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Cost considerations in mounting Farmer Field Schools in Trinidad and Tobago.

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ABSTRACT

This study compares the cost of mounting Farmer Field Schools with the cost of mounting regular extension programmes and a youth apprentice programme in Trinidad and Tobago during the programme cycle of 2009/20010. The researchers collected cost data through invoices of the Ministry of Agriculture Lands and Marine Resources for the said programmes and from the eight Extension counties throughout Trinidad. The researchers computed cost per participant. Farmer Field School cost per participant was high but not as high as the cost per participant in the Youth Apprentice programme. The FFS costs were also higher than reported cost in Indonesia and the Philippine. The study recommends that more schools be conducted in order to consider the FFS as a public service with a potentially high economic rate of return due to private field level benefits in health and agro ecological sustainability, production efficiency and public multiplier effects (Jiggins and van der Bleck, 2007)

KEYWORDS: Farmer Field School, Participant-cost