

ABSTRACT

This study seeks to evaluate the economics of the YAPA programme in the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Marine Resources. Although the background information is limited it was still used to provide an understanding of what is the purpose of the programme.

An overview of the Local Agricultural Industry in Trinidad and Tobago was given. This was used to show a decline in the number of young persons in the sector thus emphasizing the need for programmes to encourage young persons to pursue agriculture. A Literature Review from the Journal of Extension, which shows of studies that were conducted to develop methods and approaches to teach youth about agriculture and by extension, encourages youth to pursue agriculture.

A questionnaire instrument was used to gather relevant information about the project from its graduates. The sample size used was seven (7) persons, some of who are currently in agricultural production. This information was then coded and inputted into SPSS for Window and frequency tables/charts were produced.

The study found that 100% of the persons who participated in the programme found it to be an excellent one because other the adequate training that was received in the programme. The training received allowed 71.4% of the graduates to either improve or expand production.

The study showed that 85.7% of the graduates always loved agriculture; this meant that the ministry did not succeed in its quest to encourage a substantial amount of new young persons to pursue agriculture but facilitated their further development in the field.

The University of Illinois Crop Budgeting Tool was used to evaluate the profitability of the enterprise one of the graduates.

A cost of production model was used to evaluate whether or not it will be profitable for graduates to produce agricultural commodities and therefore it was concluded that the YAPA

programme should be continued and with further improvements such as implementing phase 3, land allocation.

There is room for further research on this said programme, using a larger size. This can also be a starting point for additional studies to improve the coordination and organization of the programme.