

ABSTRACT

**An Evaluation of a Supervised Land Settlement Scheme In
Jamaica - The Alcan/Government of Jamaica Wallens
Joint Venture.**

Donald Lincoln Elvey

This study investigated the factors affecting settlers performance on the Wallens' Land Settlement Scheme in Jamaica - a project which arose from an exchange of land between the government and the Aluminum Company of Canada (Alcan). The issues investigated included: the factors affecting default rate on development loans, the area of land cultivated, the sale of land by settlers, and settlers' levels of satisfaction.

As a result of the exchange of land, 41 affected settlers were relocated from their original agricultural project at Charlemont and were settled at Wallens. Management of the Wallens project was provided by Alcan which administered developmental loans and other inputs to settlers.

The research utilized a quasi-experimental design whereby, the Wallens' settlers were treated as the experimental group and the settlers that remained at Charlemont as the control. Identical questionnaires were used in both project areas in order to minimize design effects. A survey was conducted to determine the impact of the project on the contiguous communities. The tests conducted were as follows: the Joint, Chow, t-test and Chi-square.

The positive factors affecting default rates were as follows: loan balance, loan disbursed, farm income, electricity consumption. Land sales and the number of

heifers possessed in 1987 had a negative effect on default rates. Land sales were influenced positively by household size and membership in the co-operative while annual investment, settlers' expectations and possession of a knapsack sprayer affected land sales negatively. Satisfaction level of settlers was positively influenced by land sales and receipt of agricultural advice while the variables, previous membership in Co-operative and farm income, had a negative effect.

Finally, area of land cultivated was influenced positively by the days worked on-farm, membership in co-operative, possession of knapsack sprayers and the receipt of agricultural advice. Simultaneously, there was an inverse relationship between settlers' expectations and the area of land cultivated. The results obtained from the Chow test further revealed that the Wallens project produced results different from the Charlemont project. Also the former was found to be beneficial to the contiguous communities. A land settlement model was also developed and presented. The study concluded by identifying the siphoning of resources from the farm into consumption activities by settlers and their outrageous expectations from Alcan as critical areas to the success of the project. The major constraint encountered in the study was quantifying the psychological variables.

Sir and Dr. K. Wellington, I am very grateful for their interest and suggestions. Special thanks are also extended to Dr. C. Pemberton, Head of the Agricultural Extension Department for his useful suggestions and guidance throughout the study. To Dr. I. Boxill and Dr. I. Wittaker, a special thank you for their assistance in