

ABSTRACT

An investigation into the factors affecting the success of small scale farmers in the Penal/Debe district in South Trinidad is imperative to determine the level of progress of small scale farming in the region and the factors affecting the viability and sustainability of the farming industry in the district.

This research project identifies the main issues affecting farmers and is important as it helps to give an overview of the problems faced and the level of government intervention, training and education required to assure the viability of the industry in this region. Difficulty lay with relating with the farmers to collect all the necessary information and the inability to inform farmers of training seminars etc that could help curb minor problems facing their farms.

Primary data for the project was collected from thirty (30) farmers with the use of a questionnaire, from the district on different market days. An analysis of the field data was then done and the data recorded on graphs to highlight the findings from the information gathered. The data was collected by means of convenience sampling.

Based on the data collected and analyzed it was noted that the problems encountered by the small farmers in the Penal/Debe District is varied. The main concerns identified were pest and diseases, praedial larceny and flooding. It was also noted through the questionnaire, that there is little or no governmental assistance for small scale farmers in this area. Technological awareness is very minimal in this area due to the educational background of farmers.

In this research project the data showed some of the factors deterring progress and it is hoped that it will provide scope for more informed decisions to be taken not only by farmers but also at NAMDEVCO and the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation to encourage the development of the small scale farming industry in the region.