



JOAM News

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The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement Ltd.

Message from the Chair

The beginning of a new year is always an appropriate time to reflect on the activities of the past year and reassess our plans for the year that has just started.

The past year was one of mixed fortunes for JOAM. We continued to make steady strides in building the organization and, by extension, a quality organic agriculture sector in Jamaica.

While our achievements fell below our projections, we achieved several things that we thought may not have been achievable, but for the hard work of some members. I wish to assure our hardworking members that their effort has not gone unnoticed, and express to them the thanks of a grateful organization.

As is the case with any organization, there are those members who felt that JOAM should have done more or should have placed more emphasis on some issues. We take the concerns and suggestions of all our members and in many instances non-members very seriously, and do factor them into our planning.

However, while many are willing to point out what is wrong or should be done, they are unwilling to be a part of the solution. JOAM has is a voluntary organization, and we will not achieve our goals without the support and work of individuals interested in strengthening the organization. Many of us are anxious to see the development of a quality organic sector in Jamaica. However, this achievement must be driven by a strong organiza-

tion. JOAM has been responsible for laying the foundation on which the organic sector will be built and strengthening JOAM can only enhance the process.

I therefore urge those of you who have not been involved in JOAM and those members who are not very active to make it your resolve to join the movement and/or become more active in the movement. Offering your service to JOAM is an excellent way to be of service to your community, Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. Those who are involved have described it as an enlightening and emotionally rewarding experience. We need your support.

I wish for all a happy and prosperous 2006.

New Executive Members Elected at AGM

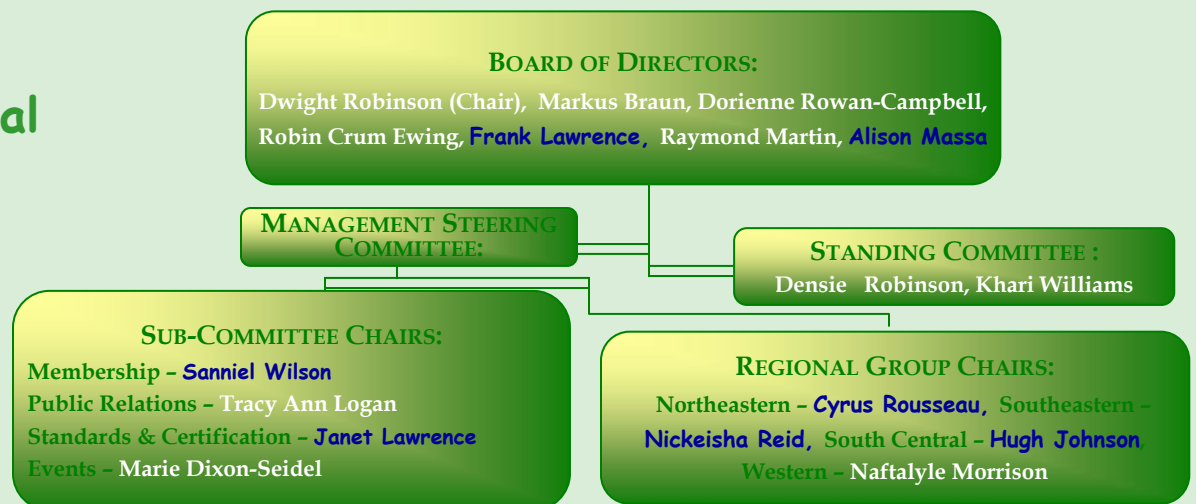
The fourth annual general meeting was held on November 3, 2005. As is customary, the meeting was held at the headquarters of the Girls Guide Association of Jamaica at 2 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10.

Changes to the executive resulted in Joseph Lindsay and B. Veronica Warren giving way to Alison Massa and Frank Lawrence on the Board of Directors. Kathy Dalip and Charmaine Mendez gave way to Janet Lawrence and Sanniell

Wilson as standards and certification and membership sub-committee Chairs respectively.

Nickeisha Reid was elected as the southeastern regional Chair. Cyrus Rousseau carries on from Frank Lawrence as Chair of the northeastern region. The South Central region, for the first time in the history of JOAM has a Chairperson. Hugh Johnson was elected as Chair for that latent region.

JOAM's Organizational Structure



Input Supplier Earns JOAM Certification

JOAM extends congratulations to Mr. Hugh Johnson on taking the initiative to seek and achieve certification for his organic fertilizer input.

JOAM encourages all practicing organic farmer/producer to get certified. Remember, the first step to inspection and ultimately certification is to **apply**.



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JOAM welcomes all applications and is willing to assist members in overcoming their limitations to achieve a successful inspection and certification process.

Contact JOAM to initiate the path to organic certification success.

Continued Growth in Membership Since 2001

There has been considerable growth in the membership of JOAM since its inception in May 2001.

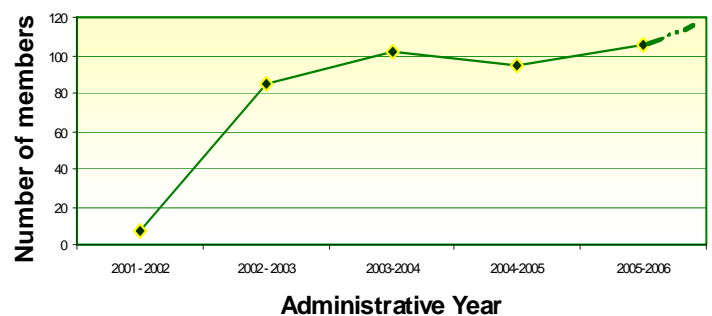
The membership of JOAM continues to expand and diversify as general interest in developing a national organic agriculture industry

grows.

Another major factor that leads to the growth of the movement is the level of activity in the regions.

Member participation and outreach are valuable assets which enables JOAM to assist more communities, and individuals.

TRENDS IN JOAM MEMBERSHIP GROWTH SINCE 2001



Outreach Efforts are a Major Focus

One main focus of JOAM for the 2005 - 2006 administrative year is to increase the visibility of JOAM and increase the reach and connection to members in the various regions.

The cheapest and least time consuming method of assisting JOAM in this regard is to wear the JOAM logo. Members and well wishers who are willing to contribute in this way, need only to provide JOAM with any one piece of



clothing of choice and Ja\$250.

The clothing may be in the form of shirts, t-shirts, shorts, jackets hats etc. The only requirement is that there is a flat surface to which the logo may be attached, it does not even have to be new.

The clothing and payment may be submitted to your regional Chair or any member of the executive body.

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement

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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