

Abstract

The Banana Industry has been Jamaica's second largest employer and fourth largest source of foreign income, earning about US\$23million (J\$1.2billion) a year. The end of the Lome agreement in 2007 and the devastating effects of hurricanes, the industry has experienced significant reduction in its exports from 200,944 metric tonnes in 2002 to no export in 2007 and 2008.

Notwithstanding the negative effects of the challenges facing the Banana Industry, production of banana chips provides a suitable alternative in utilizing the bananas locally. With seven factories in St Mary, producing over 14,800 cases of banana chips and earning approximately \$21,920,000.00 weekly and the exportation of chips by one factory, the industry will be able to remain a major contributor to the Jamaican economy.