

## **ABSTRACT**

### Globalization and Sustainable Agricultural Development in Small- Island Developing States: A Study of Jamaican Small-Scale Banana Exporters

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This dissertation provides an empirical assessment of the impact of an increasingly globalizing environment on small states' sustainable agricultural development through a focus on the sustainability of the Jamaican small-scale banana export subsector. A significant contribution of the research inquiry is to provide current and relevant analyses and information pertinent to Caribbean small states such as Jamaica as they grapple with the realities of neo-liberalism and the reduction of preferences that were hitherto granted to them by previous arrangements with former colonizers. While the thesis argues that sustainability in these states has to be continuously and systematically managed, it recognizes their inherent vulnerabilities, coupled with significant limitations militating against agricultural competitiveness in a neoliberal international trading environment. The study argues for a deepening of commitment by policy planners to the process of protecting small states' sustainability. A two-pronged strategy, targeting both the domestic and the export markets, is suggested, aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of the farmers.

Based on a survey undertaken and using sustainability indicators reflecting a mix of social, economic, and environmental criteria, the results indicated that farms in the '1 < 5', '5 < 10' and '10 < 15' acres categories showed low overall sustainability, while those in the '15 < 20 acres' class exhibited moderate overall sustainability. However, the study also revealed moderate sustainability in these farm size categories in several of the indicators employed in the assessment.

The thesis ends by offering relevant policy guidelines to promote the sustainability not only of the banana subsector but also the small-scale agricultural sector in general in small-island developing states having similar policy and other environments as Jamaica.

Keywords: Girjanauth Boodraj; globalization; neo-liberalism; small-island developing states; small-scale banana subsector; small-scale farming; sustainable agricultural development.