

*Board Seely*

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**COFFEE  
INDUSTRY  
BOARD**

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
AND STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**



**FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING  
31st JULY, 1975**



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## CONTENTS

	Page
1. GENERAL REVIEW	4
2. STATISTICS	
— Co-operatives	9
— Central Factories	9
— Marketing	10
— Price	10
— International Coffee Organization	10
3. FINANCIAL REPORT	12

## GENERAL REVIEW

### 1. 25TH ANNIVERSARY:

1975 marks the 25th year of operation of the Coffee Industry Board and looking back over the years we can say with some degree of justification that we have grown.

- From cramped quarters at the Coffee Clearing House King Street to spacious premises on Marcus Garvey Drive.
- From a primitive processing technology to a highly sophisticated grading and finishing operation.
- From a price to growers of \$1.50 per box of cherry coffee to \$7.40 per box.
- From one central factory at Aenon Town to six central factories located in the major coffee growing areas of Jamaica.
- From total assets of under \$1 million to over \$6 million.
- From a staff of 4 clerical and administrative personnel to our present complement of 100 covering every aspect of the industry from the field to the factory.
- From a purely marketing organization to a position of authority not only on coffee processing and grading but also on cultural practices in the Caribbean and Latin America.
- From demonstration plots of 3 acres to the single largest coffee grower in Jamaica.  
From yields of 20 boxes per acre to 300 boxes per acre.
- In reputation — to be the producers of the World's finest coffees:  
Prime Jamaica Washed  
High Mountain Supreme  
Jamaica Blue Mountain

### 2. LONG SERVICE AWARDS:

The Board celebrated its 25th Anniversary by honouring employees with at least 21 years unbroken service to the Industry.

Forty-six (46) employees qualified and were fetted at a function addressed by the outgoing Minister of Agriculture Hon. K. Munn and the current Minister Hon. A.U. Belinfanti. Presentations were made by a former Chairman of the Board Mr. Willie Henry.

### 3. EXPANSION DRIVE:

From funds made available by Ataka & Company Limited a Japanese trading firm, the Board has been pursuing the establishment of larger acreages of coffee. To date loans have been approved to establish 173 acres in the Blue Mountains and 19 acres in areas outside of the Blue Mountains.

### 4. SIR JOHN'S PEAK COFFEE PLOT:

Work has been continuing steadily on this project which originally was to be 100 acres. Presently 29 acres have been established and lands are at various stages of preparation for a further 41 acres. The Board has also increased its commitment and will seek to establish a further 50 acres making a total of 150 acres.

## 5. COFFEE RESUSCITATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAMME:

At the end of the original 5 year programme in the Spring of 1974 an evaluation was carried out by the Agricultural Planning Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and we set out below some of their findings and recommendations:

- i. Three thousand eight hundred and five (3,805) farmers participated under the programme. Establishment of coffee plots ranged from less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre to just over 7 acres, with the average plantings per farmer being approximately 0.7 acres. This points to two factors.
  - (a) the relatively small number of growers who participated, and
  - (b) the small acreage established by each farmer.
- ii. Fifty-six per cent (56%) of the farmers were fifty years and over. In fact, 29% of them were 60 years and over. Only 4.7% of the population was under 30 years.
- iii. Seventy-four per cent (74%) of the population had both suitable soil and suitable climatic condition for growing coffee.
- iv. Ninety-four per cent (94%) of the acreage established was in the Typica variety. Only 5.8% was planted in Caturra. For Typica, 85.3% of the acreage was planted at 9' x 9' spacing and 14.7% at 8' x 4' x 6''. Fifty-seven per cent (57%) of the acreage in Caturra was planted at 8' x 3' as against 43% at 8' x 3' x 3'.
- v. Ninety-four per cent (94%) of the farms were owner managed.
- vi. Only 1.1% reported that they made use of the credit facilities. This is not surprising when the high age of the farmer is combined with the small acreage planted. Of those who received loans 33% borrowed less than \$500, 26% borrowed less than \$1,000 and 40% less than \$10,000.
- vii. Adequate attention was given to the matter of pest and disease control. This was carried out by officers of the Coffee Industry Board. Where fertilizer is concerned 42% of the population did not state whether they used fertilizer or not. This is unfortunate since it means that there is no information for a significant proportion of the population. In regard to weeding 11.8% of the population reported that they did no weeding. This contributed to the poor condition of the coffee and had an adverse effect on production.
- viii. Thirty-four per cent (34%) of plots under the scheme were at the time of evaluation in a poor or abandoned condition. This indicates that little or no production will be forthcoming from these plots. It is apparent that the Board did a much better job persuading farmers to plant coffee than, getting them to maintain it.
- ix. Eighty-four per cent (84%) of farmers thought that the programme was good. Only 1.2% thought it was poor.

Recommendations:
- x. For future programmes no farmer should establish less than half acre of pure stand coffee. The greater the commitment of the

farmer to coffee in terms of acreage planted, the greater will be his interest in maintaining it. Also, it is not feasible for the Coffee Board to transport seedlings, fertilizers etc., to farms where only a few roots of coffee are to be established.

- x. No farmer over 50 years old should be selected to participate in future programmes. Farmers advanced in age find it difficult to adjust to new cultural practices. Furthermore, due to the difficulty experienced by most farmers in obtaining labour fields are often neglected when the work load becomes too heavy.
- xii. The Coffee Board should try to interest medium size and large farmers to establish substantial acreages of coffee. These farmers should be in a better position to provide regular employment opportunities which could attract and retain labour. Based on the poor performance of many of the farmers who participated in the scheme, it is apparent that efforts to increase coffee production should not be confined to this group alone if meaningful targets are to be set and realized.
- xiii. It was reported that the Coffee Board Plots at Alva, James Hill and Aenon Town gave yields in the region of 200 boxes per acre for plantings established at the same period under review. Indications are that the majority of farmers did not obtain yields in excess of 50 boxes per acre. The Board should therefore investigate the feasibility of increasing its acreage under coffee, and should also take steps to assist farmers in obtaining significantly higher yields.
- xiv. If coffee production is to be concentrated largely in the hands of small farmers it is necessary that extension services to these farmers be intensified. This would necessitate each coffee extension officer having a smaller area. It is interesting that the cultural practice most adequately performed was the application of Fungicide/pesticide. This operation was carried out by officers of the Board. The possibility of applying fertilizer on the same basis should be investigated. It is also essential that a more effective follow up system be initiated and maintained.

While the Board agrees with some of the Recommendations it certainly does not agree that farmers over 50 years of age should not be selected to participate in future programmes (see xi).

## 6. SMALL CROP

Following closely on the bumper crop of 303,524 boxes last year, the biennial growing pattern of coffee was clearly shown up in a small crop of 235,699 boxes this year.

## 7. PRICES TO GROWERS:

Coffee growers continue to benefit from the stability of the industry in Jamaica and received total payment of \$7.40 per box for cherry coffee delivered during 1974/75. An advance price of \$5.00 and a final payment of \$2.40. For the 1973/74 crop growers received an advance price of \$2.40 per box and a final payment of \$2.80 per box.

## COFFEE CO-OPERATIVES

A comparison of the deliveries of coffee by growers to the Board's Central Factories and the Co-operative Factories through the Coffee Co-operatives are set out below:—

<u>Co-operatives</u>	<u>1974/75</u> <u>(Boxes)</u>	<u>1973/74</u> <u>(Boxes)</u>	<u>1972/73</u> <u>(Boxes)</u>
West St. Ann	17,677	36,550	17,560
East St. Ann	4,846	9,582	5,285
Upper Trelawny	6,280	9,778	5,760
Frankfield	44,698	53,160	34,737
South Clarendon	8,255	8,664	5,234
North East Clarendon	33,428	21,690	26,864
North Manchester	12,225	29,105	15,402
South Manchester	13,832	32,632	9,690
West St. Andrew	742	2,322	940
Central St. Catherine	12,013	13,454	9,956
North West St. Catherine	34,917	22,271	31,375
Central St. Mary and			
West Portland	4,266	5,849	4,155
Darliston	1,189	1,146	942
St. Elizabeth	12,218	14,935	9,770
East Portland	172	265	188
Co-operatively owned Factories —			
*Guy's Hill	9,667	17,618	14,746
Catadupa	4,364	4,467	2,693
<u>Blue Mountain Factories</u>			
Moy Hall/Langley	5,918 ✓	9,183	7,076
Silver Hill	9,550 ✓	4,903	7,673

\* Now processed at Bog Walk.

## CENTRAL FACTORIES

The Board's six (6) Central Factories processed a total of 235,985 boxes this year.

A distribution of receipts is set out below —

	<u>1974/75</u> <u>(Boxes)</u>	<u>1973/74</u> <u>(Boxes)</u>
Aenon Town	37,460	71,097
Bog Walk	64,588	70,055
Clarendon Park	26,439	52,219
Dover	4,052	6,783
Maggotty	24,175	34,101
Trout Hall	79,271	69,269
	<u>235,985</u> ✓	<u>303,524</u>

In addition Co-operative  
Factory —

Catadupa	<u>4,364</u>	<u>4,468</u>
	<u>240,349</u>	<u>307,992</u>

Below is a distribution of the total number of boxes processed by the Board's six (6) Central Factories over the past 5 crop years.

1970-71	—	234,416
1971-72	—	283,266
1972-73	—	197,089
1973-74	—	303,524
1974-75	—	235,985

Details of deliveries and disbursements by each Factory see Appendix "A"

### MARKETING

The types of coffee exported by the Board were — Prime Jamaica Washed, High Mountain Supreme, Wallendorf Estate Blue Mountain, Mavis Bank Central Factory Blue Mountain (MBCF), Silver Hill Blue Mountain (PCSH), Moy Hall Blue Mountain (MHGGT) and Langley Blue Mountain.

Sales were made on the basis F.O.B. Kingston, to the Board's buyers in Japan and the U.S.A.

Total Island production — other than Blue Mountain Coffee — processed and distributed by the Board during the last five (5) crop years was as follows:—

	<u>Local Sales</u> <u>(Bags 132-lb)</u>	<u>Export Sales</u> <u>(Bags 132-lb.)</u>
1970/71	9,340	11,452
1971/72	8,724	13,259
1972/73	7,666	13,224
1973/74	7,647	13,124
1974/75	9,243	11,748

### PRICE

The gross price per box paid by the Board over the last five (5) crop years is set out below —

1970-71	—	\$2.80
1971-72	—	\$3.21
1972-73	—	\$3.81
1973-74	—	\$5.41
1974-75	—	\$7.67

Transportation of cherry coffee from collection depots to Central Factories and finishing expenses are borne by the Board.

### INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

Jamaica became a member of the International Coffee Organization in 1967. The Organization was set up under the International Coffee

