

ABSTRACT

The closure and restructuring of Caroni (1975) Ltd by the government in 2003 has had great repercussions on the sugar industry of Trinidad and Tobago and by and large its entire economy. Despite all the repercussions, the main one investigated in this study was the socio-economic impact of the closure of Caroni (1975) Ltd on the sugar cane farmers in the Ste. Madeline and Basta Hall communities. The objectives of the study were to investigate the economic implications of the closure of Caroni (1975) Ltd on the sugar cane farmers and simultaneously investigate the social implications of the closure of Caroni (1975) on the sugar cane farmers.

The method used in the investigation was one of random sampling. The tool and type of survey used in the investigation was a questionnaire which was administered via face to face interviews. The target populations were derived by choosing two areas that was seen to have high concentrations of sugar cane farmers who were the target subjects under investigation.

The results of the investigation were that the majority of the farmers interviewed were males between the ages of 50 and 60 whose highest level of education was secondary school and hence were unskilled. The implication of this is that these farmers would become part of the economically inactive sector of the economy. The minority of the farmers were unemployed with the majority of the economically active farmers employed in the agricultural sector. There was also a great dependence on other sources of income such as children. Also the majority of the farmers' monthly individual income was decreased and the majority of the farmers dependence on public services increased.