

ABSTRACT

The Sustainability of Small Scale Agricultural Systems in the Millbank Area of The Rio Grande Valley, Portland Jamaica.

Vileitha Davis-Morrison

This thesis focuses on the sustainability of the farming systems in small remote isolated farming societies using the Millbank area as a case study. It utilizes the systems approach and the holistic view to determine sustainable agricultural systems. The systems approach analyses the relationship between the inputs, outputs and the management process in agriculture. The holistic view integrates the physical, biological, socio-cultural, economic and political factors that combine to make the system sustainable. The contention here, is that a compartmental approach cannot be used to determine sustainable agricultural systems.

The farming strategies and cropping systems employed are examined to assess their effectiveness for sustainable agriculture. An evaluation of the heavy rainfall and associated floods and landslides during January to June 1993 was done to determine the durability of the system. The analysis is based on the interpretation of aerial photographs, field mapping, questionnaire surveys of farmers, interviews, the use of oral history and secondary data sources.