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**Report of the Workshop on Sociological and Extension  
Aspects of Small-Scale Farming Development**

Discussion Leader	Dr. T. H. Henderson
Chariman	Mr. C. Pilgrim
Secretary	Mr. R. Riviere

Dr. T. H. Henderson opened the discussion by outlining two possible approaches to the subject:

- (a) we could either consider the role of small-scale farming from the sociological needs of the farming communities; or
- (b) we could consider the influence of sociological factors on the development of small-scale farming.

The working group agreed that the latter approach was more in-keeping with the theme of the Conference.

The group proceeded to discuss various aspects of the social structure in Caribbean societies which, it was considered, might impinge on the developmental potential of small-scale farming. The social stratification system, for instance, was considered a key variable. The point was made that farm leadership tended to emerge from the middle stratum of society rather than from the lower or upper levels. Social stratification determined the opportunity for upward mobility and so the question was raised as to what extent does small-scale farming provide opportunities for mobility.

Mobility in this respect was defined as the movement from one status position to a higher one and so the question of the status derived from small-scale farming was discussed. The two main indices of such status suggested were ownership on the one hand and income on the other. No conclusive agreement was reached, however, on the relative validity of these indices as their significance varied among the Caribbean societies.

The groups then went on to discuss the question of innovativeness and its attendant psychological factor of motivation. It was felt that in order to innovate, the small-scale farmer needed incen-

tives. It was, therefore, necessary to consider what types of incentives would awaken innovativeness in the small-scale farmer.

Turning to the question of why people undertook farming as a career the group agreed that the status given by ownership and social security were responsible for their decisions. On the other hand the stigma attached to farming and manual labour were two factors which dissuaded people from undertaking a farming career.

The group then addressed itself to the problem of how to remove the stigma attached to farming. The answer, the group agreed, was to emphasise the positive aspects and minimize the negative ones.

It was argued that the successful farmer could provide an example for the less successful to follow. Why then, it was asked, does this not always occur in practice. It may be that the less successful farmer lacks the means, or that the successful farmer does not often serve as an adequate reference group.

A general conclusion from these deliberations was that land and labour are the only resources from which development in Caribbean societies can spring. Governments must, therefore, commit themselves to providing reasonable living standards for their people through agriculture. The alternatives of tourism, emigration, mining and non-agricultural industries have not been successful as mainsprings of development.

The solution to the problem rests with a policy of optimising the efficiency of existing farms by improved extension services. It was therefore necessary to devise a programme of extension aiming at the maximum use of farm management, in which the active utilization of farming leaders was involved. It was finally recommended that some study could be undertaken whereby the success of such a programme could be observed over a period of time, with a view to evaluating its effectiveness and making improvements.