

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the reasons why youths are not interested in pursuing careers in the agricultural sector. The methods used in this study to gather information was a structured questionnaire which examined the previously mentioned issue. 32 students from the Moruga Composite high School who currently studies or studied Agricultural science in forms three up to form five were the target group of the study. The questions asked in the questionnaire were based on the students perception of agriculture , The type of agricultural careers they were willing to pursue, the reasons why they would pursue careers in agriculture , the type of agricultural programs they would be will to participate in and the factors that would motivate them to pursue careers in agriculture. The data collected was analyzed using the Statistical Program for Social Sciences. The questionnaire generated a variety of themes such as Students views on agriculture according to demographics for example, Gender, where they live and social issues ; Students knowledge and perception of Agriculture, Factors that will encourage students to pursue careers in agriculture and Students perception of Agricultural careers. The results showed that the students were generally dissatisfied with the Agricultural sector of Trinidad and Tobago and they will like to make a difference in the sector. However, none of them wants to pursue a career in the field of agriculture because it is labour intensive, while the female students are more socially conscious with regards to them pursuing careers in the field of agriculture. The students ranked the professional careers which the society regards as being prestigious and has a higher salaries attached to it. These results showed that even though students has a positive outlook on agriculture, most of them indicated that agriculture is for uneducated persons and for educated persons who cannot find a job in another sector. These issues are barriers which prevents students from pursuing careers in agriculture and if it is not addressed soon enough the present state of the agricultural sector in Trinidad and Tobago which

only contribute two percent to Gross Domestic Product of the Country would decline further if initiatives by the government and the Private sector do not seek to promote agriculture and make it into a lucrative business.