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A Comparison of small scale farming in Barbados, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the authors compare current small scale farming systems among three Caribbean nations - Barbados, Dominica, and Trinidad and Tobago. They then address the Extension education challenge in the future. Small scale farming is an established concept among food production systems throughout the developing world in which the production systems a mix of food crops and sometimes small livestock. The small scale producer in these islands must meet expectations in a changing agrarian environment of reduced Gross Domestic Product from agriculture, yet the small scale producer is still a resilient member of the food production system. Small scale operations are more practical and experience varying levels of efficiencies given local conditions and constraints. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between small scale producers and the agricultural sector in the nations understudy while the said producers maintain economic and social independence. Given the trends in Extension systems for developing countries, the authors conclude that the state must still play a role in financing the Extension systems for small producers. Given current advocacy to multifaceted extension systems, the authors recommend the use of appropriate system options for the small scale farmer with support from the state.