



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The discussion, in its early stages, touched on several features of Antigua's agricultural sector.

Included were references to the crying need for a farmers' organisation, the water resource constraint, on which little impact had been made by the dam-building exercise, projects such as maize, sorghum and pineapple growing as well as possibilities for resuscitating the sugar industry. Concern was expressed over the relative neglect, in the Case Study Report, of the livestock industry.

Conferees also highlighted the high level of food imports, the weaknesses in the area of marketing and the chronic labour absorption problem - partly aggravated by the seasonality of the tourist industry.

Continued emphasis was placed on the lack of a farmers' organisation especially as the farmers' input was regarded as critical to policy formulation in the agricultural sector. In stressing the difficulties of establishing such an organisation wariness was expressed over the prospect of its being fostered from "on top". Further discussion of cropping patterns again focussed attention on the apparent inadequacy of the report's treatment of the livestock industry. Some reference to cotton and its linkage effects was made.

Issues such as the appropriate size of farm, the constraints of existing land tenure systems as well as the supporting services, marketing and extension, were also introduced.

A theme that did recur was the concern over the apparent lack of clarity in delineating objectives - so critical to formulation of agricultural strategies. A lively exchange took place on the issue of 'tourist' vs 'people' needs as a basis for agricultural policy.

Discussion of the model ranged over its purpose, its perspectives and its practicability. With reference to the latter two, it was argued that the perspectives were gleaned from government policy statements and that the model itself permitted flexibility. Proliferation of sector agencies, lack of coordination among them and the need for effective information systems were emphasized.