



COFFEE INDUSTRY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY, 1997

47 YEARS OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY BOARD

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INTRODUCTION:

The Board is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture in accordance with Section 14 of the Coffee Industry Regulation Act of 1948. It consists of 9 Members: (5 Growers' Representatives and 4 nominated Members).

The Members are:

Messrs Douglas Graham	—	Chairman
Donald Menzies		
Morin Seymour		
Warrington Williams		
Dr Huntley Manhertz		
Messrs Graham Dunkley		
Courtney Fletcher	—	JAS Coffee Federation Representative
Augustine Sinclair	—	JAS Coffee Federation Representative
Mrs Alvira Stewart	—	JAS Coffee Federation Representative

During the year twelve (12) regular meetings and four (4) special meetings were held and they were well attended.

Dr Huntley Manhertz resigned in September 1996 and Mr Warrington Williams also resigned in February 1997.

STAFF

Mr Maurice Jackson, Deputy General Manager, resigned on May 30, 1997.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board takes this opportunity to record its appreciation of the dedication and loyalty displayed by its employees and of the assistance and cooperation of coffee growers and related organizations which contributed to the progress of the industry during the year.

PRODUCTION

Total production for the crop year 1996/97 was 636,936 boxes (17,369 tonnes) of cherry coffee, of which 446,947 boxes (12,188 tonnes), 70.2%, was Blue Mountain coffee. Lowland coffee, 189,989 boxes (5,171 tonnes) accounted for the remaining 29.8%.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

BLUE MOUNTAIN [CLAVERTY COTTAGE/SHIRLEY CASTLE (CC/SC)] COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

For the year under review maintenance activities continued on the 3,520 acres (1,425 hectares) of coffee planted under this project in the Blue Mountain area. Production under this project was estimated at 180,000 boxes (4,909 tonnes) of Blue Mountain coffee which contributed to the increased production in the area during the year. Construction of the Finishing Plant at Tarentum, Clarendon, was about 80% completed, and the pulper at Albany, Portland, was about 90% completed. Construction of a bridge at Albany near Shirley Castle was in progress, as well as rehabilitation of access roads in the project area.

EEC 1,500-ACRE (607 HECTARES) COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

Maintenance activities continued under this project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the project agreement. It is estimated that production by farmers who had received loans under this programme was approximately 36,000 boxes (982 tonnes), for the year under review.

UCC (Ueshima Coffee Company) COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

For the year under review it is estimated that approximately 15,000 boxes (409 tonnes) of coffee were produced by farmers from 388 acres (157 hectares) developed under this programme.

HILLSIDE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT (HAP):

All four (4) sub-projects which were funded by the USAID and the CIB were successfully implemented in areas within East St Ann, North West Portland, West St Ann and Western St Andrew.

The project ended on December 31, 1996 and, because of its success, small coffee farmers in other coffee-growing areas made representation to the CIB for a further extension of the project, but the Board was unable to obtain the necessary funding.

NURSERY PROGRAMME

2.2 million seedlings were distributed to farmers during the year under review to satisfy the Island's seedling requirements.

Private nurseries distributed 2,023,000 (92%) seedlings and the three (3) CIB nurseries distributed the remaining 8% (177,000 seedlings).

OPERATIONS AT CIB'S CENTRAL FACTORIES & PRIVATE FACTORIES

PULPERY	1996/97	1995/96	1994/95
Lowland Coffee	(Boxes)	(Boxes)	(Boxes)
	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)
Aenon Town	37,071	42,669	41,853
	1,011	1,164	1,139
Bog Walk	47,930	53,331	68,757
	1,305	1,452	1,871
Clarendon Park	19,952	23,594	42,754
	544	643	1,166
Maggotty	42,576	66,093	46,962
	1,161	1,802	1,281
Trout Hall	24,959	21,016	48,628
	681	573	1,326
Private Pulpery			
Baron Hall	17,501	15,624	12,900
	477	426	351
Annual Change (%)	12.0	21.1	-
Total Lowland	189,989	222,327	261,854
	5,179	6060	7,134
Annual Change (%)	(14.6)	(15.1)	-
Blue Mountain Coffee			
Wallenford	279,947	230,846	196,807
	7,635	6,296	5,367
Annual Change (%)	21.3	17.3	-
Mavis Bank	124,000	88,522	80,000
	3,381	2,414	2,181
Annual Change (%)	-	-	-
Moy Hall	43,000	20,030	30,000
	1,172	546	818
Total Blue Mountain	446,947	339,398	306,807
	12,188	9,256	8,366
Annual Change (%)	31.7	10.6	-
Total Lowland and Blue Mountain	636,936	561,725	568,661
	17,367	15,319	15,500
Annual Change (%)	13.4	(1.2)	-
Blue Mountain Coffee as % of Total	70.2	60.4	54
Lowland Coffee as % of Total	29.8	39.6	46

CIB's PULPERIES

During the crop year 1996/97 coffee supplies to the CIB's five (5) pulperies in the Lowland area continued to decline. The 1996/97 crop declined by 14.6%, following a decline of 15.1% in the previous year. This decline for the year resulted from the unusual rainfall during the months of January and February 1996 which caused a reduction in the level of flowering that is normally induced by moisture stress during that period.

Coffee production in the areas which supply the CIB's pulperies located outside of the Blue Mountain area has been declining mainly because of the advancing age of many small farmers, as well as the high cost of inputs which prevented them from keeping their fields in good condition. The result is a decline in production and the lowering of coffee intake at the pulperies.

LOWLAND COFFEE CO-OPERATIVES

Supplies of coffee by the 16 Lowland coffee co-operatives to the CIB over a three (3) year period are set out below:

CO-OPERATIVE	YEAR 1996/97	YEAR 1995/96	YEAR 1994/95
	(Boxes) (Tonnes)	(Boxes) (Tonnes)	(Boxes) (Tonnes)
Catadupa	4,763 130	7,217 197	6,158 168
Central St Catherine	8,664 236	7,625 208	10,806 295
Central St Mary	167 5	282 8	1,012 28
Darliston	6,264 171	7,532 205	6,497 177
East St Ann	1,153 31	1,417 39	4,517 123
Frankfield	14,132 385	10,252 279	30,835 841
Guys Hill	1,686 46	2,791 76	5,041 137
North Manchester	5,513 150	9,722 265	10,968 299

CO-OPERATIVE	YEAR 1996/97	YEAR 1995/96	YEAR 1994/95
	(Boxes) (Tonnes)	(Boxes) (Tonnes)	(Boxes) (Tonnes)
N/E Clarendon	7,931 216	8,327 227	16,858 460
N/W St Catherine	8,206 232	10,587 289	14,528 396
St Elizabeth	3,949 108	8,394 229	5,190 141
South Clarendon	3,261 89	2,857 78	5,525 151
South Manchester	6,645 181	8,770 239	18,494 504
Trelawny	2,445 67	3,909 107	4,063 111
Western St Andrew	231 6	663 18	505 14
Western St Ann	4,131 113	6,079 166	8,803 240
TOTAL	79,141 2,158	96,424 2,629	149,800 4,085
Annual Change (%)	(18.9)	(35.6)	-

One box of coffee weighs approximately 60 lbs or 27.22 kilos.

Coffee deliveries by these Co-operatives continued to decline as some of the more productive farmers supplied their cherry coffee directly to the CIB's pulperies instead of through their co-operatives. The management of the Co-operatives also continued to decline, resulting in reduced services to their members and lowering of coffee supply to the Co-operatives.

PRICE TO FARMERS

The prices paid to farmers for the crop year under review were \$1,700 per box (\$62.5 per kilo) for Blue Mountain cherry coffee and a net average of \$900 per box (\$33 per kilo) for Lowland cherry coffee. There was no improvement in the prices paid by the CIB for the current year's crop because the price for export coffee did not increase.

INDUSTRY CESS

For the crop year under review, there was no increase in the industry cess charged on cherry coffee. The Cess continued to be \$53 and \$91 (\$1.95 per kilo and \$3.34 per kilo) for Lowland and Blue Mountain cherry coffee, respectively.

MARKETING

During the 1996/97 crop year Jamaica's coffee continued to be exported principally to Japan, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The industry exported approximately 27,150 bags (1,625.1 tonnes) of coffee during the year for a value of US\$29.4 million. These sales compare favourably with those of the previous year which were valued at US\$26.5 million for 24,754 bags (1,482.1 tonnes). Local sales which included roasted and soluble coffee manufactured by the industry's local roasters and processors amounted to 12,070 bags (722.68 tonnes) valued at J\$97.6 million. Despite the value of exports for the period, the industry did not achieve the anticipated level of exports to Japan during the period because of the economic recession in that country.

PROMECAFE

The CIB in collaboration with PROMECAFE hosted two (2) conferences to discuss Shade Management, Plant Nutrition and Integrated Pest Management at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston and the Farmers Training Centre at Twickenham Park, St Catherine, from November 5 to 7, 1996.

Presenters at the seminars were Messrs Mario Palma and Raul Muñoz from IHCAFE, Honduras. The sessions were well attended by coffee farmers and related organizations in the island.

COFFEE NEWSLETTER

The first publication of a newsletter by the Board called "Coffee News" was published in March 1997.

For the year under review two (2) issues were published and circulated to farmers, roasters and other interested parties. The CIB expects that the publication of this newsletter will inform persons within the industry and keep them abreast of the activities of the CIB and the Jamaican coffee industry as well as of international coffee developments and events.

