



Vol. 12, Issue 05, August 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Agro-Industry**
- 2 **Business News**
- 3 **Energy**
- 3 **Health Issues**
- 4 **Science and Technology**

The Scientific Research Council in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency present the

31ST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Theme: "Harmony in Innovation: Unleashing the Power of Nuclear Applications for Sustainable Development"

October 29 - November 1, 2024
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Jamaica Conference Centre
14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston

- ✓ Insightful Presentations
- ✓ Engaging Panel Discussions
- ✓ Interactive Exhibitions

 **6.5 CME credits available!**



Registration Fees:

All Access 4-Day Pass	
Jamaica	\$200 USD
Canada-USA	\$450 USD
Rest of America	\$400 USD
Rest of the World	\$450 USD
International Students	\$200 USD
Caricom (and associate member states)	\$400 USD
Jamaican Students with ID	FREE
Daily Pass	
Jamaica	\$50 USD
Canada-USA	\$150 USD
Rest of America	\$120 USD
Rest of the World	\$150 USD
International Students	\$50 USD
Caricom (and associate member states)	\$120 USD
Jamaican Students with ID	FREE

REGISTER NOW!  www.srcconference.com

For more information, contact us

 (876) 927-1771-4
  conference@src-jamaica.org


 @srcjamaica

Agro-Industry

Banana Board Urges Farmers Not to Accept Planting Material Sourced Overseas



The Banana Board is urging farmers across the island not to accept plant material known to be sourced overseas. This, in light of the deadly Tropical Race Four (TR4) Disease, which can wipe out Jamaica's entire banana and plantain cultivations, reportedly surfacing in at least one country. Against this background, the Board is encouraging farmers to be vigilant. [...]

Government Prioritizing Regularization of Farmland Holdings



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, says the Government is seized of the importance of formal land tenures and, as such, will continue to regularize farmlands by providing leases to farmers. Addressing farmers and other stakeholders at the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC) Lease Handover Ceremony at the Orange Park Baptist Church in Lydford, St. Ann, [...]

Aid for Farmers to Combat Yam Rust



Yams are a popular export crop which earned Jamaica over US\$50 million in 2023. However, despite their popularity, yam farmers face production challenges as the crop can also be affected by disease. One such disease is 'Yam rust', also known as *Goplana dioscorea* and *Goplana australis*. This disease is caused by a fungal pathogen. Symptoms include yellow spots [...]

RADA Encourages Farmers to Continue Hurricane Preparedness Activities



The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) is encouraging farmers to continue hurricane preparedness activities as the season progresses. The six-month Tropical Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. Senior RADA Plant Health and Food Safety Officer, Francine Webb, says sustainable approaches to farming and developing resilience to changing climate conditions

Minister Green Concerned About Price Gouging of Agriculture Products



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, has expressed concern about the price gouging of agriculture products, particularly in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. Speaking during a media briefing at the Ministry's offices in St. Andrew on Tuesday, Mr. Green said traders were allowed access to external markets to ensure the nation has adequate food supply. [...]

Minister Green Urges Lenders to Extend Credit to Small Farmers



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, is calling on financial institutions to re-evaluate their lending practices to the agricultural sector, urging increased support for small farmers and entrepreneurs. “I am imploring our financial institutions to recognise the significance of supporting our farmers and the agricultural sector as a whole [...]

Best in Agriculture on Display at Denbigh



The sizzling heat of the August sun could not prevent the grand display of the best in Jamaica’s agriculture and fisheries as the historic Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show made its 70th showing on Independence Day (August 6). Patrons from near and far flooded the Denbigh Showground in May Pen, Clarendon, for the one-day event, [...]

Government Looking to Develop National Agriculture Resilience Plan by April 2025



Jamaica Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, has issued instructions for the development of a national plan by April 2025, to build resilience within the agriculture sector. The directive, which has been relayed to Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, comes as the Prime Minister challenges the sector’s stakeholders to adopt a culture of resilience. [...]

Business News

383 Loan Guarantees, Valued \$4.85 Billion Issued under DBJ’S CEF



A total of 383 loan guarantees, valued at \$4.85 billion, were issued under the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) Credit Enhancement Facility (CEF) over the past year, enabling micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to scale up their operations. General Manager of the CEF, David Wan, made the disclosure at the CEF Superstars Awards event held on Wednesday (August 14) at the Courtyard Marriott in Kingston. [...]

Minister Samuda Hails Isratech Jamaica Limited for Investments in Water Sector



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with Responsibility for Water, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, has hailed Isratech Jamaica Limited for its investments in the country’s water sector. The Minister toured the company’s Shooters Hill headquarters in Manchester on August 23, where he observed the High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe Manufacturing Plant. [...]

Energy

JPS to Generate New Zero-Consumption Bills for Persons Without Electricity



In cases where estimated bills were sent out to Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) customers who had no supply, the JPS will cancel these bills and generate new bills representing zero consumption. Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Hon. Daryl Vaz, provided details while addressing a special hybrid press conference on August 21, at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) [...]

Special Audit and Investigation of JPS Billing System to be Conducted



Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Hon. Daryl Vaz, says a special audit and investigation of the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) billing system is to be conducted. He made the announcement during a special semi-virtual press conference at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) in New Kingston on Wednesday (August 21) to address concerns regarding the current JPS billing cycle [...]

MSETT Establishes JPS Customer Complaints Email Addresses



The Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications, and Transport is advising that dedicated email addresses have been established to streamline the process for receiving and resolving complaints from persons who have received incorrect electricity bills over the recent billing periods, following the passage of Hurricane Beryl. [...]

Health and Wellness

Accidental Poisoning of Children Remains a Worrying Concern for the WRHA



Accidental poisoning of children remains a concerning issue for the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), based on statistics highlighting the vulnerability of youngsters. Speaking during a recent Jamaica Information Service (JIS) 'Think Tank' at the agency's Regional Office in Montego Bay, St. James, WRHA representatives said information gleaned consistently indicates that agents, such as bleach, pharmaceuticals and pesticides, [...]

Jamaica Heightens Surveillance for Mpox



Jamaica has heightened its surveillance to detect the Mpox virus, to ensure that if cases are identified, they are controlled, says Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton. Addressing a virtual press conference, today (August 22), the Minister informed that as at August 22, there are no cases of the virus reported, but due to public health risks associated with a single case of Mpox, [...]

Parents Urged to Safeguard Children Against Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease



As the start of the 2024/25 academic year approaches, parents are being encouraged to safeguard their children against hand, foot and mouth disease. This urging comes from Health Promotion and Education Officer for Westmoreland, Gerald Miller, who says Ministry of Health and Wellness data indicate that increased cases tend to emerge between March and June and September and December. [...]

Jamaican Men Urged to Be Proactive in Managing Their Health



The Ministry of Health and Wellness is urging Jamaican men to be proactive in managing their health by doing regular screenings. Speaking during a recent Jamaica Information Service (JIS) 'Think Tank', Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Lead for the Health System Strengthening Programme within the Ministry, Professor Alafia Samuels, noted that simple measures, such as blood pressure and weight checks, [...]

Schools Urged to Institute COVID-19 Safeguards in New Academic Year



Schools are being urged to institute COVID-19 safeguards when the 2024/25 academic year commences on September 2. The call comes from Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams, amidst recent surveillance data indicating high transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus among the population. "We are asking our principals and our school nurses to be particularly vigilant. [...]"

Science and Technology

GOJ Support for Entrepreneurs



The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is committed to the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in Jamaica. Entrepreneurs can access funding, research and development, business incubators (facilities to manufacture and process products) and accelerators (professional mentoring) from the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) [...]

e-Learning Jamaica Donates 200 Laptops to Jamaica Library Service



Thousands of library users, including students, are set to benefit from e-Learning Jamaica's donation of 200 laptops to the Jamaica Library Service (JLS). The devices were officially handed over on Tuesday (August 13) at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library located at 2 Tom Redcam Drive. A partnership involving the Ministry of Education and Youth, the JLS and e-Learning Jamaica, [...]



Scientific Research Council

31st Science and Technology Conference

Pre-Conference Webinar

Theme:

**Harnessing Atomic Power:
The Future of Cancer Treatment
Lies in Nuclear Medicine**



Guest Speaker:
Kern Pemberton,
Radiation Oncologist



Date: September 12, 2024



Time: 1:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!



Zoom ID: 814 1227 8487
Zoom Passcode: 660175



@srcjamaica