ABSTRACT
To determine, from farmers perspective, The efficiency of the Extension Services.
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The purpose of this study is to evaluate farmers’ perception of the Extension Training and Services Division (ETISD). Currently, the agricultural sector in Trinidad and Tobago is not performing at an efficient level although there is an existing Extension service. The aim of this research is therefore, to make the Extension services work for farmers, thereby improving its effectiveness and efficiency to best meet farmers’ needs. In order for farmers to compete in a liberalised marketplace, they must adopt more efficient farming techniques to increase their productivity, the ETISD is the only public service directed towards farmers, free of charge, which can drive such a revolution.

Acknowledging the vital role ETISD plays in developing the local agricultural sector, results obtained from this study indicates that farmers perceive the extension services to be inefficient and unnecessary to their farming. Most farmers were unaware of the services provided by ETISD and furthermore, are not aware of any future events hosted by the ETISD. This signals the lack of awareness of the extension services among the farming communities in Trinidad and Tobago. Farmers also believed that the addition of an Electronic service to ETISD will be beneficial to their farming and also, an effective way of disseminating information to farmers.

The development of local agriculture demands significant reform of the agricultural sector. There is a need for technological advancements, and an enhancement of the services offered by ETISD to adequately serve farmers needs.