

# **STAKEHOLDER REPORT**

## **National Consultation on State of the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector in the Context of the Green Economy and Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development in Preparation for the Rio+20 Earth Summit**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Government of Jamaica (GoJ) is undertaking a preparatory process ahead of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 20-22, 2012. The UNDP has offered to support this initiative for the 2012 UNCSD through the funding of national consultations and the preparation of reports from these consultations. The intention is to solicit views and comments from stakeholders, to raise awareness and secure buy-in regarding the two UNCSD themes, the Green Economy and Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD).

This segment of the consultancy is specifically aimed at assisting the Government of Jamaica through the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (MWLECC) in carrying out a national consultation of key stakeholders in the agriculture and fisheries sector (including forestry, livestock and water), regarding the principles of a Green Economy and the IFSD within the context of poverty alleviation as part of national preparations for the upcoming UNCSD. Whereas both themes have been discussed at the national level, there is particular interest within and among key stakeholder groups as to the implications implementing Green Economy principles may have on the Jamaican economy. As such, there is a need for further dialogue among Major Interest Groups, and an analysis of the solicited commentary, while looking at recommendations for partnerships, frameworks and other next steps towards advancing sustainable development goals and the implementation of the Green Economy within the context of Jamaica's agriculture and fisheries sector. Consultations have been carried out with key sector stakeholders and practitioners from the private and NGO sectors as well as relevant Government bodies, development partners and other interest groups.

This report details the feedback provided from stakeholders during the consultation period. Consultations were carried out with representatives of the public sector, private sector, civil society and International Development Partners. It is expected that the outcome of these consultations will inform Jamaica's contribution to the 2012 UNCSD, as well as national level programmes and actions.

## **2. GREEN ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE**

The Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development is one of the key themes to be addressed at this year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

Despite the lack of international consensus, the term ‘green economy’ broadly describes ‘an economy that is environmentally-friendly, sensitive to the need to conserve natural resources, minimizes pollution and emissions that damage the environment in the production process, and produces products and services – the existence and consumption of which, do not harm the environment’ (Khor, 2011, p. 1). For Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, the concept of green economy may represent an approach to development that seeks to move beyond just simply minimizing negative impacts on the natural environment by economic activities, and begin to base new jobs and industries on the sustainable use of natural assets and resources.

While the notion of a Green Economy is by no means new, it has gained tremendous momentum in recent years largely due to the increasing global attention afforded to environmental issues, and the emergence of climate change as a major global priority (Stakeholder Forum, 2012). It is now widely recognized that a global economy driven primarily by the ever increasing burning of fossil fuels for energy is simply not sustainable. Increasing Greenhouse Gas Emissions combined with the destruction and degradation of already fragile ecosystems is severely increasing the likelihood of human exposure to major climatic shifts and hazards, whilst simultaneously reducing our resilience and adaptive capacity. If our future is to be in any way assured, our economies need to shift to achieve human wellbeing without ultimately destroying the environment upon which that wellbeing depends.

Agriculture, being one of the most important sectors in the world, given its contribution to employment and people’s livelihood – particularly in developing countries – has the potential to shape a wide range of issues that are intrinsically linked, and extremely vital for transitioning to a green economy, including: food security, poverty eradication, biodiversity, human health, use of natural resources and energy consumption. Yet at the same time, it is widely recognized that the way agriculture is currently practiced globally is highly unsustainable. Over the past few decades, notwithstanding advances in both productivity and technology, the sector is characterized by an increase in the use of agrochemicals, declining biodiversity, increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>, and a widening gap in the distribution of benefits among countries and among different segments of societies within countries.

There is however, mounting evidence to suggest that investing in sustainable forms of agricultural production present a wide range of viable options to existing farming practices.

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<sup>1</sup> Agriculture currently emits between 13 and 30 percent of total GHGs worldwide

Sustainable agricultural systems offer a large number of benefits including the supply of essential life-supporting ecosystem services while addressing problems such as environmental degradation, vulnerability to climate change, livelihood insecurity and poverty (Buck and Scherr, 2011). In a recent report by UNEP (2011), several proposals were outlined for national and international policy changes, including policies that support smallholder farmers' land tenure rights, promotion of eco-friendly, locally adapted agriculture and the empowerment of female farmers. UNEP also recommends economic tools, such as rewarding farmers for using environmentally friendly practices and inputs, and capacity-building projects. Such projects include strengthening extension services through using information and communications technologies (ICT) and partnering with local NGOs and businesses.

### **3. METHODOLOGY AND PROJECT SCOPE**

In preparing this report a series of consultative meetings were held with key stakeholders from the agriculture and fisheries sector. Consultations were carried out primarily in two phases. The first phase involved conducting a series of in-depth semi-formal interviews with practitioners and other key stakeholders within the agriculture and fisheries sector, while the second phase entailed a planned workshop with a smaller group of stakeholders.

As it pertains to the first round of consultations, in-depth qualitative interviews were carried out with individual representatives from the various public sector bodies in the agriculture and fisheries sector as well as key players from the private and NGO sectors. See Annex A-2 for list of all stakeholders consulted. Interviews were conducted either by telephone or in person from April 2 - 16, 2012. A total of 37 stakeholders were interviewed over the period comprising representatives from all major interest groups including relevant ministries and other government and statutory bodies (including representatives from the water, livestock and forestry sub-sectors), commodity boards, development partner organizations and the private and NGO sectors. Development partners included national, regional and international agencies such as the USAID. Representatives from the private sector included both individual organizations (including small and large scale producers and distributors) and umbrella organizations representing larger interest groups such as the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) and the Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA). NGO and other major interest groups included representatives from local universities and agricultural colleges as well as farmer organizations.

The planned consultative workshop was held on Wednesday April 18, 2012 with a small but representative group of stakeholders working either directly or indirectly in the agriculture and fisheries sector. The workshop was used to provide some background to the UNCSA and the upcoming 2012 UNCSA, facilitated discussion among participants regarding principles of the Green Economy within the context of the agriculture and fisheries sector as well as it provided a medium for the sharing of experiences and best practices, identify gaps, discuss new and emerging issues make recommendations and facilitate dialogue on Jamaica's progress in sustainable development to date, among other things.

In addition to the aforementioned set of consultations, further feedback was sought from a wider group of stakeholders in a multi-sector workshop hosted by the MWLECC on Tuesday May 15, 2012. This forum was used as a means to present the findings from the combined stakeholder consultations and garner feedback on relevant areas.

#### **4. FINDINGS FROM STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS**

Stakeholders provided a wide range of feedback throughout the consultation period. For the purpose of this report, the findings will be presented under the following sub-headings based on the core set of guiding questions outlined in the Terms of Reference.

##### **4.1 Stakeholders' understanding of the Green Economy and its Relevance to Jamaica's Agriculture and Fisheries Sector**

While a few of the respondents admitted that they had never heard about the term 'Green Economy' prior to participating in the interview, the majority of stakeholders displayed a general understanding of the concept. A significant share of the respondents perceived green economy as going beyond sustainable development principles through its promotion of increased efficiency and competitiveness through green investments and its adoption of a low carbon growth strategy. While a few of the stakeholders expressed reservations as to the feasibility/relevance of transitioning to a green economy, the majority of the responses received were positive. As it pertains to the relevance of a green economy to Jamaica's agriculture and fisheries sector, the following responses were given:

Positive feedbacks include:

- A green economy would lead to integrated production, distribution and consumption systems
- Ensure protection of the environment while promoting business and investment
- Less pollution
- Assist in the formulation of environmental policies
- Fosters holistic development between the economy and the environment
- Economic development that is environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- Promotes social equity and economic well-being
- Increases efficiency through waste reduction and use of cheaper more renewable energy sources
- Promotes the creation of goods and services in an environmentally sensitive manner

Negative feedbacks include:

- New term for an old concept
- The term is rather vague, and can mean different things to different people

#### **4.2 Existence of a GoJ understanding of the Green Economy**

Based on the feedbacks given, it seems there is no consensus or official position held by the Jamaican government concerning a green economy. None of the stakeholders were able to indicate a position. It was pointed out that while the term was understood and articulated within elements of government, no official position currently exists. Further research has revealed however, that a Government of Jamaica position paper on the Green Economy and the IFSD actually exists. This paper was compiled by the Environment and Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Urban and Rural Development Thematic Working Groups under the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan in October 2011 and will form part of Jamaica's Compilation Document in preparation for the upcoming UNCSD.

The paper outlines some of the priority concerns and emerging challenges for Jamaica within the context of the two aforementioned themes. Some of the emerging challenges outlined in the document include:

- The over-exploitation of natural resources including the depletion of Jamaica's fish stocks due to overfishing;

- Invasion of alien predatory species (like the Lion Fish) that threaten both terrestrial and marine resources;
- Environmental degradation of watersheds and reefs;
- Competition over the use of arable land by other sectors, especially housing and tourism;
- Access to accurate and up-to-date information critical to planning and land management;
- Prevalence of socio-economic issues such as rising unemployment and poverty levels and high levels of crime;
- Inclusion of youth and other marginalised groups in national consultations;
- Aging of Jamaica's population, and;
- The continued fight against HIV/AIDS.

#### **4.3 The main perceived benefits of implementing a national green economy strategy**

This question though similar to the first one, allowed stakeholders to expand on the possible benefits of transitioning to a green economy with regards to the agriculture and fisheries sector. Like the first question, stakeholders stressed the environmental benefits to be gained from implementing a national green economy strategy. These include:

- Reduce soil erosion, mangrove degradation and pollution
- Environmental preservation
- Assist in the development of strategies for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Use of less agro-chemicals

In addition to the perceived environmental benefits, stakeholders also pointed to some of the possible social and economic gains to be had from transitioning to a green economy. Some of the participants believed that a green economy strategy would have a positive effect on people's health through its promotion of cleaner production systems including the use of fewer agro-chemicals during the planting process such as synthesized fertilizers and pesticides. A few of the stakeholders also mentioned that a green economy would mean greater equity for vulnerable/marginalised groups. In the case of agriculture and fisheries, this would have clear implications for small farmers and women, especially as it pertains to accessing key resources and markets.

In terms of economic benefits, a number of the persons consulted believed that transitioning to a green economy would translate into a more efficient consumption of energy resources through its promotion of cleaner energy sources and waste/energy reduction. Lastly, a number of persons pointed to the creation of new markets through the development of high quality and environmentally sensitive goods and services. Accessing Fair Trade opportunities in European and, to a lesser extent, North American markets, were pointed out as a clear example of how Jamaican farmers and food manufacturers could benefit from going green. Table 1 outlines all the responses given regarding stakeholders' view on the benefits of transitioning to a green economy for Jamaica's agriculture and fisheries sector.

Table 1: Main perceived benefits of implementing a national green economy strategy

Perceived benefits for the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector		
Environmental	Economic	Social
Improved land use management (farms, watersheds, mangroves etc.)	Reduction in energy costs due to enhanced production systems	Improved Health condition of population
Greater focus on preserving the natural environment	Greater focus on waste reduction and improved efficiency of production systems	Greater equity and access to key resources among marginalised groups e.g. small farmers, youth and women
Boost adaptation strategies to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	Emergence of new markets for green products and green investments	Reduction in unemployment and poverty levels
Reduced environmental pollution due to decrease in use of agro-chemicals	New green jobs	
Use of cleaner energy sources	New streams of revenue for the state	

#### 4.4 Actions that have been introduced at national/regional/international levels intended to strengthen implementation of and political support for SD, specifically in regards to the Green Economy

While stakeholders were able to mention a large number of activities and programmes that were designed to strengthen the implementation of, and foster political buy-in for Sustainable Development principles, most were not considered to be specifically focused on promoting a green economy. Locally, some of the broad activities mentioned include:

- Assigning Climate Change to a ministerial portfolio. The naming of a Ministry of Climate Change was viewed by some stakeholders as a pivotal step towards the mainstreaming of green economy principles in Jamaica's development plans.
- Greater emphasis on traceability and food safety
- Establishment of a National Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) Committee by RADA. The ADRM Committee is charged with the responsibility to promote the development of a disaster risk management plan and programme for agriculture.
- Establishment of the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM)
- Drafting of a National Energy Policy
- Development of a National Chemical Emergency Response Protocol between PAHO and NEPA
- Recent institutional strengthening of the Pesticide Control Authority
- Formulation of a Agriculture Sector Plan under the Vision 2030 National Development Plan
- Valuation of natural resources;
- Setting up of fishing sanctuaries across the island;
- Adoption of environmental management systems and certifications by a number of local food manufacturers;
- Rain harvesting initiatives in farming communities across the island;
- Access to Information Act.

When quizzed about the relative success of the different activities, the large majority of respondents held the view that most of these activities have generated very little support and buy-in for the sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries sector. Several stakeholders pointed to a lack of legislation particularly as it relates to engendering and enforcing sustainable practices as a major hindrance to transitioning to a green economy.

Regionally, a few of the stakeholders mentioned CARICOM-led initiatives pertaining to climate change (example the establishment of a CARICOM Climate Change Centre, the Regional 2021 Plan and the Global Water Partnership Caribbean initiative) and for fisheries (CRFM). Internationally, mention was made of the Kyoto Protocol and the trading of carbon credits.

#### **4.5 Critical factors for the implementation of the Green Economy within the target sectors and communities, as well as within national, regional and international frameworks**

A number of critical factors were identified by stakeholders regarding the successful and sustainable implementation of a green economy strategy for Jamaica's agriculture and fisheries sector. The large majority of responses was sector specific and based at the national level. Country-level factors deemed as crucial to the successful transition to a green economy include:

- Food and market security. A number of the respondents pointed out during the interview stage that in order for a green economy strategy to work, Jamaicans must have access to a sufficient, affordable and consistent supply of high quality food products. In addition, farmers would need to have a secure market for their products.
- Maintaining productivity and competitiveness. These were viewed as absolutely vital to the transition process given the fact that Jamaica already faces tremendous challenges in both areas, especially with regards to the agriculture sector.
- Cost factor. This includes the cost of inputs such as labour, raw material, water, land and energy.
- Public awareness and stakeholder buy-in. A few of the stakeholders emphasised the importance of communication and constant consultation with stakeholders and other key interest groups in the implementation process.
- Political support and commitment were also viewed as extremely critical to the transition process at all levels of the programmatic cycle
- A few of the participants stressed the importance of engendering a suitable and enabling legislative framework to support green economy initiatives.
- Protection of the environment through tightened regulations.
- Capacity building particularly among targeted communities and chain actors within the agriculture and fisheries sector.
- Re-training technical staff and re-tooling key agencies such as RADA to respond to new and emerging challenges.
- The fostering of multi-sectoral partnerships and strategic alliances among stakeholder groups
- Properly planned and well-coordinated programmes and actions at the national and sub-national levels. Strongly tied to this is the setting up of a robust and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework;

- Promoting science and innovation
- Availability and access to information for policy planning and programmatic intervention based on thorough and up-to-date scientific research and knowledge.

Internationally and regionally, the following factors were identified:

- The sharing of technology and best practices among countries;
- Adequate international resource flows to developing countries and SIDS in particular;
- The actions and policy directions pursued by larger and more developed countries were also considered as being extremely crucial to the successful implementation of a green economy given the significantly greater impact they can have on both the natural environment and the global economy.

#### **4.6 Possible Impact of a Green Economy on employment, poverty levels, health and other social factors**

The majority of responses to this question were positive. However, a few of the stakeholders pointed out that the promotion of a development strategy based on green economy principles could also have negative impacts.

As it pertains to employment, respondents generally saw the adoption of a green economy strategy as creating new job opportunities. Small producers, especially small-scale farmers were also seen as being major beneficiaries due to the greater emphasis on product quality and nutritional value as opposed to volume and price. At the same time, a few of the participants pointed to the fact that transitioning to a green economy can also render some economic activities uncompetitive. This could be particularly true in instances where individuals lack the requisite technical and resource capacity or the know-how to adopt.

It was also mentioned that adapting to a green economy could also open up new markets through the production of new products and environmental services. Again, like employment, transitioning to a green economy was also seen by a few stakeholders as potentially dangerous due to its ability to benefit certain market segments at the expense of others. This is especially important for small developing states like Jamaica that are characterised by a narrow resource base and are heavily reliant on a limited range of goods and services. Threats can also be

externally driven. For instance, one stakeholder pointed to the recent case of the EU carbon tax on long haul air travel, and how this is impacting the island's tourism industry.

Another likely impact of transitioning to a green economy that was mentioned by a number of stakeholders during the interviews was an overall improvement in the health and nutrition of Jamaicans due to the production of higher quality and healthier foods.

Other less cited impacts include:

- Reducing reliance on unsustainable energy sources and transitioning towards renewable forms of energy
- Poverty reduction
- Fostering science and innovation, particularly geared at satisfying new and anticipated green investment opportunities.

#### **4.7 Stakeholders' view on Vision 2030 and its ability to facilitate Jamaica's transition to a Green Economy**

This was a rather contentious topic as stakeholders expressed varying views in response to this question. For the most part, persons expressed some reservations about the ability of Vision 2030 to enable the successful implementation of a Green Economy for the agriculture and fisheries sector. The majority of interviewees were of the belief that while the Agriculture Sector Plan under Vision 2030 has some broad elements of environmental protection and sustainable development objectives built into its framework, the discussion on how these will be achieved and sustained is lacking. A few of the stakeholders stated that green economy principles were more implicit rather than explicit in the Vision 2030 Sector Plan.

Some of the respondents were extremely critical of Vision 2030 and conveyed great doubts of the Plan's ability to facilitate much change, especially its potential to exploit green economy opportunities. Persons pointed to the Plan's lack of legislative power for example, and its limited public buy-in and knowledge.

Only a small number of the respondents during the first round of consultations expressed positive sentiments regarding Vision 2030's ability to effectively facilitate the implementation of a green economy. Persons pointed to the Plan's focus on mainstreaming sustainable development principles across all major economic sectors, particularly that of balancing

economic growth with environmental preservation, as extremely vital to the realization of a green economy. These arguments came out more during the consultative workshop. Persons pointed to the unique and unprecedented nature of Vision 2030 – being not only the first long-term development Plan for Jamaica, but also one of the most comprehensive and consultative.

It was also mentioned that most of the criticisms laid out against Vision 2030 were unfair, unrealistic and misinformed. It was also stated at the workshop that Vision 2030 was intended to be an overarching statement of the goals and aspirations of the nation as we look towards the future, rather than a precise prescription for the nation's developmental challenges. While it was recommended that further public education campaigns should be done in order to sensitize and update Jamaicans about the purpose and benefits of the Plan, the general view expressed by the workshop participants was that Vision 2030 should play a critical role if Jamaica is to transition to a green economy. A few of the participants pointed out that the Plan can be revised and retrofitted to more explicitly address green economy issues, if and when deemed appropriate.

#### **4.8 Possible indicators to measure and monitor Green Economy initiatives**

A wide range of indicators were identified by stakeholders to help measure and monitor the transition to a green economy. No significant difference was observed between the types of indicators mentioned between the two phases of consultation. However, one of the working groups at the workshop recommended the development of a composite sustainability index comprised of a number of environmental, economic and social indices. Such an index could serve as a form of baseline dataset from which all future monitoring and evaluation activities could be measured against. Also, one of the key recommendations that came out of the workshop was for the formulation of a single and clear definition for the term as a vital first step before arriving at a common set of appropriate indicators for measuring and monitoring green economy activities.

While most of the indicators mentioned were readily quantifiable, others were more qualitative. Table 2 outlines some of the recommended actions and outcome indicators for measuring and monitoring progress towards a Green Economy within Jamaica's agriculture and fisheries sector.

**Table 2: Potential Indicators for measuring and monitoring progress towards a green agriculture**

Action Indicators	Outcome Indicators
Growth in enacted and implemented policy measures that promote sustainable forms of agriculture	Number of green policies instituted within the sector
Improved land use management (farms, watersheds, mangroves etc.) and conservation of natural resources	Rate of land degradation; Water quality; Rate of deforestation/afforestation
Improved efficiency in farming systems	Reduction in post-harvest losses; Reduction in energy cost and usage; overall decline in production costs; rate of conversion to renewable sources of energy
Improved technical support for green agricultural practices	Number of agricultural extension officers trained in green agricultural practices
Enhanced poverty alleviation	Annual decline in poverty levels in farming and fishing communities; percentage change in farm income; number of new green jobs; percentage female farmers to total farming population; percentage youth farmers to total farming population
Improved environmental quality	Increased air and water quality; increased agricultural investment in renewable energy sources; reduction in on-farm carbon emissions
Improved food quality	Reduction in use of agro-chemicals; reduction in cases of lifestyle diseases e.g. cancer and diabetes; increased total life expectancy; number of registered and certified farmers
Improved resilience of the agriculture and fisheries sector	Annual losses to the sector incurred from natural disasters; percentage change in agricultural or crop production
Greater social equity and inclusion	Greater resource access for marginal groups
Greater and sustained biodiversity	Percentage forest coverage; increased fish stocks
Stimulate investment in green economy strategies	Percentage arable land under green agriculture; percentage share of green jobs in sector; number of government incentives targeting green investments
Improved competitiveness of local farmers and market access for local products	Contribution of agriculture and fisheries to GDP; net food trade

**Note:**

The information provided in the table is based primarily on stakeholder responses as well as an extensive desk review.

#### **4.9 New and emerging challenges that are likely to affect the prospects for the Green Economy in the coming decade**

Stakeholders identified a number of new and emerging challenges that could negatively impact transitioning to a Green Economy over the course of the next decade. These challenges include:

- Climate Change
- Increased population growth and urbanisation
- Freshwater availability and access
- Increased and continued reliance on food imports
- Continued volatility of the global economy
- Continued overexploitation of the island's fish stock
- Continued aging of the nation's farming population
- The continued and increased rate of degradation of Jamaica's watersheds and coral reefs
- Rising global food and fuel prices
- Direction of the IMF agreement and its medium- to long-term impacts on the Jamaican economy
- Increased spread of lifestyle diseases such as cancer and diabetes as well as STDs such as HIV/AIDS

Despite the relatively wide number of responses, climate change came up as the most critical risk factor to the successful implementation of a green economy strategy for the agriculture and fisheries sector. Stakeholders generally pointed to the high susceptibility and vulnerability of the sector to climatic hazards such as hurricanes and drought. Given the anticipated increases in the frequency and severity of these and other extreme weather events and natural disasters over the next coming decades<sup>2</sup>, the vulnerability of small island developing states like Jamaica comes into sharp focus. As such, any consideration of appropriate response pathways for achieving economic development and growth for SIDS (within the context of a green economy or otherwise) has to be mindful of the risks and threats associated to future global climate change and variability.

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<sup>2</sup> According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC (2007) other projected changes to the region's future climate include an overall increase in mean annual temperature, slight reduction in annual precipitation and a concomitant shift in rainfall patterns, and rising sea level.

#### **4.10 Ways international cooperation can strengthen support for the Green Economy and Stakeholder expectations for the 2012 UNCS D**

As it pertains to the ways international cooperation can strengthen support for the Green Economy, stakeholders mentioned the need for knowledge sharing, particularly between More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and Lesser Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). This could include the sharing of best practices in green economy activities and even fostering the transfer of appropriate technologies and aid.

The fostering of an international consensus around the core principles and definition of a Green Economy was also pointed out by a number of stakeholders as extremely vital to the implementation process. Concerns were expressed about the lack of a clear definition for the term and the lack of international consensus surrounding the term's usefulness and relevance.

Another major point raised by a few stakeholders surrounded the issues of ownership, particularly among developed countries<sup>3</sup>. Ownership in the sense that, developed countries need to take greater responsibility for safeguarding the environment and promoting sustainable economic practices.

When asked about their expectations for the upcoming UNCS D, stakeholders expressed mixed responses. For some stakeholders, the upcoming Earth Summit might not achieve much due to the many opposing thoughts on the issues of climate change and green economy. Others criticized Northern countries as being the major contributors to global environmental problems such as climate change while holding Southern countries to the same standards.

In contrast, other stakeholders expressed positive expectations for the upcoming Earth Summit. Some stakeholders see the UNCS D as providing a good opportunity for multilateral dialogue on issues that are of global importance. Additionally, a few of the stakeholders are anticipating that the Conference will afford Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Jamaica an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding their particular challenges.

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<sup>3</sup> Particular mention was made of China and the United States by a few stakeholders

## 5. FEEDBACK FROM THE MULTI-SECTOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The session was used to pose questions to stakeholders primarily surrounding the issue of securing stakeholder buy-in within the agriculture and fisheries sector for a green economy and stakeholders expectations for the upcoming Earth Summit. As it pertains to securing stakeholder buy-in, the following points were made:

- Need to be careful about the use of the word 'buy-in'. It is not a matter of selling the idea of a green economy because some stakeholders have already adopted green economy principles in their activities. Consultation with grass roots producers may actually result in a situation where the technocrats and experts are actually the ones catching up with the practices of primary stakeholders. Reference was made to the value of indigenous knowledge among Jamaican farmers and the need to document and build on these best practices.
- Need to remember that Jamaica is a small developing state and is therefore highly exposed and sensitive to broader global issues and events. As such, any discussion surrounding a green economy and its relevance and applicability to Jamaica, has to be framed within the context of Small Island Developing State vulnerability.
- Need to focus on small farmers as they are the most vulnerable to local and external stresses and shocks.
- Any strategy aimed at securing stakeholder support for the green economy will have to be tailored to address the need requirements of each interest group. For instance, at the community level the primary issue pertains to increasing employment, for the private sector the priority is to increase profits and at the government level the concern might be more about increasing tax revenue or cutting expenditure.
- Have to pay greater attention to the communication strategy used. This is key in building awareness and securing support. Need to include civil society members who know how to communicate to people at the community and household levels. Consultations would therefore have to take a different approach depending on who the information is being delivered to. Need to identify what stakeholders already know and understand about these issues. It was mentioned for instance that many farmers understand what is meant by concepts such as 'sustainable development' and 'climate change', but may not use these exact terms. The challenge is to build on these existing knowledge and resource base rather than try and implement top-down strategies.

- Stakeholder involvement and active participation in the consultation and program formulation and implementation processes is extremely vital if a green economy approach is to be successful.
- Cross-sectoral dialogue is absolutely critical for building national consensus around a green economy. National discourse on the topic MUST create a space for community participation. Needs to also be a joint effort by government and civil society.
- Green Economy needs to be seen as a development issue and not just an environmental issue.
- Empowerment and equity are important issues to consider since they are directly related to the mobilization of the grassroots. This is also associated with the drive towards local government reform and good governance. Look at international best practices such as China with their devolution of power to local authorities.

In terms of stakeholder expectations for the upcoming Rio+20 Earth Summit, participants were generally optimistic. A few persons stated that they expect to see some clear and precise policy statements coming out of the Conference with regards to the green economy, the IFSD and climate change adaptation. Other stakeholders spoke to the sharing of information and best practices between countries during and after the Conference. One participant pointed to the fact that the Earth Summits are often times seen purely as environmental conferences rather than development conferences. The hope therefore, is that development will take center stage at this year's conference. Locally, it is hoped that the discussions on the Green Economy will move from mere dialogue to implementation.

## **6. KEY MESSAGES CONCERNING THE GREEN ECONOMY AND IFSD**

- Before looking at implementing the Green Economy we need to look at what we have achieved since Rio 1992- this will help with how we define the Green Economy in the future as well as identify gaps and specific needs.
- The formulation of a single and clear cut definition of the term green economy is an extremely vital first step before Jamaica can arrive at an appropriate set of indicators for measuring and monitoring green economy activities. From this, national targets can be set as well as more specific targets for each industry/sector.

- Vision 2030 is the only long term national development plan for Jamaica. Vision 2030 should thus play a critical role if Jamaica is to transition to a green economy. The Plan can be revised and retrofitted to more explicitly address green economy issues if deemed appropriate. This can be done through the various thematic working groups under Vision 2030.
- There also needs to be an examination of the legal framework to see how it can help to achieve/facilitate the Green Economy
- Climate Change and Food Security will have to be placed at the center of any discourse on green economy and IFSD due to their overarching impacts and relevance. Continued research and innovation with specific focus on generating accurate and up-to-date scientific data (including access to relevant modeling and forecasting data) to aid in planning for climate change and promoting climate-smart agricultural practices will be essential to the process. Other important steps include (i) promoting crop diversification to address the effects of both climate variability and change, (ii) subsidizing climate-smart agricultural technologies, (iii) documenting and scaling-up existing local best practices, and (iv) public education and sensitization.
- Need to focus on transforming 'brown' activities into 'green' activities to prevent job losses, especially for small and vulnerable producers. Providing stimulus packages for green jobs will also be a vital step towards transitioning to a green economy, with strong emphasis on micro, small and medium enterprises.
- The importance of the theme of the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) should not be sidelined in the increased focus on the Green Economy. The linkages and complementarities between the two themes must be explored as much as possible.

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## **Annex A-1 Guiding Questions for Consultation**

The Terms of Reference recommends the following set of questions on which to guide the discussions of the workshop:

- How does the agriculture and fisheries sector understand and/or define the Green Economy? Is there a GoJ understanding of the Green Economy?
- What are the main perceived benefits of implementing a national and regional green economy strategy?
- What actions have been introduced at national, regional and international levels intended to strengthen implementation of, and political support for sustainable development, specifically in regard to the Green Economy? If so, to what extent have these actions been successful and what were/are the success factors, and/or barriers
- What are the critical factors for the implementation of the Green Economy within the target sectors and communities, as well as within national, regional and international frameworks?
- What are the recommendations for an IFSD at national, regional and international levels?
- How will the Green Economy impact employment, poverty levels, health and other social factors?
- How will Vision 2030 enable the implementation of the Green Economy?
- How can the Green Economy be measured and monitored?
- What new and emerging challenges are likely to affect the prospects for the Green Economy in the coming decade?
- How can international cooperation strengthen support for the Green Economy? What are the expectations for UNCSD 2012 in this regard?

## Annex A-2 List of all Stakeholders Consulted

List of all stakeholders consulted:

1. Ms. Le-Anne Roper – Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)
2. Mr. Jonathan Lamey – College of Agriculture, Science and Education/PEPA
3. Dr. Patricia Northover – University of the West Indies (UWI)
4. Dr. Pedro Mas Bermejo – Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
5. Dr. Gillian Smith – United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
6. Mr. Jerome Taylor – United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
7. Ms. Maxine Brown – Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
8. Mr. Phillip Chung - Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
9. Mrs. Cavell Francis-Rhiney - Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
10. Ms. Danielle Barnett – Jamaica Producers
11. Mr. Vitus Evans – Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA)
12. Ms. Ameigo McNab – Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA)
13. Dr. Leslie Simpson - Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI)
14. Mrs. Rasheeda Hall-Hanson – Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute
15. Mr. Michael Pryce – Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
16. Mr. Andre Kong – Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
17. Ms. McLymont Lafayette – PANOS Caribbean
18. Mr. Hershell Brown – Agro Investment Corporation
19. Mrs. Hedda Rose-Pitter – Newport Ferson/Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association
20. Mr. Basil Fernandez – Water Resources Authority (WRA)
21. Professor Claremont Kirton – University of the West Indies (UWI)
22. Dr. Donovan Campbell – University of the West Indies (UWI)
23. Dr. Barbara Carby – University of the West Indies (UWI)
24. Mr. Hopeton Peterson – Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)
25. Ms. Diane McCaulay – Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)
26. Ms. Suzanne Stanley – Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)
27. Ms. Eleanor Jones – Environmental Solutions Limited
28. Mr. Christopher Gentles – Coffee Industry Board
29. Ms. Marilyn Headley – Forestry Department
30. Mr. Malden Miller – USAID
31. Ms. Raina Spence – USAID
32. Ms. Karyll Aitcheson – ACDI/VOCA
33. Ms. Dianne Dormer – ACDI/VOCA
34. Mr. Alvin Murray – Christiana Potato Growers' Association
35. Mr. David Martin – Jamaica Producers
36. Ms. Marcia Dawkins – Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
37. Ms. Shauna Brandon – Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

## Annex B-1 Workshop Programme

### NATIONAL CONSULTATION – JAMAICA COUNTRY REPORT ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE RIO+20 EARTH SUMMIT

# AGENDA

DATE: APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> 2012

VENUE: THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
CONFERENCE ROOM, SENATE BUILDING UWI MONA

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Person Responsible</i>
9:00 - 9:15	Opening welcome/commencement	Dr. Kevon Rhiney - Consultant
9:15 - 9:30	Brief overview of UNCSD and the upcoming 2012 UNCSD	Ms. Nicole O'Reggio – Director of Pollution Control, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
9:30 - 10:15	Presentation of preliminary findings from Multi-sector Stakeholder Consultation and Baseline Report  Questions, clarification and responses from stakeholders	Dr. Kevon Rhiney - Consultant
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10:30 - 11:00	Break out into multi-sectoral discussion groups	All groups
11:00 - 12:00	Recommendations/feedback from individual groups	All groups
12:00 - 1:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1:00 - 1:45	Recap and evaluation of workshop proceedings	Mrs. Chanelle Fingal-Robinson – Workshop Facilitator
1:45 - 2:00	Vote of thanks and closure	

## **Annex B-2 List of Workshop Participants**

List of participants:

1. Le-Anne Roper – Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)
2. Nicole O-Reggio – Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
3. Jonathan Lamey – College of Agriculture, Science and Education/PEPA
4. Patricia Northover – University of the West Indies (UWI)
5. Pedro Mas Bermejo – Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
6. Gillian Smith – United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
7. Maxine Brown – Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
8. Phillip Chung - Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
9. Cavell Francis-Rhiney - Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
10. Suzanne Stanley – Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)
11. Danielle Barnett – Jamaica Producers
12. Vitus Evans – Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA)
13. Rasheeda Hall-Hanson – Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI)

## Annex B-3 Workshop Summary

### Introduction

The Workshop was held on Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 between 9.30am and 2.00pm. Despite the fairly modest turnout, all of the key sectors and majority of the major interest groups were represented at the workshop. In total, there were 13 participants in attendance.

The workshop was intended to:

1. Provide background to the UNCSD and the upcoming 2012 UNCSD (Rio+20 Earth Summit)
2. To present on the preliminary findings of the multi-stakeholder consultations conducted to date and the baseline report on the Green Economy and its relevance to Jamaica's Agriculture and Fisheries sector
3. Facilitate discussion among stakeholders on the principles of the Green Economy and its relevance to Jamaica's Agriculture and Fisheries sector, including Water and Forestry
4. Facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices, identifying gaps, discussing new and emerging issues, make recommendations and engender dialogue *inter alia* on Jamaica's progress in sustainable development to date.

### Workshop Activities

After the participants were welcomed by the consultant, Ms. O'Reggio then provided a brief background and history of the UNCSD and an overview of the two major themes (Green Economy and IFSD) to be discussed at this year's conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was followed by a multimedia presentation by the consultant highlighting the major preliminary findings from the first phase of the multi-sector stakeholder consultation and the Baseline Report. The presentation was followed by a brief Question and Answer session and then a coffee break.

After the coffee break, workshop participants were subdivided into two working groups where they were each assigned separate tasks. One of the working groups was asked to review the following:

- Understanding of the term Green Economy in the context of agriculture and fisheries
- Main advantages/benefits of implementing a national green economy strategy for the agriculture and fisheries sector
- Main challenges/threats for implementing a national green economy strategy for the agriculture and fisheries sector

- Existing programmes that have been introduced at the national and sub-national level intended to strengthen the implementation of, and political support for sustainable development practices for the agriculture and fisheries sector, specifically in regard to the Green Economy

The other working group was asked to review the following:

- Achievements of the agriculture and fisheries sector to date with regards to sustainable development since the last Earth Summit in 1992
- Critical factors to consider for the successful implementation of a green economy strategy for the agriculture and fisheries sector
- Indicators for measuring and monitoring a green economy in the context of agriculture and fisheries
- Possible strategies for securing stakeholder and political buy-in and support for the Green Economy

The break-out groups were intended to allow workshop participants an opportunity to discuss at length and give their feedback on some of the key preliminary findings and to reconcile as best as possible major divergent views on the Green Economy. This activity was later followed by a feedback session where each group discussed some of the major points arising from their deliberations. An interesting and useful discussion then ensued regarding the purpose of and motivation behind the consultations and the relevance of the Vision 2030 National Development Plan to the discussion on Green Economy and IFSD.

Due to the lower than expected turnout the consultant decided to carry out the recap and evaluation session before lunch. This was done briefly followed by a vote of thanks and adjournment.

### **Notes from the Group Breakout Session**

- Green Economy has to deal with mainstreaming environmental concerns into planning and execution of agricultural practices and policies, adopting a systematic approach to job creation through the utilization of environmentally friendly technology and prioritizing agricultural development in a way that is sustainable, profitable and efficient.
- Main advantages of transitioning to a Green Economy for the agriculture and fisheries sector:
  - Accessing new markets and increased market opportunities locally and overseas
  - Attracting a premium price for locally produced products that might have a smaller environmental footprint
  - Creation of new job opportunities
  - Improved health of the country's labour force

- Main challenges/threats for transitioning to a green economy for the agriculture and fisheries sector:
  - Lack of unified approach to agricultural development
  - Limited use and availability of appropriate technology
  - Availability of resources (unequal land tenure patterns for instance)
  - Cultural barriers, particularly among some farmers
  - Education and health issues
  - Lack of legislative framework to guide green economy activities and efforts
  - Lack of consensus and agreement at the institutional level
- Existing programmes or initiatives at the (sub)national level intended to strengthen the implementation of, and political support for the IFSD for the agriculture and fisheries sector in the context of a green economy
  - Greater emphasis on traceability and food safety
  - Establishment of a National Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) Committee by RADA. The ADRM Committee is charged with the responsibility to promote the development of a disaster risk management plan and programme for agriculture.
  - Establishment of Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM)
  - Drafting of a National Energy Policy
  - Development of a National Chemical Emergency Response Protocol between PAHO and NEPA
  - Recent institutional strengthening of the Pesticide Control Authority
  - Formulation of a Agriculture Sector Plan under the Vision 2030 National Development Plan
- Achievements of the agriculture and fisheries sector in terms of sustainable development since the last UNCSD in 1992:
  - Increased awareness of sustainability.
  - For the fisheries sub-sector this has entailed the licensing and registration of fisher folk
  - For agriculture the licensing and registration of farmers and the promotion of food safety certification among local producers e.g. HACCP
  - NIC has upgraded irrigation systems to increase efficiency of water usage
  - Forestry has developed a Strategic Forest Management Plan and regulations
  - Upgrading of policies and plans to incorporate the principles of sustainability e.g. Vision 2030 Agriculture Sector Plan, Climate Change Draft Policy (PIOJ), Food Safety Policy, and National Plant Education Policy.
  - Private Sector has also been overhauling their policies and management systems that monitor their environmental impact e.g. ISO and HCCP certifications. Some companies have also incorporated sustainable development principles as part of their corporate responsibilities including sponsoring recycling programmes and environmental education programmes.
  - NGO and CBOs work in communities to strengthen the ability to improve or implement appropriate development techniques and technologies.
- Factors that are critical to the successful implementation of a green economy strategy for the agriculture and fisheries sector:
  - Stakeholder buy-in at all levels

- Policies and appropriate action plans
- Availability of resources i.e. Technical, human and financial
- Use of appropriate technology
- Suitable legislative framework to support green economy including regulations and incentives
- Building awareness and education
- Revising land tenure and zoning laws
- A robust and continuous monitoring and evaluating framework
  - Proposed ways green economy can be measured and monitored:
    - Improved and more equitable land tenure, particularly for small farmers
    - Water quality
    - Use and access to technology
    - Pesticide usage
    - Percentage forest cover
    - Fish stock
    - Contribution of agriculture and fisheries to GDP
    - Net national food trade (imports versus exports)
    - Annual losses to the agriculture sector from natural disasters
  - We can go about securing stakeholder and political buy-in for the Green Economy by:
    - Educating stakeholders on the importance of a green economy and its potential positive spin-offs
    - Quantify and communicate benefits/losses of the green economy

\*\*\*\*\* End of Document \*\*\*\*\*