global Gap Building contract and commencement of Construction • Award of Renewable Energy Contract and commencement of works • Completion of Capacity Building program to improve stakeholder resilience and adaptation to climate change |

5.2.7 Promoting Community Based Climate Resilient Fisheries

The Project focuses on climate change resilience of the local fisheries sector and more specifically on the access to improved livelihoods of local fishing and fish farming communities by assisting the development of fisheries policies and institutional capacity building among fishers and fish farmers. The objective of the Project is to enhance resilience to climate change among targeted fishing and aquaculture communities of Jamaica. The project will be implemented under the following components:

- Strengthening the Fisheries Policy and Regulatory Framework
- Diversification and Fisheries-based Alternative Livelihoods
- Capacity Building and Awareness Raising, and
- Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Planned Target for 2020/2021

- Develop a robust and climate-smart fisheries policy and regulatory framework
- Reduce vulnerability of the targeted fishing and fish farming communities to climate shocks
- Diversify and strengthen livelihood of targeted artisanal fishers and fish farmers

Key Achievements for 2020/2021

COMPONENT 1- Strengthening the fisheries policy and the regulatory framework

- Two contracts signed
 - Consultancy to promote sustainable fisheries through community-based fisheries management
 - Agriculture Value Chain assessment
- Procured the following vehicles for enforcement activities:
 - Boat/Vessel
 - Fourteen (14) seater minibus
 - F-350 super duty p/truck

COMPONENT 2: Diversification and Fisheries- Based Livelihood

- Four (4) contracts signed
 - Consultancy to develop a business plan and prepare design and specification for upgrade of the Hatchery
 - Consultancy to assess pelagic stocks
 - Consultancy to develop a menu of Mari- culture/polyculture options
 - Consultancy to prepare business plan for Mari-culture/polyculture demonstration

Component 3: Capacity Building and Awareness US\$970,000.00

- Service Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions Report completed
- Baseline Assessment of gender youth & labour dynamics in the fisheries sub-sector Report

Principal Focus for 2021/22

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|---|--|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy(ies): | PP6. Build resilient and sustainable fisheries sector |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 23 Fisheries Development |
| Budget for FY2021/22 | J\$102.322M |
| Priority Initiative: | Marine Fisheries Development Aquaculture Development |
| Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop policy and regulatory framework for climate smart fisheries ▪ Acquire one longline sea vessel ▪ Develop design specifications for upgrade to fisheries Authority hatchery ▪ Prepare business plan for Fisheries Authority hatchery ▪ Develop alternative feed production options and prepare business plan ▪ Conduct baseline assessment of gender and youth dynamics in the fisheries sector. | |

5.3 SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES

Agricultural Land Management Division

Mission

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

Alignment to Vision 2030 MTF 2018 – 2021 #13 Sustainable urban and rural development

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

- Increased land use assessment and monitoring – to maximize the % of agricultural lands that are preserved and in good soil health
- To conduct Laboratory analysis of soil, plant tissue and water samples to improve output and quality of crops
- To increase public awareness on the importance of sustainable soil management
- To provide technical advice to stakeholders on sustainable land management
- To collaborate with regional/international partners to increase awareness of soil management

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

- Provided recommendations to NEPA, Local Authorities on proposed subdivisions and land use change applications – 186 reports **[46 reports prepared on subdivisions and land use change applications for the Jan – Mar 2021]**
- Contributed to production and productivity by providing laboratory analytical services to stakeholders – 670 reports
- Provided information on the importance of sustainable soil management for increased crop production **[114 samples received and analysed 42 lab reports prepared for the Jan – Mar 2021]**
- Training of 12 staff in the use of Open-sourced GIS for collection and analysis of data

Other Achievements

- Public education on importance of sustainable soil management to ensure food security, ecosystem balance, climate resilience – **World Soil Day Public Speaking Competition as part of the international celebration of World Soil Day 2020 under the theme “Keep Soil Alive Protect Soil Biodiversity”**
- Continue collaboration with external partners – FAO, Global Soil Partnership, SOILCARE project
- Prepare documentation for Soil Fertility Mapping Project in collaboration with FAO and the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA), Morocco

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

- Commence implementation of the Soil Fertility Mapping Project in collaboration with FAO and the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA), Morocco)-
- Conduct land uses assessment and monitoring – The ALMD is a key commenting agency in the development approval process.
- Conduct laboratory analyses of soil, plant tissue and water samples to determine fertility management recommendations.
- Implementation of ISO 17025 quality management standards in the Soil Health Plant Tissue and Water Laboratory – The Laboratory will apply to JANAAC for accreditation of selected process currently being
- Public education and advocacy to promote sustainable soil management -
- Technical Capacity Building – training of staff, use of Information Communication technology

Issues

- Inadequate budget allocated for timely implementation of projects and procurement
- Absence of Agricultural Land Use Policy

Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies): **PP5.** Modernization of the Agricultural Sector
PP7. Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and its portfolio entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects

| | |
|---|--|
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 20 Agricultural Health and Food Safety |
| Budget for FY 2021/22: | \$ 91.227M |
| Priority Initiative(/s): | Land Management Services |
| Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22: | |

- To provide technical advice on soil health – # laboratory analysis reports based on requests for services
- To minimize the rate of conversion of lands suitable for agriculture to other uses
- To review and update the Agricultural Land Use Policy
- To submit application for 17025 Accreditation for selected laboratory procedures
- To commence preparation of baseline studies for Soil Fertility Mapping Project
- To modernize infrastructure
- To increase revenue by 15% through public education and sensitization of farmers

Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Branch

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

Mission: Our primary mandate is to safeguard Jamaica agricultural sector and plants from the introduction of pests of economic significance and to ensure the highest quality, pest free food safety approved fresh produce and other plant material are exported.

Planned Targets for 2020/21

- Increase the volume of mangoes exported
- Implementation of canine unit
- 1,200 inspections and certification of imports
- 1,200 imports permit for fresh produce
- 4 Pest risk assessments conducted
- 4 market access proposals and 8 Field ID guides and 2 Technical mauls created
- 2,120 inspections and certification of exports
- 100 fumigation services provided
- Target staff for training canine unit
- 2,400 phytosanitary certificates issued
- Implementation of E-phyto system

Achievements for FY2020/21

- 1,897 inspection and certification of imports [**461 inspections and certification of imports conducted during Jan - Mar 2021**]
- 4,008 import permits for fresh produce [**1,048 import permits for fresh produce was processed for the Jan – Mar 2021 period**]
- 30 Pest Risk Assessment and phytosanitary recommendations [**5 risk assessments and phytosanitary recommendations carried out for the Jan – Mar 2021 period**]
- 8 field ID Sheets, market access and proposals done [**2 technical documents prepared for the Jan – Mar 2021 period**]
- 3,991 Inspection and certification for exports [**824 inspections and certification for exports processed for the Jan – Mar 2021 period**]
- 112 fumigation services done [**33 fumigation services done for the Jan- Mar 2021 period**]

International Year of Plant Health 2020- Jamaica leads on the World Stage for the IYPH despite impact of Covid-19

- The United Nations General Assembly declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). In this context, many events were organised to raise awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development. Covid-19 impacted the physical activities planned, however,

Jamaica participated in the international video competition to increase the visibility of plant health research activities and raise awareness to the non-scientific community. The country submitted two videos on research in Frosty Pod Rot and Beet Army work and has copped the first and third place.

Advanced the Ministry's Canine Programme to have our Agriculture Canine Handlers trained by Mexico

- The objective of this initiative is to increase the effectiveness of the Branch to detect agricultural contraband at the ports.
- Two of our officers were scheduled to be trained in April 2020; however, this project was affected by outbreak of Covid-19 and will be back on board once travel is permitted.

Mango Export to the USA Project (under the Irradiation Project)

- 246% increase in mango exports for the mango season 2020.
- Increase number of farmers/farms participating in mango exports to USA from 2 in 2019 to 6 in 2020
- Expand the variety of mango exported to now include Trini Graham in addition to East Indian and St. Julian
- Traps distributed in mango producing areas
- 2 sensitization meetings held in preparation for 2021 mango seasons

Resumption of Exports of Mangoes and other Soft Fruits to the United Kingdom

- Jamaica now has clearance to resume the export of mangoes and other soft fruits to the United Kingdom (Scotland, England and Wales) in accordance with the United Kingdom Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020. Jamaica submitted the requisite country declaration required by the UK in compliance with the new regulation and received official clearance to commence export of commodities (mangoes, pineapple, coconut, citrus, cotton, banana, palms and guava) that were previously self-banned by Jamaica due to pest interceptions.

Mango export under Hot water Treatment Programme to the USA

- The Branch on behalf of the Ministry has reviewed and submitted a request for approval to the United States of America Department of Agriculture for a facility to be constructed for hot water treatment of mangoes (and soft fruits) as an alternative to irradiation which is costly. We await approval of the same.

Repeal and Replacement of PQ Bill

- Several consultations were done with Ministries and Agencies
- Draft Cabinet submission is now with the Attorney General Department for final review as of March 2021

PQ Modernization

The modernization of PQD is critical to the effective and efficiency execution of our safeguarding mandate and improves response to pest outbreak. The effort to modernize the Branch began in 2017 with a Consultancy looking at organizational review of the PQD structure. Consultancy was completed and awareness training began with staff. In 2020, several meetings and revisions to the final report to facilitate Ministry's approval were done:

- Merger of proposed Surveillance Unit with the existing Pest Risk Analysis Unit
- Bolstering on the proposed regional directorate in the new PQD structure

Implementation of Alternate Phytosanitary Treatment

The Branch explored the potential for the use of the fumigant Vikane as an alternative to Methyl Bromide, which is currently being used for treatment of agricultural products for export. The results of the efforts:

- Research on the use of Vikane was completed with it being only useful for wood packaging material and not for fresh produce for exports. Notwithstanding decision was taken to continue exploring the use as it would reduce our reliance on the toxic methyl bromide which is being phased out.
- Meeting with PCA regarding the import of the chemical and procedures
- Procurement of the Vikane commenced with challenges with the supplier.

Other Achievements

Trade Facilitation Efforts by the Branch

- In the re-pivoting our business processes: Expansion of the use of electronic phytosanitary certification (e-phyto) in 2020 to allow for ease of doing business (trade facilitation) and Ministry's response to the outbreak of the Covid-19.
- The Ministry in response to the Covid-19, actively embarked on increasing the use of e-phyto in trade from 32 in 2019 (January to December) to 2360 in the 2020.
- Jamaica has expanded the number of countries trading phytosanitary certificate from trading with only one country in 2019 (USA) to now sending e-phyto to Costa Rica, Argentina, USA and all 27 EU countries
- Plant Quarantine Import System is now on Jamaica Single Window for Trade (JSWIFT). The first phase started on March 1, 2021 with traders (importers/exporters) being able to conduct business with the Branch remotely: importers can now apply and pay for permits, pay import inspection and request pest risk assessment from the comfort of their homes. As of March 15, over 190 permits have been processed through the JSWIFT system.

Accreditation of our import PQD inspection processes/ inspectorate

- The PQD will be seeking to have its business processes in relation to import of plants and plant products accredited in 2021/2022 fiscal year to insight confidence in our operations as an inspection body. The export inspection process will be done in the coming year.

Safeguarding of our Borders Initiatives:

In recognizing that the production yield of 10 of our 12 agricultural priority crops affected by plant pests, the Ministry through its Plant Quarantine Division

- Implemented Public Service Announcement in the 2 international airports seeking voluntary compliance from the travelling public in declaring agricultural produce and other plants being imported that may be infested with pests.
- Implemented Agricultural Amnesty Bins at 2 international airports to encourage voluntary compliance.
- Ministry made the import requirements for plants and plant products more accessible to importers in 2020 via Ministry website in June 2020.
- Collaborate with Jamaica Customs Agency and trained over 35 Customs Officers in safeguarding borders from plant pests.

Clean Seed Certification Programme

- The Branch has piloted the seed regulation with a draft regulation prepared and submitted to Legal Office by March 30, 2021
- Four (4) stakeholders' sensitization was held during the years

Surveillance for *Tuta absoluta* (Tomato Leaf miner) pest of solanaceous fruits

Tomato Leaf miner is a quarantine pest for Jamaica and affects economic crops such as tomato and potatoes. The pest has been identified in Haiti and therefore presents an imminent threat for Jamaica. In preparing our emergency response, a detection survey commenced in December 2020 and following were achieved

- 3 trainings were held with farmers and RADA officers across the country in major tomato producing parishes
- Distributed of 39 monitoring traps for tomato leaf miner in the 8 parishes

Infrastructure Works

- Installed Incinerator at the Kingston Export Complex
- Architectural and Structural Drawings for a new PQD head office were 80% completed
- Roof for the Kingston Export Complex was repaired
- Montego Bay Export Complex installed a Fire System

Issues and Mitigation measures:

- The delay in the restructuring of the Branch to execute its function significantly affected the deliverables in the year.
- The delay in passing of the amendments to the Plant Quarantine Act has affected the implementation of the Plant Health policy and a structured framework for preparedness and management of plant pest outbreak.

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

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|---|--|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) | PP1. Promote Market-Driven Production PP3. Implement the Agri-Business Sector Strategy PP5. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector PP7. Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and its portfolio entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 20 Agricultural Health and Food Safety |
| Budget | \$ 234, 549,000 |
| Priority Initiative(/s): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canine Detection Initiative • Frost Pod Rot Mgmt. Project • Surveillance and Mgmt. |

Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22:

- Inspection and Certification of Imported plants and Regulated products – 2500 Inspections
- Processing of Import Permits for Plants and regulated products – 2400 permit
- Conduct Pest Risk Assessments- Six (6) Pest Risk Analysis
- Prepare Field ID sheets – Six (6) Field Guides
- Prepare Market access proposal - 2 Market Access
- Inspection and Certification of New packing House Facilities - Conduct monitoring and Inspection audits of Packing Facilities
- Audit and Recertify existing packing Houses - Recertify packing house facilities in accordance with export requirements.
- Inspection and Certification of Export – 2000 inspections (Inspection & certification of exports done in a timely manner)
- Conduct Fumigation of exports- 80 offsite fumigations and 600 On-site fumigation
- Preparation of phytosanitary certificates/ ephytos – 2400 phytosanitary certificates and the E-Phyto system to be maintained for efficiency

Summary Performance Narrative

Overall the Branch achieved a lot during a year when productivity of staff was affected by Covid-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding, there were some challenges and factors such as resources (financial and human resources), procurement and accounting processes that affected the efficiency and the effectiveness with which our tasks were executed. The Branch was able to advance on many of the targets set however there is room to further improve.

Veterinary Services

The Competent Authority/Veterinary Services Division exercises its authority under the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Law and its regulations, the Aquaculture, Inland and Marine Products and By-Products (Inspection and Licensing) Act and its regulations.

Aims & Objectives

The Veterinary Services is the designated Competent Authority with responsibility for the administration of National Animal Health Programmes, Risk Analyses, Veterinary Certification, Animal Production Food Safety, Disease Surveillance, Prevention, Control and Eradication.

The Veterinary Services Division collaborates with other regulatory agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of food safety activities and disease control plans. In an effort to maintain the safety and high quality of animals and products of animal origin, including aquaculture and fishery products, the activities sub-activities of the VSD include verifying compliance of imported animal products; registering and inspecting food processing establishments; testing of foods of animals and their related products and monitoring the use of veterinary inputs in animal production.

Additionally, the VSD actively participates in international fora relating to the development of international standards, guidelines and policies.

Mission:

The advancement of animal health and veterinary public health, animal welfare and the safety and security of foods of animal origin through the maintenance of a healthy and productive animal population.

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

- Registration of cattle farms and tagging of cattle. **8,000** heads of cattle to be identified in FY 20/21. At least **2000** heads of cattle per quarter identified with NAITS ear tags and passports issued.
- Issue cattle passports. Monitor cattle movements.
- Conduct Risk Assessments and investigate reported disease occurrences.
- Artificial insemination stud animals kept healthy and tested for diseases. Semen collected and stored using liquid nitrogen.
- Maintenance of an average of **3,000** straws of bull semen of the four national breeds for artificial insemination of cattle.
- Active and Passive surveillance conducted for animal diseases.
- Permit applications accepted and reviewed. Import permit applications approved. Approval and issuance of **15,000** veterinary import permits.
- At least **450** Flights monitored.
- At least **2,800,000** Dozen Hatching eggs inspected and cleared.
- At least **6000** samples collected, received and analysed at the Veterinary Laboratory.
- Ships and aircrafts inspected. Cargo aboard vessels inspected. Disposal of international garbage supervised.

Key Achievements for 2020/2021

- National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS) implemented/operational across the island. More than **16061** heads of cattle were tagged in the financial year. **[5,953 animals tagged for the Jan – Mar 2021 period]**
- Approximately **58,000** heads of cattle identified and **2000** holdings/establishments registered since the implementation of the NAITS.
- Maintenance of an average of **3998** straws of bovine semen of the four national breeds for artificial insemination of cattle.
- Maintenance of **189** straws of local goat semen and **530** straws of imported goat semen for artificial insemination of goats.
- Staff training and development of operational manuals to meet international certification requirements by Veterinary Services continued.
- Further Laboratory Accreditation **ISO/IEC 17025** acquired for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the Residue and Biochemical Analytic Laboratory.
- Approximately **8833** samples for laboratory analysis were received and analysed at the Veterinary Laboratory.
- Continued access for export of animal products to several Regional and international markets, including the People's Republic of China and Europe. These included live and frozen lobsters and other fishery products; meat patties; dairy products; animal feeds; poultry and poultry products.
- **1,431** Veterinary Export Health certificates issued. **[402 veterinary export health certificates issued for the Jan- Mar 2021 period]**
- Approval and issuance of **15,436** Veterinary import permits. **[4,447 import permits approved for the Jan – Mar 2021 period]**
- At least **1,800** Flights monitored.
- More than **1,700** inspections site visits conducted.
- Approximately **6,000,000** Dozen Hatching eggs inspected and cleared.
- Continued registration of privately owned establishment with subsequent identification & registration of the cattle population kept thereon. At least **1800** establishments/holdings were registered.
- Continued sensitization of various stakeholder groups, to bring awareness and achieve buy-in of the National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS) towards the goal of compliance.
- Animal health surveillance for notifiable diseases continued across Jamaica. In excess of animal disease surveillance **3446** farm visits were done for the year.
- Continued Monitoring of fishery harvesting and processing facilities for export.
- Continued facilitation of export of animal products, including animal feed, meat patties, dairy products, poultry, pork and beef products.
- Continuation of the design and implementation of Antimicrobial Resistance Plan and related activities, including the development of a National Action Plan.
- Maintenance of protocols at ports of entry to minimize risk of disease entry.
- Revenue collection for the Veterinary Services Division amounted to **\$238,944,809.04** representing 111% of targeted revenue.

Issues

Despite the focus on Covid-19, African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and other devastating diseases continue to pose a direct threat to livestock production world-wide and particularly, to the local pig and poultry industries. Continued sensitization of farmers and all major stakeholders of the threat of emerging and re-emerging exotic diseases of economic and public health significance is of importance to the country's economic sustainability.

Mitigation Measures

- Maintain frequent contact with line managers and field staff.
- Resume full identification exercise as soon as conditions improve.
- Work closely with HR to safeguard staff health/welfare.
- Conduct disease surveillance exercises within the scope of Covid-19 restrictions.
- Resume full disease surveillance exercise when conditions improve.
- Laboratory and other staff rostered and continue to carry out analyses, whilst adhering to established GOJ Covid-19 guidelines.

Performance of activities by Veterinary Inspectors continues, while adhering to Covid-19 guidelines. (Officers exempt under Disaster Risk Management Act.).

Vision 2030 MTF 2020 – 2021 Progress

| Sector Strategy: Promote National Food and Nutrition Security and Food Safety | |
|--|--|
| Priority Action | FY 2020/21 Performance |
| Continued implementation of National Animal Identification and Traceability (NAIT) System | - 16061 heads of cattle were tagged |
| Continue to develop and implement food safety certification and standardization programme for trade and domestic production. | - 8833 samples were received and analysed at the Veterinary Laboratory. - 1431 Veterinary Export Health certificates issued. - 15436 Veterinary import permits approved and issued. |

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

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| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy | PP2. Establish a National Livestock Framework PP5. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 21 Agricultural Health and Food Safety |
| Budget for FY 2021/22: | \$442,086,000 |
| Priority Initiative | Surveillance and Management; Insemination Services |

Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22:

- National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS); at least 8000 cattle tagged.
 - Delivery of Animal reproductive technology; at least 500 animals inseminated.
 - Disease Surveillance and emergency disease preparedness; 100% of exotic diseases detected on early warning system.
 - Epidemiology and Risk Analysis; at least 12 risk assessments conducted.
 - Maintenance of Compliance with Int'l Standards; laboratory maintains accreditation to ISO IEC 17025.
 - Sample collection and Analysis; 6000 laboratory tests conducted.
 - Port surveillance and Import/Export Inspection
 - Live Animal Quarantine; 12 animals quarantined.
 - Inspection and Monitoring of Terrestrial and Aquatic Animals
 - Registration and certification of farms/animal holdings; 60 holdings registered.
-

Summary Performance Narrative

Despite the very negative impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on all aspects of economic and social activities, the Veterinary Services Division was able to meet and to surpass a number of its targets.

In the 2021/2022 Financial Year, continued effort will be made towards further implementation of the National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS), implementation of Antimicrobial Resistance Plan and related activities, disease surveillance and monitoring.

Agricultural Research and Development

Mission: To generate promote and transfer technology for the sustainable development of a modern, efficient and competitive agriculture sector and agroindustry through partnerships, the development of human capital and innovation.

Aims & Objective:

1. To increase the access of new and adaptable technologies increasing climate resilience, production and productivity
2. To enhance knowledge systems, processes as well as the adoption of new technologies to better respond to sector issues and support growth and sustainability

Alignment to Vision 2030 MTF 2018 – 2021

National Outcome 12: Internationally Competitive Agriculture [and Fisheries] Sector

- Strengthen agriculture research institutions and programmes.
- Increase the resilience of the agricultural sector to natural hazards.
- Promote national food and nutrition security and food safety

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

- 10% increase in highly trained and competent staff
- 10% increase in collaborative research services
- 2 Evaluation production and supply crop varieties with desirable traits
- 1 technology to conserve and utilize plant genetic resources food and agriculture
- 2 technology that enhance the conservation and utilization of livestock genetic resources with desirable traits
- 2 technologies that improve the conservation and utilization of local fodder resources as drought mitigation strategies
- 1 Technology that mitigate crop loss that support the use of integrated pest management to advance food security and safety
- 1 surveillance strategy implemented to monitor and assess pest prevalence of select economically important target pests
- 10% increase in stakeholders accessing beekeeping training in best practices
- 1 system/technology to support safe introduction and transfer of plant genetic resources

Recurrent

Activity 20 - Livestock Research and Improvement:

- Conservation and utilization of livestock genetic resources with climate resilient traits for increased livestock production and productivity
- Conservation and utilization of local fodder resources in drought mitigation

Activity 21 - Crop Research & Development

- On- Station/Farm crop production systems that facilitate access by farmers to plant genetic resources with desirable traits
- 30% increase in volume of certified quality planting material produced and made available to stakeholders

Activity 12080 -Protection of Jamaica's Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Nutrition Security

- Conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources – Systems implemented to support expansion of local seed value chain

Activity 22 - Plant Protection and Apiculture

- Plant Protection Technologies compatible with integrated pest management systems to advance food security and safety
- Pest surveillance and monitoring to reduce risk of impact of select economically important target pests of crops on crop production systems
- Pest surveillance and monitoring to reduce risk of impact of select economically important target pests of bees on the beekeeping industry

Activity 24 Post Entry Quarantine

- Standardized and accredited systems of detection, for the identification and elimination of harmful disease-causing agents in imported germplasm and commercial planting material
- Safe introduction and multiplication of clean foundation stock for plant breeding studies and mass propagation of clean planting material

Public Investment Projects

Rehabilitation of Research Centres 20172

- Rehabilitation of selected facilities at the Bodles Research Station which impact directly the level of support given to farmers
- Strengthen agriculture research institutions and programme
 - Change Management Consultancy

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

- 10% increase in highly trained and competent staff
- 10 collaborative researches conducted (support to Bernard lodge, JACRA, Red Stripe)
- 4 evaluation production and supply crop varieties with desirable traits (strawberries, ginger, sweet potato and irish potato)
- 2 seed production and evaluation systems, 5 species of Root and tubers, 7 species of Horticulture and Field Crops and 83 species Fruit trees
- 1 utilization of artificial insemination and measurement of breeding and performance parameters maintained of different species of livestock
- 1 silage system enhanced at Montpelier
- 9 crop protection products evaluated for companies seeking registration with PCA

- Assessment of Cacao clones at orange River Station for Frost Pod Rot disease resistance
- 12 reports generated (beet armyworm pest forecasting) Surveillance for bee pests curtailed by reductions in funding for travelling
- 23 stakeholder groups trained >300 persons
- 3 citrus certification, ginger certification, tissue culture and aeroponics;

Other Achievements

- *ACP bridging project*
 - Establishment of >1000 bareroot plants of imported strawberry plants of new variety Brilliance for screening for pathogens
- *National Fruit tree planting initiative*
 - 17, 607 fruit tree plants produced exceeded target of 10,000 plants
- *Production Incentives Programme*
 - Establishment of 5.45 acres of sweet potato (Montpelier Station) for harvesting of one million sweet potato slips for stakeholders
 - Hot pepper seedling production – 21,963/175,000 Scotch Bonnet pepper plants (Bodles); 30,664/75,000 West Indies Red pepper
 - West Indies Red Pepper (Montpelier) hot pepper seed production – 75.4/1260oz produced; 554.5oz Scotch Bonnet Pepper 2218 % increase over target of 25 oz (Bodles)
- Change Management Strategy developed inclusive of Change communication strategy (Consultancy- School of Greatness Canada)
- Hosted 12 monthly online webinars with >450 participants as part of knowledge transfer
- Training of 23 stakeholder groups in beekeeping,>300 participants; online modality
- Web of Science Proposal for the access of researchers to online search and discovery platform negotiated.
- Advanced process of international accreditation of plant health and animal nutrition laboratories for ISO standard 17025 for improved testing capacity and reduced turnaround time of results 75% complete

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Relevant MOAF | PP1. Promote Market-Driven Production |
| Priority Policy (/ies) | PP2. Establish a National Livestock Framework |
| | PP3. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 21 Agricultural Research & Development |
| Budget for FY 2021/22: | \$451.71M |
| Priority Initiative(s): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Livestock and Feeding System Research ● Plant and Crop Research ● Apiary Management ● Surveillance and Mgmt of Pests and Diseases ● Rehabilitation of Research Centers ● ACP Bridging Project (ACBPB) ● Production Incentives Programme |

Key Activities and Targets for FY 2021/22:

Rehabilitation of Research Centres

- Complete Phase 1 of piggery
- Complete upgrade of domestic water supply and irrigation system
- Improved on station pasture and fodder resources
- Development of framework for strengthening livestock breeding programme

Collaborative initiatives

- Ginger Certification Programme
- Development of Directory of Agriculture Support services
- Implementation of seed policy action plan

Production Incentives Programme

- National Fruit tree planting initiative
 - Strawberry initiative
 - Strengthen Agriculture health and food safety – MASP
 - Clean Seed Programme
 - Small ruminant expansion programme
-

Economic Planning Division

Aims and Objectives

To enhance the performance of all the sectors that fall under the purview of the Ministry through the formulation of policies, economic plans, programmes and projects within the National Plan.

Planned Targets for 2020/21

- Cost of production (COP) on 10 crops and livestock
- Develop 2 financial farm model
- Develop and submit project proposal
- Develop Climate adaptation project proposals;
- Provide technical support to policies, programmes, plans, projects as requested

Key Achievements for 2020/21

- 15 Crops surveyed & data inputted. No livestock COP was done
- 3 proposals completed and submitted to PIMSEC
- Technical support was provided to 5 project proposals
- 8 briefs prepared and delivered
- Technical support provided on the Christiana Potato Growers' property, AMC Complex, privatization of the Coco assets etc

Principal Focus for 2021/2022

Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies): **PP1.** Promote Market-Driven Production
PP5. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector
PP7. Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and its portfolio entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Programme: | 001 Executive Direction and Administration |
| Sub-Programme: | 02 Policy, Planning and Development |
| Budget for FY 2021/22: | \$34,149,000 |
| Priority initiative: | 1. Strategic engagement and partnership 2. Executive oversight and Support |

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22:

- Conduct Cost of Production Estimates for domestic crops and livestock island wide
- Develop Financial Farm Models
- Develop and submit at least 5 project proposals for funding
- Develop Climate adaptation project proposals
- Provide technical support to policies, programmes, plans, projects as requested

Agricultural Marketing Information Division

Mission:

Provide internal and external clients with a first-rate marketing information and statistical service through the timely collection, storage and dissemination of accurate data and analyses on the agricultural sector to facilitate the formulation of policies and programmes to guide its orderly growth and development.

Alignment to Vision 2030 MTF 2018 – 2021

Strengthen the framework for greater competitiveness of a diversified range of agricultural products and increase agricultural output particularly crops, livestock and aquaculture

Aims and Objectives

To provide a formidable information gathering mechanism for the collection, analysis, storage and dissemination of agricultural and marketing information to various stakeholders in the business sector

Planned Targets

- To develop and implement a strong and effective marketing information systems.
- Facilitate a supportive marketing and distribution infrastructure and network
- Development and strengthening of linkages with other economic sectors, including manufacturing, education and tourism.
- Ex-ante, Interim and Ex-post evaluations and surveys of Ministry projects and programmes.

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

- Conducted 4 quarterly crop reviews
- Compiled and published Quarterly reports

Principal Focus for 2020/2021

| | |
|--|--|
| Relevant MOAF | PP1. Promote Market Driven Production |
| Priority Policy(/ies): | |
| Programme: | 01 Executive Direction and Administration |
| Sub-Programme: | 02 Policy, Planning and Development |
| Budget for FY2020/21 | \$107.1M |
| Priority Initiatives | Strategic Direction and Performance Management Executive Oversight and Support Stakeholder engagement and Partnerships |
| Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22: | |

- Explore possible options for Jamaican coffee and cocoa
- Expansion of the JAMIS platform
- Quantitative/Financial assessment of waivers, permits and concessions
- Assessing viable market opportunities for small farmers in the tourism industry
- Identifying viable options for reducing the food import bill
- Market Demand for Coconut (dried & water)

- Market Demand for Mangoes
- To conduct Crop Yield & Area measurement exercises conducted to ascertain accurate yields and level of production for various crops Island wide
- Conduct quarterly parish crop production review meetings with RADA parish managers and extension officers to collect and evaluate domestic crop production data

5.4 DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES AND BOARD SUMMARY REPORTS:

AGRO-INVEST CORPORATION (AIC)

Establishment of the Agency

Agro-Investment was established by an Act of Parliament in April 2009.

Aim and Objective

- Agricultural sector modernization
- Management of state-owned assets
- Investments & project development
- Investment promotion
- Project management facilitation
- Resource mobilization

Planned target for 2020/21

- 25% infrastructure works completed
 - 40.8ha cleared
 - 6km of road upgraded
 - 8km of drains and verges upgraded
 - 26 eye/hand wash units procured
 - 7 Global GAP compliant bathrooms installed
 - 165.92ha of Agro park land expanded
- 498 ha arable lands to be utilized¹³
- 2,688,892 kg harvested (\$645,334,080)

Key Achievements for 2020/21

- 26.25% of infrastructure works completed for all Agro Parks [**10.56% of infrastructure works completed for the Jan – Mar period**]
 - 142.66ha cleared [**87ha cleared for the quarter**]
 - 14km of road upgraded [**10km road upgraded the quarter**]
 - 27.877km of drains, verges farm access roads maintained [**16km of drains and verges upgraded for quarter**]
- 54.76% or 466.24ha arable lands to be utilized
- **3,649,912.52 kg** of products produced, substituted for imports and exported from the Agro Parks value \$875,979,005.17
- **189** farmers/investors trained in group dynamics.
- **2** financial windows created for farmers
- **2** of AEZ's operationalized
- 3 international, 5 local learning journeys completed

¹³ Amity hall – 42.5ha, Ebony Park 198ha, Spring Plain – 219.6ha and Plantain Garden River – 37.9ha

Issues

- Potable water is needed at the Global GAP facility to wash fresh produce for buyers
- Roadways are in poor condition due to flooding caused by lack of drains/ poor runoff
- Praedial Larceny is increasing.
- There is a shortage of planting material (Seedling).
- Poor water quality has been affecting the Amity Hall Agro Park Farmers.
- Heavy growth of weeds on the farms
- Heavy rains damaged drains and caused crop loss
- Disruption of pipelines

Mitigating Measures:

- NIC to supply potable water to the Global GAP facilities
- Funding required to carry out drain cleaning and road repair
- Development of a shared cost security programme with investors · NIC to resolve poor water quality issues
- NIC to rehabilitate pipelines (new pipes required)

Principal Focus for 2021/22

Relevant MOAF **PP1.** Promote Market-Driven Production
Priority Policy (/ies) **PP2.** Implement the Agri-Business Sector Strategy
 PP3. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector

| | |
|--|--|
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 27 Agro-Industry Development |
| Budget for FY2021/22: | \$372.52M |
| Priority Initiative(s): | <i>Agro Park and Agro Zones Development and Maintenance</i> |
| Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22: | |

- To increase production and productivity within the Agro Parks and AEZ contribute to the nutritional security
- To create employment opportunities and increase revenue for investors and target groups.
- To implement Food Safety standards in Agro Parks and AEZs

THE BANANA BOARD

Establishment of Agency

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

Aims and Objectives

1. To increase agricultural production by at least 5% to meet domestic, export and manufacturing input demand by 2023.
2. To increase the interest and efficiency of the banana and plantain industry and to lead, design and implement its development and business plans.

The Specific Objective or Purpose

- To increase production and productivity on farms and by-products manufacturing of the Jamaica Banana and Plantain Industry (JBPI).
- To facilitate the implementation of an industry-wide cess to support the development of the JBPI.
- To facilitate implementation of the ORISA action plan to prevent entry of TR4 disease or detect it early to eradicate or manage it successfully after.
- To implement the strategic business plan of the Banana Board for sustained growth in the JBPI.

Alignment for Vision 2030 MTF 2018 – 2021

1. Administration, regulation, oversight of research, technology transfer, extension, industry development and production activities.
2. Surveillance/monitoring and mitigation of banana and plantain pest and diseases and certification by GLOBAL G.A.P and domestic standards.

Planned Targets for 2020/21

1. Implementation of the strategic business plan of the Banana Board for sustained growth in the JBPI and facilitate the implementation of an industry-wide cess to support the development of the JBPI.
2. Increased production and productivity on farms and by-products manufacturing of the JBPI.
3. Maintain health and safety of banana and plantain crop and products
 - a. facilitate implementation of the ORISA action plan to prevent entry of TR4 disease or detect it early to eradicate or manage it effectively.
 - b. All risk farms surveyed with <5% of farms infected with Moko Disease
 - c. 40 samples collected and tested for FSM of Black Sigatoka Disease

4. 60,000 tonnes of banana produced
5. 400 tonnes of bananas exported
6. 40,342 tonnes of plantains produced

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

1. Increased exportation is being facilitated by maintaining access to export markets with the Global GAP Certification.
2. Tropical Race 4 (TR4) excluded from Jamaica, Black Sigatoka Disease maintained at commercial levels and Moko Disease continued to be contained.
 - a. Implantation of TR4 Preparedness Programme according to full National Plan is revised¹⁴ **[13 awareness sessions conducted for 38 farmers, 6 reports of suspected TR4 infections were received, all sites were visited, 2 samples were collected and tested.]**
 - b. 23 farms were monitored for Moko disease with 0% of new mats infected **[19 farms were monitored for Moko and 3 training sessions conducted for 38 farmers for the Jan – Mar period]**
 - c. 45 samples of Black sigatoka Disease were collected in Portland and St Mary **[11 samples were collected from Portland, St Mary and St James for the Jan – Mar period]**
3. 62,363.7 Tonnes of bananas produced
4. 746 tonnes of bananas exported **[142.30t exported for the Jan – Mar quarter]**
5. 45,927 tonnes of plantains produced

Issues:

1. In the current year, sufficient funds to bridge gap to meet critical needs were not provided. the costs of on-going and *Foc* TR4 activities are currently under-financed. On-going activities such as human resource, recurrent costs for GLOBAL G.A.P. certification and banana export expansion, operation of the tissue culture bio-factory, nurseries and distribution of plantlets are underfunded. Also, the costs of on-going and *Foc* TR4 activities are currently under-financed.
2. External project funding for the *Banana Board Climate Change Agriculture Project* to provide approximately J\$60M for each fiscal year 2019-23 had not been granted. The project had however been approved prior by the MICAFA Permanent Secretary and PIMSEC.
3. Production in the Jamaica Banana and Plantain Industry (JBPI) began to decline in 2019 due to drought, after increasing overall production with each successive year over 5 years. Nonetheless, exports continued to increase. Incorporation of the Banana Board into JACRA will likely reduce this export trend, as export bananas must be GLOBAL GAP certified and The Banana Board is the only entity certified with GLOBAL GAP to export bananas for the farmers in the group (Option 2). Neither JACRA nor MICAFA can do so under GLOBAL GAP regulations.

¹⁴ Due to unavailability of funds and the Covid-19 pandemic as procurement, international travel, national and regional simulation was postponed

Bananas and other fresh produce are traded by WTO and free market trade rules, which conflict with the JACRA Act and Regulations.

The Banana Board and stakeholders (including farmers) in the JBPI object to the merger of the Banana Board with JACRA, as they believe that the fees are prohibitive to their business and the JACRA Act and Regulations makes no provision for GLOBAL GAP certification, risk, disease and catastrophe management and other specialized services now being provided by the Banana Board. The Board had expressed its objections to MICAFA, which suggested that the Board engaged a consultant to carry out an assessment of the Jamaica Banana and Plantain Industry (JBPI) and JACRA, to make recommendations. ***The Consultant's Final Report concluded that overall, the main findings/results from the financial, economic and social analysis/ cost benefit analysis (CBA) conducted of the merger, indicated that the current national situation (the without the merger scenario - policy option one 1 or (PO1) was indicated to be better than the proposed policy change, the merger scenario or PO5.***

4. The Banana Board, mandated by MICAFA, lead the Task Force on preparedness, emergency management of *Foc* TR4 (formerly Panama Disease Race 4) threat to the Jamaican banana, plantain and Heliconia crops. The COVID-19 impacted the threat positively by curtailing international travel but also negatively, because procurement of critical goods and services and outreach to aging farm clientele was impeded.
5. Due to COVID-19 restrictions; social distancing and stay home order, especially for persons over 65, many of the overall targets were not met. Sixty percent (60%) of the farming clientele is over 65, have underline illness, and are not technology savvy. Hence, meeting schedules were impacted and the alternative of virtual meetings was constrained.
6. Inability to cover long term cost to effectively secure the Bodles Banana Research and Breeding Station from larceny; which not only affects generation of much need AIA; which supplements budgetary shortfall, but poses a serious threat. Larcenist are a major agent for spread of TR4 and other plant diseases.

Mitigation Measures:

1. Submission of the *Plantain Pilot Project (PPP)* and *Banana Improvement Pilot Project* (components of the *Banana Board Climate Change Agriculture Project*) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for funding. Also, external project funding for the *Banana Board Climate Change Agriculture Project* being sought. The project was not implemented in 2020-2021. Funding was provided by PIMSEC to develop the full proposal only.
2. Diversification of activities; such as sale of fruits to the JDF, institutions and markets to generate AIA.
3. External project funding for the *Banana Board Climate Change Agriculture Project* was not implemented in 2019-2020. Funding was provided by PIMSEC to develop the full proposal only.
4. The Oversight Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee for the merger of the Board with JACRA in MICAFA met once. The other sub-committees had not yet met at the time of reporting. The management of the Board met with the Transformation Unit in the MOF&P. In the prior

period, Board of Directors met with the Hon. Minister Audley Shaw and the Permanent secretary to highlight the concerns in the JBPI and discuss the Banana Board’s strategic plan in light of the decision to merge the Banana Board with JACRA. At the request of the Permanent Secretary, The Banana Board commissioned a contract for a Consultancy *Services to Perform an Assessment of the Merger and make Informed Recommendation on Merging of the JACRA and THE BANANA BOARD (BB)*. The Consultancy was completed in August. The Consultant’s Final Report concluded that overall, the main findings/results from the financial, economic and social analysis/ cost benefit analysis (**CBA**) **conducted of** the merger, indicated that the **current national situation (the without the merger scenario - policy option one 1 or (PO1) was indicated to be better than the proposed policy change, the merger scenario.**

Targets were adjusted and information transfer was mainly virtual (mainly text messages, zoom meeting, phone calls and limited WhatsApp communication).

Principal Focus for FY2021/2022

| | |
|--|--|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote Market-Driven Production 2. Build a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness 3. Implement the Agri-Business Sector Strategy 4. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector 5. Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and its portfolio entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects. |
| Programme: | 001 Executive Direction and Administration 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 27 Agro-Industry Development |
| Budget for FY2021/22: | \$ \$117,927,000.00 |
| Priority Initiative(/s): | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production and Productivity - traditional export crops 2. Modernization of the Agricultural sector |
| Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration, regulation, oversight of research, technology transfer, extension, industry development and production activities. • Surveillance/monitoring and mitigation of banana and plantain pest and diseases and certification by National and GLOBAL GAP standards | |

Summary Performance Narrative

Overall, the industry continued to be sustainable despite financial and environmental, and other constraints. With the full implementation of *the Banana Board Climate Change Agriculture Project*, it is expected that production and productivity will increase and the industry will be less impacted by the effects of climate change.

COCONUT INDUSTRY BOARD

Establishment of Agency

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

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

Mission:

To promote the interest of the Jamaican coconut industry and its stakeholders, by encouraging and facilitating the efficient production of coconuts, providing ongoing research support, developing marketing opportunities, locally and globally, and administering regulations for the purchase, sale, exportation and importation of coconut products and substitutes, in order to develop a profitable and sustainable industry.

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

- To set 400,000 seed nuts in order to produce 200,000 seedlings.
- To distribute 100,000 coconut seedlings to registered coconut growers
- To reduce the number of Lethal Yellowing Disease infected trees through cutting and spraying them.
- Improve and increase capacity of CIB nursery and seed garden capacity

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

Vision 2030 MTF 2020 – 2021 Progress

| Sector Strategy: Optimize Production and Productivity | |
|---|--|
| Priority Action | FY2020/21 Performance |
| Improve and increase capacity of CIB nursery and seed garden capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 acres of land cleared at Esher Seed Garden for planting Coconuts. • 5 concrete nursery beds constructed at Spring Garden, Portland. |
| To set 400,000 seed nuts in order to produce 200,000 seedlings. | 155,583 seed nuts were set. |

| Sector Strategy: Optimize Production and Productivity | |
|--|--|
| Priority Action | FY2020/21 Performance |
| To distribute 100,000 coconut seedlings to registered coconut growers | 44,837 seedlings were distributed to registered coconut growers. |
| To reduce the number of Lethal Yellowing Disease infected trees through cutting and spraying them. | 2,423 lethal yellowing affected trees were cut and burnt. |

Summary Performance Narrative

Based on a yield survey for the Year 2020, forecasted production was estimated at 296,000 seed nuts per annum from the Board's Seed Gardens – Barton Isles and Esher. The target is revised to setting 250,000 seed nuts for the year.

The Board gives seedlings to registered coconut growers as part of the benefits received from the Board. The seedlings are distributed free of cost and as the demand is high. However, the Board is unable to meet that demand due to the weather conditions which affect seedling production and distribution.

We are incorporating organic matter in the soil at Barton Isles to restore the soil and by extension, increase seed nut production. Extensive soil testing will be conducted to improve soil quality and increase output.

Principal Focus for FY2021/2022

Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) **PP7.** Strengthen the capacity of Ministry and its portfolio entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects

Programme: **181** Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security

Sub-Programme: **21** Agricultural Research & Development
 27 Agro-Industry Development

Budget for FY2021/22: **\$114.45M**

Priority Initiative(s): Agro-Industry Development – Coconut Industry

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22:

- Setting 400,000 seed nuts per annum in CIB's nurseries.
- To distribute 100,000 coconut seedlings per year to qualified coconut growers free of cost with fertilizer per annum.
- To manage the Lethal Yellowing Disease by assisting farmers with the cutting of the LY diseased coconut trees.

JAMAICA DAIRY BOARD

Establishment of the Agency

The Jamaica Dairy Development Board was established under Act No. 4 of 2009, to develop, regulate and monitor the dairy industry. Having that key responsibility has prompted the Board to do its assessment of the sector as well as its internal operations which it has documented and have identified several opportunities to be harnessed and vulnerabilities to be addressed in the next financial year.

Equal priority must also be given to advance the overall livestock sector, which the JDDDB is anticipated to undertake a pivotal role. A key feature of advancing the livestock sector will require the amendment and the development of a new legislation. It will also require the development of a national policy for livestock and national strategy on improving the dairy sector.

Aim and Objectives

JDDDB aim is to effectively regulate and advance the dairy industry by establishing a robust regulatory framework, technological and research systems through development programmes, services, and partnerships. The JDDDB continues to work in order to achieve the following overall objectives:

- Increase milk production each year annually
- Regulate the local dairy industry
- Provide technical and extension support for farmers and processors
- Engage Agricultural Education Institutions to start and or expand dairy operations
- Increase our fodder production and conservation activities
- To promote JDDDB and its services through social media and outreach programmes
- To enable self-sufficiency among our key stakeholders through capacity building
- To facilitate access to loans and grants for producers and processors

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

- Average number of animals in Milk – 5391
- Milk Production 2020: **12.3M litres**
- Production/cow/day: **6.25 litres/day**
- Pasture Rehabilitation: **78.7 acres**
- Fodder banks established: **106 acres**
- Fodder Conservation Programme: **224.0 MT Silage produced**
- Farmers trained: **28**
- JDDDB Concessionary Loan Programme **Loans approved JMD\$30.0 M dollars**
- **Strengthening of Agricultural Education Institutions:** College of Agriculture Science and Education-CASE, HEART Ebony Park, Sydney Pagon STEM Academy, Knockalva Polytechnic, Dinthill Technical High School, Munroe College, as centers of best

practices for dairy management and production to develop student’s capacity while securing a talent pool to serve the industry.

- AIC Minard Estates St Ann: twenty-five (25 acres) of Fodder Bank Established and produced 25 tonnes of silage to date.
- Research and Development Montpelier: Hanover 23 acres fodder bank established and produced 45 tonnes of Silage to date.

Principal Focus for FY2021/2022

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Relevant MOAF | PP2. Establish a National Livestock Framework |
| Priority Policy (/ies) | PP3. Implement the Agri-Business Sector Strategy |
| | PP5. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector |
| | PP6. Build a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
|-------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sub-Programme: | 24 Agricultural Extension Services |
|-----------------------|---|

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Budget for FY2021/22: | \$204,123,000.00 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Priority Initiative(s): | Agro-Industry Development – Livestock Industry |
|--------------------------------|--|

| |
|--|
| Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22: |
|--|

- Milk Production: 15.1 M litres
- Number of cows in milk: 5646
- Average Production per cow/day: 7.30 litres
- Farm gate price for milk \$109.40
- Number of Heifers to be made available to Agricultural institutions: 250
- Acreage of pastures to rehabilitate: 110
- Acreage of fodder bank to be established: 45
- Tonnes of silage to Produce: 250 MT
- Funds available for loans to farmers. JMD\$75 Million
- Plans for adjustment in the Jamaica Dairy Development Board Act (Legislative changes)

JAMAICA 4-H CLUBS

Establishment of Agency

The Jamaica 4-H Clubs was established under the Jamaica 4-H Clubs Act of 1966. Its mandate is to increase the number of youths involved in the agricultural sector. Its main offerings include the training and certification of youth in agriculture and related areas. The organization also focuses on the establishment of youth owned agricultural enterprises through the provision of training and venture inputs to aspiring farmers.

Aim and Objectives

Over the next four years, the organization aims to contribute to increased agricultural production and productivity, by increasing the number of youths participating in the sector. It will aid in the transformation of the agricultural sector by increasing the educational levels of youth farmers and the utilization of adaptive agricultural technologies through its training and development programmes.

Strategic Objectives (2021/22 to 2024/2025)

1. To increase the percentage of new youth entrants in the agricultural sector by 15% over the next four years.
2. To provide agricultural and entrepreneurial training and venture inputs to 5,000 aspiring youth farmers over the next four years
3. To provide 500,000 stimulator, mastery and developmental training opportunities to persons under the age of thirty-five over the next four years.
4. To develop and maintain 700 public school gardens through the National School Garden Programme
5. To increase by 5%, youth participation in the Fisheries Sector by 2025
6. To increase youth farmers' access and deployment of agricultural technologies by 20% by 2025
7. To update the Youth in Agriculture Policy for approval by 2021
8. To implement 20% allocation of Government agricultural land to youth farmers over the next three years.

Planned Targets

1. To attract, register and mobilize 80,000 members between the ages of five and thirty-five
2. To identify and award 350 scholarships to students studying agriculture at the secondary and tertiary levels.
3. To provide career counselling to 3,000 members.
4. To provide 160,000 training exposures in agriculture and related areas.
5. To provide 2,500 mastery level certification in agriculture and related areas.
6. To establish and maintain 550 school gardens under the National School Garden Programme.
7. To establish 350 new livestock projects under the Livestock Development Programme.

8. To establish 300 new crop projects under the Crop Production Support Programme
9. To establish 500 new agricultural enterprises under the Rural Youth Economic Empowerment Programme (RYEEP).
10. To establish 1,000 new backyard and containerized gardens through the Jamaica 4-H Clubs Family Garden Initiative.

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

| Activity | Target | Achievement |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mobilization & Registration of members | 80,000 members registered | 60,475 members registered |
| Training in Agriculture and related areas | 160,000 training exposures provided | 192,352 training exposures provided |
| National School Garden Programme | 550 gardens maintained | 451 gardens maintained |
| Family Home Garden Initiative | 1000 home gardens established | 710 home gardens established |
| Tractor Operation and Maintenance Programme | 25 tractor operators licenced | 19 tractor operators licenced |
| Livestock Development Programme | 140 livestock farmers established | 47 livestock farmers established |
| Crop Production Support Programme | 300 beneficiaries received inputs | 156 beneficiaries received inputs |
| Create Entrepreneurial Employment for Rural Youth | 350 enterprises established | 252 enterprises established |
| Agricultural Scholarship/ Bursaries | 350 beneficiaries selected | 342 beneficiaries |

Principal Focus for 2021/22

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy | PP6. Build a Roadmap for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness |
| Programme: | 001 Executive Direction and Administration |
| | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 26 Youth Agriculture and Entrepreneurship |
| Budget for FY2021/22: | \$275,392,000.00 |
| Priority Initiative(s): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Registration and Training • Agricultural Education, Training and Certification • Jamaica 4-H Scholarship and Bursaries Programme • National School Garden Programme • Youth Agriculture and Agri-business Development • Youth Farmland Accessibility Programme • Jamaica 4-H Home and Family Garden Initiative • Youth Agricultural Technology Development and Innovation Programme • Youth in Agriculture Promotion and Awareness Programme • Livestock Development Programme • Crop Production Support Programme • Jamaica 4-H Youth in Fisheries Programme |

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22:

| | |
|--|---|
| Membership Registration and Mobilization: | 85,000 members registered |
| Agricultural Education, Training and Certification: | 170,000 training exposures 2,500 mastery level certifications |
| Jamaica 4-H Scholarship and Bursaries Programme: | 400 Scholarships and Bursaries Beneficiaries selected |
| National School Garden Programme: | 550 school gardens maintained 50 new gardens. |
| Youth Agriculture and Agri-Business Development Programme: | 1000 new enterprises. |
| Jamaica 4-H Clubs Home and Family Garden Initiative | 500 Home Gardens established |
| Youth in Agriculture Promotion and Awareness Programme: | 10 events promoting youth farmers |
| Farmland Accessibility Programme: | 20% of government farmland awarded to youth |
| Youth Agriculture Technology Development and Innovation Programme: | 100 new technologies highlighted. 5 new agriculture related technological inventions |
| Jamaica 4-H Youth in Fisheries Programme: | Provide 5000 fisheries related training exposures to youth. To establish 80 fisheries related youth owned enterprises. |

JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (JACRA)

Establishment of Agency

The JACRA is the regulator of the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Industry. This agency was established on March 14, 2017 under the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Act, 2017 by the Government of Jamaica and came into operation on January 1, 2018. The principal function of the Authority is to offer regulatory, licensing, certification, logistics and quality assurance services to the named agricultural commodities via coffee, cocoa, coconut and the spices.

Our diverse programmes and services to the industries will include technological research and transfer, quality assurance and laboratory services, licensing of dealers and processors, trade mark registration and monitoring, brand protection, the issuance of permits and customs releases for the importation of the specified regulated commodities following a successful review and approval process, marketing, Farm and farmer registration and trade protection of the named commodities in the national, regional and global arena.

Aims and Objectives

Strategic Goals for 2020 - 2024

- To facilitate the Development & Diversification of a Global Marketing Plan for Jamaica.
- To ensure that the named commodity industries operate in an environmentally friendly manner consistent with Health, Safety, Environmental Standards and Regulations.
- To facilitate the sustainability and viability of the named industries, through among other things, the viability of the appropriate genetic materials.
- The facilitation and improvement of Production and Quality features of the named Jamaican agricultural commodities.

Strategic Objectives for 2020 - 2024

- To promote the interest, growth and efficiency in the development of the regulated agricultural commodities industry in Jamaica.
- To ensure that all regulated agricultural commodities processed for the Local and International markets are in compliance with Food Safety Laws and Regulations and adhere to Environmental Standards and Regulations.
- To promote the equitable treatment of all stakeholders.
- To strengthen the value chain by encouraging and facilitating the Development of Value Added Coffee Products (VACP).
- To ensure that all the named commodity dealers trading in all branded commodities are Licensed and operate within the terms and conditions of their Licenses.
- To ensure that all of the named regulated commodities tested are in compliance with the applicable standards and taste profile and to establish standards where none existed.

Planned Targets for April 2020 – March 2021

- To issue 10 New Licenses and sign 1 Joint Project Agreement/MOU.
- To conduct Approximately 8 Inspections of Works Facilities and provide training in the use of chemicals, Soil & Leaf Sampling Techniques and conduct Research Activities.
- The Registration of 400 Blue Mountain & High Mountain Farmers with 1,500 Photo I.D, 300 Farmers from other regulated crops and the Maintenance of a Database with the named commodity Farmers.
- To conduct 60 Commodity Farmers Meeting & 9 Educational Tour per Region.
- To conduct 4 Commodity Dealers Meeting & 56 Surveys for Coffee, 50 Surveys for Cocoa and 20 Surveys for Spices.
- The provision of training for 25 JACRA Staff or 40% of JACRA Staff trained for the year.
- To (arrange/host/participate) in 8 Trade shows for the year on Value Added Coffee Products and with the provision of training.
- To ensure that approximately 50% of all brand infringements identified are addressed with an aim to bring these matters to full termination.
- To conduct quality test on exports as 80% of the Coffee Commodity Dealers are required to achieve the Pass Rate of 80%. Approx. 50 Inspection, 120 Visits at Roasters, 1 Q Grader Certification and 20 training sessions to be held with Coffee Processors by members of the JACRA Coffee Division Quality Assurance Team.
- To conduct quality test on exports as 90% of the Cocoa Commodity Dealers are required to achieve the Pass Rate of 90% of good fermentation. Ongoing In-house training to be done for both JACRA Staff & Cocoa Stakeholders which should result in defects level of less than 3%.

Key Achievements for 2020/21

- A total of 21 New Licenses were issued and no Joint Agreement/MOU signed compared to the budgeted total of 10 New Licenses issued and 1 Joint Project Agreement/MOU signed. This represents an achievement of 110% in excess of the budgeted target of 10 New Licenses.
- 13 Inspections of Works Facilities was done compared to the budgeted total of 8 inspections. This represents an achievement of 62.5% in excess of the budgeted target of 8 inspections.

- No Commodity Farmers Meeting was actually held for the year due to Covid-19.
- A total of 164 Surveys were conducted for Cocoa compared to the budgeted total of 50 Surveys. This represents an achievement of 228% in excess of the budgeted target of 50 Surveys. 194 Surveys were conducted for Coffee or an achievement of 246.42% of the budgeted target of 56 Surveys. No Surveys were conducted for the Spices.
- No Trade shows were held for the year on Value Added Coffee Products and with the provision of training due to Covid-19.
- Approximately 72.5% of all brand infringements identified were addressed with an aim to bring these matters to full termination compared to the budgeted total of 50%. This represents an achievement of 45% in excess of the budgeted target of 50%.
- The total quality test conducted on coffee exports for the year showed that 78% of the Coffee Commodity Dealers achieved the Pass Rate of 80%. This amounts to an achievement of a compliance rate of 97.5% of the budgeted target of 80%. A total of 78 Inspections and 144 visits at Roasters were done compared to the budgeted total of 50 Inspections, 120 visits at Roasters. This represents an achievement in excess of 56% and 20% of the budgeted targets of 50 Inspections and 120 visits at Roasters respectively. No Q Grader Certification and Training sessions with Processors were held due to Covid-19.
- The total quality test conducted on cocoa exports for the year showed that 100% of the Cocoa Commodity Dealers achieved the Pass Rate of 94% of good fermentation with defects level of less than 3%. This amounts to an achievement of a compliance rate of 11.11% in excess of the budgeted target of 90%.

Principal Focus for 2021/2022

**Relevant MOAF
Priority Policy (/ies)**

PP1. Promote Market-Driven Production
PP3. Implement the Agri-Business Sector Strategy
PP4. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector
PP6. Build a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness

Programme: 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security

Sub-Programme: 27 Agro-Industry Development

Priority Initiative: Production Incentive

Key Initiatives for FY 2021-2022

- The main focus for 2021/22 would be on the execution of the activities within the plan while navigating the strictures of the budget.
- The revenue stream of JACRA is currently being reviewed with a view to reduce the deficit of J\$50.56M which was estimated in the Budget for 2021-22.
- Facilitating the protection of Jamaica's coffee origin in the form of traceability and accountability through the completion of a Farm Registration and Tracking System

(FRATS) online support. This allows for the standardization of transactional relationship with registered farmers and licensed dealers throughout the value chain of the respective industries. The farm verification process should be completed during the year along with the established Database.

- Facilitating the protection of Jamaica's coffee origins by ensuring the registration of the JAMAICA BLUE MOUNTAIN® and JAMAICA HIGH MOUNTAIN® trademarks in the respective designations and collaborating with local and external legal support to police the wrong use of the trademarks by unscrupulous persons.
- Facilitating smooth trading by collaborating with customs in the rolling out of the single window for coffee export.
- Completion of phase 2 of the re-habilitation of the Coffee Export warehouse.
- Facilitating the maintenance of Jamaica's "Fine and Flavour" cocoa status by addressing the necessary Administrative and Financial Obligations.
- Facilitating the sustainable development of the cocoa industry by collaborating with suitable nurseries to produce cocoa seedlings that are resistant to Frosty Pod Rot disease but which will not compromise our "Fine and Flavour status.
- Continue to carry out activities to achieve strategic outcomes.

Annual Budget for April 2021 – March 2022

- ❖ The Budgeted Income for the year 2021/22 is estimated at J\$340.86M.
- ❖ The Budgeted Expenditure for the year 2021/22 is estimated at J\$391.42M
- ❖ The Budgeted Operating Deficit for the year 2021/22 is estimated at J\$50.56M.

Upcoming plans/programmes for the sector, including the strategies to execute them

JACRA in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have developed Business Investment Models for both Ginger and Tumeric. A Business Investment Model is also being developed for Pimento.

- The Business Investment Models for Ginger & Tumeric would be executed via a Stakeholder Approach, whereby JACRA would be the bridge between the nursey operator, the farmer, the trader and the financial institution where necessary. All relevant information would be shared with the respective stakeholder groups through various medium of communication. The Business Investment Models were developed with cycle outputs of two (2) years.

JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (JAS)

Establishment of Agency

The JAS was incorporated under the Jamaica Agricultural Society Act 1941. The organization 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 FY2020/2021

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

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

To foster domestic agricultural production for Jamaican farmers by:

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

To promote the development and advancement in the agriculture sector by:

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

Key Achievements for 2020/21

- 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.

Principal Focus for 2020/21

Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies): **PP1.** Promote Market-Driven Production
PP3. Build a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness

Programme: 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security

Sub-Programme: 27 Agro-Industry Development

Priority Initiative Farmers' Advocacy

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22:

- The promotion of advancement and achievement within the Agricultural sector
- Facilitating farmer engagements, consultation and participation on national issues within the agricultural sector
- Promotion of agriculture through Parish Shows, Expos and the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show.
- E-Farmers (ICT Access): The Society aims to empower 5000 of our members with information and communication assets and services that will increase their productivity and incomes, thereby protecting food security and livelihoods.
- 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.
- The marketing of products on behalf of farmers
- The organization and execution of farmers' meetings in all parishes
- Continued the transition process of the Jamaica Agricultural Society
- To increase membership by 10%

NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY (NFA)

Mission: Facilitate the sustainable development of Jamaican capture fisheries and aquaculture through effective and responsible management for the benefit of all Jamaicans

Alignment to Vision 2030 MTF 2018 – 2021

- Advance maritime delimitation negotiations on Jamaica’s Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)
- Establish new fish sanctuaries and maintain existing fish sanctuaries to achieve increased fishing stock
- Implement a management system and governance for the Pedro Cay fisheries area
- Increase the adoption of climate resilient practices among targeted fishing and fish farming communities
- Capacity building and awareness raising
- Strengthening the fisheries policy and regulatory framework

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

- Implementation of Fisheries Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Project – Promoting Community-based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector Project
- Implementation of the Fisheries Licensing and Registration System Project
- Increase tilapia production via seed stock expansion
- Rehabilitation and maintenance of aquaculture ponds
- Survey of select fisheries – sea cucumber
- Licenses of fishers
- Training of fish farmers

Key Achievements – 2020/2021

- **1,183,000** seed stock produced
- **575** acres of ponds in tilapia production
- **18** fish sanctuaries established and managed
- **5,438** fishers licensed / 45%

Other Achievements

- Sea cucumber survey conducted in five parishes
- Lobster survey conducted on a third of the Pedro Bank, equivalent to 2,500 m²

Principal Focus – 2021/2022

| | |
|---|--|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) | PP6. Build a Resilient and Sustainable Fisheries Sub-sector |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 23 Fisheries Development |
| Budget for FY2021/22: | \$270,494,000.00 |
| Priority Initiative(s): | Marine Fisheries Development Aquaculture Development Registration and Licensing of Fishers |

Key Activities and Targets for FY2021/22:

- 20% increase in compliance with licensing requirements among fishers and fish farmers
- 30% increase in the optimization of fisheries along the value chain (7 fishery management plans implemented)
- 3.4% of coastal fishery waters protected as fish sanctuaries
- 1,122 MT of tilapia produced
- 10% increase in seed stock produced
- 2 new or underutilized fisheries developed
- 5% increase in acreage in tilapia production
- 23 acres of fish ponds renovated/constructed
- Implement Promoting Community Based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector Project
- Implement IDB Fisheries Licensing and Registration System Project

NATIONAL IRRIGATION COMMISSION (NIC)

Establishment of the Agency

The National Irrigation Commission Limited was established under the Companies Act of Jamaica in 1986 and incorporated in May 1987, operating as the Authority under the Irrigation Act of 1949.

Aim and Objective

- To manage, operate and maintain and expand existing and future irrigation schemes and systems established by the Government of Jamaica.
- To contribute to the agricultural sector by supporting and facilitating agricultural production and food security, employment creation in rural areas and meaningful incomes for the farming communities.
- **Alignment for Vision 2030 MTF 2018 -2021**

- **Develop Agro Parks and key production areas....”**

The NIC continues to:

- increase access to irrigation water for agricultural productivity;
- design and install irrigation infrastructure to support increase in agriculture production once Agro Parks/Agro Economic Zones are designated;
- Install solar projects to self-generate a portion of the energy requirements for pumping facilities; and
- Facilitate competitive and diversified growth in the agricultural sector by supplying water for crops, inland fisheries and livestock.
- **“Expand irrigation facilities in production National Irrigation Development Plan (NIDP) 1 and 2**
- **Continue the implementation of NIDP 1**
- **Develop the NIDP 2”**

The update for the National Irrigation Development Plan (NIDP)/Agriculture Sector has been included in the Caribbean Development Bank’s (CDB’s) Country Strategy 2017-2021 funded with a grant of US\$1.5 million. The objective is improving economic growth and competitiveness.

The NIC has re-examined the areas under agricultural production and also assessed new areas to increase acreages/hectares in irrigated agriculture.

Planned Targets and Key Achievements for 2020/21

Government Funded Project: Rehabilitation of Irrigation Infrastructure

| Target | Achievement |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of Amphibious Excavator | Cabinet for approval received. Contract award in progress |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Premium Efficiency Motors | Procurement completed. Installation in progress |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of Upper Old Harbour Canal (St. Catherine) | Completed. 230 metres |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipeline replacement: Upper and Lower Rhymesbury (Clarendon) | Completed. 900 metres |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of aging and inefficient turbine, Freetown (Clarendon) | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply and Installation of Variable Frequency Drive (VFD), Bowers (St. Catherine) | Not achieved. Retendered and awaiting completion of procurement |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Retrofit, Beacon/Little Park Irrigation District (Beacon E) – Hounslow, (St. Elizabeth) | Procurement and contract completed. Retrofit in progress |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy costs avoided from the Jamaica Public Service Company | \$85 million in energy costs from the Jamaica Public Service Company avoided |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of energy costs avoided | 13% energy costs avoided |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy costs avoided with the use of renewable energy | \$11.5 million energy costs avoidance from renewable energy achieved |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Sales of J\$553.70 million | \$561.9 million achieved |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,332 active customers | 3,008 active customers as at February 28, 2021. (reduction mainly due to fallout in sugar cane lands cultivation). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active service area of 9,482 hectares with irrigation. | 8,603 hectares active service area with irrigation as at February 28, 2021. (reduction mainly due to fallout in sugar cane lands cultivation) |

External Funded Project 1: Expansion of the Pedro Plains Irrigation System Utilizing Water from the Black River

| Target | Achievement |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition for intake | Survey and valuations completed for intake and solar site. Negotiations for acquisition stalled due to Covid-19 issues with owners based overseas |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of proposed pipeline alignment to establish easements | Pre-checked plans completed. Awaiting approval by the Commissioner of Lands |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of project funding for Final Engineering Designs and Construction | Funding proposal involving a syndicated loan being discussed |

External Funded Project 2: South St. Catherine & Clarendon Agricultural Development Project (SCCADP) Feasibility & Design Study

Aim:

Completion of Feasibility and Design Study to provide inputs to the Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project (SPAD)

| Target | Achievement |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inception Report | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Report comprising the Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment (CVRA), the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Preliminary Design Report | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Detailed Design Report | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Tender Documents | Completed |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Detailed Design Report and Final Tender Documents | Incomplete. Extension being negotiated to May 2021 to facilitate the completion of the Final Detailed Design Report and the Final Tender Documents. COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the timeliness of project deliverables despite the risk strategy employed. |

External Funded Project 2: Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project

| Target | Achievement |
|---|--|
| • Engagement of Project Accountant | Completed |
| • Engagement of Procurement Specialist | Completed |
| • Engagement of Two (2) Hydrogeologists | Completed |
| • Engagement of Agri-Business Development Specialist | Completed |
| • Engagement of Works Supervisor | Not completed. Awaiting CDB's non objection to proceed with engagement |
| • Engagement of Engineering and Construction Supervisory services | In progress. Request for expressions of interests received from eight (8) firms. Evaluation and shortlisting in progress |
| • Completion of Well Drilling at the Parnassus site, Clarendon | Two (2) of three (3) wells drilled and yield test successfully completed. Drilling of the third in progress |
| • Procurement of four (4) Project Vehicles | One (1) vehicle delivered. Payment being processed for delivery of the other three (3) |
| • Procurement of Drain Cleaning Equipment-AIC | CDB requested rescheduling to 2023 |
| • Procurement of GIS Equipment - NIC | In progress |
| • Procurement and installation of Financial Software | Completed |

Principal Focus for 2020/2021

Relevant MOAF **PP1. Promote Market Driven Production**
Priority Policy (/ies):

Programme: **181 - Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security**

Sub-Programme: **22 - Irrigation Services**

Budget (for
FY2021/22): **J\$2,459.92 million**

Priority Initiative 1: South St. Catherine South Clarendon Agricultural Development Project (SSCADP) Feasibility & Designs Study

Key Activities: Completion of outstanding Final Engineering Designs and Tender Documents and handover to Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project (SPAD)
\$49.39M outstanding payment under the contract for FY 2021/22 to be requested.

Priority Initiative 2: **Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project (SPAD)**

Approved Budget: \$300 Million

Key Activities: Finalize recruitment of Construction Supervisor and Clerk of Works
Complete Well Drilling activity in Parnassus
Complete Procurement of GIS Equipment for NIC
Complete Procurement of Water Monitoring Equipment for WRA
Procurement of Engineering & Construction firm
Complete the procurement of Consultant for Operations Manual for Matching Grant Scheme
Complete Procurement of Contractor re Construction of Pump Houses (Parnassus)
Complete Procurement of Contractor re Supply & Installation of Pipes/Fittings meters, and Rehabilitation of Roads/Drains & Land Clearing)
Complete Procurement of Contractor re Supply & Installation of Pumps and Equipment

Priority Initiative 3: Expansion of Pedro Plains Irrigation System utilizing Black River Surface Flows

Key Activities: Identification of funding for project development
Conduct Environmental Impact Assessment
Completion Final designs
Cadastral Survey of the project area
Purchase of lands for intake area and reservoirs and lands required for easements along the main trunkline

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Priority Initiative 4: | Rehabilitation of Irrigation Infrastructure |
| Key Activities | Solar Retrofit of the Beacon/Little Park Irrigation District |
| | Automate Sluice Gates at Rio Cobre Dam |
| | Procurement of Equipment (Lift Truck) |

RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RADA)

Establishment of Agency

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

Aims and Objectives

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

Alignment for Vision 2030 MTF 2018-2021

The Agency's programmes are being planned and developed with great consideration of the National Development Plan Vision 2030, Jamaica; Medium Term Economic Programme (MTEP); Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2018 - 2021 (MTF) and the Medium-Term Results Based Budgeting for Jamaica. The MTF 2018 – 2021 outlines a package of priorities geared towards enhancing the competitiveness of the agriculture sector by, inter alia, addressing the main issues and challenges facing the sector and building on the successes gained under previous MTFs. Some of the strategic priorities in which RADA's activities are aligned include:

- Strengthening the framework for greater competitiveness of a diversified range of agricultural products and increase agricultural output particularly of crops, livestock and aquaculture
- Increasing the resilience of the agriculture sector to natural hazards
- Increasing access to resources and provide effective services to youth and women in agriculture
- Promoting national food and nutrition security and safety.

Planned Targets and Key Achievements for 2019/20

Farmer Training

Planned Targets

Between present disruptions and future threats to the food supply chain, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused extreme vulnerability within the agricultural sector. With greater use of ICT, RADA has continued its thrust towards disseminating information to farmers through mobile based learning and social media platforms. The original targets for the period were **2,353** farmers training sessions with exposure of **39,000** farmers. However, due to restrictions imposed by the Government of Jamaica regarding gatherings, which has resulted in the reductions of face-to-face interactions, the revised targets for the period were **1,800** training sessions and **17,000** farmers.

Achievements

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, RADA has sought to utilize other platforms to provide access to information and a greater reach to farmers. This has been done through the use of text and voice messages, online learning and social media. Areas targeted were Good Agricultural Practices, Climate Smart Agriculture, Farming As A Business and Agricultural Disaster Risk Management. A small of farmers were engaged in face to face sessions regarding the importance of human, social and financial capital and how they can become advocates for this non- formal approach towards lifelong learning. As a result, a total of **1,741** farmer sessions has been conducted to date resulting in **17,008** farmers exposed to information that will allow for them to improve their livelihood through the use of modern technology.

Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme

Planned Targets

The Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme (FRRP) which has been implemented by RADA since 2016, was developed to assist in the reduction of poverty through improved investments in agriculture and rural development initiatives. The programme is envisaged to assist with the rehabilitation of farm roads across Jamaica towards the growth and improvement of the agricultural sector, especially in targeted high production areas. The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies the Rural Agricultural Development Authority as the entity responsible for agricultural roads.

The initially committed budget for the FRRP 2020/2021 was J\$1.25 B. This however, was reduced to \$525 M during the first quarter of 2020/2021 and further to J\$375M in January 2021. A total of sixty one (61) roads to include 24.67 km of road surface was targeted for rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of these roads are expected to benefit an estimated 15,000 farmers directly islandwide, in addition to the incalculable increase in agricultural production both for local consumption and export.

Achievements

STATUS OF TARGETED 61 ROADS:

To date 48 roads (20.33 km) - fully completed at a cost of \$273M;

- 4 roads in progress;
- 2 roads to be started;
- 6 roads – in the procurement standstill period (roads moved to 2021/2022 programme)
- 1 road to be tendered (road moved to 2021/2022 programme)

The selection and rehabilitation were done for pre- existing farm roads with high levels of disrepair. The type of rehabilitation done includes the restoration of the base of the roads by scarifying, reshaping, applying the necessary base materials such as marl then applying pavement. There are three types of pavement normally used; double surface dressing, asphaltic concrete overlay and reinforced concrete. The rehabilitation of these farm roads are accompanied with the necessary drainage such as curb and channels, drains, and cross drains to ensure durability.

Production Incentive Programme (PIP)

Planned Targets

The Production Incentive Programme has three major components as follows:

Component 1:

This component was designed to focus on the priority crops/livestock with the inclusion of lime, coco, fruits and vegetables, small ruminants and backyard kits.

The implementation of activities is on-going within all thirteen parishes. The financial status of this component is indicated in the table below:

Table 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Funds Received to Date | \$596,100,000.00 |
| Expenditure | \$536,100,000.00 |
| Balance/Committed | \$60,000,000.00 (Irish potato, sweet yam and back yard garden kits) |

Component 2:

This component was designed to provide additional support for the Production Incentive Programme due to the negative effects on the agricultural sector from the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary focus will be on tractor operations, bulldozer/backhoe, drone technology, greenhouse, water catchment, purchasing of excess produce, irrigation kits etc.

Please see breakdown of funds in the table below (revised):

Table 2

| NO. | ITEMS | AMOUNT (\$) |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Tractor and implements | 90,000,000.00 |
| 2. | Back Hoe | 38,000,000.00 |
| 3. | Drones | 5,000,000.00 |
| 5. | Catchment/Ponds | 29,000,000.00 |
| 6. | Purchase of excess produce | 240,000,000.00 |
| TOTAL | | 402,000,000.00 |

Component 3:

This component focuses on the National Recovery Programme (following Tropical Storm ETA) for the Agricultural Sector and is aimed at addressing issues that are critical to sustaining the growth and development of the sector; preserve the country's food and livelihood security.

The table below provides an outline of the recovery intervention budget:

Table 3

| MOAF Proposed Intervention | Value (\$) |
|--|-------------------|
| CROPS | |
| Seed/planting materials | 215M |
| Pesticides (fungicide, pesticide, herbicide) | 95M |
| Fertilizer | 30M |
| Sub-total | 340M |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | Value (\$) |
| Repairs to greenhouse, shade house & catchment areas | 40M |
| Sub-total | 40M |
| LIVESTOCK | Value (\$) |
| Poultry | 10M |
| Cattle | 5M |
| Pigs & Goats | 5M |
| Sub-total | 20M |

| MOAF Proposed Intervention | Value (\$) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| REHABILITATION OF ROAD WAYS | |
| Farm Road | 211.6M |
| Subtotal | 211.6M |
| TOTAL | 611.6M |

Achievements

Component 1

The updates for these activities are as follows:

1. Yam

The programme has been designed to place special emphasis on the development of the local yam sub-sector. Therefore, the focus will be on: yellow, Negro, sweet and yampie.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$25M has been received to date
- A total of 1,122 tonnes of sweet yam have been reaped sold to the local and export market (avg. farm-gate price \$440.00/kg)
- Exporters have expressed their satisfaction with the size and quality of the sweet yam for this season
- A total of 24 tonnes of planting material has been procured to expand the acreage for the next cropping cycle
- 700 tissue culture plantlets have been procured from SRC and distributed to two (2) growers within St. Catherine to continue with the expansion of the crop
- Two (2) meetings were held with farmers regarding the treatment and storage of planting material
- The programme is currently being implement in the parishes of Trelawny, Clarendon, St. Ann, Manchester, Hanover and St. James

2. Cassava

The programme seeks to continue with the expansion of cassava within the major producing parishes of Manchester, St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, St. Thomas, St Catherine and Clarendon in order to supply the raw material on a consistent basis to Twickenham Bammy Producers LTD and other producers throughout Jamaica.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$8M has been received to date and expended
- A total of 86 hectares have been established involving over 100 farmers
- Sixteen (16) training sessions were conducted to date
- Soil samples collected from six (6) farmers and sent to Agricultural Land Management Division (ALMD) for analysis
- To date 299,503.62 kg was harvested and distributed to agro-processors

- Currently the farmers have adopted the best practices and are using planting material to establish new fields.

3. Dasheen

The programme seeks to increase the acreages under production in order to satisfy demands from exporters and to control the deadly taro leaf hopper insect pests.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$15M has been received to date and expended
- A total of 544,500 suckers were purchased and have been distributed
- A total of 30 hectares established
- Four (4) meetings were held with the farmers within the major production belts regarding the Taro Leaf Hopper
- A total of 27.8 tonnes have been reaped and sold to exporters (avg. farm-gate price \$176/kg)

4. MD2 Pineapple

This programme seeks to continue with the incrementally increase of the MD2 variety in order to maximize production/productivity and to satisfy consumer demands.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$6.6M has been received to date
- The College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) has confirmed that the shipment with the three (3) containers comprising of 210,000 suckers will be available to farmers during the month of March/April 2021.
- The targeted parishes have been sensitized to continue land preparation prior to the delivery of the pineapple suckers
- The marketing unit continues to work closely with major buyers in order to firm marketing arrangement for the participating farmers.

5. Hot Pepper

The current programme seeks to continue with the expansion of both red and hot pepper in order to satisfy exporters, Grace Foods and other agro-processors within the industry.

Activities to date are as follows:

- A total of \$28 M has been received to date
- A total of 868,400 seedlings have been procured and distributed within the parishes of St. Mary, Hanover, St. James, Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas, Westmoreland, Portland and St. Ann.
- A total of 1,873 hectares established to date involving over 220 farmers
- A total of twenty-six (26) training sessions were held to date within the targeted parishes
- Firm marketing arrangement are in place with four (4) of the major agro-processors at an avg. farm-gate price of \$132.00/kg

6. Strawberry

The project will seek to strengthen the marketing linkages between primary producers, local supermarket chains and hotel sector.

Activities to date are as follows:

- A total of \$6M has been received and expended to date.
- Special field inspection were done in Trelawny and Manchester to analyze the open field growing under plastic mulch
- Three (3) training sessions were conducted with the parishes of Portland, St. Andrew and Manchester on post-harvest handling
- A total of 43,000 seedlings have been distributed to 28 farmers to date within the parishes of St. Mary, St. Andrew, Manchester, Portland and Trelawny

7. Ginger

A total of 45 hectares under production is currently being supported with agro-chemicals to control the Ginger Rhizome Rot disease and improve crop nutrition.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$6M has been received and expended to date
- A total 242.5 tons of ginger reaped to date involving over 167 farmers
- Currently work has started with the RADA, JACRA, FAO and University of Technology (U-TECH) in order to develop a structured management programme for the controlling of the ginger rhizome rot disease.
- Additional samples were collected and sent to the lab for further analysis
- Four (4) meetings held with farmers in Clarendon, Manchester, St. James and Trelawny regarding the ginger rhizome rot disease management

8. Coco

This tuber has great demands from both exporters and local traders. However the crop has been declining over the last 10 years due to poor management practices and the crown rot disease. This intervention seeks to provide farmers with clean planting material and technical guidance on best practices needed to maximize production and productivity.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$5M has been received to date
- The Parishes are in the process of sourcing planting materials and have identified farmers to establish the crop.
- A of 193,600 suckers procured and distributed to farmers with the major parishes
- A total of 16 hectares established to date involving over 60 farmers.
- Exporters have commended RADA for this programme due the supply situation which has impacted their market demands negatively over the last 10 years

9. Lime

This programme will be a pilot for the establishment of trees in select parishes using clean planting material. The objective is to begin the establishment of orchards in order to meet demands in the tourism sector.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$6M has been received to date.
- A one (1) acre demonstration plot is being established at the Ballard River, Clarendon (one of the major citrus growing area) to demonstrate Good Agricultural Practices and irrigation impact on production.
- 250 seedlings (200 lime and 50 lemon plants) has been procured and delivered for the establishment of the demonstration plot. 30% of the field was planted. Completion of planting did not materialize during January and February 2021, and more active involvement of the areas Extension Officers with the farmers' group engagements is needed.
- Fertilizer (organic and on organic) procured and delivered.
- A rain water harvesting shed was constructed at the demonstration plot (Ballards River, Clarendon).
- To date the budwood for 9 ha of lime and lemon ordered from the R&D, Bodles, at a cost of \$716,122.54.
- There is delay in validating the list of farmers as no farm visits have been conducted to assess the status of their properties.

10. Irish Potato

The programme seeks to establish 1,200 hectares in order to support GOJ import substitution programme.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$150 M has been received to date
- Fresh and Direct Purveyor Company is currently implementing a \$50M grant project in the New Pen area of St. Mary aimed at providing farmers with material inputs, access to farm machinery/water, market support (storage handling and distribution). To date the company establish approximately 7.2 hectares
- A total of 20,140 x 22.7 kg bags of seeds purchased and 20,000 x 22.7 kg has been distributed to date.
- A total of 708.44 hectares have been established by 3,028 farmers.
- A total 138.55 hectares have been reaped to date yielding 1,883.46 tonnes.
- The commodity is fetching an avg. of \$70.00/kg at the farm-gate.

11. Onion

The programme seeks to establish 400 hectares in order to support GoJ's Import Substitution Programme.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$50M has been received to date.
- 140 hectare has been established to date by 345 farmers
- Soil samplings commenced for new lands which will be brought into production
- 20 hectares have been reaped to date yielding a total of 120.5 tonnes.
- To date a total of 2,000 packs of (1lbs.) seeds were purchased which will benefit St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, Trelawny and St. Catherine
- 2,000 litres of herbicides (Dacthal) was purchased and is being distributed to parishes.
- The commodity is fetching an avg. farm-gate price of \$150.00/kg.

12. Assorted Fruits & Vegetable Seeds

This programme seeks to augment the supply chain in light of the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this initiative seeds will be given to farmers within the major producing districts within the thirteen (13) parishes.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total of \$60M has been received to date
- A total of 12,400 unit of assorted seeds has been procured, namely; tomato, cabbage, sweet pepper, lettuce, carrot, cucumber, pak choi, cauliflower and broccoli
- A total of 145 hectares established to date
- Over 500 farmers have benefited from this initiative
- Farmers are being encouraged to practice water-harvesting technique in order to sustain production

13. Small Ruminants

This project seeks to expand the small ruminants through key interventions which will, especially impacts the health/nutrition of the animals. Although we have had a number of interventions to develop the native breed including the recent introduction of the Kiko breeds. The industry is still being hampered by inadequate feed availability and the supporting animal health information.

Activities on the programme are as follows:

- A total \$10M has been received to date
- 1,434 farmers targeted for this initiative
- The procurement process has commenced for commercial feeds, mineral blocks, bucks for herd/does for population expansion, chaffing machine and first aid kits
- The procurement process has commenced for commercial feeds, mineral blocks, bucks for herd/does for population expansion, chaffing machine and first aid kits
- A total of 43 kits were procured from Hi-Pro Feed and delivered to the Parishes.
 - St Thomas - 3
 - Clarendon - 6
 - St Ann - 5
 - Hanover - 5
 - Westmoreland - 5
- Another 157 kits procured and are currently being prepared to be distributed the remaining parishes.
- A total to 605 mineral blocks and general maintenance feeds were distributed to all parishes
- To date 48 does and 31 bucks were purchased by 12 Parishes.
- Four chaffing machines were purchased and delivered to St. Mary, Clarendon and Trelawny.
- Additionally, funds have been sent the parishes to purchase de-wormers for the targeted small ruminant farmers as part of the internal parasite control programme

Component 2 Activities on the programme are as follows:

1. Two (2) back hoes were purchased and distributed to the parishes of Clarendon and St. Elizabeth respectively.
2. Evaluations have been completed for the six (6) tractors/implements and the recommendation for the successful bidder submitted to the Procurement Unit.
3. RADA's ICT Unit is currently finalizing documentation for the procurement of the Drones due to the reduction in the budget. The original budget was \$10M
4. Catchment/Ponds
 - Site selection completed
 - RADA's Engineering Services and On-farm Irrigation Unit have finalized the specifications for the design of the catchment ponds.
 - Procurement Unit preparing bid for Request for Quotation (RFQ).

Component 3 Activities on the programme are as follows:

• **Seeds and Planting Material**

Distribution of the following planting material within all parishes based upon the assessment of the acreages under production

- a) 35,000 units of assorted fruits and vegetable seeds (establishing over 112 hectares)
- b) 140,300 hot pepper seedlings (establishing over 11 hectares)
- c) 54,450 dasheen suckers (establishing over 3 hectares)
- d) This initiative has benefited over 3,700 farmers

• **Greenhouse/Catchment**

Evaluation of bid documents completed by the technical team and contract awarded. The parishes of St. Ann, St. Elizabeth and Manchester are currently working with the Engineering Services in finalizing the implementation plan for the rehabilitation of the ten (10) water harvesting ponds.

- Manchester - Site visits were conducted in Williamsfield. Some parts of the pond have already been lined. The Parish Office is waiting on Isratech Jamaica Limited to conduct a site visit in an effort to make an assessment.

4.0 Annual Budget 2020/2021 – 2021/2022

| ITEM | ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITUR E 20/21 (\$'000) | APPROVE D BUDGET (\$'000) | BUDGET REQUEST 2021/2022 | APPROVE D BUDGET 2021/2022 |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RECURRENT | 1,484,732.0 | 1,607,795.0 | 1,949,339.0 | 1,633,851.0 |
| CAPITAL A | 200,000.0 | 375,000.0 | 752,000.0 | 650,000.0 |
| CAPITAL B | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| APROPRIATION -IN- AID | <u>13,748.0</u> | <u>15,000.0</u> | <u>15,000.0</u> | <u>20,000.0</u> |
| | <u>1,698,480.0</u> | <u>1,997,795.0</u> | <u>2,716,339.0</u> | <u>2,303,851.0</u> |

5.0 Principal Focus for 2021-2022

| | |
|---|---|
| Relevant MOAF Priority Policy (/ies) | 6. Promote Market-Driven Production 7. Build a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness 8. Implement the Agri-Business Sector Strategy 9. Modernization of the Agricultural Sector |
| Programme: | 181 Agricultural Production, Productivity and Food Security |
| Sub-Programme: | 24 Agricultural Extension Services |
| Budget for FY2021/22: | \$2,303,851.0 |
| Priority Initiative(s): | <i>Production Incentive Programme</i> <i>Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme</i> |

Key Activities for FY2021/22:

1. Enhancing agricultural service delivery through a responsive and modern Agricultural Extension Service

Sub-Themes

- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Agricultural Value Chain and Agro-processing Development
- Implementation and Certification of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System
- Food Safety/Plant Health
- Farmer Field School
- Effective Public Relations and Communications Plan
- Employee Development and Competence
- Corporate Governance and Accountability
- Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture
- Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship
- Agricultural Disaster Risk Management
- Facilitation of Market Linkages

2. Improvement in Production and Productivity of Crops and Livestock

Sub-Themes:

- Transfer of Good Agricultural Practices
- Strengthening the use of ICT
- Facilitation and Enhancement of Infrastructural development
- Institutional Strengthening
- Mainstreaming of new services.
- Efficient operation of RADA Services/Commercial Entities

3. Targeting of new entrants to the Agricultural Sector

Sub-Themes:

- Creating an enabling environment
- Gender sensitive and youth-focused programmes
- Development and promotion of investment profiles for Crops and Livestock

4. Strengthening of strategic alliances with local and international stakeholders

Sub-Themes:

- a. Capacity Building
- b. Donor Support Mechanisms
- c. Project Formulation and Support
- d. Knowledge and technology transfer
- e. Research and Development
- f. Data and information sharing.

6. Programmes and plans for the new Financial Year;

Sub-Themes:

- Farmer Training /Farmer Field School Expansion
- ISO 9001:2015 Certification
- Plant Doctor Programme
- Production Incentive Programme
- Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme
- Plant Health and Food Safety
- Livestock Production
- Agro- Processing/Value Chain Development
- Water Management/On-Farm Irrigation
- Agricultural Disaster Risk Management Programme
- Agro- Processing /Value Added
- Protected Agriculture
- Buildings and Structures
- Construction of Hanover Parish Office
- Tractor Service Programme

Summary Performance Narrative

Despite several constraints and setbacks caused by COVID- 19 RADA continued its efforts in providing a modern and responsive agricultural extension service delivery. Unlike other sectors, the agricultural sector was severely impacted by the recent flood rains in September to December 2020. The prolonged rainfall activities across the island had negatively impacted on production levels, particularly for vegetables, condiments and fruits. This has resulted in farmers reporting excessive crop loss across the island. RADA continued to assist farmers who were experiencing difficulties in marketing produce through other marketing channels despite the challenges. We have also extended the Produce Acquisition Program (Buy Back Program) through a partnership with the FAO/MOAF. We look forward to the upcoming financial year as we continue our efforts towards developing a sustainable agricultural sector.

Strategies 2021/2022

- The Changing Workplace/Working Patterns will continue with staff working from home where possible. This is in keeping with the government of Jamaica's Disaster Risk Management Act.
- Improved Marketing support strategies for farmers to include linkages with buyers and continuation of the 'Buy Back Programme' and Farmers Market.
- Greater use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to support extension service delivery to include mobile applications, online learning, text messages, voice messages, whatsapp and social media platforms.
- Training and Development will be increased across the Authority. This will enhance employee's behavior and decorum to ensure that service is rendered in a professional manner and customers can be satisfied, notwithstanding the challenges associated with Covid 19. Regular Zoom Meetings/Workshops will be convened to sharpen officers skills in Extension Delivery using this new Online medium. The learning platform of MOODLE will be utilized so that the theoretical concepts and any new information can be taught.

SCJ HOLDING LIMITED

Mission Statement:

To provide efficient and effective land management services that will foster sustainable economic growth, job creation and entrepreneurial opportunities in Jamaica.

Aims and Objectives:

The Mandate of SCJH:

- (a) Generally to support GoJ medium-term strategic priorities aimed to promote “Inclusive Sustainable Economic Growth and Job Creation”.
- (b) Specifically,
 - (i) to manage and facilitate the former sugar lands in its control to transition to non-sugar productive activities to drive economic growth, entrepreneurship and job creation; and
 - (ii) to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Greater Bernard Lodge Development Master Plan.

Planned Targets for 2020/2021

Over the four-year planning period of 2020/21 to 2023/24. The strategic priorities of SCJH were:

1. Make increasing amounts of former sugar land available to investors for productive activities. Specifically this should include lands to support:
 - (a) Agro-processing
 - (b) New industries – Cannabis, Bamboo, Castor Beans
 - (c) Agro-Parks development and expansion by AIC.
 - (d) Programmes such as Youth in Agriculture and Women in Agriculture.
 - (e) Sugar Cane Cultivation – to support required throughput for any factory projected to continue operating (the leading example of which is Monymusk, Clarendon).
2. Ensure that lands leased by SCJH are being utilized in operationally and financially viable economic activities that are sustainable and are contributing to economic growth and job creation.
3. Provide appropriate support for the implementation of the Greater Bernard Lodge Development Master Plan. This will include:
 - (a) Cabinet approved sales of lands in the GBLDMP area; and
 - (b) Relocation and assistance in re-establishment of farmers and investors displaced by the Master Plan.
4. Continue to work with other GoJ stakeholders to promote and facilitate housing provision and community regularization in sugar ‘dependent’ communities.
5. Strengthen the financial and institutional viability of SCJH to adequately and appropriately discharge its function.

Key Achievements for 2020/21

- (a) During 2020/21, the SCJH Board of Directors approved some 117 leases for a total of 3,210.6 acres of land. This continued the trend of the previous two financial years (2018/19 and 2019/20) in which the number of leases approved and acres involved were 82 and 20,124.8 and 103 and 22,652, respectively.
- In 2020/21 lands leased were in the parishes of Clarendon, St. Catherine, St. Thomas, Trelawny and Westmoreland.
 - The purposes for which lands were leased include the following; sugarcane, cash crops, animal rearing, hemp, cannabis, castor beans, agro-processing, commercial activities, solar energy, mining of aggregates and climate smart demonstration site.
- (b) There are a number of land transactions in FY 2020/21 that are worth noting.
- (i) SCJH has collaborated with the All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers Association (AIJCFA) to facilitate hundreds of former sugar workers to establish alternative economic livelihoods in Trelawny and St. Thomas.
- SCJH has leased some 3,600 acres of former Long Pond Estate lands to the AIJCFA for the establishment of a project known as “Trelawny Pride” based on the Mother Farm – Satellite Farms concept and which will see the placement of numerous small farmers on lands and the production of agricultural outputs for domestic consumption, for the local tourism market and for exports.
 - In St. Thomas SCJH has made some 560 acres of lands available to the AIJCFA to sub-lease to former sugar workers displaced by the closure of the Golden Grove Sugar Factory for the relocation and regularization of informal occupants engaged in farming on surrounding lands belonging to SCJH; and the regularization of informal occupants within the boundaries of the SCJH lands being made available.
 - SCJH has made 500 acres of lands available to a community –based organization (the Plantain Garden River Farmers’ Cooperative Society) for on-leasing to its members.
 - SCJH has made 145 acres of lands available to the AIC to expand the existing Agro-Park that would allow for the absorption of a number of displaced individuals.
- (ii) SCJH has approved a proposal for the sale of 350 acres of lands to investors to build a bamboo pulp factory in Westmoreland. This is the first step in the transformation of former sugar-dependent communities as the country seeks to build a new and existing industry that has tremendous potential for profitability and sustainability.
- (c) In relation to the Greater Bernard Lodge Development Master Plan (GBLDMP) area during the 2020/21:
- (a) Approximately 1880 acres of lands have been earmarked for the relocation of farmers who have been displaced by the GBLDMP.

- Sixty-nine (69) of 123 displaced farmers have been relocated on 600 acres of land.
 - Allocations of farmers for the remaining lands have been finalized with occupation pending.
 - Land preparation (clearing, ploughing, harrowing, furrowing) has been completed on 800 acres of lands.
- (b) Implementation of infrastructure support is underway:
- A draft/interim irrigation plan has been developed and has been partially implemented in the Salt Pond area.
 - Design for electricity to the area have been completed and phased implementation has commenced.

Principal Focus 2021/2022

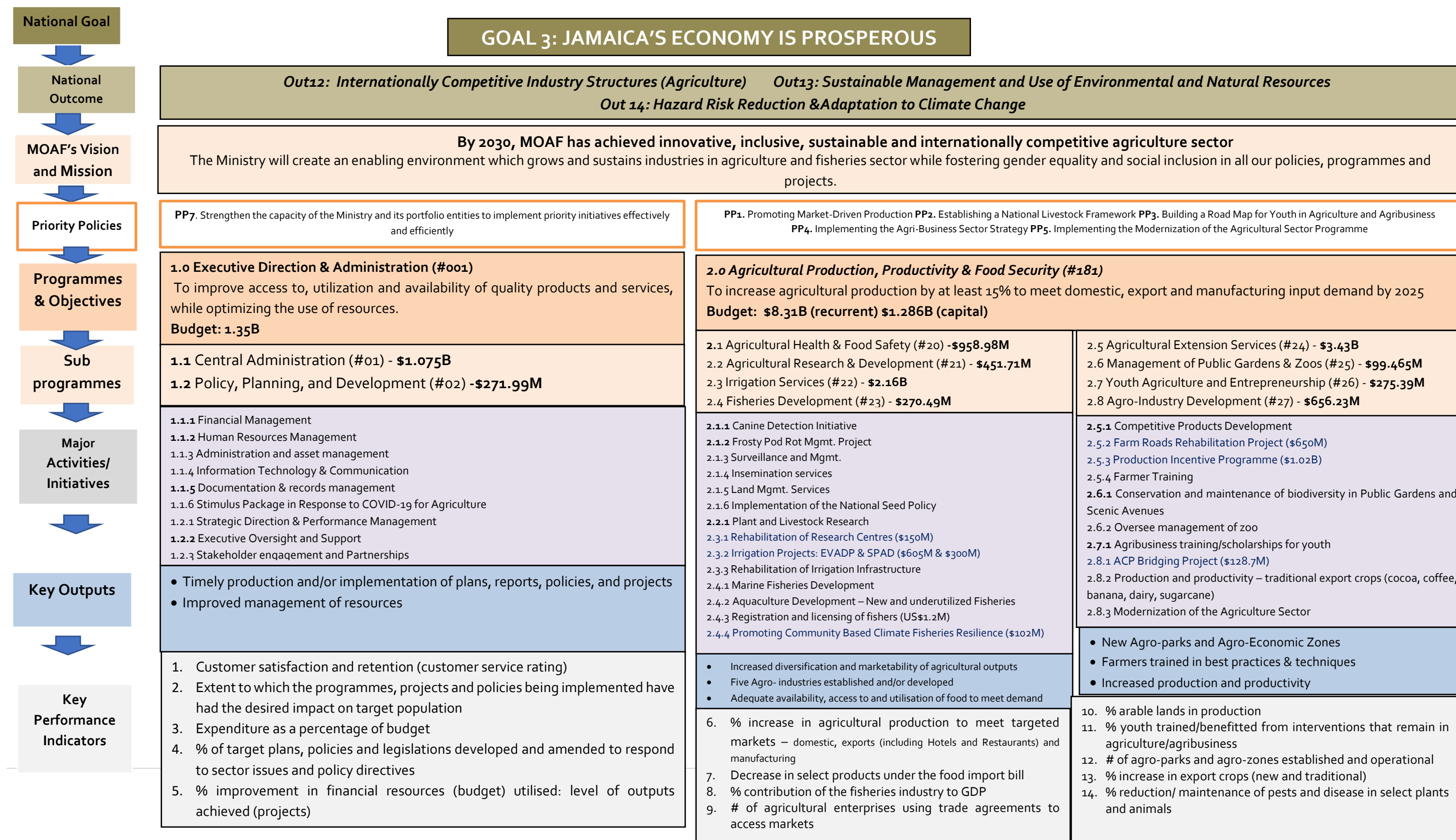
For 2021/22 to 2024/25, SCJH will focus on a number of strategic priorities:

1. Make increasing amounts of former sugar land available to investors for productive activities. Specifically this should include lands to support:
 - Agro-processing
 - New industries – Cannabis, Bamboo, Castor Beans
 - Agro-Parks development and expansion by AIC.
 - Programmes such as Youth in Agriculture and Women in Agriculture.
 - Sugar Cane Cultivation – to support required throughput for any factory projected to continue operating (the leading example of which is Monymusk, Clarendon).
2. Ensure that lands leased by SCJH are being utilized in operationally and financially viable economic activities that are sustainable and are contributing to economic growth and job creation.
3. Provide appropriate support for the implementation of the Greater Bernard Lodge Development Master Plan. This will include:
4. Cabinet approved sales of lands in the GBLDMP area;
5. Relocation and assistance in re-establishment of farmers/ investors displaced by the Master Plan; and
6. Completion of the establishment of the Bernard Lodge Agricultural Development area and oversee the management and performance of leases of agricultural lands within the GBL Development area.
7. Continue to work with other GoJ stakeholders to promote and facilitate housing provision and community regularization in sugar ‘dependent’ communities.
8. Strengthen the financial and institutional viability of SCJH to adequately and appropriately discharge its function.

| SCJH Annual Budget 2021 - 2022 | |
|--|--------------------|
| Total Income | 940,812,884 |
| Agricultural and Non- Agricultural Revenue | 178,573,652 |
| Land Sales | 761,934,232 |
| Other Income | 310,000 |
| Total Expenditure | 585,211,197 |
| Administrative Expenses | 429,707,046 |
| Post-Divestment and Operational Expenses | 62,947,430 |
| Interest and Depreciation Expenses | 92,556,721 |

6 MOAF Programme Activity Architecture for FY2021/22

Despite the multiple challenges in FY2020/21, the Ministry took the opportunity to review its initiatives' impact on the agriculture and fisheries sector and developed a strategic trajectory for food in Jamaica - Food security, Agribusiness development, Climate smart technologies and Export expansion.

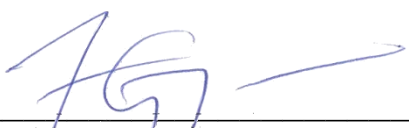


7 Conclusion

Throughout the medium term, the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF), will play a leading role in removing several constraints which continue to inhibit investments in the agriculture and fisheries sectors. This should result in increased production and the expansion of the capacity of the agriculture and fisheries sector to drive inclusive economic growth.

The Ministry will build Jamaica by creating a new **FACE** of food, where **Food** security is key; **Agribusiness** development is a must; **Climate-smart** technologies are fully integrated and **Exports** are expanded. As such, the Ministry's priority policies are geared towards "**Building more for our Agriculture Sector: Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability**":

1. Promoting Market-Driven Production
2. Establishing a National Livestock Framework
3. Building a Road Map for Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness
4. Implementing the Agri-Business Sector Strategy
5. Implementing the Modernization of the Agricultural Sector Programme
6. Building a Resilient and Sustainable Fisheries sub-sector
7. Strengthening the capacity of Ministry and entities to efficiently and effectively implement policies, programmes and projects



Hon. Minister Floyd Green M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
May 12, 2021