

## **Abstract**

This study was designed to estimate the cost of production of rabbit in Trinidad and Tobago over the period of January 2005 to December 2005. A background on the rabbit industry in Trinidad and Tobago revealed that there is increasing interest in rabbit production as rabbit has been selected by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources as one of the products that should be developed in an attempt to diversify the agricultural sector and promote international competitiveness. This investigation of rabbit production also found that there are many advantages to rabbit production over other livestock products presently produced in the country. The main purpose of the study was to solve the problem with regards to the limited information available to farmers and industry developers on the business environment of rabbit production in Trinidad and Tobago. In doing so, the study focused on the costs of rabbit production that farmers in Trinidad and Tobago experience. A questionnaire was utilized in a survey of eighteen farmers. Using stratified sampling methods ten farmers from Trinidad and eight farmers from Tobago were selected and interviewed to determine the average cost of production and the average revenue per farm. This data was then analyzed and tabulated. It was found that average feed cost of \$13.46 was the largest contributor to production costs for the farmers interviewed over the period in question. Farmers experienced an average cost of \$27.34 per kilogram of rabbit meat produced which generated a 34% profit margin for the farmers surveyed. When compared to the profit margin experienced by farmers in the United States which was 53% it was concluded that in order for rabbit farmers to compete internationally farmers need to devise ways to reduce production costs particularly feed costs.