

## ABSTRACT

An Assessment of Hydrocarbon Exports, Dutch Disease and Deagricultrualization  
in a Small Oil based Economy

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Deagriculturalization refers to the premature decline of the agricultural sector. In the case of the Trinidad and Tobago economy, the cause of the relative decline in the size and contribution of the agricultural sector can be attributed mainly to the Dutch Disease. This thesis addresses the impact of the “oil boom” on the non-booming tradable and non-tradable segments of the Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) economy, with specific reference to the agricultural sub sectors, i.e. the export agricultural sector and the domestic agricultural sector. In this regard, various statistical and econometric techniques primarily the Vector Autoregressive Co-integration (VAR) method is used to test the validity of specific relationships. The thesis shows that statistically the export agriculture sector has been crowded out and hence declined due to the increased dominance of the petroleum sector. The thesis also offers various policy suggestions which may help ease the economic strangulation of the agricultural sector as a whole. These policy suggestions are focused on increasing public private interactions via Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), and through increasing the participation of extractive sector MNC’s via venture philanthropic corporate social responsibility.

Keywords: Resource Curse, Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility.