

ABSTRACT

Agricultural production in Trinidad and Tobago is being threatened by many factors such as decreasing availability of arable land, flooding(during part of the year), drought(during the other part of the year), lack of labour and competition from importers, to name a few. However, one of the most important threats to agricultural production is praedial larceny. Praedial larceny refers to the theft of agricultural produce (crops and livestock) and farm equipment. One of the main reasons why this threat is so important is because of the fact that theft of this type is very hard to prove. Because of this, it is not often reported, and if it is reported, it is very unlikely the perpetrators would be caught. If they are caught, however, the penalty is so small, it is practically negligible. This paper tries to assess the current status of praedial larceny in Trinidad by determining the percentage of farmers affected over a given period as well as the economic impact of this crime. The paper also seeks to determine the steps taken by the policy makers in addressing this problem.