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ABSTRACT

A Socioeconomic Analysis of The Seamoss Industry in  
St.Lucia

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Internationally, seaweeds have gained much importance in the aquaculture industry. In the Caribbean where seaweeds are called seamoss or Irish moss, aquaculture has also become important. The socioeconomic aspects related to the seamoss industry in St.Lucia is the focus of this study. (The cultivation of seamoss in St. Lucia is fourteen years old) .

This study presents the history of seamoss cultivation in St.Lucia and describes socioeconomic aspects related to the industry. The methodology employed comprises of sociological surveys, participant observation, economic calculations, a growth rate analysis and statistical tests. From the results it is observed that seamoss cultivation plays an integral role in enabling persons of low income to mobilize capital.

Despite the problems faced in this industry, it is evident that seamoss cultivation is a vital rural developmental tool in some coastal communities in St.Lucia. Further development of the industry in terms of organization, management, sociological and

biological research is crucial to the success of  
this industry in St.Lucia.