

“Increasing the opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture”.

Harvest the Future International
Symposium

June 15/17 2015

Sydney Henry.

Deconstructing Women and Youth in Agriculture

A Gendered Discourse

- The political economy of power in decision making
Public policy, Institutional Framework, Organizations
- Discrimination based on cultured stereotypes
Types of labor, Remuneration,

Male Dominated

- Total Individual farmers 210,853 (Men 139,966 Women 63,690)
- Under 25 (Men 9,436, Women 2473)
- 25 -34 (Men 21,302, Women 9,479) (STATIN 2007)

Rigid Sexual Division of labor

- Participation (productive and reproductive capacities) reflected in the roles and responsibilities in agriculture

The Construction of Women and Youth in Agriculture

Case Studies for conversation, concern and critique



Hedda Rose

BSc. (Business Administration)

UWI

Former Flight Attendant (15 yrs.)

Planned to migrate
(2010)

Visit to Christianna
Potato Growers

Greenhouse farming (2010)

Female head of GH Farming Ass.

Leader in GH production

Marketing Mngr. Newport Fersan
(2011)

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Chose Farming as a profession has been a farmer for 27 yrs.

She bemoans the Lack of support for small farmers

She takes a vacation from farming regularly

Wife, Parent of two, First child at 16yrs old

She is on the farm at 5am, home late evening. Balance farm and home.

4am trip to Coronation market to sell produce

Juliet Enever
Gleaner June 8 2013

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Romisha Wright 24 yrs old

Gleaner Feb 1 2014

Past Student of the
College of Agriculture,
Science and Education
(2011)

Volunteered several
Agricultural institutions

Has attended many
Interviews, sent many
applications.

Unemployed in 2014

Subsistence farming for
Livelihood , she “Eats what
she grows , grows what
she eats

Has worked on many
projects In animal
husbandry, apiculture

“Increasing the opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture”.

- Context of Women and Youth in Agriculture
 - Education
 - Youth in Agriculture at the secondary level (CSEC results)

Single Awards 2011					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	1050	938	120	425	298
Female	1731	1622	298	780	450
Total	2781	2560	418	1205	748

Single Awards 2012					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	1215	1118	247	578	253
Female	1876	1765	455	791	411
Total	3091	2883	702	1369	664

Single Awards 2013					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	1248	1126	282	477	271
Female	1957	1865	553	851	384
Total	3205	2991	835	1328	655

Single Awards 2014					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	1253	1144	61	371	459
Female	1953	1859	131	699	737
Total	3206	3003	192	1070	1196

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Double Award 2011					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	174	159	61	74	21
Female	265	251	89	102	48
Total	439	410	150	176	69

Double Award 2012					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	237	232	71	83	60
Female	338	329	107	123	81
Total	575	561	178	206	141

Double Award 2013					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	173	164	79	47	29
Female	311	289	126	107	49
Total	484	453	205	154	78

Double Award 2014					
	Entered	Sat	Pass		
			I	II	III
Male	221	214	22	60	75
Female	307	294	37	97	111
Total	528	508	59	157	186

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College of Agriculture, Science and Education
Office of the Registry
Total Enrollment (2012-2014)

Programmes	2012		2013		2014	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
B.Sc. Agricultural Education	55	80	65	112	61	90
B.Sc. Animal Science	1	2	18	13	30	14
B.Sc. Plant Science	1	1	2	1	3	5
A.Sc. Veterinary Science	8	11	7	11	11	14
A. Sc. General Agriculture	98	51	80	87	50	93
Diploma in Agriculture	15	10	17	16	18	8
	178	155	189	240	173	224

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What do we know?

Women and youth are interested in agriculture regardless of how that interest was developed.

Women as youth demonstrate greater academic prowess than their male counterparts.

The number of our youth who choose to advance to the tertiary level with a focus on Agriculture is a mere fraction of those who participated at the secondary level

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RADA Report

- ❖ More women are getting involved in the production of Fruits and vegetables under green house structures . 30% GH Farmers are women. 80% production workers in GH are women
- ❖ Increasingly, women are involved as investors and laborers
- ❖ GH's require diligence, meticulous attention, monitoring of nutrient solution, sowing of seeds in trays, trellising, pollinating, pruning, scouting and monitoring for pest, disease mngt and harvesting. All of which women do better at executing than men! (Webster McPherson, Technical Specialist for Protected Agriculture, RADA)
- ❖ Women are making vast strides , Many engaged in Agro processing , cottage industries, Several programs are underway to encourage participation of women
- ❖ 186 youth in second year of “Irish potato woman and youth prog”
- ❖ 150 targeted to plant sweet potatoes

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Context of women and youth in Agriculture
(Business Financing, Markets, Cost of production)

- Security for loans
- Cash Flow
- Access to land
- Policy Decisions (Demand and supply)
- Farmer Buyer relationship/communication strategies

Guiding principles for the development of Opportunities for Women and Youth

- Gender proofing - review the gendered roles of women in the society
- Orienting the industry to the interest of youth – wider scope that includes emergent technologies
- Participatory evaluation along development continuum
- Understanding and responding to the Rural/Urban dichotomies of women and youth
- Targeting of opportunities – Organic, agro-processing, Agri-tourism with youth in mind

The Way forward

- Cooperatives for women and Youth (Village and Community)
- Alignment of knowledge, skills, competencies, such that they support emergent industries
- Alignment of production to demand in major industries including Hospitality and Tourism
- Shepherding experiences for youth as entrepreneurs in agriculture
- Special financing windows/platforms for youth in Agri-business or youth Agri-preneurs
- Influence the perceptions of youth at the secondary level through career choice initiatives
- Increased and accessible research to support the information base for participation