

MINISTRY PAPER

NO. 133/15

RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

The matter for tabling in the Houses of Parliament is the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) for the year ended March 31, 2014. This report will be tabled in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 (2) of the Rural Agricultural Development Act 1990.

**2. DOMESTIC FOOD CROP PRODUCTION**

Production of domestic food crops for the 2013 calendar year increased marginally by 0.78% (4,773.9 t) when compared with output in the previous year. Actual output for 2013 was 614,911.7 tonnes compared with 610,137.8 tonnes for 2012. It should also be noted, that the total production for 2013 was reaped from 45,784.8 hectares which was 1,178.8 hectares (2.6%) greater than the 44,606 hectares reaped in the previous year.

The top three performing crops/crop groups and their production figures for the review period were sorrel (1,483.3 t), condiments (52,294.8 t) and potatoes (61,664.5 t). These crops achieved production increases of 22.3%, 11.6% and 7.1% respectively. Conversely, the three worse performing crops/crop groups of those monitored and their production for 2013 were yams (138,833.9 t), other tubers (41,670 t) and plantains (30,937.3 t). These crops recorded declines in production of 4.3%, 8.8% and 14.5% respectively.

Domestic food crop production benefitted from several targeted interventions by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to aid in its recovery from the effects of weather induced occurrences. One such intervention, was the Drought Mitigation Programme which facilitated the distribution of seeds, planting materials and inputs to farmers throughout the year. Another intervention was the Hurricane Sandy Relief Programme.

**3. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AUTHORITY**

Listed below are some of the achievements of the Authority over the review period:

- i. **Farmer Training** – Capacity building of farmers through the administering of farmers training programmes is the core focus of RADA's extension delivery. Over the review period, emphasis was placed on a number of areas. These included the building of farmers' resilience to climate change through the adoption of good land husbandry practices. There was also the focus on building capacities of farmers to meet the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in order to ensure food safety standards and continuous access to export markets. RADA provided continuous technical

support to farmer groups and individual farmers involved in the production of crops under the Agro Parks initiative. Various training and delivery strategies were employed to transmit information to farmers. These included: Farmer Field School, on-farm demonstrations, field days, RADA website, mobile text messages and Skype conferences.

#### Training Activities & Achievements

Activities	Targets	Achievements	Achievements (%)
Individual Farm Visits	30,000	55,048	183%
Group farmer training sessions conducted	2,580	2,410	93%
No. of farmers trained	38,500	54,495	142%
No. of training sessions	2,760	3,012	109%
No. of demonstration plots	25	58	232%
Farmer exposure/demonstration of good practices/technologies	2,784	5,470	196%
Monitoring and evaluation/farmer training sessions	500	482	96%

- ii. **Extension Officer Recertification Programme** – The Extension Officer Recertification Programme which is geared towards certifying officers in key areas of extension delivery continued to be a success, especially in the area of capacity building. The Programme targeted 30 hours of direct training exposure for both agricultural extension officers and assistants.
- iii. **Marketing Extension Services** – The Government as part of its efforts to reduce the food import bill, selected Irish potato as a crop that could be successfully and competitively grown in Jamaica. RADA's marketing unit spearheaded the design of the Irish Potato Programme for 2013/2014 which targeted the satisfaction of the local demand of 15 million kilograms. To achieve this, 1,250 hectares of Irish potatoes were established. A youth and women component was included in the Programme. The programme provided 100% assistance for beneficiaries in the area of input cost; however, this was only for a maximum of one acre per beneficiary. Over the review period, the Marketing Unit provided assistance to move produce valued at \$187M and which benefitted 3,693 farmers.

- iv. **Social Services/Home Economics Programme** – This Programme seeks to meet the expressed training and advisory needs of women and youth; however, gender bias does not influence the outreach efforts. Therefore, males are never refused the services where there is an interest in its offerings. It is estimated that approximately 10,500 persons benefitted from the Programme for the period under review.
- v. **Agricultural Business information systems (ABIS)** – For the review period, 4,279 farmers were registered bringing the total registered farmers to 169,985. In addition, 1,196 farmers were verified bringing its total to 145,743 farmers which represents 85.7% of registered farmers. A total of 3,478 identification cards was also issued.
- vi. **Fruit Tree Crop Project** – The primary goal of this project is to increase the supply of fruits that will satisfy the demand of processors and the fresh produce market. Against this background the project placed special emphasis on the commercial production of fruits in orchards which were developed according to the appropriate technical criteria in terms of agronomic and management practices. Some of the specific achievements of the Project included:

Orchard Establishment	72.45 hectares
Plant Distribution	20,678
Resuscitation (no. of trees)	537

- vii. **Protected Agriculture** – The demand for agricultural produce on a continuous basis, ensures that protected agriculture remains a top priority within RADA’s overall operations. The addition of three Agricultural Extension Officers dedicated to protected agriculture, enabled the Unit to improve its services to farmers. This was as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into by RADA and the Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association (JGGA) in 2013. The MOU called for the provision of structured extension services to greenhouse growers within the parishes of St. Elizabeth, St. Ann and Manchester through one designated Parish Greenhouse Officer per parish.
- viii. **Livestock Production** – For the period under review, the Livestock Unit continued to provide a lead role in identifying ways of improving the competitiveness and sustainability of the livestock farmers and industry at large. These activities were accomplished through the provision of technical guidance and support on all relevant livestock issues. The livestock programme was driven and coordinated by the Livestock Specialist and eleven Livestock Officers. The nutritional needs of livestock were a major focus during the period. Alternative feeding systems were explored which led to collaborations not only with local but also international research

institutions in designing the appropriate feeding systems especially for ruminant production. In keeping with this focus, dairy farmers also benefitted from the collaborative efforts of RADA and the Jamaica Dairy Development Board who embarked on a Fodder Bank Assistance Programme. The programme sought to facilitate the production of sugarcane and king grass to be utilized by farmers to minimize the low milk production and as a means of mitigating the negative impact during times of drought. The Livestock Officers also facilitated market linkages for sale of animals by farmers with a total value of \$11,528,060.

#### **4. AUDITORS' REPORT**

The financial Statements were audited by BDO Jamaica Chartered Accountants. They have stated that in their opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as at March 31, 2014, and of its financial performance, changes in equity and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

#### **5. REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS & SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

The compensation of the directors and the remuneration of the senior executives are set out at appendices I and II respectively.

6. The Annual Report with the Audited Financial Statements of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority for the year ended March 31, 2014 is hereby submitted to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 (2) of the Rural Agricultural Development Act 1990.



Derrick Kellier, C.D.

Minister of Agriculture, Labour and Social Security

October 20 , 2015

**Rural Agricultural Development Authority**  
**Directors Compensation**  
**2013/2014**

<b>Position of Director</b>	<b>Fees \$</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Upkeep/Travelling or Value of Assigned Motor Vehicle \$</b>	<b>Honoraria \$</b>	<b>All Other Compensation including Non-Cash Benefits as applicable \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
Board Member 1	92,000.00	145,368.00	-	-	137,000.00
Board Member 2	123,000.00	-	-	-	66,500.00
Board Member 3	126,386.40	217,161.46	-	-	123,500.00
Board Member 4	14,500.00	-	-	-	14,500.00
Board Member 5	89,000.00	-	-	-	89,000.00
Board Member 6	69,000.00	-	-	-	40,500.00
Board Member 7	74,000.00	-	-	-	70,500.00
Board Member 8	77,000.00	-	-	-	92,500.00
Board Member 9	100,000.00	-	-	-	100,000.00
Board Member 10	120,500.00	-	-	-	120,500.00
Board Member 11	18,500.00	-	-	-	18,500.00
Board Member 12	66,500.00	-	-	-	109,000.00
Board Member 13	85,000.00	-	-	-	78,500.00
Board Member 14	73,500.00	110,508.00	-	-	7,500.00
Board Member 15	76,500.00	-	-	-	12,500.00
Parish Advisory Board Members Fees	2,608,894.40	-	-	-	2,608,894.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,814,280.80</b>	<b>473,037.46</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,287,318.26</b>

**Notes**

\* Only National Board members who travelled to meetings from outside of Kingston were paid travelling.

**Rural Agricultural Development Authority**  
**Senior Executive Emoluments**  
**2013/2014**

Position of Senior Executive	Year	Salary \$	Gratuity or Performance Incentive \$	Travelling Allowance or Value of Assignment of Motor Vehicle \$	Pension or other Retirement Benefits \$	Other Allowances \$	Non-cash Benefits \$	Total \$
Chief Executive Director	2013/14	5,579,538	-	975,720	-	-	-	6,555,258
Principal Director, Field Services & Operations	2013/14	4,238,250	-	975,720	582,376	-	-	5,796,346
Principal Director, Technical Services	2013/14	3,200,309	-	975,720	337,521	-	-	4,513,550
Senior Director of Finance & Accounts	2013/14	2,582,053	-	975,720	-	-	-	3,557,773
Senior Director, Social Services Home Economics	2013/14	2,810,698	-	975,720	-	-	-	3,786,418
Zonal Directors- West	2013/14	2,383,257	-	975,720	-	-	-	3,358,977
Zonal Directors- East	2013/14	2,571,597	-	975,720	-	-	-	3,547,317
Director, Monitoring, Planning & Evaluation	2013/14	2,658,481	-	975,720	-	-	-	3,634,201
Senior Director Human Resource Management & Administration	2013/14	3,082,374	-	975,720	-	-	-	4,058,094
Senior Director of Technology, Training & Technical Information	2013/14	2,810,698	-	975,720	322,192	-	-	4,108,610
Manager, Information Communication & Technology (ICT)	2013/14	2,429,771	-	514,500	279,994	-	-	3,224,265
Chief Internal Auditor	2013/14	1,901,881	-	514,500	-	-	-	2,416,381
Manager, Irrigation, Water Management Unit	2013/14	2,486,219	-	514,500	-	-	-	3,000,719
Parish Agricultural Managers - 13	2013/14	29,027,310	-	6,688,500	1,154,551	-	-	36,870,361
Total		67,762,436	-	17,989,200	2,676,634	-	-	88,428,270