

807004461

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to assess youth perception of agriculture in Trinidad, in an effort to determine why there was a lack of youth participation in agriculture. This was made evident by the aging agricultural population of Trinidad and Tobago. The study targeted schools in urban areas; questionnaires were used to gather data from two schools in the Port of Spain region. The results of the study were used to develop recommendations and incentives that could be used by public and private institutions to encourage youth involvement in agriculture.

The major findings proved a lack of interest in agricultural careers and revealed that it was due to the perception that agricultural careers involved labor intensive work that yield low monetary returns. Sixty (60) percent of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that all agriculture involves is hard work for very little pay. Eighty-three (83) percent of the respondents equated agricultural careers with either lower middle or lower class citizens.

The findings also indicated a lack of knowledge of the many careers related to agriculture. Based on both the findings and the review of literature, the researcher generally recommended that agricultural studies must be included in school's curriculum. Career guidance should also be implemented to spread awareness of the diversity of careers that fall under agriculture.

The issue is no longer determining why there is lack of youth participation or what can be done, the time has come for the relevant authorities to step in and make change happen.