

## ABSTRACT

This study examines the contribution of international donor agencies to Human Resource Development (HRD) in the Agricultural Sector of some Caribbean countries, mainly Jamaica and the Windward Islands, via Technical Assistance, Training and Research. In addition, it investigates whether financial assistance by AID agencies to the regional agricultural sector is promoting or retarding Human Resource Development. This is done by comparing the components of foreign/local Technical Assistance Training and Research of some internationally funded projects.

In presenting the historical background to Caribbean development and dependency, the thesis outlines the international environment in which Aid operates and discusses the role of Aid in the Caribbean, in the context of problems and issues in Human Resource Development; underlying the trend of decline and the impact of IMF and World Bank adjustment programmes on the Agriculture Sector. Further, it evaluates the impact of international finance on project development in terms of institution building activities, summarises the responses of some beneficiaries of international finance, i.e. participants of training courses and farmers.

The investigation which arises from the author's own perceived need to analyze this situation, illustrates that approximately 68% of funds allocated to Institution Building, specifically Planning and Training, is spent on Technical Assistance (i.e. foreign experts); approximately 12% is spent on Training and development activities, 18 % on commodities and equipment and less than 2% on Research. Finally, it discusses policy options for agriculture, as seen through the eyes of agricultural planners, as well as representatives of International Financial Agencies which operate in the Caribbean Agricultural Sector.

The five chapters in the study elaborate on the pursuits and outcomes of financial assistance to develop HRD in the Agricultural sector, backed by theory and empirical evidence, within the limitations of social research. In this process, the study has generated some clear evidence, raised issues and paved the way for further research.