



JOAM News

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The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement Ltd.

June 2006 Inspectors' Training Success

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM) hosted its second Basic Organic Farm Inspector Training workshop at the Eltham Training Centre in St. Ann **June 27-30, 2006**. The course was held in collaboration with the Independent Organic Inspectors' Association (IOIA) and sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands through the National Organic Agriculture Enhancement Project (NOAEP).

Fifteen persons participated in the course, consisting of 7 Jamaican residents, 4 Dominican residents, 2 Canadians, 1 participant from St. Lucia and 1 from the United States. The course trainer was Luis Brenes from Costa Rica and the course co-ordinator was Tracy Ann Logan representing JOAM.

The mock inspection was carried out at Greencastle Tropical Study Centre (GTSC) with the kind assistance of Robin and Susan Crum Ewing and employees Michael Smith,

Marsha Sinclair and Mr. Bean. Raymond Martin, a local inspector and Director of JOAM also assisted with the mock inspection.

The staff at Eltham were instrumental in the overall success of the course by going above and beyond the call of duty to make their guests comfortable.



Participants and Facilitators of the June 2006 Inspectors' Training Course

Back Row; Left to Right: Janet Lawrence, Sharon Jones, Robin Crum Ewing, Robert Hirseman, Luis Brenes, Keian Stephenson, Omar Rodney, Bryan Anderson, Sherry Ponder, Arleen McGlashan, Al-Mario Casmir

Front Row; Left to Right: Tracy Ann Logan, Raymond Martin, Debra Donovan, Frederick Boyd, Damian Adjodha, Mark Moncrieffe (Matthew Harvey not in photograph)

JOAM's Third Inspectors Training February 2006

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement will be hosting its third Basic Farm Inspectors' Training Course in February 2007.

Only fifteen participants will be approved for participation in the course. Look out for the details as they become available to ensure that the necessary requirements and deadlines are met.

Organic Training and Sensitization Programme

The National Organic Agriculture Steering Committee (NOASC) through the National Organic Agriculture Enhancement Project (NOAEP) will be conducting a number of trainings island-wide between **August and December 2006**.

One objective of the training is to educate participants about the principles and standards of organic agriculture. The goal is to provide training in the principles and techniques of organic agri-

culture.

Trainees will be assessed for suitability to be involved in advance organic agriculture trainings.

Persons who are interested in taking part in the **JOAM/IOIA February 2007 Basic Farm Inspectors Training** are encouraged to participate to improve qualification for acceptance.

Please contact JOAM for further information.

Vacant Executive Positions

A number of executive positions will be vacant for election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October 2006. Four members of the board; **Marcus Braun, Robin Crum Ewing, Raymond Martin and Doriene Rowan Campbell will be at the end of their term.** While these individuals are available for re-election according to the JOAM articles of association, other persons may be nominated to these positions.

Three positions will be vacant at the Management Steering Committee level. The **Public Relations Chair, Tracy Ann Logan** will be at end of her two year term. The **Events Committee** is being served by an interim Chair, **Trevor Brown who can be nominated for the post.** Nominations are being sought for the post of Chair for the

projects committee, which is currently vacant and **open for election.**

The Western region which has recently been divided into the **North and South western regions needs, the position of Chair to be filled.** Director Marcus Braun currently facilitates the activities of the West.

The **Northeastern region** recently selected an **Interim Chair, Christopher Binns**, who will be formally nominated at the next AGM.

While the election of officers occurs at the AGM, the process starts before, with the distribution and handing in of **signed** nomination forms. Nomination forms will be available from August 2006 to the general JOAM membership.

Some general rules that govern the pre-election process:

- Nominator and nominees **must** be members of JOAM in good standing (financially and otherwise)
- Nominees must sign the nomination forms for them to be considered valid
- **All signed nomination forms must be handed in at least 24 hours before the AGM**

The date of the next annual general meeting will be announced in due time. The nomination forms will be made available to the public through the regional Chairs, other members of the executive body and the website at:

<http://www.joam.org.jm/>

Members are encouraged to find out the responsibilities of the available posts and nominate members of their regions for election.

JOAM to Facilitate Organic Certification for Local Farmers

The National Organic Agriculture Enhancement Project (NOAEP) has solicited the help of JOAM to assist in an effort to assist local farmers who are interested in converting their farming systems to organic production and obtain local certification.

The goal of the project is to assist selected farmers in obtaining organic certification. Some of the objectives are to:

- Provide technical guidance for farmers who are establishing an organic production system
- Assist farmers with the development of a farm plan
- Assist farmers with the development of an appropriate re-

cord keeping system

- Partially offset the cost associated with organic certification

Farmers were selected based on criteria set on a questionnaire developed by the NOAEP and distributed by JOAM, RADA and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Consultants will be selected from a list of local inspectors, where a major criteria will be experience in the field and contribution to the developing local organic sector.

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Our Mission
To facilitate the development of a sustainable and economically viable organic agriculture sector in Jamaica while maintaining organic integrity, promoting health, environmental consciousness and social responsibility

Meeting in the West

A sensitization meeting for the Western Region, facilitated by Director Markus Braun was held on July 1, 2006 at Montego River Gardens (MRG) in St. James.

A total of persons were in attendance including three JOAM executives; Tracy Ann Logan, Raymond Martin and Dwight Robinson, three JOAM members.

After a very vivacious and informative discussion, most who were present expressed interest in JOAM membership.

The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, July 29, 2006 at the same location at 4pm.