

MINISTRY PAPER 34 /2012

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES'

JAMAICA EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME (JEEP)

The matter for tabling in the Houses of Parliament is the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) activities.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The following projects/programmes were identified as viable means of employment for persons within the agricultural sector. Some of these projects/programmes are already underway but have been incorporated in JEEP as a way to expand and or extend them over time to be more beneficial to a larger number of people. All programmes that will be implemented have a sustainability component which is built into it and will ensure that the economic gains and the skills created remains after the financial intervention of the Ministry ends. The projected job opportunities and funding requirements for financial year 2012/2013 are stated in the table in Appendix I. The projects/programmes are as follows:

- School Feeding Programme
- Expansion of RADA Twickenham Industry
 - Agri-Marts
 - Twickenham Bammy Factory
- Re-verification and Registration of Farmers
- Urban Farming Initiative
- Community/Residential Crop Care Experts
- Farm Road Maintenance
- Nursery Programme

RADA will be the agency charged with the management and implementation of the project. RADA will also be responsible for monitoring, administration and all reporting requirements under this component of the MOAF JEEP initiative.

2.0 PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR EACH PROJECT/ACTIVITY

2.1 The School Feeding Programme

The main objective of the School Feeding Programme is to improve the nutrition of the nation's children while fostering and solidifying an integrated relationship between the Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture and Fisheries and other stakeholders.

The specific objective is the creation of micro enterprises in the various communities that will contribute to the nutritional value of meals provided to students.

Description:

The MOAF partners with the Ministry of Education with respect to its School Feeding Programme (SFP) and has been working towards increasing the nutritional value of food provided to the nation's children. The proposed intervention is expected to have a positive impact on the nutritional content of the targeted children, local agricultural production and job creation.

The proposed methodology is to use a demand driven approach, under which community groups or enterprises will access funds from this project to provide meals/produce/finished goods to schools within their respective communities. The groups will be required to provide a business model or plan as to how they intend to use the locally produced crop and livestock to supply the schools within the area. The Ministry in turn will then provide the technical and financial support through RADA to ensure viable projects become a reality.

Selection of Groups:

The groups will be selected through a competitive process by a team comprising MOAF & MOE officials.

Targets:

It is projected that a total of 20 new enterprises will be created under this project amount to total of 200 new jobs, commencing in the 2012/13 school year.

2.2 Expansion of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) Twickenham Industry

The overall objective of this programme is for the development of local community enterprises through a value chain enhancement approach. It is expected that the programme will provide increased support to micro, medium and small processing enterprises as well as cottage industries, in rural communities. This programme will see RADA partnering with various

community enterprises who manufacture art and craft as well as agricultural based products in an effort to create meaningful and sustainable employment. This will be done through a coordinated approach in training, product development, quality control, packaging, labeling and collective marketing and groups sales at the RADA sales outlets which will be established across the country.

Physical Targets:

- 200 jobs to be created
- Eight (8) sales facilities for products from agro-processing and other cottage industry enterprises will be expanded
- 10 new community Enterprises to be created
- Development and commercialization of 10 new products
- Economic activities along the agricultural value chain will be developed in communities
- 10 acres of additional crops will be planted

Technical Support:

RADA through its Social Services/Home Economics and Marketing Department will provide the necessary technical and business development support to these 10 new enterprises.

2.3 Re-verification and registration of farmers

The overall objective of the re-verification exercise is to update the farmers' registration data in the Agricultural Business Information System (ABIS) database so that it becomes current. This will provide more accurate data for efficient decision-making in the agricultural sector.

In addition this up-to-date information on the farming sector will also assist with the government's new Anti-Praedial Larceny Initiative.

Description:

Employment will be generated through the employment of young persons between the ages of 15- 35 years of ages to act as data collectors and data entry personnel. These individuals will be placed in the 98 extension areas across the country. They will work along with the existing RADA personnel. These persons will also be trained as verified data collectors who can provide their skills to other entities.

Targets

- Total employment of 100 persons
- Registration of 4000 new farmers

- To attain at least 95% of farmers registered within the database

Duration of Project:

The project will run for a period of four (4) months from July – October of this fiscal year 2012-2013.

Selection:

1. Persons must be recommended by Principals, Members of Parliament, Pastors and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
2. Be living in the community or
3. Between the ages of 15-35 years old

2.4 Urban Farming Initiative

Objective:

The objective of the project is to promote youth employment in agriculture through the utilization of urban spaces towards the creation of job opportunities by way of skills training for income earning.

The project will target a total of five (5) inner city constituencies in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew. The general methodology will be the use of empty spaces where possible for agricultural production, training inner city youths in basic agriculture with a focus on farming suited for an urban setting. The crops which will be targeted are; callaloo, pak-choy, okra, corn which will then be marketed to the municipal markets and SMEs (restaurants) as well as households in the communities. The project will target young persons between the ages of 17-38 years.

RADA will partner with agencies such as the **Social Development Commission (SDC)** and other stakeholders in implementing this project.

Community Identification:

The selection of communities which will participate in the programme will be based on the following criteria:

- Availability of lands
- Level of poverty according to PIOJ Mapping reports
- Recommendations made from the Member of Parliament

Technical Support:

Technical support will be provided by RADA to the beneficiaries of the project. The SDC will provide additional

Project duration:

The project will run for a period of eight (8) Months.

Targets:

- Total employment of 30 persons
- Total of 1 Hectare to be planted

2.5 Community/Residential Crop Care Experts

The general objective of this project is to equip unemployed persons with the necessary training and certification of the highest standards in the area of gardening and crop care technology; by providing them with the requisite skill sets needed for integration into formal employment within the field.

The provision of these crop care and garden management skills is expected to lead to meaningful and viable employment. Through this project RADA will train and certify persons to provide domestic crop care service to individuals in the selected parishes of Manchester, Hanover, Westmoreland, Clarendon St. James, St. Ann, St. Catherine, Kingston and St. Andrew. These trained individuals will also be provided with the necessary tools and equipment which will allow them to branch off into their own enterprises. Additionally these persons will also be listed on a national database as having the necessary certification to provide crop care services.

Technical Support:

RADA will provide the necessary training and technical support needed to the participants. Additionally the **Pesticide Control Authority** and **HEART TRUST NTA** will partner with RADA to provide the necessary **NCTVET** certification that will be needed.

Project duration:

The project will run for a period of eight (8) Months.

Targets:

- Total employment of 150 persons
- Creation skills bank database

2.6 Farm Road Maintenance

The objective of this programme is the rehabilitation of approximately 30Km of farm roads across the country with the aim of increase market access for farmers.

The Programme will last for a period of 12 months and will involve the maintaining of 30km of farm roads through bushing, clearing and the construction of side and cross trainings as well as other rehabilitation activities the programme will be implemented by both RADA and the respective parish councils in which the roads are to be maintained.

Targets:

- Total employment of 400 persons
- 30 km of farm roads to be maintained

Selection of Roads:

- The RADA Parish offices will submit a list of roads to be maintained
- Roads to be maintained will only be in high production areas
- Maximum to be sent on any one farm road \$1M

Monitoring and Evaluation:

All relevant monitoring and evaluation activities pertaining to this project will reside with RADA.

2.7 Nursery Programme

The objective of the nursery programme is for the establishment of nurseries that will provide clean and high quality planting material to farmers. These nurseries will also support directly all of the Ministry of Agriculture's production and productivity programmes.

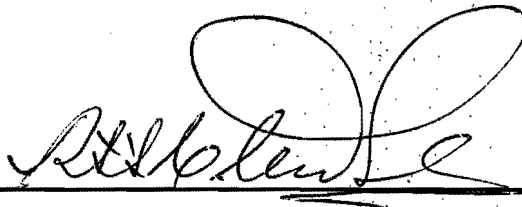
The Nurseries will be operated by RADA in a self-sufficient manner as they will produce plants to be resold to the various agriculture development projects which are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF). To this end they will support the efforts of the school feeding programme, the import substitution programmes and other industry development initiatives which the country is presently pursuing. A total of seven (7) nurseries will be commissioned and placed into operations islandwide.

Targets:

- Seven (7) Nurseries to be supported

- Total employment of 50 persons
- Six (6) million seedlings to be produced

3.0 Information regarding the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme activities is hereby submitted to the Houses of Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Clarke', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Roger Clarke
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
May 29, 2012

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

Description	Projected Job Opportunities	Funding Requirements for FY 2012/13 (J\$M)
Direct MOAF Proposals		
➤ School Feeding Programme	200	14
➤ Expansion of RADA Twickenham Industry	150	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Marts • Twickenham Bammy Factory 	50	3
➤ Re-verification and Registration of Farmers	100	6
➤ Urban Farming Initiative	30	2
➤ Community/Residential Crop Care Experts	150	7
➤ Farm Road Maintenance	400	22
➤ Nursery Programme	50	10
GRAND TOTAL	1130	78