

REFRAMING RESILIENCE:

**GLOBALIZATION, AGRARIAN CHANGE AND THE CHALLENGE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN POST INDEPENDENT SMALL STATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN**

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The English-speaking Caribbean will start celebrating 50 years of independence in 2012. In reflecting on this and seeking to address the next 50 years, SALISES has implemented an initiative entitled **Fifty-Fifty: Critical Reflections in a Time of Uncertainty*. It is within this context that the current project is proposed. The remit of the sustainable rural and agricultural development group (S/RAD) is *to foresight* the future face of agriculture and rural spaces for Caribbean small states, drawing on the example of Jamaica, a small and vulnerable economy seeking to enhance its resilience, amidst complex global and local challenges, through varied integration strategies.

BRIEF PROJECT RATIONALE

The Caribbean region contains one of the world's largest concentration of vulnerable small island and mini-states who individually, and to different degrees collectively, must face the challenge of sustaining their post independence development process in the context of an increasingly competitive and liberal world order, declining aid resources, economic uncertainties and increasing environmental challenges, particularly those associated with climate change (IBRD 2005). Although most Caribbean territories have experienced a degree of economic diversification, -or rather a shift from mono-agricultural exports to off- shore finance, tourism and related services-, questions about the future of agriculture within the region remain palpable given these states' natural, socio-economic and political endowments, as well as their status as net food importers (FAO 2007). Indeed, agriculture is now (again) receiving increasing attention, in local, regional and international intellectual and policy communities. In particular, it is being heralded as a pivotal force for the attainment of the goals of pro poor growth and poverty alleviation, as well as, environmental sustainability and food, energy and human security, in the context of the triple F crises, (i.e. food, fuel and finance) shaking the global economy (Jagdeo 2005; Thomas, 2009:26; IBRD 2008; IICA2010; IFADa, 2010).

The new focus on agriculture comes at a critical juncture in the post independence experiences of CARICOM small states, as the complexity of evolving pressures on rural populations- ranging from modernization and liberalization projects, to global economic crises, dramatic energy and food price volatility, plus climate change- has left these small states, with a development deficit in rural spaces. This development deficit can be gauged by the presence of high rates of poverty, inequality as well as unemployment, throughout the region (Downs 2010), as well as by the 0.7% year on year contraction of growth in the agricultural sector of CARICOM states, between 2000-2008 (Barcena, 2009:2-3). Indeed, the FAO has reported that over the last fifteen years the region's "value of its net agricultural trade turned negative and its share in world

agricultural exports [was] reduced by more than 50%” (FAO, 2010:2). Such a protracted decline has been underpinned, in part, by neo-liberal globalization pressures, as evident in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) mediated banana wars, the collapse of the Lomé agricultural trade preferences and the unilateral termination of the Sugar Protocol, with the move to the new Economic Partnership Arrangements (EPA’s), or open regionalisms, favored by the European Union (EU). In addition, the new environmental hazards and challenges associated with global warming and rising sea levels, will compound the insecurities already being faced by these small island states. In particular, climate change is expected to negatively impact on water quality and availability, as well as increase the extent of coastal reef erosion, mangrove losses, loss of arable land and biodiversity resources. These negative impacts will unfortunately be compounded by the occurrence of more intense hurricanes, expected with climate change, that will place lives, settlements, property, infrastructure and growth at risk, and heavy losses may be incurred (Pendzich 2010, ECLAC/IDB 2010, UNDP 2007/8, Nurse, 1998, 2001 , Lal et al 2002, UNFCCC 2007). With respect to the above circumstances, the most vulnerable population subgroups will be (residual) indigenous populations, women, children, the elderly, youth and coastal communities.

In light of these trends and vulnerabilities, how best can we equip rural people, as well as vulnerable populations and groups in these island states to manage risk? What bold imaginations and practical strategies are needed in order to reduce the profile of risks faced and support the resilience of small states seeking to make the most of their opportunities and progress in a risk fraught global development process?

Given the above emphases, considerations and questions, our *research aims* are to:

1. creatively reflect on and critically reconsider the nature and significance of rural and agricultural spaces for the people in these post-independent Caribbean states;
2. evaluate the current levels of vulnerability and resilience;
3. assess the approaches and development policy tools available for making growth pro-poor and ‘equity sensitive’; for ‘greening’ growth and rethinking food, human and energy security;
4. examine the role of rural based enterprises and agricultural small holders in this process of enhancing resilience; and
5. make suitable recommendations for improvements or feasible alternatives to the policies adopted by small states within the Caribbean region, in pursuit of the goal of sustainable (rural) development, - ‘being fair to the future’.

RESEARCH THEMES and LEADING QUESTIONS

1. **Globalization, Climate Change, and the Future of Agriculture and Rural Development** –How does globalization shape the politics and dynamics of sustainable rural livelihoods and food security?
2. **Climate Change, Vulnerability, Risk and Resilience-** What is the contemporary face of vulnerability in rural areas? What are the links between vulnerability and poverty? How resilient are rural communities?
3. **Effective Resource and Risk Management for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth-** What challenges have the legacy of sugar, the plantation economy and structural adjustment created for effective natural and human resource management?
4. **Integrated spatial development: The role of the non-farm economy and rural enterprise growth** - How important is the non farm rural economy for sustainable and inclusive growth?
5. **Policy and Aid Processes-** How effective are policy and aid processes in targeting poverty reduction and rural development?
6. **Globalization, Governance and the ‘Will to Improve’-** What are the effects of globalization on rural spaces? What forces shape the politics for sustainable futures?

RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This project is motivated by the promise entailed in ‘resilience thinking’ (Leach, 2008) for analyzing, evaluating and coming to grips with the post independence challenges of small states in the contemporary unfolding of a complex process of globalization. Our intention in this work is to highlight not just risks but also methodologies and approaches that may help to refashion modes of resilience in order to appropriately transform experiences of risk, vulnerability and modern growth processes under globalization. This project seeks to meet these aims by adopting a multidisciplinary research approach, drawing on specialist skills and research interests to forge a set of empirical and theoretical enquiries in light of the limitations of existing approaches, whether in methodological, empirical, conceptual/theoretical or political economy dimensions. A special feature of this project is its integration of graduate students’ research into the key issues and questions related to achieving sustainable rural and agricultural development. A young and active research community will thus be supported and stimulated by this research agenda and project, thereby facilitating future capacity development and continuity in building this research exercise.

We will be drawing on primary and secondary information sources, and employing methods including quantitative analysis, visual and archival formats, case studies and longitudinal analysis, surveys, elite interviews and focus groups. Our interventions on the topical issues to be

addressed will be disseminated via academic seminars, radio discussions, conference panels/presentations, workshops, invited papers and academic presentations on key topics and short videos/ documentaries. We will promote publication of the academic output- *papers/studies/articles* - from the research group theme areas in relevant respected journals and publication houses, as well as develop *working papers and policy briefs*. Our *web page* will host key aspects of the projects, highlight papers, events and sustain international links to relevant sites that connect with the work of this group.

SALISES 50:50 - SUSTAINABLE RURAL AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (S/RAD)

Coordination team/ Research activity drivers:

1. Dr. Patricia Northover , **chair S/RAD, Senior Fellow/Development Economist, SALISES-** (*Globalization, Agrarian change and Integrated Spatial Development; Vulnerability, Social Costs and Resilience in rural spaces; structural adjustment and repositioning strategy for transforming rural spaces*);
2. Prof. Michaeline Crichlow (*Historical sociologist, Duke University; Globalization, Neo-liberalism and spatial histories, The Political ordering of Agrarian change and Development, Land and Rural spaces*)
3. Mr. Donovan Stanberry (*Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture- Repositioning sugar/‘agro-industry’*)
4. Dr. Kevon Rhiney, (Geographer/ Lecturer, UWI, Mona, Dept of Geology and Geography)- *sustainable rural livelihoods-agro-tourism, trust networks and producer groups, business model development and ecological impacts of supply chains.*
5. Dr. Adullahi Abdulkadri, (Economist/Senior Lecturer, Dept of Economics, UWI, Mona)

*The total complement of research associates is below:

Annex A: Principal Research Associates /Expert resources/ for research and outreach support

1. Ms. Leesha Delatie-Budair (**Statistical Institute of Jamaica-** Unit Head, Special Projects Unit, Surveys Division) – **active research interest Repositioning sugar for rural transformation**)
2. Ms. Doneika Simms and Ms. Nadine Brown, Representatives from **Planning Institute of Jamaica** Sustainable Development and Regional Planning Division
3. Mrs. Allison Richards, PhD student **George Mason University** in Environmental and Public Policy, former PIOJ rep.
4. Mrs. Siddier Chambers, (**Bureau of Women’s Affairs**) -MDG’s, **Rural poverty and rural women empowerment strategies.**
5. Dr. Annicia Gayle-Geddes, (**Jamaica Social Investment Fund**) Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, **Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)**,
6. Dr. Tony Weis, (Dept of Geography, **University of Western Ontario**) - **active research interest in global food economy and sustainable rural development.**
7. Dr Jonathan Lashley (**SALISES, Cave Hill**, Economist, research interest in Entrepreneurship,)
8. Dr. Corin Bailey, **SALISES, Cave Hill**, Social policy, research interest in Youth and development,
9. Dr. Godfrey St Bernard (**SALISES, St. Augustine**, Sociologist/Social Demographer/Development statistician), social vulnerability specialist.
10. Dr Christine Clarke, Dept of Economics, UWI Mona, Development policy, Climate Change and Health, Fiscal and Agricultural policy effectiveness,
11. Dr. Edward Evans (**University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics Dept**)
12. Dr Warren Benfield, (*Development micro-economist*) *poverty and pro-poor growth,*
13. Dr Derrick Deslandes (**Director, Center of excellence for advanced technology in agriculture, CEATA**) Ministry of Agriculture and UWI, Mona. Dept of Management studies, *Fore-sighting the future face of agriculture for integrated rural development*)
14. Dr. Joseph Lindsay (**UWI, Agricultural Unit; Pure and Applied Sciences**; Association of Agricultural Economists; *growing agro enterprise?*)

15. Dr. Boodraj (*economist, UTECH*, integrated rural development and *Farm security: policy and tools for managing small farms sustainability; entrepreneurship and agriculture*)
16. Mr. Morland Wilson (**Dept. of Management Studies**, UWI, Mona and Ministry of Agriculture, (CEATA))- Implementing a National *Food security* strategy,
17. Dr Ronald Gordon, (**University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics Dept**) - *Agricultural Development in CARICOM economies-*
18. *Dr Dawn Elliott, (Texas Christian University, Dept of Economics)* – Agricultural Policy and Development.
19. Ms. Neranda Maurice (**St Lucia**), sustainable rural development in small states,
20. Mrs. Aileen Nestor- (**Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana**) Public policy impact on agriculture and growth,
21. Mr. Marcos Morales, Social geographer, Dominican Republic
22. Mr. Oral Robinson, PhD program in sociology at Saskatchewan.
23. Dr. K'nife (*Economist, Dept Management Studies, UWI Mona, Foresighting and Repositioning for integrated development; Youth and Entrepreneurship*)
24. Dr. Richard Harry (**Hydel University College**), Institutional governance and Public Enterprise Performance – *issues of good governance for the sugar industry* in Jamaica and Guyana.
25. Mr. Grady Johnson, Farmer, MSc. research paper on “The role of agricultural cooperatives”, SALISES, Mona

Graduate Student researchers/ Research Associates/ research topics

1. Mrs. Dianne Gordon (Jamaica Bauxite Institute and **SALISES**, MPhil student/ *rural non-farm enterprise development and sustainable rural livelihoods* thesis)
2. Mrs Cavell Francis-Rhiney (Senior Director Production, Marketing and Special Projects, Rural Agricultural Development Agency (**RADA**) *Climate change, food security strategy and sustainable rural livelihoods (Institute for Sustainable Development, (ISD), PhD programme*).

3. Mr. Samuel Indalmanie (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, (**STATIN**) and **SALISES**, Mphil/Phd student-) Fiscal Policy and growth, Challenges of development in the sugar industry.
4. Mr. Jason Jackson (**Massachusetts Institute of technology**, MIT, USA- B'dos diaspora group) *agricultural biotechnology: policy and potential*

Research Assistants and Associates:

Ms. Christine Taylor – Archiving post independence agricultural development plans and sector performance, examining gender empowerment strategies for rural spaces.

Ms. Crystal Powell- (SALISES, Msc student) Archiving the sugar cooperative movement

Web manager: Mr. Giovanni Williams

Advisory role

1. Prof. Tony Clayton (**Institute of Sustainable Development, UWI**)
2. Prof. Wayne McLaughlin (**Head- Dept. of Basic Medical Sciences**, UWI , Mona)
3. Prof. Elsie Le Franc (**SALISES, Mona**, Sociologist,)
4. Prof. Barker (**Head-Dept. of Geography**, UWI Mona)
5. Prof Carlton Davis (agric economist/ retired professor, **University of Florida**).
6. Prof. CY Thomas (Director, *Institute of Development Studies, Guyana, Emeritus Fellow SALISES*)