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REPORT OF WORKSHOP 3

Subject: Production of Non-Sugar Agricultural Products

The Group looked at constraints to non-sugar agricultural production and have identified the following:

- (i) *Land which includes:*
 - (a) non-sugar lands for private farming
 - (b) land tenure
 - (c) physical characteristics of land in terms of slope, stones, fertility and rainfall pattern
 - (d) accessibility to lands, that is, lack of infrastructure to these areas
 - (e) water availability.
- (ii) *Labour* - Managerial and organisational utilization of labour during the off-season.
- (iii) *Credit availability* - DFC does not appear to be organised to provide credit facilities for agriculture.
- (iv) *Technical Inputs* - Inadequate availability of inputs such as chemical spraying equipment, breeding stock, planting materials and farm machinery services.
- (v) *Political Constraints* - Political factors seem to influence the functions of certain credit organisations and land tenure proceedings.
- (vi) *Praedial Larcency*
- (vii) *Livestock Management:*
 - (a) internal and external parasites
 - (b) nutritional well-being of animals
 - (c) lack of trained personnel.
- (viii) *Managerial*
 - (a) need for complete reorganisation of CMC
 - (b) inadequate integration of CMC and the Supply Department. The Group further examined the available agricultural resources and identified the following:
 - (i) adequate supply of manpower
 - (ii) Government incentives
 - (iii) Government's policy, i.e., in terms of agricultural science being introduced on school curriculums
 - (iv) regional organisations, e.g. CARDI, CFNI
 - (v) availability of certain qualified national personnel both inside and outside the State
 - (vi) Government ownership of large portions of land.
 - (c) the Group recommended under Farm Organization and Structure that:
 - (i) NACO's objectives should be clarified and expanded
 - (ii) a livestock production system be introduced, e.g. communal farming
 - (iii) a fish production policy be introduced
 - (iv) private agricultural production by small farmers on identified land areas be promoted.