



GREETINGS BY

MRS. SCARLETTE GILLINGS

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

AT THE

JIFSAN TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAMME IN GOOD AQUACULTURE PRACTICES

(GAQPS), GOOD FISHERY VESSEL PRACTICES AND SEAFOOD - HACCP SEGMENT II

PRACTICES.

KNUTSFORD COURT HOTEL, BLUE MOUNTAIN SUITE

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2015: 8:00 - 9:30 AM

Salutations:

- Hon. Luther Buchanon, Minister of State in the
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Ms. Kathy Lalazaiian - Acting Representative, World
Bank
- Mr. Donovan Stanberry Permanent Secretary,
- Mrs. Beverley Miller, Co-ordinator, Food Safety
Modernization Secretariat
- Mr. Michael Jahncke, Joint Institute of Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN)
- Other Specially Invited Guests,
- Participants
- Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

The JSIF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Rural Agriculture Development Authority (RADA) has formed a partnership to bring food producers and exporters up to speed on food safety requirements, as required by the authorities in our export markets.

The Fund since, 2013 has been directly supporting activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in this regard. This includes the provision of technical assistance and training to farmers, exporters and officers within the Ministry through \$49 million – sourced from the World Bank REDI implemented project. What is being done today and in the next few days falls under the National Food Safety Modernization project.

The first training 2013 covered Good Agricultural Practices for crops and livestock which was also executed also by The Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) here today.

It aimed to improve the competencies of the Ministry and Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) officers under the 'Train-the-Trainer' concept.

In continuing to embrace the "Training of Trainers" approach for the today's training, the emphasis will be on Good Aquaculture Practices and Seafood HACCP Inspections for forty (40) persons identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This aspect of the training is funded to the tune of \$8,000,000 by the JSIF's REDI project.

This initiative, for JSIF, falls under the need for empowerment and capacity building in the area of business development which has been a new direction for the Fund in the last four years.

JSIF, over the last 18 years has been known for helping the underserved to build schools, roads and water systems in communities as our mandate is to mobilize funds for this purpose. For our rural communities, we started with the National Community Development Project which focused on infrastructure development as well, including feeder roads, health centres and schools.

However, on completion of this particular project the review which was done by the World Bank and the Planning Institute of Jamaica revealed that along with infrastructure needs, there was also a need for greater economic activity within these rural communities. It was noted as well that the two main activities which were the basis of community based business were agriculture and community tourism.

It was further recognized by our development partners as well that these were the industries which have not faltered, but have consistently delivered a sustainable livelihood to rural Jamaican communities.

The decision was taken therefore to create a project to help small agricultural and tourism community groups. This assistance was in keeping with JSIF's mandate, to assist underserved communities to build social capital and alleviate poverty

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) was therefore started in 2010 with US\$15 million in funding from the World Bank to assist these small groups in obtaining knowledge of market needs, market demand and also improve product quality and production techniques.

It's also prudent to mention that last year, JSIF completed the implementation of the Fishermen Cooperative Enhancement of the Cold Chain Supply and Safety Equipping Project. The project included training which was delivered by the Caribbean Maritime Institute which reached fishermen from fifty seven (57) beaches in eleven (11) parishes – Westmoreland, St. Mary, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Portland, St Thomas, Manchester, St Elizabeth, Trelawney, St James and St. Ann -.

The training covered topics such as basic seamanship and navigation skills; and the safe and proper use of life jackets and other safety equipment. It was delivered with a combination of practical and theory teaching methods. In 2013, the project provided critical equipment to the Fishermen and Fish Vendors. Four hundred Fish Vendors received Igloos along with training in Food Safety by the Ministry of Health Public Health Department leading to the acquisition of Food Handlers Permit

REDI is therefore committed to assist the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Agriculture with the tools necessary to make Jamaica food sector competitive and safe.

You have our best wishes as you participate in this course of training within the next few days. Let us aim to think global while we act local.