

***Agricultural After School Programs for
Children at Risk in Jamaica***

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Executive Summary:

Crime is not only a dramatic issue in Jamaica; it is also an increasing one. This program developed will allow an agricultural after school program for the children at risk in Jamaica. The objective of the program is to help students not only have a safe place to go after school, but to also learn about agriculture. The program will start in the city, and hopefully expand to smaller villages. The partnership and connection will be with USA volunteers and Kingston High School and Holy Trinity. This will allow for a cooperative partner to ensure sufficient knowledge is learned. The funding will come from the USAID. The program will periodically be evaluated through the United States Extension Service guidelines and the USAID grant program. The timeline is about 4 years for each student. During this period, we are hoping to instill a promising future into the lives of the students, which will make the whole economy benefit in the long run.

Introduction:

The country of Jamaica located in the Caribbean, south of Cuba, totals 10,991 sq km and is one of the top countries for youth-at-risk and violence. Over half of all the major crimes committed in Jamaica are committed by youth (mostly males), under the age of 26 and 30% of inmates sentenced to adult correctional facilities are between the ages of 17 and 24 ("Youth-At-Risk; Policy Note"). This crime issue plagues the country influencing an already unsteady economy. The capital of Jamaica, Kingston, is one of

the fastest growing cities in Jamaica. Yet as the city has grown, unemployment rates have skyrocketed due to outrageous violence and lack of knowledge. To help Jamaica's crime rate and agriculture industry an agriculture education program will be developed in the inner city schools of Kingston for youth-at-risk. The initiative will involve students in an after school program educating them in agribusiness practices. The hands-on knowledge they receive will allow them to apply their time into money making agricultural opportunities.

The Problem:

The first problem is the crime rate. In 2007 1,574 people were murdered in Jamaica. This is said to be a 17% rise from 2006! Of the 1,574 people murdered 230 were woman and children. The other 1,344 occurred in what are called double, triple, and quadruple murders. Just in the month of November the police saw 166 murders (yardflex).

The second problem is the fact that free education isn't offered after a child is 10 years of age. Therefore a program needs to be implemented into a secondary school that is free or at a reduced cost. This can be somewhat complicated however we will try to find two schools willing to work with us to implement a program that will teach students agriculture and small business practices (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica#Education>).

Together these problems create youth at risk making poor choices. Therefore we have youth that aren't in school because their parents probably can't afford it. They join

gangs and get involved in illegal activities rather than starting their own agribusiness or just staying in school and bettering themselves.

Objectives:

Some of the main goals our organization has set to accomplish this project are:

1. To help youth at risk in Jamaica
2. Incorporate small agricultural business practices in the villages
3. Provide an agricultural outlet for students
4. Make afterschool programs accessible to youth at risk
5. Provide helpful agricultural knowledge to youth
6. Support the development and growth of agricultural businesses
7. Improve the quality of agricultural practices in Jamaica
8. Increase literacy rates and knowledge of the youth
9. Improve economic and social status of citizens
10. Build a strong agricultural relationship with the area

Short Term Goals:

The main short term goal is to establish an after school program for youth at risk in Kingston, Jamaica. This will require effort in our ability to communicate with the local youth, parents and school districts. This will also require staff to use personal knowledge of agricultural practices, teaching strategies, and building strong relationships to improve the agricultural program. Our mission is to provide a safe place in Kingston, Jamaica for youth at risk to depend on. This will allow them to use their

knowledge and invest their time in life long journey in the agricultural industry, with emphasis on agribusiness. We will provide a safe environment for them to attend after school and learn about small agricultural businesses. This will require us to find sufficient technology and tools to learn . We will also provide the opportunity for them create an agricultural business plan of their own that interests them. Eventually, they will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to put their business plans into action. This will build a stronger foundation for their knowledge of agricultural businesses. It will also allow them to stay off of the streets, in hopes of a safer environment for all.

Our main goals concerning the students are to be able to help them understand the role of management in planning, organizing, controlling, and directing production agriculture operations and agribusiness firms. This will help them learn different aspects of the agricultural industry through classes and teachers. They will be able to compare and contrast the different agriculture economy roles. They will also be able to develop their own strategies and techniques for an agribusiness operation. This will show them how their actions and environment impact agriculture and agribusiness and how they can develop an positive influence. They will learn how to understand and analyze the economic aspects of the agribusiness areas. They will be able to learn how to make positive decisions that influence their business project. Students will maintain agriculture records and learn how to analyze their data and records. They will learn the production, processing, marketing, sales, and purchasing aspects of agriculture and how it effects the economy. They will learn about the importance international and domestic trade and how each inter relate. Students will describe international trade.

This will help them understand basic business ethics, making them more productive citizens in a struggling environment.

Long Term Goals:

Not only do we expect to get the student involved in after school programs, but have goals of long term influences that will be a positive turn for the country. The long term goal is to expand out of Kingston, Jamaica, into other villages in Jamaica. We would like to train the students in hopes that they would find the positive impact of the program, and help spread it across Jamaica. After students build their agricultural business plans and put them into action, we will prepare them for the business environment and help carry their plans into real life situations. This program will also help to increase economic understanding, agricultural awareness, and agribusiness preparedness. Knowing alternative agricultural practices will help decrease the illegal crop production. With a decrease in illegal production, the crime rate will decrease. This will help with the efforts of a safer environment for all. With student growing into independent business professionals, the economy will increase, in hopes of a great increase in the gross domestic production. Also, with more students enrolling in schools, the literacy rate of students will increase, making a more intelligent economy.

Partnership:

The two high schools that we would like to pilot this program in are Kingston High School and Holy Trinity High. They are both central in Kingston Jamaica and have a really high literacy and attendance rate. However we have to remember that these kids

are paying to come to school. We can partner with these schools to offer a reduced tuition for those kids that are living in poor areas and can't afford to send their children to school. This would allow us to get some of these higher at risk students back in school and learning some important things such as agriculture and creating a small business. Together we will work with these schools and create an effective program in agriculture. We will pilot this program for two years in this school and then based on our outcomes span out from there if successful.

Implementation Plan:

We intend to implement our program first by educating our volunteer staff as to the social conditions that they will be dealing with in Kingston. It is crucial that they be familiar with the local culture and that they be aware of the situations that the youth they will be working with are exposed to on a daily basis. They need to understand that crime and corruption are a part of everyday life for their students, so their job may be challenging. They must be very patient and understanding, as well as positive and encouraging.

Our volunteers will be working in local classrooms after school gets out so that the program is easily accessible to our students. At the start of our program, not many additional facilities will be needed. Our volunteers will be equipped with the necessary supplies to teach students to grow their own spices. These supplies are plastic pots, potting soil, fertilizer, seeds, and instructional materials. Our volunteers will incorporate lessons on horticulture and plant science while the plants get their start. These lessons will be followed with instruction on economics, marketing, and small business. With our

programs located in the heart of Kingston, our students will have a place to market their finished products (fresh spices) in the urban marketplace.

Project Financing:

This project will be financed through a grant from USAID. Based on their current budget it is estimated that we will have approximately \$3,465,000 U.S. dollars which converts to about \$245,356,650 Jamaican Dollars for 4 years to plan, implement, and execute this program. Through this grant we are able to teach economic growth, agriculture, and trade. Through this funding we should expect to see an increase of people in the workforce while improving the quality of living and lifestyle of those who are currently at risk (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/cbj2006/lac/pdf/jm532-012.pdf>).

Assessment Plan:

The program will periodically be evaluated through the United States Extension Service guidelines and the USAID grant program. The progress of the students and the curriculums efficiency will be analyzed every two months to keep the value of the information on task. At the end of the school year a questionnaire will be given to the students and volunteer faculty on how the program is doing and if it was useful. Along with the annual survey the programs efficiency will be measured by US and Jamaican extension specialists. They will analyze annual crime and unemployment issues along with youth development. The program will continue to grow through rural cities each year moving through a new community. After a 5 year mark, the entire program will be

evaluated and deliberated to see if the progress is extensive enough to increase funding and continue the project. A representative from the grant program USAID will be briefed on the success each year and every five years visit and evaluate each location.

Progress reports of the crime rate and development of new agricultural entrepreneurship will be taken for the Kingston area every five years. The rural evaluation will continue after every year in each community. By the end of five years Kingston will see more development in agriculture commodities and a lower unemployment rate. With this, a spiral circulation of progress will reduce crime rates, youth-at-risk, and increase productivity of Jamaica's youth.

Expected Expenditures:

The introductory costs should be within our budget. We will need to supply pots and potting soil, and seed to our students so that they will have materials for planting. We will have to cover the costs of transporting our volunteers to Jamaica, their living expenses, and find a way to ensure their safety. Additional expenses may include some compensation to school districts for the use of their facilities, or later in the program more instructional materials.

Timeline:

It would do our students the most good to keep this program in place for three to four years with volunteer assistance. This way students can progress through the program and experience several years worth of production. This will allow them to see the realistic challenges of having your own small business, as well as the challenges of

agriculture. Hopefully with this length of time, we can also demonstrate success despite the hardships we may face in the start-up phase of this program. If our efforts are successful, the program would be designed to be transferrable to other communities so that we can spread the knowledge and economic growth throughout the rest of the country.

Conclusion:

Through the implementation of the agriculture education after school programs, the youth of Jamaica will be provided a more prosperous future. The agribusiness classes will give them the education they need to start their own entrepreneurships and open their mind to various opportunities. Also the youth can spread their knowledge through their family and therefore increase the productivity of the entire country.

A Sample Lesson Plan for Agricultural Development in Jamaica

Course:	Ag. Development
Unit:	Starting your own business
Unit Outcomes:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be able to describe some businesses that would work in particular climates 2. Be able to identify three business's you would be interested in starting. 3. Be able to identify commodities that could be vital for economy 4. Be able to balance a check book. 5. Be able to name 3 benefits of starting your own business. 6. Be able to develop a plan to execute the start of a business. 7. Be able to identify three crops that are good to grow in this climate. 8. Identify something that you love doing. 9. Be able to name establish rapport with potential clients. 10. Be able to name some benefits of researching different business's. 11. Be able to name the benefits of investing in CDs, Money Markets etc. 	
References and Materials:	
www.wikipedia.org	

Interest Approach:
<p>Talk to students about their plans for starting a new business that deals with agriculture. How will they gain the skills necessary to be successful within these settings? Thus, over the next 6 to 7 weeks we will provide them with necessary skills to help improve their life after school.</p>

Unit Time Line (Anticipated):
<p>Business descriptions-5 days</p> <p>3 Business's would like to start-5 days</p> <p>Identifying commodities for climate- 2 days</p> <p>Balancing check book- 2 days</p> <p>Benefits and development plan-14 days</p> <p>Establish rapport and research-5-7 days</p>
Assessment:
<p>Quizzes along the way, probably a Unit exam mostly covering research they have prepared us.</p>

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