

## AGRICULTURE UNIT

Joseph I. Lindsay, Dip Agric JSA, BSc Agric, MSc Agric, PhD Soil Science, UWI (STA); MBA UWI – Research Fellow

### FSA Related activities Internship Programme

Coordinated a 10-week internship programme (AGRI 2000/ AGRI 233). Negotiations were held with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and one student from St. Augustine was facilitated at the RADA St. Thomas Office. The student had a successful internship and has completed the requirements for the award of the BSc Degree.



### External Programme in Tropical Agriculture

The Unit continues its administrative function by facilitating students from Jamaica who are registered for the University Certificate Programme in Agriculture (UCPA) and the External Degree Programme in Agricultural and Rural Development (EPA) from the School of Agriculture at FSA. Currently from Jamaica there are three persons registered for the UCPA and 11 for EPA programmes respectively. Among the activities undertaken were the following: i) Provision of advice on course options and requirements; ii) Serving as contact point for receiving and distributing courses materials sent by courier from Trinidad; iii) interacting with FSA Trinidad to overcome administrative problems being encountered by Jamaican students; iv) Provision of application forms for the various programmes; and v) Facilitating contacts/itinerary for School of Agriculture Staff visits to agriculture entities in Jamaica.

**Examiner EPA Course:** Serve as University Examiner and Tutor for Course AGPD 6502 Land Degradation and Sustainability which is offered in the Agricultural and Rural Development by Distance EPA Programme.

**MSc Plant Production and Protection:** Served as P/T lecturer of several modules in a Course which forms part of the MSc Plant Production and Protection offered by the Dept. of Life Sciences. Served as University examiner for a PhD Thesis in citrus – Basic Medical Sciences.

### **Agriculture Unit Core Activities**

Participated in Consultation between the University of the West Indies and the Ministry of Agriculture

Prepared plan for converting Elim High School into the Agri-Technologies and Agri-Business Campus of the Mona Campus, The University of the West Indies. Emanating from the consultation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the UWI was the proposal that the UWI visit the Sydney Pagan Agricultural High School and assess the feasibility of the institution being converted to a Faculty of Agriculture to be managed by the UWI. A team toured the institution at Braes River in St. Elizabeth and held discussions with the management.

Assisted in proposal preparation for the establishment of Agro-technology programme at Mona.

**Stakeholder Workshop:** Coordinated a workshop on March 9, 2009 to determine possible programmes that would be most responsive to the agriculture industry challenges. It was organized by the Faculty and drew participation from UWI St. Augustine, USA and the local Agriculture stakeholders. On the basis of the discussion, the group proposed that the Faculty should consider the offer of the options as follows: Agro-processing technologies, Tropical Horticulture, agri-business and agri-technologies, Tropical livestock, Natural resources management, and Agricultural extension and communications.

Participated in Consultations with the Faculty of Science and Agriculture STA Trinidad.

On June 22-23, 2009, the Campus sent a delegation headed by the Dean Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences to consult with the academic staff of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture and the leadership of the St. Augustine Campus on the proposed agriculture programmes. The proposed BSc in Tropical Horticulture Option was presented, along

with the overall vision of the evolution of agriculture programmes at Mona. Support for both the vision and the specific programme was secured.

### **Needs Assessment UWI Agri-Technology Graduates**

As part of the new initiatives for offer of a suite of courses in Agri-technologies and Agribusinesses the Unit has been undertaking a needs assessment survey to get feedback from current and potential employers of agriculture related graduates. Twenty-five companies were contacted of which 10 returned questionnaires.

### **BSc Tropical Horticulture Programme**

On the basis of the April 2009 meeting and with regular consultation with colleagues of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, a draft programme for the offer of a BSc in Tropical Horticulture was initiated. The programme will be offered for the first time in the 2009/2010 academic year. It is anticipated that graduates of the College of Agriculture Science and Education will obtain matriculation into the 2nd year beginning in summer 2010.

### **MSc Agricultural Entrepreneurship**

Extensive work and consultations were held to develop the outline for an MSc in Agricultural Entrepreneurship which is to be offered jointly by the FPAS and the Department of Management Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The programme has been submitted by the Dean for consideration by the Board for Graduate Studies. It is expected that the course will be offered for January 2010 with the full cycle coinciding with the 2010/2011 academic year.

### **Workshops/Conferences/Seminars/Exhibitions**

Participated in the FSA 60th Anniversary Conference and workshop UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad "Overcoming Challenges to Developing Sustainable Agri-food systems in the Caribbean" during 30th Nov. 30 – Dec. 3, 2008. Trinidad Hyatt, Port of Spain.

Chaired session of the One Day Seminar: Caribbean Agriculture and Food in a Changing Global Context: March 3, 2008 chaired session

Conference on: Food Security and Agricultural Development in the Americas July 28-30, 2009. Sponsored by the Office of the Principal, UWI, Mona. Served as Technical Advisor to the Secretariat and Chaired a Panel on: Innovations in Science and Technology for Food Security and Agricultural Development in the Americas. Co-edited a publication **Cameron, R** and **Lindsay, J.** 2009 (Editors). The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus: Education, Research, Entrepreneurship-Supporting the agricultural sector.

**UWI Exhibition Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show: July 31 to August 02, 2009.** Served as technical advisor on an organizing committee and as liaison with Jamaica Agricultural Society in the successful mounting of the 1st Exhibition mounted by the UWI at the annual Jamaica Agricultural Society Agricultural and Industrial Show. The exhibition had the honour of being visited by the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Minister of Agriculture. Coordinated the inclusion of the display from St. Augustine into the UWI display at Denbigh 2009. The display was well received.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Joseph Lindsay**

- President, Jamaican Society for Agricultural Sciences
- Treasurer, Jamaica Horticultural Society
- Member, Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement