

A B S T R A C T

This study identifies the need for a long-term economic development strategy to guide macro-planning for faster development in Caribbean countries, as a major problem requiring study. Given the importance of the agricultural sector in these countries, particular attention is paid to its role in these economies during the 1970s, and its potential role in a strategy for further development.

Three strategies are evaluated, namely, a capitalist, a peasantry, and the socialist basic needs strategy, proposed by A. Lewis, G. Beckford, and C.Y. Thomas as part of their models for development of Caribbean and some other underdeveloped countries. Another strategy is suggested in this thesis as more suitable for increasing the rate of development, and for planning this development, particularly the agricultural sector to contribute most effectively to this process in the region.

In addition, input-output technique is used to compare the potential effects of planning self-sufficiency in food to satisfy basic needs in Jamaica for 1976-85. This approach is compared with an alternative strategy (called the SOL strategy) to raise the standard of nutrition by lesser diversification, and production for greater participation in foreign trade than with the basic needs approach.

The general conclusion of the study is that although a socialist strategy can lead to faster development in Caribbean countries, the basic needs part of the socialist basic needs strategy is less suitable than using the SOL strategy within a socialist framework for planning development.