



# JOAM News

October 2006  
Volume 6, Number 1

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement Ltd.

## Annual General Meeting – 2006

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM) held its fifth Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Girl Guides Association Headquarters at 2 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10 on Thursday October 19, 2006.

The Chair, Dr. Dwight Robinson, conducted the meeting and gave the Chairman's report, the financial report, and the budget and work plan for the 2006—2007 administrative year. Dr. Robinson and his team of executives answered questions and accepted suggestions from the general membership.

Eight persons were elected unopposed. Reelected to the **Board of Directors** were **Dorienne Rowan-Campbell**, **Raymond Martin** and **Robin Crum-Ewing**. **Tracy Ann Logan**, past public relations Chair, was elected to the Board for the first time.

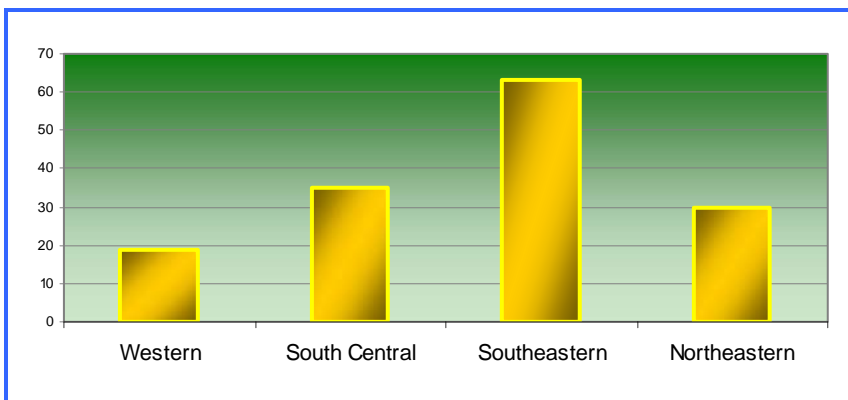
**Marsha Robinson** was elected as the new **public relations Chair** and **Nickeisha Reid**, the previous southeastern regional Chair was elected as the new **projects committee Chair**. **Trevor Brown** will continue to serve as the **interim events committee Chair** as a nomination form was not received for this post.

**Bryan Anderson**, newly elected to the executive body of JOAM, succeeds **Nickeisha Reid** as the new **southeastern regional Chair** and **Markus Braun**, a past Director, is now the **southwestern regional Chair**. **Christopher Binns** will continue to serve as the **interim chair** for the **northeastern regional group**, as a nomination form was not received.

The membership approved a motion to create the posts of **executive director** and **recording secretary**. These persons will be responsible for managing the daily activities of the Movement and record the minutes of MSC meetings, respectively.

An increase in the basic membership fees from 500 to 1000 Jamaican dollars was approved at the 2003 AGM. However, members voted to postpone the implementation of this motion to boost membership. It is now agreed that this motion should be implemented based on the general expenses of meeting the legal obligations of the Movement and the differences showed in the financial statement between income from membership and these obligatory expenses.

## Regional Membership Status



One mandate of the Movement for the 2006 - 2007 year, is to promote membership growth and activity in the regions.

The membership database (see graph) depicts that the southeastern region has the highest number (63) of members. The Southeastern and Northeastern follow with 35 and 30 members, respectively. The Western region trails with 19 members.

All but the Northwestern region is without a Chair. Volunteers are being sought to kick-start the activities in that region.

## Island-wide Sensitization

The National Organic Agriculture Steering Committee (NOASC), through the National Organic Agriculture Enhancement Project (NOAEP), has been conducting a number of workshops island-wide.

One objective of the training is to educate participants about the principles and standards of organic agriculture. Parishes to be completed in **November** are **St. Thomas (1st)**, **St. Elizabeth (to be announced)**, **Westmoreland (15th)**, and **St. James (22nd)**. The workshops will be held at the RADA offices in each parish between **9:30 am** and **1pm**.

The completed parishes include Clarendon, Manchester, St. Mary, Portland, Trelawny, Hanover, St. Catherine and St. Ann.

The material covers information on the principles of organic agriculture, application and conversion to its principles, the JOAM certification process and an overview of the global and regional sectors. All are invited to attend.

## Jamaica Gains Five New Inspectors

Five Jamaican participants were successful in the June 2006 Inspectors' Training Course. JOAM extends welcome and is looking forward to working with them to aid in the process of increasing the number of certified organic farmers in Jamaica and the general building of the local organic sector.

**JOAM will be hosting its third Basic Farm Inspectors' Training Course in April 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.

## JOAM's New Website

JOAM's new website is [www.joamltd.org](http://www.joamltd.org). This new site is still a work-in-progress. However, it is more pleasing to the eye due to the vibrant colors, and hopes to create better links to information being sought. The previous website, [www.joam.org.jm](http://www.joam.org.jm), can still be accessed.



## Wellfest 2007



JOAM booth; Wellfest 2006

Wellfest is an annual festival which promotes overall wellness. JOAM is committed to attending Wellfest every year because it provides an opportunity to be in the company of like-minded individuals who are involved in promoting general wellness.

Wellfest is also an opportunity for JOAM farmers to market and sell their produce. Farmers, certified and uncertified, are invited to do so. Please contact JOAM in advance so that arrangements can be made.

Wellfest will be held on **April 27-29, 2007 at Hope Gardens, Kingston 6**. Volunteers will be needed to interact with the public on behalf of JOAM and the growing organic industry.

Wellfest is so far the only wellness festival of its kind in Kingston, so all are invited to participate.

**The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement**  
 P.O. Box 5728, Kingston 6  
 Email: [joam@joamltd.org](mailto:joam@joamltd.org)  
 Website: [www.joamltd.org](http://www.joamltd.org)

**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