

**ABSTRACT****AN EXAMINATION OF TOURISM AND AGRICULTURAL  
LINKAGES IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION WITH REFERENCE  
TO JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.****Jean Nichols**

Tourism is one of the dominant sources of foreign exchange earnings for many countries of the Caribbean region. Nonetheless, regional studies have indicated that intersectoral linkages between tourism and agriculture are weak. In examining the linkages, most of these studies have utilized a qualitative analysis. However, this approach has precluded the ability of determining a precise quantitative measure for linkages.

This thesis attempts to quantify the linkages between tourism and agriculture by utilizing the statistical techniques of Regression Analysis and Factor Analysis. The study sets itself apart from other previous studies and offers researchers a novel strategy for examining linkages.

The data for this research is taken from the economies of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and the theory of demand and supply is used as the general framework of analysis. In the regression the demand for fruits and vegetables by hotels is examined in relation to the price of the good, hotel incomes and visitor arrivals. The study finds that price, employment and hotel incomes were significant variables influencing

hotel demand. In addition, paw paw, mango and pumpkin tended to have weaker links with the hotel sector. Certain tourism and agricultural variables were subjected to the operation of Factor Analysis in order to determine the strength of the relationship between the two groups. The group of tourism variables represents hotel size, number of rooms, hotel incomes, visitor arrivals and hotel employment, whilst the agricultural variables represent the demand for agricultural crops by the hotels.

The study found that the correlation values between tourism and agriculture, as well as the KMO values, were extremely low. This is indicative of a weak relationship between the groups of variables. The thesis therefore concluded that linkages between hotels and domestic agriculture were weak.

The study recommends the establishment of a hotel data base which should improve record keeping of fruits and vegetables within the hotel sector. It is also recommended that an institutional mechanism be established to enable greater interaction between hotels and farmers to examining linkages.