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ABSTRACT

Farm Size, and Targeted Income:

A case study of the La Fortune Food Crop Project

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The La Fortune Food Crop Project which is situated in the district of Moruga was the object of research. The Study sought to firstly identify the mean target financial returns of farmers on the project and subsequently to determine whether those farmers were able to achieve that targeted income within the constraints of land, labour and capital, and adverse weather conditions which plagued the project from time to time.

A goal programming model was constructed and solved. The results of this model showed that the mean targeted income which amounted to \$26,641. could have been achieved by farmers cultivating a specified combination of crops in both seasons of the year on .96 hectares in the dry season and 1.11 hectares in the wet season.

The hypothesis of the study that in line with views of farmers, five acres of land is inadequate for the cultivation of vegetables and food crops to meet their target was therefore rejected. Alternatively, the results showed that farmers can aim at and achieve a targeted income of \$35,550. within the present constraints.

Farmers' claims to additional land therefore can only be justified if targeted incomes in excess of \$35,550. are aspired to by them, with the assumption that similar patterns of weather as observed in the study prevailed.

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