

## ABSTRACT

Profitability of growing Sugarcane by Subsistence Farmers in the Uplands of Clarendon and St. Catherine, Jamaica, 2005.

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Increasing awareness of the factors affecting the growing of sugarcane by subsistence farmers by both government and non-governmental agencies led to this study to determine the net returns on capital invested and the level of profitability obtained.

In this study, Cost of Production data were collected from 160 randomly selected subsistence farmers from the 16 groups by the use of a questionnaire. Return on Investment (ROI) was used to measure the groups' profitability and comparing them with the Sugar Industry standard of 20% ROI to be profitable.

The findings of the study showed that 14 of the 16 groups of subsistence farmers had profitability of 20% and above, while two groups fell below this level. Interestingly, all 16 groups had positive net return on capital invested which ranged from an average of \$357.74 /tc for Brandon Hill group to \$964.87 /tc for Crofts Hill A group.

In spite of low yield and reduced usage of inputs, the farmers received good price/t for their cane which is normally consistent in the Worthy Park areas because of high sucrose percentage cane.