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St. Catherine Adult Correctional Facility on Track to Becoming Self-Sufficient

Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Rudyard Spencer, says the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre (SCACC) is on its way to achieving self-sufficiency based on its booming agricultural programme.

The Minister was speaking at the day SCACC 4-H Club Exposition held in the Church Hall at the facility on Tuesday (June 26).

The Minister expressed how proud he was of the agriculture programme at the facility, “I have witnessed first-hand how the organized and successful growth of vegetables such as beet root, callaloo and bananas as well as poultry. This is an encouraging sign as it shows that we are not far from our shared objectives of growing what we eat and eating what we grow and it is good to see our inmates involved in this process.”

The SCACC currently has inmates who are fully engaged in agro-processing, which consists of the sowing of seeds, transplanting of seedlings, reaping and distribution. The produce is packaged and sent to stores, as well as, weighed and sent to the kitchen to be allocated according to the procedures of the facility.

The products packaged through the facility’s 4 H Club are sold at other expositions including the Denbigh Agricultural Industrial and Food Show, donated to other correctional institutions or used to supplement the inmates’ diets leading to increased self-sufficiency and cost reduction at the facility.

This year’s exposition showcased agro-processing products including: cashew wine, beetroot wine, peanut cake mix, callaloo and sweet potato lotion, food browning among others.

The 4 H Club model at the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre is now being replicated at the Hill Top and Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centres. It is viewed as a successful component of overarching rehabilitation programmes that equip incarcerated offenders with life skills in preparation for their return to society.

The St. Catherine 4 H Club and the exposition is in keeping with the Ministry of National Security's Five-pillar Crime Reduction Strategy with emphasis on Rehabilitation and Redemption.