



June 17, 2019

ST. CACC to Achieve Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security (MNS), the Hon. Rudyard Spencer said the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre (ST. CACC) is on the right track to achieving agricultural self-sufficiency. The Minister made the announcement during the two-day exposition held under the theme “*Making the Best Better through Rehabilitation*” that starts today (June 17, 2019), at the facility’s church hall.

“The Department of Correctional Services has a structured and comprehensive agricultural programme in most of the facilities. The St. Catherine 4-H club was created four years ago, in partnership with the Jamaica 4-H clubs; where a total of 80 inmates have been trained in agro-processing and farming techniques. Since January 2019, they have produced over 2,410 pounds of vegetables in the garden. The vegetables and items have, over the years, been used to supplement the inmates’ diets, while contributing to the facilities’ objective to achieving full self-sufficiency”, said Minister Spencer.

The State Minister also noted that from January to May 2019, the institution has saved approximately \$100,000 under the agricultural programme. Currently, the ST. CACC 4-H club supplies baked products and vegetables to its inmates, while donating the surplus to the other institutions. The vision of the Ministry, for its Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is to develop a thriving agricultural plan, so that the inmates can eat what they grow and grow what they eat.

Since its inception, the club has won several first places at the regional and national level in agro-processing and farm garden competitions. The exposition showcases products made from peanut, cashew, sweet potato, breadfruit, callaloo, and beetroot.

“The St. Catherine 4-H club placed first and second in 2017 and 2018 at the Denbigh Agricultural Show, while achieving multiple successes in other competitions. I applaud the Jamaica 4-H clubs for recognising the need to equip our inmates with transferable life-skills so that upon release, they will continue to lead productive lives and start lucrative businesses”, said Minister Spencer.

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