

ABSTRACT

The co-operative movement has been promoted among small-scale farmers in Trinidad and Tobago since 1916. However, social economic, historical and other institutional factors greatly hindered its development.

More recent efforts at further development appear to have had little real impact principally because of the persistence of many traditional attitudes, practices and institutions. What seems to be called for is a massive and continuing program of education in all aspects of co-operative education, in addition to channeling more state services through the co-operatives. However, the movement itself lacks the expertise to carry through any program of development on its own and as such a considerable amount of help must be brought in from outside.

In addition there seems to be some justification for making a slight departure from the traditional policy of relying on building from the ground up and instead to reverse the process and initiate development from the top, particularly in the case of adequate financing of the movement.

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