

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the perception of agriculture held by youth in Trinidad. Data was collected from two hundred and fifty (250) respondents by administering questionnaires among five (5) high schools in the North East, North West, Central, South East and South West regions of Trinidad. However, these respondents did not amount to a representative sample of youth in Trinidad but the results of the study may have connotations for other groups given a more practical basis.

The results of this study indicate that the youths from the specific areas perceptions of agriculture are changing. Agriculture is now perceived positively and its importance in the Trinidad economy is being accepted. Another underlying fact contributing to their positive perception of agriculture is their awareness of the programs, courses offered and benefits to be derived from agriculture in Trinidad.

In addition, to the latter the findings show that seventy-two percent (72%) of the respondents express interest in engaging in agricultural activities in the future. On the contrary, the findings indicated that some of the respondents would not engage in agriculture as they perceived it as too much hard work, not interesting, not a glamorous lifestyle, associated risks and small salary. Therefore promoting agricultural literacy, knowledge and importance were three (3) of the major recommendations of the study. These recommendations can be used by both public and private institutions to develop agricultural programmes to attract and retain youth in agriculture.