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*Communications Officer, Scientific Research Council (SRC), Michelle Morris (left), engages with students of Paul Mountain Primary School during the SRC's Annual Science Fair on Thursday (September 26) at Hope Zoo in Kingston.*

## Agro-Industry

### Agriculture Minister Encourages Farmers to Form Organizations



Local farmers are being encouraged to form organizations and band together in order to strengthen their practices and, by extension, the agricultural industry. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, made the call while speaking during the recent handover of fertilizers and herbicides to coffee farmers in Portland who were affected by Hurricane Beryl. [...]

### Assistance for Greenhouse Farmers



Beginning next week, the Government will be providing greenhouse farmers with critical supplies and materials to help them rebuild, following the passage of Hurricane Beryl on July 3. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, made the announcement while providing an update on the ongoing Hurricane Beryl Recovery Programme, during the sitting of the House of Representatives [...]

### Bananas and Plantains Should Return by February 2025



Bananas and plantains are expected to return to the market in good supply by February 2025. Addressing Wednesday's (September 25) post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, said both crops contribute more than \$13 billion annually to Jamaica's economy, and were severely impacted by Hurricane Beryl. [...]

### FAO Pilots Online Project to Assist Farmers



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is piloting a Digital Services Portfolio (DSP), which has been introduced to 42 farmers from Mile Gully in Manchester, via two workshops. The aim of the project in Mile Gully, the extension area selected for the project, is to improve the digitalization of agricultural services in rural areas. [...]

### Agriculture Minister Calls for Greater Collaboration with Engineers to Boost Food Security



Minister Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining Minister, Hon. Floyd Green, is calling for greater collaboration with the local engineering industry to boost food security through the development of machinery and equipment to improve productivity and build resilience in the farming sector. In his address at the Jamaica Institution of Engineers' Engineers Week Conference [...]

### [JBDC Calls on Farmers to Supply More Hot Peppers to Manufacturers](#)



The Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) is calling on local farmers to bolster the nation's agro-processing sector by increasing the supply of hot peppers to manufacturers. This appeal follows the successful training of 72 hot pepper farmers from the parishes of St Ann, St Mary, St Catherine, Clarendon, and St Elizabeth under the 'Improving Phytosanitary, Food Safety, and Market Access Opportunities [...]

### [Long-Term Approach Must Be Taken To Fix Coffee Farm Roads – Minister](#)



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, says that a long-term approach to dealing with coffee farm roads must be taken, to propel the nation's coffee farmers by granting easier access to their farms. "What I have said to the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) team [is that] we have to take the coffee road programme [...]

### [JACRA to Craft Programme of Support for Women Coffee Farmers](#)



Jamaican women in coffee farming are being hailed for their resilience, with the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) signalling its intention to craft a programme of support. Speaking recently at the handover of fertilizers and herbicides to coffee farmers in the Buff Bay Valley area of Portland following Hurricane Beryl, Acting Director General of JACRA, Wayne Hunter, [...]

## **Business News**

### [Eight Entities Get \\$160 Million in Grant Support from DBJ](#)



Eight medium-sized entities have received grants totalling \$160 million to support their business ventures or innovations. The support was provided by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) under its Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Innovation Grant Fund, which is being implemented in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). [...]

### [Continues to Empower Local Businesses Through Diverse Lending Programmes](#)



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### SDC Hosts Business Empowerment Clinic For Grassroots Entrepreneurs



The Social Development Commission (SDC) hosted a two-day business clinic on September 18 and 19, which was aimed at empowering grassroots entrepreneurs. The event, which was held at the SDC parish office in Kingston, brought together 25 professionals seeking to formalise their businesses, develop growth strategies and access critical funding and support services. [...]

### BIGEE Programme Continues to Empower MSMEs



The flagship initiative of the Development Bank of Jamaica, the Boosting Innovation, Growth, and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme, continues to empower local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and foster innovation across the country. The programme is a five-year initiative funded by a US\$25-million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) [...]

## **Energy**

### TotalEnergies Marketing Lauded for Contribution to Economy



French investments in Jamaica are reflected in a number of critical areas in the economy, says Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith. Speaking at TotalEnergies Marketing Jamaica's 20th Anniversary Gala, held at the AC Marriott Hotel in New Kingston, on September 5, the Minister said the establishment of TotalEnergies [...]

## **Health and Wellness**

### Jamaicans Urged to Reduce Salt Intake



Jamaicans are being encouraged by the Ministry of Health and Wellness to reduce their salt consumption levels. This call, made through the Ministry's National Committee on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCNCDs), comes against the background of the findings of a recent study of Jamaicans' salt intake, which was undertaken in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI). [...]

### Scores of Men Attend Health for Prostate Cancer Screening



Scores of men, aged 40 and over, gathered at Independence Park in Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland, on September 24 for a special health fair focused on prostate cancer screening. The event was organised by the Westmoreland Health Department, in partnership with MistyBlue Cancer Care Foundation, and formed part of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month activities, [...]

### Jamaicans Urged to Utilise Mental Health Services to Prevent Suicides



Jamaicans are being urged to make use of the mental health services in the public health system to reduce the risk of suicides. The call comes from Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), Dr. Georgia Rose, as the country marks World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 on Tuesday (September 10). [...]

### WRHA Urges Continued Vigilance Against Covid-19



The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) is imploring persons to continue to take precautions against COVID-19. Speaking with JIS News, Regional Medical Epidemiologist, Dr. Maung Aung, noted that while the pandemic phase of COVID-19 has ended, the virus is still present in the population and it is, therefore, important for persons to remain vigilant. [...]

## **Science and Technology**

### SRC Science Fair Slated for September 26



The Scientific Research Council (SRC) Annual Science Fair is slated for September 26 at the Hope Zoo in Kingston. The event, which is open to the public, is being held under the theme 'Youth-Centred Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development'. It promises to be a day of inspiration, learning and celebration of the potential of Jamaica's youth. [...]

### Deaf Students Take Part in Soap-Making Workshop



Several students of the Lister Mair/Gilby High School for the Deaf can now confidently venture into the soap-making industry, with certification from the Scientific Research Council (SRC). This follows a free training session, held on the school grounds in Gordon Town, St. Andrew, recently, that engaged more than 20 students. The journey towards this workshop began with Tainia Taylor, [...]

### SRC Hosts Webinar on Cancer Treatment on Sept. 12



Health professionals, students, and cancer patients are being invited to explore the future of cancer treatment through innovations in nuclear medicine, at the Scientific Research Council's (SRC's) upcoming webinar. Scheduled for September 12 at 1:00 p.m., the event, themed 'Harnessing Atomic Power: The Future of Cancer Treatment Lies in Nuclear Medicine', promises to be a pivotal opportunity [...]

### STEM Education Remains a Government Priority – PM



Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, says Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education remains a priority focus area for the Government in driving national development. "We are investing. We have said we are going to be building six new STEM schools. Those schools will not be operating under the Education Act, as it presently is. We will develop a new scheme of management [...]"



## DID YOU KNOW?

Micropropagation of plants is useful for large-scale propagation of disease-free plants. Temporary immersion bioreactors, or Temporary Immersion Systems (TIS) are utilised in plant micropropagation.

Learn more at our  
**31st Science and Technology Conference!**  
**October 29- November 1, 2024**  
Register at [srcconference.com](https://srcconference.com)

