LIST OF ABSTRACTS
Mahaicony Pig Farmers Add Value to Their Products

Arnold De Mendonca

Sustainable Rural Development Specialist, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Guyana

Abstract

The effects of climate change, irregular rainfall patterns, flooding, and negative market forces are collective challenges faced by the farmers in the Perth Mahaicony Village, Region 5, Guyana. To overcome these trials, these rural farmers have been desperately seeking to diversify their production bases in multiple areas as to spread their risk. One diversification effort, pig farming, even though initially showed low profitability owing limitations in sales for only primary production, is now evolving into a profitable value added activity through the improvement of the value chain for the production of pork products namely hams and sausages.

This community based group of pig farmers have benefited from financial and technical assistance training interventions of organisational strengthening, processing and marketing. The Ministry of Agriculture – IFAD and IICA through different initiatives have targeted these farmers with the institutions contributing towards the sustainable improvement to the value chain of pork production. These actions have positioned farmers with the continual ability to produce and market pork products in the form of hams and sausages which puts them in an advantageous position in the local market of Guyana. Their actions of adding value to a food product is resulting as an excellent way generating added income for the realization of larger profits, compared to sales of fresh pork meat that they previously sold.

Keywords: Climate Change, Diversification, Pork Products, Value Added, Prices
Global Value Chains and Trade in Value Added: Assessing the US Corn and Soya Contribution into the Caribbean Poultry Industry

Scott Mahadeo¹, Govind Seepersad² and Ardon Iton¹

¹Graduate Student, ²Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, the University of the West Indies, St Augustine, and ³Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

Abstract

Global Value Chains (GVCs) have become the norm in the analysis of trade in today’s globalised economy. The process of international fragmentation of production has permitted both developed and developing countries to participate in trade and the creation of wealth. Effective trade policy in the contemporary environment has challenged our conventional wisdom on how trade is interpreted and measured. This study uses the GVC concept to examine the US corn and soya industry as it forms part of the poultry value chain in the Caribbean region. Focus is placed on the Trinidad and Tobago and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States poultry value chains. The trade in value added is given special attention in identifying the contribution made at each node within the chain.

Keywords: Global Value Chains; Trade in Value Added; US Corn and Soya Industry; Poultry Meat; Food and Nutrition Security
Local Food Systems: U.S. Perspectives and Opportunities across the Caribbean

Ronald L. Rainey

Professor, Co-Director SRMEC & Program Director of CARS, University of Arkansas

Abstract

Over the last decade, local food systems in the United States has experienced tremendous growth in terms of market opportunities and consumer interest. The 2014 U.S. Farm Bill allocates over $500 million to provide resources and technical assistance to this growing market area. The Farm Bill investments reflect continued support of local and regional food systems and the continued shifting in priorities in which issues like local, organic food and healthy food access have elevated. The strong momentum in these markets is a result of growing consumer demand for agricultural products produced locally and strong growth in the development of local and regional food systems.

In 2012, the U.S. Census of Agriculture reported that over 144 thousand farmers sold $1.3 Billion in agricultural products directly to consumers. These farmers represent only 7 percent of the nation’s farmers but those sales accounted for only 0.3 percent of total agricultural sales. These farmers use a variety of markets including farmers markets, roadside stands, pick-your-own operations and community supported agriculture (CSA) in addition to other efforts which have expanded with online technology.

This session will explore some of the drivers of the local and regional food systems and highlight some of the trends in the U.S. marketplace. Exploration of the vibrant opportunities to enhance farmer marketing, rural and regional economic development and prospects to educate consumers about agriculture and agriculture will be explored.
Climate Change and Adaption Measures: The Road to Increase Food Security in the Bahamas

Erecia Hepburn

Professor, The College of The Bahamas

Abstract

The Bahamas, like several small island developing states requires considerable assistance in the agricultural sector because of its dependence on foreign foodstuffs. The country’s singular reliance on one industry has led to structural deficiencies in several sectors and food insecurity in the agricultural sector. Factors such as: increase in temperature and decrease in rainfall have increased production risks in the agriculture sector. This research is based on data from surveys, review of the literature and interviews with persons in the agricultural and policy sector. The research observed that while most persons acknowledged climate change and its effect on food security several farmers where not looking at adaption measures. Others in the agricultural field indicated that they have adopted some measures for adaption and mitigation but indicated that the government has a lack of policies in both the environmental and agricultural sectors, which they felt was the main issue of food security. Government officials and academics touted new initiatives that would play a role in adaption and food security. While educating/training persons in adaptation methods seemed to be touted as a benefit for agriculture production and food security, respondents indicated that without government support there would only be limited success. This research indicates a direct correlation between the potential to increase food security in The Bahamas by utilizing adaptation measures.

Keywords: The Bahamas, Climate Change, Agriculture, Adaptation, Food Security
Socioeconomic Assessment of Natural Disasters in the Caribbean Region: The Case of Grenada’s Nutmeg Industry

Govind Seepersad, Ardon Iton, Nkosi Felix and Faraad Hosein

Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension,
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Abstract

Agribusiness Risks goes beyond the vagaries of nature. They range from biological factors to climatological, anthropogenic and financial. Accounting for losses have been arbitrary and the effects goes beyond losses of crop, livestock or property.

This study looked at the Impact of Hurricane Ivan on Grenada’s nutmeg industry. Specific analysis was done on the impact of the climatological event on nutmeg farmers. Point Score analysis and logistic regression was used. The study found that what the farmer thinks about the risk factor (risk perception) was not significant but rather, his interpretation of the chances of being affected by the risk element was significant. The results conclude that risk perception influences farmer’s choices and decisions.

Keywords: Natural Disasters, Agribusiness Risks, Risk Perception, Risk Attitude, Hurricane Ivan
A Modeling Framework for Designing Innovative Sustainable Agricultural Land Systems: Application to Guadeloupe

Pierre Chopin¹, Jean-Marc Blazy¹, Loïc Guindé¹ and Thierry Doré ²,³

¹INRA, UR1321 ASTRO Agrosystèmes Tropicaux, F-97170 Petit-Bourg (Guadeloupe), France; ²AgroParisTech, UMR 211 Agronomie, F-78850 Thiverval-Grignon, France; ³INRA, UMR 211 Agronomie, F-78850 Thiverval-Grignon, France

Abstract

In order to build sustainable agricultural land systems, agronomist should adopt a landscape perspective by simulating 1) scenarios at the landscape scale, 2) farmers’ decision processes for cropping system choices, and 3) cropping systems performances at field scale. We here propose a modeling framework, based on a scenario approach with an optimization model to prototype sustainable land systems. The framework uses a regional bioeconomic model which integrates farmers’ decision process on the adoption of cropping systems at field scale. Farmers’ decisions are driven by a combination of spatially explicit biophysical conditions of their fields in a landscape and socio-economic condition of their farms in a regional and global context. The scenario method encompasses normative, exploratory, optimized scenarios to assess the potential of levers to improve the response of agricultural land systems to sustainability goals with scenarios. The framework was tested in Guadeloupe for defining a set of scenarios assessing several combinations of agronomic, technical, economic and social levers to build new agricultural land systems improving the contribution of agriculture to sustainable development. The pathway of scenario development proposed by the framework led to the definition of a multi-functional “Go sustainable” scenario in Guadeloupe that combined among others new cropping systems, with a reorientation of subsidies towards local productions, a more experienced workforce and a ban of food crops production on polluted soils. This scenario increased the food and energy self-sufficiency, the employment and decreased the risk of pollution in water bodies and the risk of contamination of crops due to polluted soils. This framework can be used to understand the potential of response to sustainability issues to help local decision makers in the definition and implementation of policies that take into account the diversity of farms and field conditions in the region.
Economics of Soil Conservation Practices in Northern Haiti

Sènakpon. E. H. Kokoye¹, Curtis M. Jolly², Budry Bayard³, Dennis Shannon⁴, Joseph J. Molnar⁵, Philippe Mathieu⁶

¹Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 36849, USA; ²Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 36849, USA; ³AgroConsult, Cap Haitien, Haiti; ⁴Professor, Department of Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences, College of Agriculture, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 36849, USA; ⁵Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, College of Agriculture, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 36849, USA; ⁶AgroConsult, Cap Haitien, Haiti

Abstract

Soil erosion which leads to land degradation remains one of the major concerns in agriculture in Haiti. In the past decade farmers have adopted numerous soil conservation techniques to reduce soil loss in Haiti. Development projects popularized different soil conservation practices in different regions and ecological zones. Conditions for adoption of each, or set of practices might vary from one location to the next. Hence it is fitting to determine whether factors influencing adoption vary by ecological conditions and geographical location. Based on data collected in six watersheds--Borgne/Limbé, Haut-du-Cap, Grand-Rivière-du-Nord, Marion/Trou-du-Nord, Jassa and Grisongarde --- in Northern Haiti, this study investigates the factors affecting adoption of soil conservation techniques in Northern Haiti. In total, 923 farmers were interviewed of which 84.9% are male and 15.1% are female. Four selected soil conservation techniques ---bann manje (crop bands), rocks wall and haies vives (hedge rows), tree planting -- were evaluated using a multivariate probit model to determine the factors influencing adoption of these soil conservation techniques. The results reveal that education level, access to credit and the existence of slope on the land are determinants in the adoption of rock walls, whereas only access to credit had a statistically significant effect on adoption of bann manje. Household size, land ownership, degree of slope influenced adoption of tree planting while household size and degree of slope significantly influenced the adoption of haie vive. The existence and degree of slope seem to be an important factor affecting three out of four of the soil conservation techniques while only credit affected the adoption of bann manje. One limitation is the lack of information on the availability of soil conservation materials because the supply of these materials undoubtedly influences the technique adopted by location and ecological zone.

Keywords: Soil Conservation Practices, Multivariate Probit, Northern Haiti
Site Suitability Model for Haitian Blue Coffee using Spatial Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (SMDA)

Shivani Seepersad\textsuperscript{1}, Roselin Moncher\textsuperscript{2} and Govind Seepersad\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1}Graduate Student, Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, Faculty of Engineering; \textsuperscript{2}Graduate Student and \textsuperscript{3}Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine

Abstract

Haitian coffee is a good candidate for appointment of geographic indication (GI) status, given its high quality and unique flavor profile. Appointment of GI status also means that the product can receive a higher price on the global market. This paper presents a site suitability model for the location of the most appropriate sites for the cultivation of the Haitian Blue Coffee so that it can build a case for achieving the GI status; to reestablish Haiti’s coffee industry and to stimulate greater international trade. Implementing the results of this study would promote a solution to long term development of a segment of Haiti’s agricultural industry and create job opportunities for Haitians. This site suitability model was created using a spatial multi-criteria decision analysis (SMDA) analysis approach. The Weighted Overlay tool in ArcMap was used for this SMDA. This tool combines a group of methodologies applied in optimal site selection or suitability modeling. It is a technique for applying a common scale of values to diverse and dissimilar inputs, to create an integrated analysis. The results of this study shows the optimum locations for growing coffee in Haiti.

Keywords: Site Suitability Model, Haitian Blue Coffee, Spatial Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
Are the Caribbean Ocean Areas within their Exclusive Economic Zones Healthy?

Curtis M. Jolly¹, Carel Ligeon² and Pauline E. Jolly³

¹Professor of Agricultural Economics at Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University, ²Professor and the Head of the Economics Department, College of Public Policy and Justice, Auburn University Montgomery, ³Professor of Epidemiology and International Health, University of Alabama Birmingham.

Abstract

The Caribbean Sea is listed as one of the areas seriously threatened by human activity. A recent study shows that pollution from ships, over-fishing and climate change are the three major causes of destruction to marine ecosystems in regional waters. The question that must be asked is how healthy are the Caribbean and West Indian countries’ oceans? We examine the Ocean Health Index (OHI) considered as a set benefits delivered by the oceans to humans enshrined in ten goals: Feed provision, Artisanal fisheries opportunities, Natural products extraction, Carbon storage, Coastal protection, Coastal livelihoods and economies, Tourism and recreation, Sense of place, Clean waters and Biodiversity to investigate the health status of the Caribbean ocean waters.

The Caribbean countries scored an average of 60.7 with a standard Deviation (SD) of 8.9. The countries were divided into three groups based on scores above 65, between 65 and 54 and 54 and below. Belize, Bahamas, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Northern Saint Martin, Turks and Caicos Islands, Curacao, Aruba, Saint Eustatius and the Cayman Islands had an average score of 67.9 which is comparable to the global score of 67, with Curacao scoring highest at 71.9. In the second group, Saint Martin, Guyana, St. Kitts, Anguilla, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and Bermuda had an average score of 59.1. In the third group of countries, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Haiti and Guadeloupe and Martinique scored an average of 48.3 points, with Haiti and St. Vincent and the Grenadines scoring the lowest.

The waters of the Caribbean and neighboring areas are in danger; hence policies must be put in place and enforced to save the Oceans from deteriorating health.
Comparing the Volatility of the International Prices of Cocoa, Coffee and Oil

Carlisle Pemberton¹, Afiya De Sormeaux² and Hazel Patterson-Andrews³

¹Professor of Agricultural Economics (retired); ²Graduate Student, SALISES; ³Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension
The University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

Abstract

This paper examines the volatility of the international prices of two major beverage commodities cocoa and coffee and compares the volatility of these two price series to that of the international price of oil. The paper also examined the correlation between the prices of the two commodities and between them and the price of oil, especially to determine if the oil price is linked to the two beverage prices. The analysis was for the period January 2005 to August 2011, a period during which there were rapid changes in the prices of international commodities. The comparison of the volatility of the prices was achieved by using the technique of bootstrapping to utilize bootstrapped t-tests of the measure of price volatility adopted that of the moving coefficient of variation. The results found that there was no significant difference between the volatility of the prices of cocoa and coffee, but that the volatility of the price of oil was always significantly higher that the volatility of the prices of the two beverage commodities. These results support the well-established position of the highly volatile nature of the price of oil.

There was a high positive correlation between the prices of the two beverages (0.723) and also a high correlation between the price of oil and the price of coffee (0.708). However the correlation between the price of cocoa and the price of oil was moderately low and positive (0.563).

Key Words: Cocoa Coffee and Oil Prices; Price Volatility; Bootstrapping
The Environmental Impact of El Nino Southern Oscillation Forecasts

Ermanno Affuso

University of South Alabama - Mitchell College of Business – Department of Economics and Finance.

Abstract

Yearly weather variability has an impact on agricultural supply and farmer welfare. More accurate weather predictions may increase net returns for farmers but the indirect environmental impact of forecasts has not been examined. A stochastic bioeconomic model, which includes weather information, examines the impact of agricultural activities on water quality in a large agricultural area affected by the El Nino Southern Oscillation phases. This region is part of the Black Warrior-Tombigbee and the Middle Tennessee-Elk Basins in the Southeast of the United States. The results of the study reveal that if farmers would use accurate weather predictions, their net returns may increase by 1.23% while the nitrogen loss associated with the agricultural activities would reduce by 0.74%.
Supply of Industrial Round-Wood in Caribbean and Central American Countries

Carel Ligeon¹ and Curtis M. Jolly²

¹Professor and Head of Economics Department, College of Public Policy and Justice, Auburn University Montgomery. ²Professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Alabama Experiment Station, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849.

Abstract

Forests provide a wide range of economic and social benefits, employment, foreign exchange earnings, fuel wood and natural products to communities all over the world. In the Caribbean and Central America it is no different as forest products contribute to the domestic economy through consumption of local products as well as exports of forest products. For Caribbean and Central America there has been an increase in exports of forest products over the past decade. The increase in extraction of forest products engenders a fear of loss of forests in the coming years. However, it is believed that with careful management, it is possible to extract valuable timber and forest products without a decrease in forest sustainability. Hence, in this paper, we attempt to determine the factors that influence industrial round-wood extraction from Caribbean and Central American forests.

Panel data with 954 observations were obtained for 1961 to 2013 for CARICOM countries: Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and the following Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama from FAOSTAT. A linear regression model was developed for industrial round-wood supply per capita as a function of forest area per capita, industrial round-wood export price, GDP per capita, production of saw and veneer logs per capita, production of sawn-wood per capita, export price of sawn-wood and arable land per capita.

The model has a good fit (Prob > F=0.000). The results show that the production and harvest of round wood was influenced by the log of industrial round-wood export price, GDP per capita, production of saw and veneer logs per capita, production of sawn-wood per capita, export price of sawn-wood and arable land per capita. The forest area did not influence the production of industrial round-wood. The model indicated that a 10% increase in industrial round-wood export price would generate a 0.99 % increase in industrial round-wood harvested per capita. Per capita income had a positive effect on industrial round-wood harvested. A 10% increase in GDP per capita would have a 3.3 % increase in round-wood per capita harvested. Export price per sawn-wood showed a complementary relationship with Industrial round-wood per capita harvested. There was a negative relationship between arable land per capita and industrial round-wood harvested.

The model results suggest that the price of industrial round-wood and GDP per capita serve as incentives to encourage industrial round-wood harvest but arable land available for cultivation reduces the potential for industrial round-wood harvest.
Satisfaction and Quality of Housing among Older Persons in Rural Trinidad

Isabella Francis-Granderson¹, Carlisle Pemberton² and Afiya De Sormeaux³

¹Lecturer; ²Professor (retired) of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension; ³Graduate Student, SALISES
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Abstract

Currently the proportion of older persons in rural areas is rising. Many of those based in rural areas are older persons with a strong agricultural background and indeed many are aging farmers. This study determined for low-income older persons in rural Trinidad and Tobago their satisfaction with their housing, their housing quality status and the factors influencing their housing quality status. The sample consisted of 300 pensioners (between 65 and 103 years old) who were personally interviewed. While 67.7 per cent of them were satisfied with their housing, 46 per cent had poor quality housing. Older persons considered themselves to be in poorer health than the general US population, but in about the same state of mental health. The main predictors of housing quality status were whether the respondent was presently working, the levels of education and income, whether he/she lived alone and the gender of the older respondent.

Keywords: Older Persons, Housing Quality and Satisfaction, Trinidad
Assessing the Impact of Tariff Removal on the Africa’s Net Trade with the European Union

Nkosi Felix¹, Govind Seepersad² and Edward Evans³

¹Graduate Student; ²Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies; ³Associate Professor, Food and Resource Economics and Associate Director, International Programs (UF/IFAS Global), University of Florida, IFAS

Abstract

Since 1963, the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries have been the signatories to a range of trade agreements with the EU aimed at providing economic development finance and shielding them somewhat from the full impact of globalization. However, there is consensus that the vast majority of these countries had not benefited considerably from these agreements, despite preferential agreements. The Economic Partnership Agreement, replaced these preferential trade agreement in response to criticism that the latter were non-reciprocal and discriminatory and as such were not in concert with WTO rules. This paper empirically assess the impact of the EPA on group of selected African countries. In particular, the study used a partial equilibrium framework, to assess if there was trade creation, or trade diversion as a result of the Economic Partnership Agreement. The study also analyzed the exports of fruits along with its added value counterparts and makes suggestions where investment should be placed.

Keywords: Trade Agreements, ACP, Partial Equilibrium, Trade Creation, Trade Diversion, Economic Partnership Agreement
Experiences of The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in Delivering its Technical Cooperation Programmes in Trinidad and Tobago and the Region

Edric Harry

1Policy Analyst and Planning Specialist,
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Abstract

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is an International Organization that provides technical support for the development of agriculture and rural life in 34 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Trinidad and Tobago. Over the years, there were mixed results in the Institute’s programmes, designed to improve the lives and livelihoods of farmers and members of community groups living in rural areas. The degree of success enjoyed in delivering those programmes, and ease with which they were implemented depended, to a large extent, on the nature of problems to be addressed at the level of the farm and community.

IICA also had favourable experiences in providing support to rural community groups which had requested support for further exploiting opportunities with potential for improving their income earning capacity. The paper, therefore, seeks to identify the nature and challenges facing farmer groups in Trinidad and Tobago and selected countries of the region, and to highlight associative interventions undertaken by IICA, either to resolve existing deficiencies of farming groups or to assist them to further exploit identified opportunities for their benefit. Recommendations are also provided, based on IICA’s experiences in dealing with rural community and farming groups, for facilitating greater measures of success when engaging those groups.
Analyzing Bilateral Trade using the Gravity Equation: Ex-Post Analysis of the Top Four African Exporting Countries to Europe

Nkosi Felix¹, Govind Seepersad² and Edward Evans³

¹Graduate Student; ²Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies; ³Associate Professor, Food and Resource Economics and Associate Director, International Programs [UF/IFAS Global], University of Florida, IFAS

Abstract

The African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries have been the signatories to a range of trade agreements aimed at enabling trade and protecting their domestic industries. The economic size of African members of the ACP and their close proximity to the European Union, would indicate a strong gravitational force using the rules of the Gravity model. With the recent signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement between these countries and the EU there is need to quantify the benefits from this free trade agreement. This study aims to analyze African exports to the European Union during the period 1981 to 2013. It employs the gravity model with the inclusion of variables to represent the different agreements entered between the trade partners along with trading blocs due to language differences. Logistic regression was utilized to identify which factors of the gravity model influenced exports from Africa to EU to assess the significance of entry into Trade Agreements. The results of the study will assist in predicting the pattern of trade flow from these countries in light of the recent signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement.

Keywords: Trade Agreements, ACP, Gravity Model, Logistic Regression, Free Trade Agreements, Economic Partnership Agreement
Stakeholders' Perceptions of the Impacts of Community-Based Tourism Events in Saint Lucia: A Case of the Fish Fry Events

Titus Mathurin¹, Sharon D. Hutchinson², Martin Franklin³ and Carlisle Pemberton⁴

¹MPhil Student, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension (DAEE), Faculty of Food and Agriculture; ²Lecturer, DAEE; ³Lecturer and Head, Department of Economics; ⁴Professor of Agricultural Economics (retired), DAEE. The University of the West Indies.

Abstract

This paper presents the results of an examination of stakeholders’ perceptions in three host communities of a Community-Based Tourism (CBT) event, Fish Fry events in Saint Lucia. In late 1999, the economic dependence of rural livelihoods in Saint Lucia shifted from agriculture to the tourism and fisheries industries. Therefore, Fish Fry Events (FFEs) emerged as an alternative economic development tool to cushion the employment and income gaps that were created as a result of a weakening agriculture industry. Representative samples were drawn from six stakeholder groups: vendors, fishers, patrons (resident and tourist), local residents, event organizers and government officials. These stakeholders were questioned using face-to-face questionnaires, focus group meetings, telephone interviews and audio interviews. Stakeholders were required to provide feedback on the event’s impact on their quality and standard of life, communities, environment and social life.

It was clear that perceptions did not vary widely between the three host communities and within the stakeholder groups. This research provides awareness of the significance of CBT events especially in rural economies of Saint Lucia. FFEs offer an additional element to Saint Lucia’s destination tourism attractions. Further information is presented to event organizers and government agencies to identify the right mix of stakeholders’ collaborative efforts that is a necessary precursor for the success of the CBT events in both the short and long run. In spite of CBT events are expenditure driven; this revenue can only be optimally realized if all stakeholders’ perceptions are considered when marketing and organizing such events.

Keywords: Tourism, Income, Employment, Agriculture, Expenditure, Rural Economies, Questionnaire, Focus Group Meeting, Interview, Attractions
Socioeconomic Factors Affecting Household Food Expenditure in North Trinidad

Vidwatee Ramdhanie¹, Carlisle Pemberton² and Isabella Francis-Granderson³

¹Graduate Student; ²Professor of Agricultural Economics (retired) and ³Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Abstract

This research project examined the factors that affected food expenditure for a sample of households of primary school children located north Trinidad. This sample set was randomly chosen with a size of 241 respondents. The log-log ordinary least squares (OLS) model was applied to this research. Literature supported the view that quite a large range of socioeconomic factors affected the expenditure on food. The results of this study showed similarly that factors including ethnicity, food security index, household income and the age of household’s head all influenced the households’ food expenditure.

Keywords: Food Security, Food Expenditure, Socioeconomic Factors, Log-log Ordinary Least Squares
Does Gender Play a Role? Determinants of Food Security among Low Income Households in North East Trinidad

Francis-Granderson¹, C. Pemberton², H. Patterson-Andrews³, M. Webb⁴, A. Mc Donald⁵ and K. Rocke⁶

¹Lecturer; ²Professor of Agricultural Economics (retired); ³Lecturer; ⁴Lecturer; Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; ⁵Ph.D Candidate, Department of Health Education, Texas A&M University; ⁶Teaching Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Abstract

This study examines the association between food security status and gender and household socio-demographic characteristics and in north east Trinidad. The data utilized in this study is part of a larger longitudinal study, “The CARICOM Food Security Project - From Farm to Fork,” conducted during the period March, 2011 to August, 2014. Food security status was assessed using the 18-item U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The sample consisted of caregivers of primary school children aged 7-12 years who reside in two regions (St. Andrew-St. David and St. George East) in North- East Trinidad. There were 304 respondents, 90.13% female and 9.87% males. Multiple linear regression was used to determine the relationship between food security status and gender and household socio-demographic characteristics. Gender, income and marital status were the only three statistically significant predictors of household food insecurity.

Keywords: Gender, Household, Food Security, Food Insecurity, Trinidad