

ABSTRACT

The age of farmers in Trinidad and Tobago has been increasing as a result of the agricultural sector's inability to attract youths into agriculture, and to display its viability as an occupation. This project sought to research the actual impact of this programme on the lives of its trainees.

The method of data collection used was a combination of both face-to-face and telephone interviews. Five participants of the phase II aspect of Y.A.P.A. were interviewed and their responses studied. It was found that the Y.A.P.A. Phase II programme was successful in arming participants with technological knowledge and skills in the business of farming. Also, it was successful in exposing participants to the concept of farming as a career. This was achieved by allowing them to sell in the markets what they harvested and retained all revenue earned.

However, the programme failed to achieve one of its key objectives of assisting the young entrepreneur in setting up a farming enterprise in terms of making land available, credit, market consideration and available finance. Subsequent to the completion of the programme, no attempts were made by officials of the M.A.L.M.R to contact participants about the allocation of resources to assist in their entrepreneurial drive.

The implications of the Ministry's inability to provide support in the form of access to resources to young agricultural entrepreneurs; resulted in a lack of involvement in the agricultural sector after the Y.A.P.A programme was completed. Therefore, participants were trained in the business of farming and yet unable to pursue it as a career, due to the unavailability of resources.