



JOAM News

The Official Newsletter of The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement Ltd.

Volume 7, Issue 1

Message from the New Chairman



New JOAM Chair, Mr. Raymond Martin, training farmers in organic principles at the Brown's Town Community College in May.

Sincere gratitude to the former Chairman, Dr. Dwight Robinson, for providing visionary leadership which created a solid foundation for the organisation. As I move further into my journey as Chairman, the high quality of the foundation, as well as the national importance of JOAM, becomes more apparent. Recent developments offer many challenges but are also opportunities for JOAM to take a leadership role in paving a sustainable path.

Climate change is predicted to impact negatively on agriculture due to warmer temperatures and lower levels of rainfall. A recent report of the International Trade

Centre UNCTAD/WTO indicates that organic agriculture is better at withstanding the predicted effects of climate change than conventional agriculture.

While opportunities exist, a serious challenge facing the organisation is that of communication. We are moving to address this through the use of SMS messaging, internet forums and the formation of community groups.

JOAM is a voluntary organisation. Therefore, I ask that each of us take responsibility for establishing and maintaining links. Please do not wait to be contacted, but take the initiative to establish and maintain contact. Going side-by-side with improved communication, is improved utilisation of the talents available to the organisation. As you become aware of the organisation's activities please identify opportunities to serve and give of your best. Serving JOAM builds the nation because JOAM is synonymous with sustainability. Let us work together to build the nation.

Board of Directors

Raymond Martin (Chairman), Tracy Ann Logan (Treasurer), Dorianne Rowan Campbell, Robin Crum Ewing, Dunstan Campbell, Alison Massa.

MSC

Nickiesha Reid (Projects), Janet Lawrence (SCC), Barbara Allen (Events), Yaneke Wright (PR), Charmaine Mendez (MSC Secretary), Bryan Anderson (SE Region), Norman Baugh (NE Region), Markus Braun (SW Region).

The JOAM Newsletter is Back!

After an unfortunate period of dormancy, the JOAM newsletter is here again-brand new, with more news and fresh features. This "resurrection" is courtesy of the interim Public Relations (PR) Chair, Yaneke Wright (see photo), who was nominated to the position earlier this year. Ms. Wright will function as Interim Chair until the end of the JOAM administrative year (September), when she may be formally nominated to fill the position of PR Chair.



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What You Missed

In the absence of the JOAM Newsletter, many of you were unaware of JOAM happenings. This section provides you with an overview of major JOAM events since the last newsletter was published in April, 2007.

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATES

•The Management Steering Committee (MSC) is no longer headed by Dr. Dwight Robinson as Executive Director. Dr. Robinson, lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences at The University of the West Indies, has given over four years of remarkable and unparalleled service to JOAM as Chairman (2003-2007) and recently as Executive Director to the MSC (October 2007 - April 2008). The JOAM membership salutes Dr. Robinson for his legacy of dedication, enthusiasm and commitment. He will be missed in this capacity.



Former JOAM Executive Director, Dr. Dwight Robinson

~ ONGOING AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Robert Lightbourne High School Training

A pest identification workshop was held at the Robert Lightbourne High school on June 3rd 2008. The presenter was Dr Dwight Robinson. This is a continuation of training activities with the first JOAM school organic club.

- Knowing and Growing Workshop
JOAM in partnership with Networked Intelligence for Development held a facilitators' workshop on information technologies in support of organic agriculture from May 28th to June 1st. The workshop was held at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus and involved thirty-five participants from Jamaica, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, St Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad. The participants were introduced to participatory peer-to-peer training methods and to the use of ICT to effectively manage organic production as well as build and nurture relationships with organic agents such as importers, traders and wholesalers.
- Hope Pasture's Composting Workshop
The first of three composting workshops was held on June 21st in the Park at Hope Pastures. Twenty-six participants were exposed to the fundamentals of composting.

Upcoming Events!!!

- ⇒ The Seventh Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday October 30th at 10 am at the Girl Guides headquarters. An important activity at the AGM will be the election of officers. Nominations are now open.
- ⇒ A meeting of the South Central Region will be held on August 16th at 10 am. The venue will be announced shortly.
- ⇒ The NE Region will be holding farm days on Thursday, September 18th at 10 am at the Sturge Town Community Development Organic Plot, St Ann and on Wednesday, October 8th at 10 am on Bernard Donaldson's farm in Windsor, Rio Grande, Portland.
- ⇒ A farmers' training session will be held soon at Fruitful Vale on Tan Baugh's Holding starting at 10 a.m. The session will be jointly presented by R.A.D.A and N.E.P.A. Discussions will be centered around environment and nutrient management. Contact 420-7920 for details.

Organic Tip

Cut, shred, mow or blend material to be composted into smaller pieces to allow more surface area for composting organisms to attack and thus break down the material faster.

JOAM Bites

Did you know.....

1. that the first Chairman of JOAM was Dr Joseph Lindsay
2. that JOAM was born from another organisation called Jamaica Organic Growers Association (JOGA)

JOAM Word Challenge

How many words can you make with 3 or more letters from the word "organic"? (Par score = 32)

0-you did not even try!

1-10-at least you tried!

11-20-now we're talking!

21-30-good stuff!

31>Congratulations! You are a genius!

JOAM Contact Information



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