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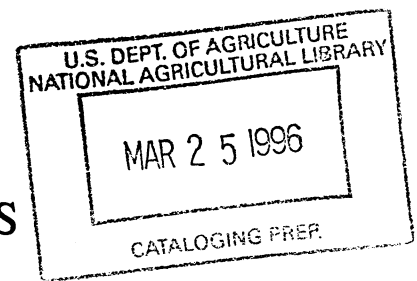
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INTEGRATING U.S. AID AND TRADE RESEARCH INITIATIVES: APPLICATION TO JAMAICA

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The primary objective of the Cooperative Research Support Program (CRSP) funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is to increase the level of nutrition and the household income of small farmers in developing countries. This objective has been pursued largely through traditional agricultural research activities, including plant breeding, pest management or control, fertilization, and water requirements and delivery. These initiatives have been partially successful and should be continued.

During 1989-91, effort was expanded on estimating the socio-economic impact of the CRSPs. Jamaica was selected for a pilot study under the Peanut CRSP. Limited macro data was assembled and augmented by interact (survey) with peanut farmers and marketing entities. In addition to low yield and poor quality product, peanut farmers are handicapped by extremely small size units, lack of mechanization, poor transportation, and an inadequate marketing infrastructure. Subsequently, labor productivity and income are low, which equates to poverty and a low level of nutrition for most of the polis.

The basic argument of this paper is that substantial improvement in income and nutrition can be achieved only through a greater emphasis on specialization and trade. Both nutrition and food variety can be enhanced through a higher degree of participation in the global food and economic system. Future research should emphasize identifying and exploiting comparative advantage, and developing trading strategies on an international scale. Trade balance (selling and buying) can include other commodities and services in addition to food. Both food security and variety can be enhanced by embracing a global trading arena.