

### **What is JOAM?**

The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement is a non-profit, non-Governmental Organization created to foster the Organic Agriculture Industry in Jamaica.

### **The History of JOAM**

The formal organic movement began in Jamaica with the launch of the Jamaica Organic Growers' Association (JOGA) on June 16, 1990. JOGA became defunct in the mid 90's and as such, the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM) was established in May 2001. In its nine years of existence, JOAM has made significant strides in the development of the local organic industry. JOAM is considered the leading organic agriculture organization in the Caribbean region.

### **The major objectives of JOAM are to:**

- Promote and facilitate the production, distribution and consumption of all types of organic agriculture products.
- Advance and promote better environmental and human health through the acceptance and practice of organic farming techniques
- Assist in the conversion of willing producers to organic production and certification.
- Promote research and development of organic farming techniques and seek to establish demonstration farms

### **The Structure of JOAM**

JOAM is a registered limited liability company that is managed by a seven-person Board of Directors.

A structure for JOAM was approved at the AGM held October 2003. The structure fosters greater member involvement and increases interaction between the members and the board. Regional groups are autonomous and each member of JOAM is assigned to a regional group.

The Chairpersons of the regional groups and the sub-committees all sit on the Management Steering Committee, which is responsible for the regular management of the affairs of JOAM. The MSC reports to the Board of Directors. A standing committee has also been designated to facilitate individuals who may not be members of JOAM but possess and volunteer special skills needed by the organization.

### **What is Organic Agriculture?**

Organic agriculture is a production system that utilizes the land in harmony with nature. Organic farming techniques are aimed at achieving a closed nutrient cycle on the farm, and involves intimate interactions between human beings, animals, plants and the soil.

Some Key Characteristics of Organic Farming:

- Works compatibly with natural cycles and living systems
- Enhances biological cycles by involving microorganisms, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals within the farming system
- Promotes the responsible use and conservation of water and water resources
- Maintains and increase long-term fertility and sustainability of soils
- Fosters local and regional production and supply chains
- Allows and provides everyone involved with a quality of life that satisfies their basic needs, and furnishes an adequate return, within a safe secure and healthy working environment

### **What is Organic Certification?**

The certification of an organic product is the guarantee that an organic product has been produced and processed according to the guidelines outlined in selected organic standards. The process involves a third party giving written assurance that products labelled 'organic' are produced according to the standards applicable to that market. The certification of organic products for international trade is mandatory.

### **The Local Certification Programme**

In June 2002 JOAM successfully trained organic inspectors as part of a JOAM/CPEC project. The combination of local standards and internationally trained inspectors empowered the organization to launch a local certification programme on March 3, 2004. The certification programme is managed by the Standards and Certification Committee of JOAM. Pre-inspection and inspection questionnaires have been developed and are available on the JOAM website or from any executive member.

In order to assist farmers in successfully producing certifiable organic produce, which has a high demand locally, JOAM in collaboration with CPEC produced an Organic Farming Handbook and Standards for Organic Production and Processing. These books are available for sale to the general public.



The Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement continuously invite those persons who are interested in taking an active part in the development of the local and regional organic industry to become members of the movement. Currently, member contributions are J\$1500 per person per annum.

JOAM may be contacted by using the information provided below:

#### **CONTACT US:**

**The Jamaica Organic Agriculture  
Movement**

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**A non-profit, non-  
governmental organization  
created to foster an organic  
agriculture industry in  
Jamaica**



#### **OUR MISSION**

**To facilitate the development of a sustainable and economically viable organic agriculture sector in Jamaica while maintaining organic integrity, promoting health and environmental consciousness, and social responsibility.**