

## JAMAICA 4-H CLUBS



### **Ms. Karelle McCormack - Public Relations and Marketing Manager**

| The Jamaica 4-H Clubs values its many partners and USAID and ACDI/VOCA through its Ja REEACH Projects 1 & 2 is no different. Since the engagement of this project circa 2016, the impact on the constituents and beneficiaries has been life-changing, given rise for increased capacity building, transfer of training and the adaptation of climate smart resilient activities.

The 4-H collaboration which focused mainly on schools and communities, saw the spearheading of an agro-forestry programme in Portland (Swift River Watershed area), which extended to the establishment of water harvesting and water harnessing systems. Institutions such as Shirley Castle Primary School, Mount Herman Primary & Junior High School, Fruitful Vale Primary School, Rock Hall Primary School and Bloomfield Primary School.

These schools also benefited from the receipt of 1000 gallon water tanks and guttering systems. As a result, these institutions were always supplied with water in terms of the continued nurturing of their respective gardens; as well as to mitigate against harsh drought conditions. Schools with poultry projects also received waterers and assistance where necessary with the resuscitation of poultry houses.

The planting of fruit and timber trees in the communities also allowed for participants to understand the benefits of reforestation and such effects on climate and the environment. Armed with this information, they too were able to transfer information to other members of their communities who were not directly involved in the project through "Farmer Field Schools."

Besides the activities conducted in the immediate environs, members of the Ja REEACH team participated in Jamaica 4-H Clubs' events including the flagship National Achievement Expo as well as being a major partner and exhibitor the Youth in Agriculture Village at the annual Denbigh Agricultural & Industrial Show. Conversely, members of the 4-H Team also participated in two Climate Change Conferences by way of mounting displays and participating as Judges in the Poster Competitions.

Overall, the project created a lasting impact in educating participants about crucial methodologies on how to be climate resilient, becoming "ambassadors" for the message of climate resilience, as well as to create fruitful and long-lasting partnerships.

The Jamaica 4-H Clubs is indeed grateful for this partnership which has proven to be mutually beneficial as it relates to transfer of knowledge and capacity building. On behalf of the over 1000 direct beneficiaries, as well as approximately 3,000 individuals in the extended communities, we say thank you for our involvement in this project and for its long-lasting impact.

## Youth Climate Change Conference Delegates



**Mr. Michael Morgan** | YCCC has sparked a fire within me, that has been burning bright ever since. I got the opportunity to contribute to something greater than myself and learn invaluable skills through life changing experiences. I have learnt, through YCCC, that my voice is powerful, my thoughts are impactful and that my duty to country is sacred. The entire Ja REEACH II team did something special by allowing young people to have a platform to use their voice and speak to the climate crisis we face. They brought us into the conversation and I know, as a delegate, I will be eternally grateful. From this point on, the revolution is going into overdrive. More young people are standing up, and I am proud to be in the fight for a better world. Thank you Ja REEACH II.



**Ms. Jhannel Tomlinson** | Young people are at the heart of the climate crisis globally, as among the most vulnerable and more importantly, as activists and change agents for climate action. The Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica has taken this into consideration and has recognized the youth as a key constituent in the climate change agenda. The Youth Climate Change Conference (YCCC) held in October 2017, brought together young people from eight Caribbean countries and Japan to personify the theme 'Our Climate, Our Voice, Our Change'. Over two days we were exposed to a host of activities including break out sessions, competitions and interactive presentations.

As a Jamaican youth delegate, I along with seven other country representatives crafted a statement representing the voice(s) of Jamaican youth on the issue of climate change. Each youth delegation was given the opportunity to present their argument in a COP-styled forum where following intense deliberations, we came to a consensus on the final youth outcome document.

In addition to the formal components of the conference, youth delegates were given the opportunity to visit Hellshire Beach and the Bob Marley Museum and through these interactions strong friendships and networks have been built and continue to exist, amidst the geographical borders between us.

The Youth Climate Change Activists group was born out of the conference and represents a collection of young Caribbean people passionate about educating and improving awareness of climate related issues. As a Jamaican representative of YCCA, I must commend the work of the Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change II (Ja REEACH II) project and the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP), in providing us with a platform that has fostered communication, collaboration and cohesion among Caribbean youth.

It has also propelled me to do further work with youth and climate, as since the conference's staging I have represented Jamaica at the UNFCCC COP24 as the Youth delegate, has been featured on radio, TV and print media, invited to present at guest lectures and panel discussions and most recently been invited to participate in the 2019 staging of the ECOSOC Youth Forum.



*'As a youth and therefore someone on the frontlines of climate change chaos, I have everything to gain from taking action and everything to lose from not'. – Kelsey Julian*

## Fruitful Vale Benevolent Society

*"This project brought us all together not just in the community but in the entire Swift River Watershed."*



**Ms. Cynthia Martin - President, Fruitfulvale Benevolent Society** | This project has allowed us to bond and now we help each other even outside of the livelihood group activities.

The financial impact has been great, people have been able to gain out of it. It has changed the perspective of the residents, people have a more positive outlook. The residents have really bought in to the farmer field school especially the farming as a business. More farmers have been showing more interest and want to get involved in training. A lot of farmers didn't have knowledge of climate change.

The training has impacted us greatly as it was difficult to get our farmers to consider new things (farming techniques and best practices). It is a big step in our community as our farmers do not like hearing about anything different. Now young people are interested in receiving training in apiculture, now we are working to facilitate training for them in collaboration with RADA and MICAF Apiculture Unit.

Even though the farmers have not been making the rewards as they should, they are thinking more business wise, they are thinking about planting more and being more organized in their operations, keeping records. Our conversations are different, we are thinking about making profit.

We have a more positive approach and are more business-like in a practical way, now we have actually started a market hub where farmers can access information and create a network with buyers like JP and other small businesses, we have already been making connections. Farmers are actually practising the techniques like trenches, gully plugs and check dams especially because we plant on the hillside. Now more people want to plant pineapples as it can hold the soil and they can make money. People also want breadfruit suckers to plant especially when they realize there is economic gain from it. Since being a part of the apiculture cluster, working with groups in other communities have strengthened the relationship.

**Ms. Clovaline Thomas - RADA Extension Officer, Portland** | The Ja REEACH II project has helped me enormously in terms of extension delivery and how I deliver information I now know, whether its new techniques or new technology to the farmers. The different methods and approaches that can be taken when working with farmers.

The training from Ja REEACH has helped [extension officers] to relay the information in a way that the farmers could better understand. I have a better understanding of climate change and its impacts and how it affects agriculture and how to build resilience.

The feedback [from the farming groups] has been excellent! The farmers say Ja REEACH is a part of their family. They have received so much information that have improved their capacity in many ways.

They are more involved with the group, they can write their own projects and are able carry out more group activities independently.



**Mrs. Stephanie Coy - Project Manager** | The Desnoes & Geddes Foundation is happy to have partnered with the Ja REEACH II project in the implementation of an Inter-American Development Multilateral Fund technical cooperation project named Project Grow: Accelerating the Inclusion of Small Scale Farmers and Youth into the Commercial Cassava Value Chain. The partnership is notable for a number of reasons, firstly, it is commendable that the USAID funded Ja REEACH II saw the value in being able to combine resources with another IDA funded project to be able to impact the lives of rural farmers. Secondly, Ja REEACH II provided valuable technical training to our Extension staff in farmer field school methodology and developed the manuals for the Farming as a Business training component. The overwhelming feedback from the over 100 farmers that were trained was that they now understood that 'farming was a business'. Our financial partner has also indicated to us that those farmers that participated in the farming as a business training were better prepared and able respond to the information needed for loan processing. Thirdly, the assistance provided with the research activities has been invaluable. Ja REEACH II was able to connect us with the 1890 Universities Foundation who facilitated research training with MICA, Foundation and Red Stripe staff.

**Charmaine Blair-Stewart - Cassava Farmer** | The Farming as a Business Farmer Field School taught us how to manage our money., I was totally ignorant to it as I figured that you plant, you sell you earn money. But the training showed me that I wasn't managing money as well as I thought. Getting the knowledge from [Ja REEACH II] through the farmer field school taught me how to be more disciplined in my money management. The training helped us to see ourselves as entrepreneurs and that we need to look at farming as a business.

## Meteorological Service of Jamaica

**Ms. Jacqueline Spence – Climate Branch Head** | The Ja REEACH project has enhanced the data collection network of the Meteorological Service as well as created the opportunity to interact with key stakeholders in order to better understand the needs of the stakeholders and the usefulness of the services and products being provided by the Meteorological Service. The Ja REEACH project also funded the upgrade of the database housed by the Meteorological Service to allow for better quality control of data as well as improved ability to develop specialized products to satisfy the needs of our stakeholders. Overall the Ja REEACH project gave greater visibility to the work being done by the Meteorological Service which has paved the way for more collaborations with stakeholders who now want to better understand how the products can be customised for their needs.

**Mr. Glenroy Brown - Climate Service Specialist** | The Meteorological Service of Jamaica is indeed grateful for the support that given to us during the period of the project. The training of farmers and extension officers in understanding and interpreting weather and climate information, was indeed a timely one. Especially at a time when the threat to Jamaica's food security and water shortage grew due mainly to the impact of climate change. The Ja REEACH II project also helped us to develop a priceless bond with our stakeholder that also lead the way in the development climate service tools like the drought forecasting tool. Through, the project we were able to developed the first drought forecast tool for this region. Also, we will never forget the contributions that was given through the project in acquiring additional automatic weather stations to bolster our network and to provide real-time weather information in a timely manner to our stakeholder. Thanks again, Ja REEACH for your sterling support to nation building, especially in the areas of agriculture and climate services.

