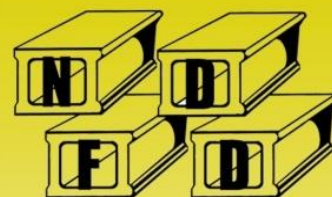


National Development Foundation of Dominica Ltd
presents



Building Dominica

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2

**Youth In
Agriculture**

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Triple B

BUSINESSES BUILDING BLOCK





Address by: Mrs. Sharon Vidal-Francis
Coordinator - Newsletter Committee

IS AGRICULTURE “COOL” FOR YOUTH?

“What?,” “Who Me?,” “Ahwah!,” “Not me in that hot sun!”

These are some of the responses that are given when the option of choosing Agriculture as a profession is presented to the majority of young people.

For the purpose of this discussion, most Financial Institutions define youth as any individual between the ages of 18-35 and Agriculture is defined as the practice of farming to include the cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool and other products.

Growing up in a rural community, our parents would have encouraged us to be Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, Police Officers, Businessmen and the list goes on – not once would they have mentioned “Agriculture”. To add humor to this paper, a prominent farmer once told me that he had noticed that one of his children was developing a passion for farming. He stated, and I quote “Ms. Vidal, I just wish when he cultivated a crop, a shower of rain would just wash away the plants and he would understand the challenges faced by farmers.”

Who said that Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers and all other professions do not pose their own challenges as well?

Youth and Agriculture has been a growing focus for many developing countries, with Dominica being no exception. Of the 70,739 non institutional population recorded in 2011, only about 40% are involved in agriculture – a mere fraction of that amount involve young people. The Dominica Youth Business Trust program, Junior Achievement program, low interest rates on loans for young farmers, the National Employment program – are some of the programs that have been established to help encourage young people to farm, yet these opportunities are not being explored.

Statistics reveal that an increase in the young farmer’s movement will no doubt reduce unemployment and in consequence contribute to an improved standard of living.

Please join me as we explore some of the possibilities of making Agriculture “cool” for young people.

- Introduce students to the farm from Pre-school age
- Encourage school age children to eat locally grown snacks and reward those who do so on a daily basis
- Ensure that Agriculture is part of the Primary School’s Curriculum
- Provide resources for all schools to have farms in Schools
- Engage the Ministry of Agriculture with all Educational Institutions
- Provide scholarships for students to pursue degrees in Agriculture
- Ask successful farmers to provide testimonials to schools so students can see farming as a profession
- And last but by no means least, Incorporate technology into Agriculture

“With this being said, the “Awahs” and “Who me?” will turn into “I practice Agriculture for a living and I love it!”

Vandal Viville

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Lime - Oranges - Pineapples

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Cocoa Cocoa Sticks

Also available:
Yam - Plantains - Dry Coconut (oil) - Cucumbers - Seasoning Pepper - Tania

Agriculture in Schools

"the promotion of the practice agriculture which seeks to develop the skills of its members towards self-sustainability"



Shirley Alexander
4H Club Coordinator

For over thirty years 4-H has been encouraging young Dominicans to use our fertile landscape to produce short term crops for personal use and for sale to the public. 4-H is one of the main programs of the Youth Development Division, the youth development officers and the 4-H Local Leaders (Mainly Primary and Secondary School teachers) link with resource persons from various Ministries- particularly Education and Agriculture to provide support to the program. The program aims to inspire and motivate the 4-H clubites to get involved in agriculture and agro processing projects which have the potential to drive Dominica's Economic Development. These young people are encourage in their efforts when they receive incentives for participation in various related competitions.

The 4-H movement has been very active in most schools on the island for many years, and has been very instrumental in the promotion of the practice agriculture which seeks to develop the skills of its members towards self-sustainability. Originating in the United States as Young Farmers Clubs, the movement has been an active force for the development of youth in Dominica since 1974. Initially, there were mainly senior/community clubs that focused on banana and vegetable production. Over the years the need was seen for primary school students to get involved in agriculture through creative and exciting programs, hence the introduction of 4-H at schools.



"Photos of the Club's accomplishments including two gardens and the produce developed from them."

FEATURE ADDRESS

In 2007, the program was expanded into the secondary schools and other communities as senior 4-H Clubs. Presently there are fifty four (54) junior and ten(10) senior 4-H clubs in Dominica. They are actively involved in school/community-based agricultural and skills development projects. 4-H encourages the involvement of boys and girls, teenagers and young adults in meaningful self and community development programs with its motto - 'To Make the Best Better.' One of its most popular slogans is "Learning by Doing"

The clubs are led by volunteers (98% volunteers are teachers). The 4-H pledge highlights the importance of the 4 H's - Head, Heart, Hands and Health - in positive activities to occupy the clubites. Drugs and alcohol abuse, violence and other social ills are de-emphasized among the young people, who are engaged in worthwhile ventures like the production and use of local foods in exciting and creative ways for better nutrition and economic rewards.

4-H will continue to be one of the main avenues to mould young minds towards agriculture for sustainable livelihood.

767-613-5291

MC CARNEY BRUNO
SOLOMON HILL, MAHAUT

Call and place your order for the following products:

Layers & Broilers

Packaged Smoke Meat including:
CHICKEN & PORK
(You can bring your own meat or the meat will be provided for you)

Lettuce, Cabbage, Carrot, Chive, Broccoli, Seasoning Pepper

PRODUCE FOR SALE

Cabbage, Sweet Pepper
Tania, Dasheen, Fig

Call to order from:

Kenroy George
Roseau Market/Colihaut
767-316-0353

Kimanie Rolle
Laudat, Dominica
1-767-612-6582

Call to place your order for the following:

TOMATOES

Dasheen	Seasoning Pepper	Christophine
Carrot	Chive/Celery/Parsley	Cabbage

The National Development Foundation of Dominica wishes to highlight a few of our young farmers. They are involved in the Agriculture industry in various forms.

JOANNA EDMOND

Ms. Edmond is a young farmer involved in the cultivation of dasheen, plantain, vegetables and cocoa. Her farming also includes the rearing of poultry specifically layers. Farming has been her means of employment for about five (5) years now. She employs a 12 acre piece of property for farming, 2 of which are cultivated entirely with cocoa. Her introduction into the field of Agriculture was done by her father who was a farmer for all his life. This exposure into the field sparked a passion in Ms. Edmond which led her to establishing her own business when she became an adult. It is her intention to focus more on the development of the poultry aspect of her farm since it requires less strenuous work. Ms. Edmond thanks the Foundation for providing her with the initial finance to start her farming business. She said that NDFD is very understanding and empathetic to their clients, which is why she would recommend the NDFD to individuals interested in business. As a means of motivating the youth of Dominica to become involved in agriculture, Ms. Edmond said that farming is very lucrative therefore you can earn a living in this field, however, it is necessary to have a passion for it.



BELINDA BONTIFF

Ms. Bontiff is a vibrant female farmer from the village of Grand Fond who is involved in the cultivation of passion fruit and the rearing of poultry. Her interests in the industry began when she was only a little girl. Her grandfather would bring her to his farm regularly which sparked an inquisitively in her from such a young age. Farming to her, was a very interesting and intriguing form of employment. Her intention is to develop her farm periodically until it becomes a well known household name on the Island. She views farming as not only her means of employment but her future legacy that she will pass on to her children

Ms. Bontiff recognizes the personal growth and development that she has attained throughout the years operating her farming business, and notes that this was not possible without the financial assistance provided by the NDFD. She stated "I am very appreciative and thankful for the trust that NDFD exercised in me with their finances, because it has brought me a very great distance in developing my farm and myself by extension." Her message to young persons is "Farming has money! It can keep you occupied and earn you a more than decent living. Goals can be realized with farming the same way an office job would. As a young woman, you can still look beautiful and have your hair and nails done because you can be the manager of your farm eventually."

Keiron Matthew
Morne Jaune
1 (767) 225-1430

Dasheen & Plantain
Cucumbers, Sorrel

Jumo Jacob
Castle Bruce, Dominica
1 (767) 615-4816



Kikey's Farm
Kelver Aaron
O'Piton, Colihaut
+1-767-617-5538
EMC = Every Minute Counts

Eggs Layers & Broilers

Variety of Fruits & Vegetables
Seasoning including:
Celery, Parsley, Chive, Seasoning

VINCENT YOUNIS

Mr. Vincent Francis Younis has a developing agricultural business. He has been involved in farming since the year 2000 and is currently cultivating three (3) acres of land with dasheen, plantain, peppers and a few vegetables such as a cucumber, cabbage and lettuce. His business also includes an aspect of poultry which focuses on the rearing of layers for the provision of local eggs. He was exposed to farming as a child by his father and went on to study the field in High School. Mr. Younis notes that though he has experienced the brunt that farming carries, this has not depleted his passion for the field. He said that his motivation occasionally stems from past experiences, particularly the substantial amount of revenue that he generated in 2000 from his production of cush cush. The expansion of his farm in order to export regularly is his ultimate goal. In Mr. Younis' opinion, NDFD is the most dependable debt financier. He stated that his relationship with the NDFD has been mutually rewarding and he looks forward to further partnerships in the future. His message to the youth regarding agriculture is this: "Agriculture is Food, and we need food to survive, hence agriculture is tremendously important. We, persons involved in agriculture therefore feed the nation which guarantees income, so invest in a field that will never die."



AUSTEL ALFRED



Mr. Austel Alfred is a seasoned entrepreneur in the field of Agriculture who has 11.5 acres of land cultivated with coconuts, tania, banana and plantain. His agricultural business also involves adding value to coconuts by packing their water for retail. His business provides employment to seven (7) individuals, four (4) fulltime and (3) part-time. Although Mr. Alfred was introduced to farming from since his youthful days by his parents, his love and passion for the field started only a few years ago. He stated that he would always reminisce about his younger days when he operated a small business with the help of his sister by supplying citrus from their father's farm to the residence of their village. It is his desire to expand his business to enable the exporting of his packaged coconut water to the region and beyond.

NDFD, in Mr. Alfred's opinion is the #1 financial institution assisting micro-enterprises on the Island. He said that his experience with the NDFD has been great and that the staff has been very understanding when he has financial difficulties. His message is to the few young persons involved in the field of agriculture. "Don't give up. The hard work if persistent will pay off in the not too distant future, and when you need financial assistance, visit the NDFD."

Available:
Tania
Yams
Dasheen
Cucumber
Ginger
Plantain
Squash

BACKYARD FARM

MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

1(767)
245-8242/277-2726/316-9952

Marigot

Ask about the
Tropical Flowers

Eden Vale Garden

Wesley, Commonwealth of Dominica
1 (767) 616-1082

CALL TO PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR:

CAULIFLOWER & BROCCOLI

MORE Fresh Fruits & Vegetables including:

Lettuce, Cabbage, Tomato

Yam, Plantain, Banana, Tobacco

Cucumbers, Chive, Carrot

Blaheim, Basse - Commonwealth of Dominica

Kita's
Poultry
767-295-7529

Available:

EGGS & BROILERS



Investment



Ms. Romain sits in as a judge for the "Make something to Sell" initiative



Items from the "Make something to Sell" initiative

The NDFD's involvement and advocacy has made a significant difference to students across the island by driving home the message of financial literacy, prudence and skills diversification. A social investment in the total of \$15,000 was donated to the Junior Achievement Dominica which is enlisted in different forms such as

- use of the NDFD's Equipments & Conference Room
- the sponsorship of its "make something to sell" initiative
- cash prize of \$2,000.00 to the most innovative business

NDFD has impacted more than 42 young people directly through this experiential learning approach. Quoted from the Thank you report from Junior Achievement Dominica.

Financial Education Training

A total of eleven (11) participants were trained as part of the Financial Education training session in the community of Point Michel. The training helped participants understand how to manage their personal finances which will assist them in managing their business finances.

Sponsorship

In April, 2015, the NDFD assisted the Pierre Charles Secondary School on hosting its French cultural exchange as part of their agreement between the Commonwealth of Dominica and Martinique, in the amount of \$800.00. Assistance was also given to the Dominica National Council of Women (DNCW) with the use of the NDFD's Conference Room for their Annual General Meeting held on March 30th, 2015 under the theme "Make It Happen - Promote Gender Empowerment and Celebrating the Success of Women". The use of the Foundation's podium was also given as assistance for their Mothers Day celebration ceremony held in May 2015.

Training Overview

Under the period of review the NDFD partnered with GEF Small Grants to provide trainings in Grant Proposal writing, Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. A total of 82 individuals graduated from all three programmes.

The NDFD also partnered with BNTF to provide skills training in air conditioning and refrigeration and Pastry & Dessert Making. The trainings were offered in the communities of Grandbay & Laplain and a total of 34 individuals graduated from the programmes.

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also available:
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AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

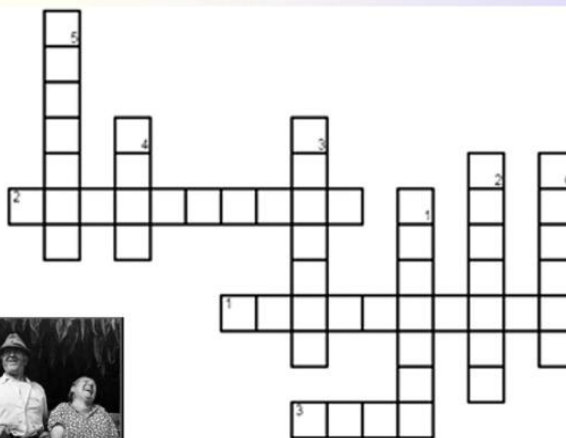
FUN CORNER

UP

1. a building or complex in which plants are grown
2. the artificial application of water to the land or soil
3. any substance used to attract and catch fish

DOWN

1. a structure built in a stream for catching fish
2. is most often grown as a leaf vegetable
3. a hybrid of the egg-laying chicken
4. the top most layer of the earth's crust
5. domesticated fowls raised for meat or eggs
6. a person engaged in agriculture



JOKE

An aged farmer and his wife from Laplaine were over looking their farm and reminiscing on the good old days when the old woman wistfully recalled that the next week would mark their golden wedding anniversary. Let's have a party nuh, Joe-Joe," she suggested. "Let's invite Mr. George and his wife and Ma Thomas for a drink, we can kill a pig to eat and celebrate!" The farmer scratched his grizzled head. "Papa met, Lydia," he finally answered, "I don't understand why the pig have to take the blame for something that happened fifty years ago eh"

Departmental Awards for 2014

ROSES

In December 2014, various staff members were awarded at NDFD's annual End of Year party for their steady contribution and hard work in their various departments.



Sandrine Eugene
Recoveries Department



George Challenger
Business Development Department



Christine Fountain
Administrative Department



Naomi Romain
Business Support Department



Consula Cuffy
Accounts Department

Joanna Edmond
1 (767) 617-6642
Meba, Layou Park

Call to make your order for the following:

- Seasoning Pepper
- Pumpkins, Dasheen, Plantain
- Grapefruit, Lime, Nutmeg

Eggs

Johnnie Nixon
Calibishie, Commonwealth of Dominica
1 (767) 225-8170

Passionfruit & Plantain

D'Alkies Coconuts
West Bridge, Roseau

FRESH COCONUTS
Coconut Jelly peeled to go
Coconut Jelly to have on the spot

BOTTLED COCONUT WATER
Small: \$5.00 • Large (1.5 liters) - \$10.00

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PROFESSIONAL Package

If you are a certified professional in your field you are qualify for this special type of loan package.

To begin the process, call or visit the office and make an appointment to see a Business Development Officer. You will be required to provide documentation that you are a certified professional in your field such as relevant certificates or a job letter.

Interest Rate
9%

Access funds up to \$20,000.00

Lawyers
Doctors
Contractor
Accountants
& More

LOANS

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National Development Foundation of Dominica Ltd
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Fax: 1-767-448-0225
Email: ndfd@cwdom.dm
Website: www.ndfd.dm

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF DOMINICA (NDFD) LTD

33rd Annual General Meeting

Under the theme:
"Riding Out the Economic Storm by Empowering the MSME Sector"

Wednesday 12th August 2015 | 4:30pm
NDFD Conference Room

ACCOUNTING Services

Do you need dependable accounting assistance and advice for your business finances?

The Business Support Services Unit offers the following to both existing and potential clients:

- Projections
- Record Keeping
- BUS/Cash Flow Statements
- Financial Statements
- Data Entry into Quick Books

CALL THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER SERVICES INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION AND MARKETING

BSSU

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UPCOMING TRAININGS

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- Intellectual Property Rights
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- Managing Chaos in the Workplace



"FOR SMALL BUSINESSES" Purchase your copy of NDFD's **RECORD KEEPING BOOK**

Ms. Cuffy displays the "Record Keeping Book" which was created by the NDFD to assist small businesses with keeping their records organised.

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