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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL CUM RURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF JAMAICA

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INTRODUCTION

In Jamaica's case the pursuit of sustainable rural development makes good economic sense and satisfies a political imperative. This is so because the problem of poverty is a rural phenomenon in that 73.2 per cent of all employed women and 73.8 per cent of unemployed youths live outside of Kingston and St. Andrew.

Sustainability, which has developed a lot of currency as the acceptable buzz word, has achieved its eminence because development is widely perceived of as being in conflict with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. For many years now progressive economists have defined development in a way that highlights the fact that there can be no real and lasting conflict between development properly conceived and the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

For these economists, development is conceived of as

the creative manipulation of an environment which sets in motion a dynamic, interlocking and cumulative process of changes that will continuously generate and disseminate ever higher level of tool-making, tool-using and problem-solving know-how, thereby empowering a people to cumulatively increase their abilities to adequately satisfy their basic physiological and psychological needs.

Clearly, when development is so conceived, there is absolutely no room for conflict between development and environment. All income-generating actions or activities that pollute

drinking water, or reduce its availability, or that make air unbreatheable, that denude forests and that erode lands must never be confused with development. Such activities or actions must be seen for what they really are:

A rape of resources in a reckless dash towards underdevelopment and environmental degradation.

There is therefore absolutely no way that real sustainable development can be separated from concerns for the natural environment. But before moving on, it is essential to appreciate that sustainability has many aspects to it. One obvious aspect is the need to achieve economic prosperity without threatening the natural environment and which adheres to the concept of intergenerational equity. That is to say the achievement of economic prosperity now must in no way reduce the socio-economic options of future generations. In the best of cases achievement of economic prosperity now should enhance the possibilities of achieving economic prosperity for future generations. This aspect of environmentally sustainable development is the one that dominates the discussions and the growing body of literature on the subject, but there is another aspect that generates concern and therefore merits discussion. The other aspect of sustainability which is of growing importance to Third World countries in general, and to Jamaica in particular, is sustainability of participation in an activity, industry or sector which are in themselves both sustainable and of critical economic importance.

The case in point is a growing threat to the sustainability and participation in agriculture which is coming about as a result of the continuous ageing of Jamaica's farming

population. Clearly, the ageing of the farming population is as a result of the failure to attract young persons into agriculture. A failure that has brought about declining agricultural output, that has engineered a movement away from achieving food security for the nation and that has resulted in an increasing dependence on food imports. Upon reflections this scenario does not only pose a threat to the sustainability of participation in agriculture, but threatens the very existence of the nation: A nation that cannot feed itself is not deserving of the name because it is continuously exposed to manipulation and is subject to unceasing erosion of sovereignty. Consequently, there can be no national purpose that is of higher priority or in need of more urgent solution than the need to attract young persons into all aspects of agriculture, particularly in the farming aspect.

The failure to attract young persons into agriculture is many faceted: One facet is the image commonly projected of the farmers: poor, old, shabbily dressed and in the company of an ass. A second facet is that small farming is not widely perceived as a viable business activity that can generate a level of income commensurate with the aspirations of potential young farmers. A third facet is that the educational system seems to be designed to operate in a way that generates negative attitudes towards the acquisition and practice of manual skills. Attitudes that are in direct contradiction to the obvious need of Jamaica and other Third World countries to rapidly increase agricultural output so as to achieve food security, facilitate the growth of the agro-processing sub-sector, and, so as to save and or earn foreign exchange. A fourth aspect is that young persons perceive small farming as a low income activity employing primitive technology - machete and hoe - and perpetuating rural poverty and technological backwardness.

If agriculture is to be made a sustainable sector then it is imperative that young persons be encouraged to see agriculture as a high income activity employing appropriate technology (that reduces the onerous back-breaking tasks commonly associated with machete and hoe agriculture) and that provides opportunities for economic security and upward and social mobility.

To attract young persons to agriculture the following will be required:

1. That a level (or levels) of income that will motivate young persons to see farming as being capable of providing an acceptable standard of living must be identified.
2. That once an acceptable level (or acceptable levels) or income is identified, calculation must be made on a crop-by-crop or activity-by-activity basis so as to determine the levels of inputs in terms of land, equipment, farming infrastructure, training, etc. that would be required to attain the desired level (or levels) or income.
3. That young persons be encouraged to farm in clusters of a size that would be capable of supplying the fresh market, if one exist, and of maintaining a viable processing facility that would be cooperatively owned.¹
4. That a concerted coordinated effort be undertaken to develop an indigenous technology that is appropriate for and acceptable to potential young farmers.

This model of sustainable agricultural cum rural development which is being proposed in this paper addresses not only the question of attracting young persons to agriculture, but is also being proposed as a model for sustainable rural development *per se*. The underlying assumptions for this model of sustainable agricultural cum rural development are:

1. That a rural bias to development planning makes both economic and political sense because poverty is largely a rural phenomenon and because the majority of unemployed youths and women live in rural areas.
2. That urban socio-economic problems are merely manifestations of the continued rural/urban drift fuelled by grinding rural poverty.
3. That rural development must involve the following:
 - (a) the creation of organic links between agriculture and industry (processing),
 - (b) the upgrading of the skill content

- of the rural labour force,
- (c) the creation and retention of value-added in rural areas,
 - (d) the shortening of the economic distance between producers and consumers thereby providing the producers with better returns and the consumers with lower prices,
4. That poverty impacts negatively on the natural environment as those inflicted with poverty undertake activities such as coal burning, wood gathering for fuel, all of which lead to deforestation and rapid loss of top soil.
5. That to remove poverty as a threat to the environment it would be necessary to:
- (a) involve rural peoples in activities that are, at worst, environmentally neutral and at best environmentally friendly,
 - (b) maximize the local value-added to natural resources and primary products,
 - (c) apply technologies that are relevant to, and appropriate for, the socio-economic circumstances of the rural peoples involved,
 - (d) ensure the replicability of those sustainable socio-economic activities that generate income and enhance and/or repair the environment,
 - (e) dramatically increase children's awareness of environmentally sustainable development (ESD) concerns and quickly increase their capabilities for effective proactive participation in the ESD process.

The organic link between agriculture and industry that is being advocated in this paper is of a particular kind with the following characteristics:

1. That a processing facility, cooperatively owned by the primary producers, be incorporated to provide the following:
 - (a) a secure market,
 - (b) a demonstration activity and an extension service linking the

needs of the processing facility and the achievement of the demonstration activity to the productive activities of the primary producers,

- (c) providing affordable credit,
- (d) transporting the finished products to a source of distribution that is as economically close to the consumers as a practicable.

THE CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Although this paper is entitled "*Agricultural Cum Sustainable Rural Development*", it must be pointed out that Rural Development is usually thought of as being synonymous with agricultural development. Such a view represents much too narrow a focus and much too restricted a vision of rural development. It should be evident to all that the term development cannot be restricted to any one facet of human needs but must encompass all facets of, and be concerned with improving all aspects of human existence in the holistic and sustainable manner. To neglect even one aspect of man's interaction with his environment in pursuit of a better, fuller, more meaningful existence is to jeopardise the achievement of the very things that man pursues. For these reasons one speaks not of rural development but rather of integrated rural development.

Integrated rural development dictates that integration must be accomplished at two levels:

1. The first level is that of human actors, as women, men and children jointly pursue better, fuller and more meaningful existence. The development literature is replete with many cogent justifications for the integration of women into the development processes, but the literature is deafeningly silent on the role of children in development. This is a strange omission since the integration of children in development is strongly implied in either of the two views of the ownership of the natural environment.

There is one view which holds that the natural environment is loaned to

adults by their children, and as such, adults have a grave responsibility to protect and enhance the productivity of the natural environment before returning it to their children. The other view is the natural environment is something that adults pass on to their children, and if adults hold their children in high regard, then it follows, as night follows day, that adults wish to pass on a beautiful, verdant and productive natural environment. Whatever conviction one has about ownership of the natural environment, it is clear that children have a very important role to play in supporting, and in certain instances, guiding the efforts of their elders to ensure that the natural environment is made to flourish, not perish.

Furthermore, if the mayhem being inflicted on the natural environment is to be significantly reversed, then it is imperative that children be made to recognize the organic links between environmental degradation, famine, starvation and premature death. It is also imperative that children be mobilized to participate in National Programmes designed to rehabilitate and enhance the natural environment. Moreover, their natural inclination, and being the beneficiaries of large chunks of leisure time, make children eminently suited to play a major role in tree planting activities, particularly if the establishment of fruit forests is one of the objectives of the tree planting programmes.

2. The second level must be in the realms of action, in that all actions must be directed not only towards the fulfilment of economic needs but also towards the fulfilment of the need for good health, relevant education, a feeling of adequacy and a sense of belonging to a caring community and nation and the need for freedom of expression and for participation in the framing of those decisions that impact on people's lives.

The link between integrated rural development and the protection and

enhancing of the natural environment becomes more universally understood when it is fully comprehended that the natural environment that is to be protected and enhanced is nothing more than the water we drink, the air we breathe, the soil that grows our food, the trees that provide us with fruits for our table, lumber for our houses and shade and flowers for our enjoyment and relaxation, and the seas and rivers in which we swim and which provide us with food. Nevertheless, many persons, as a result of grinding poverty coupled with ignorance about the environmental impact of their respective activities, are involved in a continual degradation of the natural environment and will continue to be so involved until they adopt alternative ways that must, at least, generate no less income than the environmentally degrading activities in which they were previously involved.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Before continuing with the discussion, it is important that one comes to an understanding and an appreciation of the socio-economic and political milieu in which this model of sustainable agricultural cum rural development is to be implemented. It is critical that the ways in which this milieu can either facilitate or hinder the successful implementation of the model be clearly understood. In other words, the opportunities presented must be quickly identified, eagerly grasped and effectively acted upon. This requires that one considers the set of circumstances that have led to the widespread acceptance of the dictum that the 'free' interplay of market forces must be the guiding principle for the organisation of the Jamaican economy. How this acceptance of the 'free' market ideology hinders or facilitates the successful implementation of the model is what needs to be clearly understood.

The widespread acceptance of the 'free' market was preceded by decades of ferment, as a result of fierce competition between competing ideologies. The recent outcomes of this

competition is that Marxist ideology is in decline and the capitalist, 'free market' ideology is in ascendancy. The whole world is moving at varying speeds, towards accepting capitalist ideology as the guiding principle for the organisation of their respective economies. Thus the major role in the process of socio-economic development will be assigned to the private sector. With the decline of Marxism, the dominant conventional wisdom insists that in a society where government controls the commanding heights of the economy, there can be no real sustainable development since government's economic initiatives crowd-out and cripple private initiatives.

Conventional wisdom, therefore, posits that to achieve prosperity and progress, the commanding heights of any economy must be in the hands of the private sector.

But before moving on from here one needs to tread very, very cautiously indeed. In the case of Jamaica, the experimentation with government control of the commanding heights of the economy lasted for a very brief period - one characterise by abundance of rhetoric, deficiency of action and paucity of results. But if that experiment has failed (and the consensus is that it has) then clearly the private sector itself must have failed even more miserably since up until then, indeed for the past few centuries, it was the private sector that controlled Jamaica's socio-economic life.

One, therefore, needs to be extremely careful in the current rush to dethrone government and install the private sector as undisputed monarch of the socio-economic realm. Undoubtedly the decision has been taken to hand over the reins of economic power to the private sector. But unless the private sector's defects are carefully analyzed to discover why in its own previous long tenure it was unable to achieve either progress or prosperity, and unless those defects are properly remedied then countries such as Jamaica are merely in for the same long siege with the same predictable results: underdevelopment, perpetual poverty, social upheavals, foreign political domination and environmental degradation.

The composition and the orientation of the private sector must be subjected to extremely

careful scrutiny to discover why it has never seriously undertaken nor successfully discharge its developmental responsibilities. A private sector that is characterised by low output - high mark-ups, that is primarily involved in buying and selling, speculation and other margin gathering activities, as in the case with Jamaica, is a private sector with an anti-developmental orientation and therefore was, and still is incapable of moving the country forward. In addition, a private sector with a composition that is not representative of the country's majority is a private sector with little or no lasting commitment to the general well-being of the nation; is frequently characterised by conspicuous consumption and by a tendency to run businesses on bank overdrafts, keeping equity investment to a bare minimum. Such a private sector will be lacking the required fixity of purpose and will therefore also be lacking in the staying power to move the country forward.

Fortunately there exists a constellation of socio-economic factors that have created a set of circumstances that provide Jamaica with a historic opportunity to create a new private sector that is more representative of the majority and that is invested with a developmental orientation. This constellation of socio-economic factors include the following:

1. An underdeveloped rural Jamaica that is literally bristling with opportunities that are consistently ignored by the extant private sector.
2. The existence of approximately 800,000 acres of idle or underutilised lands alongside large numbers of unemployed youths and women.
3. The exciting opportunities existing in rural Jamaica for engaging in sustainable agro-industrial activities that have the potential to:
 - (i) earn and/or save foreign exchange,
 - (ii) improve the skill content of the rural labour force,
 - (iii) generate and retain value-added in rural Jamaica,
 - (iv) generate income levels, and provide a standard of living that would motivate young persons to

- (v) pursue agricultural careers, and slow down and eventually reverse the rural urban drift.
- 4. The existence of a Divestment Programme that provides a historic opportunity to broaden the ownership base of the Jamaican economy and by extension to facilitate the creation of the New Private Sector.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

In summary, what this paper is attempting to achieve is to provide an Approach to Sustainable Agricultural Cum Rural Development that takes into consideration the need to create a New Private Sector, the need to attract young persons into agriculture and the need to creatively link agriculture to industrial activities. In addition, in what follows, an attempt is made to recognise and to grapple with the universal dilemma of wanting cheap food for urban dwellers while at the same time desiring a high standard of living for rural farm families.

COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL CUM RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The components of Sustainable Agricultural Cum Rural Development in Jamaica, and possibly in all Third World countries must at least involve secure markets, processing of primary products, demonstration activities, extension services, affordable credit, participation of primary producers in the decision-making process and in the equity of the processing facilities and the existence of the required socio-economic infrastructure:

1. *Secure Markets:* There can be no doubt that secure marketing arrangements for the outputs of farming communities motivate the farmers to:

- (a) gear production to take full advantage of the guaranteed market and assist farmers to determine the level of capitalization that would allow for the maximisation profits,
- (b) make better projections with regards to the use of credit and other resources and make the farmers more confident that

- (c) they can successfully handle credit, invest more in the upgrading of their agricultural skills with a view to reducing unit costs thus increasing productivity and income,
- (d) purchase fertilizer, chemicals and other non-perishable inputs in larger volumes (i.e. to cover several crops or planting seasons), that could serve to reduce the cost of production, and
- (e) generate social spin-offs in that farmers can better plan and finance other expenditures in the areas of housing and education for their children.

2. *Processing of Primary Outputs:*

Processing helps to move a community from that mode of production which generates neither scientific knowledge nor technological know-how to another mode that would routinise scientific and technological breakthroughs. For a traditional agricultural community to become involved in processing, is to set them on the road which leads to the generation of new skills, the upgrading of traditional skills and the modernization of the existing mode of production. Processing also ensures that the value added retained in the farming communities are maximised.

In this context, processing involves not only the transformation of agricultural raw materials into a final product such as cheese from milk, jam, jellies and juices from fruits and flour from grains and tubers, but also includes grading and packaging.

In addition to its potential for providing secure markets for the outputs of primary producers, rural processing facilities will play a major role in the upgrading of existing skills and in the generation and dispersion of new industrialized skills: with exciting developmental spin-offs some of which defies the powers of imagination and the penchant for prediction. In sum, rural processing activities have the potential to help with the movement of the rural labour force from mentally stultifying negative feedback socio-economic activities, in which significant numbers are presently involved, to those positive feedback socio-economic activities that inculcate scientific knowledge, stimulate enquiry and increase technological know-how; all of which is

of major developmental importance.

It must be noted that the importance of socio-economic activities to the unfolding or the crippling of human potentials have long been recognised: for example in 1776, Adam Smith argued that '*... the man whose whole life is spent in performing a few simple operations ... generally becomes as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to become*'. See Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, (Irwin 1963) Vol.II, pp.284-5. Another example is that of Freidrich List, the nineteenth century German economist who argued that:

*Manufacturing occupations develop and bring into action an incomparably greater variety and higher type of mental qualities and abilities than agriculture does thus ... a nation which combines in itself the power of manufactures with that of agriculture is an immeasurably more perfect and more wealthy nation than a purely agricultural one. [Emphasis added, see F. List, *The National System of Politically Economy*, pp.93 and 199].*

A final example is that of Alfred Marshall, the Father of Neo-classical Economics, who at the beginning of this century argued that:

*... the nature of economic backwardness cannot be fully appreciated until one goes beyond the distribution of economic activities. For it is to changes in the forms of efforts and activities that one must turn when in search for the keynotes of the history of mankind'. See Alfred Marshall, *Principles of Economics*, 8th edition, p.85.*

The above quotes from Adam Smith, Freidrich List and Alfred Marshall serve to underscore the fact that there is continuum of Modes of Production: at one end of this continuum resides a Primitive Mode of Production characterised by mentally stultifying negative feedback socio-economic activities:

- that continuously generates a lowly-skilled labour force (i.e., hewers of wood and carriers of water),
- that substitutes superstition for science,
- that routinises scientific ignorance and technological backwardness, and
- that create an environment that stifles

industry and to the extent that industry can be said to exist it depends on muscle power (man and/or beast) for its motive force.

In stark contrast, at the opposite end of the continuum resides the State-of-the-Arts Mode of Production. A mode of production that is characterised by mentally stimulating positive feedback socio-economic activities:

- that continuously generate a highly-skilled labour force,
- that inculcates scientific knowledge and technological know-how,
- that routinises scientific enquiry,
- that encourage scientific and technological breakthroughs, and
- that create an environment within which industry flourishes and receives its motive force from internal combustion engines, electricity, electronic devices and nuclear energy.

It must follow therefore that one very important facet of the Development Process must surely be a movement along this continuum away from the primitive and towards the State-of-Arts Mode of Production. Such a movement, if it is to take place in Jamaica, will require that the processing of primary products in rural areas be vigorously promoted.

3. *Demonstration Activities*: It is essential that processing facilities and demonstration activities operate in close conjunction one with the other. Demonstration activities are indispensable to the development of appropriate ways to increase the productivity of primary producers in those areas in which they are presently involved. The demonstration activity, whether it be in livestock or crops, must be organically linked to the processing facility and must be setting examples to the primary producers (i.e farmers). That is to say the demonstration activity (e.g. farm) must represent the highest levels of proficiency and productivity that can be attained at the present state-of-the-arts. It must set standards to which small producers will strive to attain.

Furthermore, the demonstration activity must convince small producers that the best

ways to increase their incomes is through increased productivity and improvements in the quality of their products. Moreover, farmers must also be brought to the realisation that in an economy such as Jamaica's where the vast majority of workers earn less than \$400 per week, that reducing unit cost and increasing quality is a far better route to economic prosperity than the current practice of constantly demanding price increases.

4. *Extension Service:* Experience gathered in the Three-M Cheesemaking and Dairy Improvement Project confirms that extension services constitute the cutting edge of any agricultural or agro-industrial project. The Extension Team must be in charge of the demonstration activities and must be closely related to, and understand what is taking place in, the processing facility. In addition, the Extension Team must be fully aware of the quantity and quality of inputs that would allow the processing facility to optimise its profitability. Against this background, the Extension Team would then form the indispensable link between the processing facility and the demonstration facility on one hand and the primary producers (i.e., farmers) on the other hand.

This approach to deploying extension personnel will have implications for the traditional ways of rendering extension service. At present, to the extent that an extension service can be said to exist, the personnel is deployed from the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) to service the needs of individual and desperate farmers. What the model being here advocated is suggesting that, extension personnel should be assigned to processing facilities (widely defined), such as banana packing plants, dairy processing facilities and grading and packing houses. These extension officers so assigned would be considered and treated as a member of the staff of the processing facility and would fall under the managerial structure in the said processing facility. Creative ways would then be found for GOJ and the processing facility to share the cost of upgrading the skills of the officer so assigned and provide the extension officer with transportation and whatever else is needed for him/her to function efficiently and effectively.

5. *Affordable Credit:* Primary producers in

the Jamaican and Third World context are largely poor and living at subsistence levels which inhibit savings and which therefore make investment almost impossible. If such primary producers are to participate actively in the economy of their respective communities, some ways must be found to give them access to venture capital. This venture capital must be tied closely to the purchase of needed inputs for the activity in which the primary producer is, or is to be, involved. Experience teaches that a revolving loan that actually revolves, is one of the best instruments to achieve the participation of poor farmers, and poor persons in general, in the economic processes of their nations. For a Revolving Loan Fund to fulfil its exciting potential, certain things have to be in place:

- (a) A Credit Committee comprised largely of the peers of those who are to benefit from the loan fund;
- (b) A system of accountability which ensures that funds are used for the purposes for which they were loaned and that the activities funded by such loans are completed to the satisfaction of those with the authority to recommend the disbursement of loan funds;
- (c) A system of repayment that links the sale of the beneficiaries' outputs to the processing facility, or to any other purchaser, in that loan repayments must be deducted directly from the payments being made to the beneficiaries of the loan programme. The administrators of the loan programme, which in many instances would be the processing facilities, must take care that repayments deducted from the farmers' cheques covers the interest charges and make a contribution to the repayment of principal, no matter how miniscule that contribution might be.
- (6) Participation: It is envisaged that participation should take place on two levels: on one level, the primary producers should participate in all the discussions, meetings and hearings, etc., that will precede establishment, or the rehabilitation of the processing facilities and the demonstration activities. In other words, the primary producers must have a say in how the

entire project is structured and must come to collective understanding as to how the project would function. They should also be made aware of their responsibilities to the project and of the benefits that would accrue to them from the project.

On the other level, participation should involve primary producers in an equity position in relation to the processing facilities: that is to say, primary producers (i.e. small farmers et al) must be encouraged to participate in the ownership of the processing facilities. Furthermore, machinery should be put in place to ensure that management capabilities emerge from within the families of the small primary producers.

7. *The Existence of the Required Socio-Economic Infrastructure:* Currently farmers in Jamaica are seriously constrained by the absence of suitable roads to facilitate the receipts of inputs for their farming activities and the transport of their outputs to the markets. In cases where roads do exist they are so poorly maintained that owners of motorised transport refuse to put their vehicles on them. This lack of proper transport facilities constitutes a major disincentive to farmers.

The widespread unavailability of water for irrigation is another disincentive to farmers that impacts negatively on agricultural output. Without irrigation water, agriculture becomes dependent on rainfall, and rainfall in Jamaica is becoming quite erratic and undependable largely due to the deforestation that has taken place over the past decades.

The absence of electricity is also a problem that will have the effect of inhibiting the development of activities in rural Jamaica. In some cases, feasible industrial projects cannot be implemented because of the absence of a reliable source of affordable electrical power.

Finally, unless farmers can be relieved of the growing scourge of praedial thuggery the future of agriculture in Jamaica is gloomy indeed. Some farmers have come to the view that to go into production is to invite unwanted attention that put their lives in jeopardy. The putting in place of the machinery required to provide the farmers with the level of security that is commensurate with increased farming activity must be given high priority. A slowly emerging consensus is that

praedial thuggery constitutes the major disincentive to farming.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This paper took the position that in its Development Planning it made good economic sense for Jamaica to have a rural bias because poverty and unemployment were largely rural phenomena. The point was also made that there can be no real and lasting conflict between development properly conceived, and the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment. Furthermore, in addition to the environmentally sustainable development, concern with intergenerational equity, the concern for the sustainability of participation in agriculture was raised. The threat that the ageing farmer problem posed and the resultant need to attract young persons into agriculture, if Jamaica's continued participation in this sector is to be assured, was discussed at some length.

The main tasks undertaken in this paper involved:

1. The recognition that, for better or worse, Jamaica was committed to the 'free' market ideology.
2. The realisation and implication of the fact that the extant margin gathering private sector is anti-developmental, has failed miserably in the past and is incapable of putting the nation on a path to sustainable development, social cohesion and political sovereignty.
3. The conviction that a New Private Sector with an orientation towards primary production and manufacturing, with a membership that is representative of the Jamaican people, and with a commitment to the nation, must be assigned the awesome, but exciting task of achieving sustainable and widespread prosperity for the nation.
4. The observation that the underdeveloped condition of rural Jamaica and the existence of a Divestment Programme combine to provide a historic opportunity to create a New Private Sector with a developmental orientation.
5. The proposal of a model for achieving

Sustainable Agricultural Cum Rural Development.

According to this model there are seven indispensable components of Sustainable Agricultural Cum Rural Development. These components are:

1. Secure markets,
2. Processing of primary outputs,
3. Demonstration activities,
4. Extension services,
5. Affordable credit,
6. Participation, and
7. Socio-economic infrastructure.

With regards to secure markets, demonstration activities, extension services, affordable credit and the existence of the required socio-economic infrastructure, there is considerable agreement if not consensus that these components are indeed indispensable to Sustainable Agricultural Cum Rural Development.

Footnote:

¹ To deepen the integration process Caribbean villages developed along these lines and receiving support from both sending and receiving governments could be profitably established in Guyana and/or Belize.