



This Newsletter highlights news, events and activities in Science & Technology (S&T) and related subjects which have taken place primarily in Jamaica over the last month.

Science, Technology & Innovation News

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Team SRC participated in the Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association Expo at the National Area from April 27 to April 30, 2023.

Agro-Industry

[Agriculture Students Urged to Apply Training and Innovation to Sector](#)



Agriculture students are being charged to apply their training and ingenuity in finding solutions to challenges facing the sector. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon Parnell Charles Jr, in making the call while addressing students of the Knockalva Polytechnic College on April 27, said that the sector needs the energy and innovation of the youth to be stronger, more sustainable and globally competitive. [...]

[Agricultural Scientists Encouraged to Build on Legacy of Dr. Lecky](#)



Agricultural Scientists are being urged to build on the legacy of renowned scientist, Dr. Thomas P. Lecky, as a strategy to further advance agriculture and strengthen the breeding population for cattle and ruminants in Jamaica. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon Parnell Charles Jr., has said this will ultimately help to achieve food security and create a more resilient livestock sector. [...]

Hot Pepper Farmers to Receive Training and Technical Assistance



Hot pepper farmers are to receive training and technical assistance in sustainable production and post-harvest practices to consistently meet demands in both quality and quantity. This training and technical assistance will address the lack of resources and information needed to adopt best practices to enhance the quality and safety of products – a challenge currently faced by many farmers. [...]

Jamaicans Receive Training in Hydroponics



Fifteen farmers and four government officers have benefited from training in sustainable hydroponics production systems, under the 'Addressing the Water-Energy-Food Nexus' (WEF) Project. This was made possible through a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Government of Mexico and the Government of Jamaica. [...]

Jamaica Remains on High Alert for Tropical Race 4 Disease



The Banana Board is urging plantain and banana farmers to make a report should their crops show any signs of the Panama Tropical Race 4 (TR4) disease as the country remains on high alert. The disease is considered one of the most notable diseases in the history of agriculture and is the most destructive disease to have affected bananas, plantains and the Heliconia plant. [...]

Agricultural Students Encouraged to Take Advantage of Scholarships in Brazil



Jamaican students of agriculture and other disciplines are being encouraged to take advantage of the scholarship opportunities available for higher education studies in Brazil. During a recent courtesy call on Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., Brazil's Ambassador to Jamaica, Her Excellency Elza Moreira Marcelino de Castro, said that the initiative is one that will serve to build [...]

Government Focused on Boosting Banana and Plantain Production



The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) has trained more than 14,000 farmers in the last five years on best practices in livestock and crop production. Delivered through its extension service, training aims to improve sustainable production and to ensure that international protocols are maintained. Livestock Specialist at RADA, Maxine Brown, said that having one livestock officer in each parish [...]

Business News

Global Digital Services Sector Accounts for 70% of Businesses in SEZs



The Global Digital Services Sector (GDSS) accounts for approximately 70 per cent of businesses operating in the special economic zones (SEZs), making it the largest stakeholder group. This information was shared by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Jamaica Special Economic Zone Authority (JSEZA), Kelli-Dawn Hamilton, while addressing a recent Jamaica Information Service (JIS) 'Think Tank'. [...]

Climate Change

Jamaica to Benefit from Six-Year Project to Protect Coral Reefs



Jamaica's capacity to conserve and restore its coral reefs is being bolstered under the six-year CoralCarib project. To be implemented through funding from Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI), CoralCarib is targeted at four Caribbean countries where 60 per cent of the region's reefs are found. To be implemented through funding from Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI), [...]

Energy

Government Plan to Introduce New Energy Sources



The Government is looking to introduce new energy sources that will make power generation in Jamaica more reliable, available, and affordable. Speaking at the opening ceremony of Expo Jamaica 2023, at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston on April 27, Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, said the Government has embarked on a path to ensure that 50 per cent of Jamaica's energy is generated [...]

Health Issues

Travellers to Malaria-Endemic Countries Urged to Take Precautionary Measures



Jamaicans planning to travel to countries where malaria is endemic are being advised to take the necessary steps to safeguard themselves. This urging comes from Medical Officer of Health for Westmoreland, Dr. Marcia Graham. "If you are planning to travel overseas, it's always good for you to check if you need to get prophylaxis, that is [the] medication to prevent you [from] contracting malaria. [...]"

Parents Urged to Allow Young Girls to Take HPV Vaccine



Parents are being urged to protect their young girls from cervical cancer by allowing them to take the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, by Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn. The State Minister made the call in her message to mark Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, being observed in April under the theme 'Ending Cervical Cancer Within a Few Generations'. [...]

Positive Outcomes Anticipated from Mental Health Programme Implementation



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, is hoping that the implementation of the Problem Management Plus (PM+) programme will result in improved mental health within the population and reduced suicide rates. PM+ engages faith-based and community leaders to assist people to cope with distress resulting from death of family/friends, financial loss, experience with violence, [...]

Marijuana

Ministry Continues to Advocate for Inclusion of More Farmers in Cannabis Industry



The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce continues to advocate for the inclusion of more Jamaican farmers in the cultivation of ganja as part of efforts to develop the sector and tap into its potential economic benefits. State Minister in the Ministry, Dr. the Hon. Norman Dunn, has said that the Government's Alternative Development Programme (ADP) is a key initiative for community groups [...]

Business Path Being Cleared for Medicinal Cannabis Industry Players



The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce is moving to make doing business within the medicinal cannabis industry easier. Speaking at a press conference, held at Jamaica House on April 13, Portfolio Minister, Senator the Hon. Aubyn Hill, said efforts will be made to ensure that the Jamaican market has all the medicinal cannabis it needs. [...]

Science and Technology

JIPO Undertaking Activities to Facilitate the Use and Protection of Intellectual Property



The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) will be undertaking several activities during fiscal year 2023/24 to facilitate the use and protection of intellectual property locally. The initiatives include launching a technology innovation support centre as well as a women's innovation network. This was disclosed by Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, under which JIPO falls, [...]



Government Considers Femtech



The Government is considering investing in and promoting the use of feminist technology (femtech) to better respond to women and girls' most pressing needs in Jamaica. Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz, made the announcement on Thursday (April 27) at the CARICOM Girls in Information and Communications Technology Day (ICT) online event. [...]

Government to Expand Network of CCTV Cameras



The Government will continue to expand the network of cameras to boost the country's national closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance programme, dubbed 'JamaicaEye'. More than 860 Government CCTV cameras have been installed in townships across the island under the programme. This was disclosed by Minister of National Security and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, [...]

Teachers Encouraged to Embrace Artificial Intelligence



Teachers are being encouraged not to fear the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) but to leverage the technology to supplement the teaching-learning process. Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams, says despite the notion that AI software is poised to automate a number of jobs globally, it is unlikely that the technology will replace teachers in the classroom. [...]

Hundreds of Students Benefit from Teen Tech Conference



Hundreds of high school students from across the island were exposed to various careers and opportunities in the technology field, while benefitting from online safety tips, at a one day Teen Tech JA conference. Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural event, which was held at the Wolmer's Boys' School in Kingston on Wednesday (April 5). [...]



STEM AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME RECRUITMENT



Become a STEM Ambassador today!

- ✓ Do you like working with young people?
- ✓ Are you currently working/employed in the field(s) of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics?
- ✓ Join us in the move to inspire our youths towards a future in STEM.

Benefits of being an SRC STEM Ambassador

- 💡 SRC creates opportunities for you to deliver presentations, coordinate events, career talks, mentoring, practical workshops and exhibitions at primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions.
- ⚙️ Your skillset and professional development will be greatly enhanced through the training and support offered by the SRC.
- 🔬 You will contribute to the promotion of positive images of STEM at work.
- 👤 You will help to raise the profile of the STEM industry.

Apply Now!

Application form:

<https://forms.gle/H7PMN1uoEm8Y8e8k8>

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