



An Editor's Reflection

Given the economic state of our Society the relevance of the Productive Sector is at its peak. Co-operative Societies which forms a large part of this Sector are therefore important commodities if we are to boost the production and viability of the Economy.

Based on historical data, it is out of dire moments that these entities prove to be most relevant. With limited resources, individuals independently may find it tedious to achieve much; however as a collective body there is a greater possibility of dreams coming true.

This is due to the fact that the Co-operative business model affords the opportunity to pool resources to achieve a common goal thereby achieving economic and social prosperity. Regardless of the sector of business desired; the Co-operative model caters to all, whether it is agriculture, transport or tourism to name a few.

Ensuring that a strong and competent Management, consisting of persons with a predisposition towards the tenets of good business practices in a global market can only result in success. Hence, it is the responsibility of the members to involve themselves in the operations of the Society, through contribution via shares, ideas, talents and time as these components are vital to the success of the business.

We must therefore shake off the idea that a Co-operative is a "poor man business" by looking at the positive contribution made by Co-operatives in North America and Europe towards the development of their economies for example in the Basque region of Spain, the Mondragon Corporation which is a federation of workers co-operatives to include Funeral Co-operative, Consumer Co-operative, Dairy Co-operative, University Co-operative etc. is an ideal specimen of what Cooperatives are about.

JSIF LAUNCH OF PROJECTS TO BOOST BUSINESSES IN J.A.

Continuing on the part of promoting sustainable development within Jamaica; the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) handed over eleven (11) projects which received a business boost from the **World Bank** under the **Rural Economic Development Initiative 1st Phase**. The projects ranged from farming to craft, involved three (3) Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act and four (4) Co-operative Societies.



World Bank Representative
Giorgio Valentini and his
team along with Ms. Francine
Blackwood - DCFS



FRANCINE BLACKWOOD
EDITOR

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These Societies are:

- Porus Craft and Agricultural Specially Authorized Society
- **Cassava Production**
- Prospect Pig Co-operative Society
- **Pig Rearing**
- Manchester Plateau Community Council Benevolent Society
- **Green House Production**
- Natures Queen Bee Co-operative Society
- **Bee rearing and Honey oProduction**
- Mile Gully PM Co-op Society
- **Green House Production**
- Jamaica Creative Co-op Society Ltd
- **Marketing of Craft items**
- Harmons Benevolent Society
- **Green House Production.**

These projects were all located in the parish of Manchester and has provided development through employment, the provision of higher quality food and craft items; whilst assisting the Farming Community in meeting Food Safety and Traceability standards.



Left to right: Stephannie Hutchinson-French, Project Manager for the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), Minister Roger Clarke, Mikeal Phillips- MP Manchester North Western and Charmaine Palmer-Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association.



From left: Agronomist Vincent Thompson, Minister of Agriculture Roger Clarke, World Bank Representative Giorgio Valentini, Gelina Sotirova of the World Bank, Managing Director of JSIF Scarlette Gillings and Loy Malcolm, General Manager JSIF.

NIC Unleashing Jamaica's Irrigation Potential



The Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller- Prime Minister officially commissioning the New Forrest/Duff House Irrigation system on March 20, 2013

Out of a plan initiated in 1996 to develop the Irrigation Sub-Sector, several pilot projects involving the registration of a number of Water User Association to manage prospective water systems was facilitated.

On March 20, 2013, the first of such systems was officially launched within the Community of New Forrest St. Elizabeth by the Prime Minister the Hon. Portia Simpson Miller.

The launch of such a System into service will provide a consistent and stable water system for some 497 farmers who are integral in terms of the development and sustainability of the Agricultural Sector.



New Forest Pump Station

January - June 2013 Societies Registered/Cancelled

TYPE	REGISTERED	CANCELLED
Benevolent Societies	17	7
Co-operative Societies	5	4
Industrial & Provident	1	7



CLASP: Making a difference

In and around Jamaica the prevalence of several homeless persons on our street is most pronounced. While these individuals may be classified as homeless there are several that are also considered to be “mentally ill”.

Bred out of the need to provide the necessary rehabilitation needed to these mental ill persons within the parish of Clarendon; the Clarendon Association of Street People (CLASP) came into existence in 1995.

Registered under the Friendly Societies Act in 1997, this entity for the past 15 years has impacted the lives of many mentally ill persons within the Parish most of whom are classified as Schizophrenic.

From a small beginning CLASP has provided and continues to support approximately fifteen (15) inmates at once with assistance received from volunteers. The operations of CLASP is managed by a Board of nine (9) Directors and several committees and is in collaborations with the Mental Health Department, Food for the Poor, the Church and other corporate entities within the Parish.



Volunteer and Client of CLASP

As the Society continues on its path of growth one of its goals is to retrofit and renovate the establishment to facilitate increase in the number of residents and also to provide a more caring environment which is in compliance with laws and regulations.

Jamaica, please support this worthy venture through your contribution of cash or kind.

Contact Information: Mr. Wilson (366-5882)

Frankfield JAS Coffee / Cocoa Growers Co-operative

Sip 'N' Surf

The continued development and expansion of the Frankfield JAS Coffee / Cocoa Growers Co-operative Society Ltd was made possible through the recent launch of the Frankfield Sip N Surf Coffee Shop/Internet Cafe. The launch was on June 7, 2013 at the Society's Office in Frankfield, Clarendon.



Made possible through the CFC Project entitled “Competitive Coffee Enterprises Programme”, initiated through a collaborative approach between Jamaica and Guatemala; this project is the first of its kind within a Jamaican Coffee Co-operative and is to be replicated in two other Co-operatives Cave Valley Multipurpose Co-operative and Central St. Catherine Coffee Growers Co-operative Society Ltd.

Mergers

One of the strategies being used by Co-operatives to survive the current financial landscape is merger through Amalgamation and Transfer of Engagements.

This strategy is not restricted to Credit Unions only, as Producers and Services Co-operatives have realized the gains to be derived in adopting this strategy. Within the period the following societies' members have approved agreements:-

- Westmoreland Co-operative Credit Union Soc. Ltd. via Transfer of

Engagement to CWJ Co-operative Credit Union Society Ltd – Effective August 31, 2013

- Action Vibes Co-operative Soc. Ltd via Transfer of Engagement to South Manchester Herbs & Spice Co-operative Society- Effective July 24, 2013
- Hospitality Industries Co-operative Credit Union & Round Hill Staff Co-operative Credit Union via Transfer of Engagement to First Regional Credit Union – Effective July 1, 2013.

A Collaborative Approach

Through continued collaboration with Government and Non-Government Organisations, the Department's Developmental and Capacity Programme is ongoing.

Two Residential Workshops were sponsored by Jamaica Social Investment Fund with a total of One Hundred and Fifty Six (156) beneficiaries from various communities and being recipients of training focusing on:

- *Financial Management*
- *Managing Organizational Resources*
- *Organizational Action Planning.*
- *Tax Compliance.*
- *Business Ethics and Networking.*
- *Procurement Guidelines*

The objective of these workshops was to build capacity at the Community level thus ensuring sustainability, compliance and efficiency in operations.

Forty-seven (47) persons also participated in sessions geared at equipping them with knowledge required to facilitate registration of organizations under the relevant Acts.





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CO-OPERATIVES AND
FRIENDLY SOCIETIES**

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**COMING TOGETHER IS A
BEGINNING;**

**KEEPING TOGETHER IS
PROGRESS;**

**WORKING TOGETHER IS
SUCCESS!**

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

F.A.Q.

**What Returns should be submitted to the Department for
entities registered under the various Acts.**

SOCIETIES REGISTERED UNDER THE FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT

- ✓ Annual Returns – January 31
- ✓ Return of Members and Investment – March 31
- ✓ Quinquennial Valuations – Every five years.
- ✓ Financial Records for audit – March 31st to facilitate Annual Audit.
- ✓ Bond Forms – Annually

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

- ✓ Members Share Listing – Annually
- ✓ Quarterly Financial Reports
- ✓ Financial Records for audit – March 31st to facilitate Annual Audit.

INDUSTRIAL & PROVIDENT SOCIETIES

- ✓ Annual Return Form (Form C) – March 31st.
- ✓ Financial Statement.



Audits
Benevolent
Central
Department
Development
Friendly
Industrial
Inspectorate
Investigations
Northern
Provident
Registrar
Registration
Training

I	T	N	E	M	T	R	A	P	E	D	I	M	T
G	N	T	R	W	L	Y	T	Z	Z	N	K	N	M
F	R	V	B	A	P	A	S	D	S	L	E	W	L
R	E	Y	E	B	R	T	R	P	Q	M	D	A	J
I	G	T	V	S	I	T	E	T	P	Z	I	V	T
E	I	Y	N	D	T	C	S	O	N	R	B	N	M
N	S	G	U	E	T	I	L	I	T	E	E	J	N
D	T	A	N	O	D	E	G	S	G	L	C	R	T
L	R	J	R	I	V	I	U	A	O	E	E	P	N
Y	A	A	D	E	N	D	V	V	T	H	R	J	P
G	T	L	D	B	N	I	E	O	T	I	Y	M	R
E	I	Z	X	I	P	N	A	R	R	T	O	B	K
Y	O	G	R	L	E	L	O	R	T	P	R	N	B
Y	N	P	Y	B	L	N	N	Z	T	X	R	D	S

