



CELEBRATING #PLANTHEALTHDAY

12 MAY



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH 2022

Jamaica joins the rest of the world in celebrating the inaugural International Day of Plant Health designated by the United Nation to raise awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment and boost economic development. Let's all play our part in preventing plant pests and diseases from spreading. When travelling across borders, avoid taking plants and plant products with you.

HON PEARNEL CHARLES JR, MP Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries



The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries joins the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC) and the global plant health community in commemorating the United Nations' first declared International Day of Plant Health 2022.

With up to 40% of global crops losses attributed to plant pests and diseases and an estimated US\$220 billion in losses in trade of agricultural products annually, there is an obvious need to prioritize plant health and protection as fundamental in achieving food security and global competitiveness in agriculture.

The importance of plant health to agriculture in Jamaica cannot be overstated as healthy plants high production yields and protection of our environment from overuse of pesticides. Over the years, the Ministry has moved to manage several destructive plant pests of economic significance such as the Frosty Pod Rot disease of cocoa and beet armyworm while protecting our crops from pests and diseases our borders.

The impact of climate change with higher than normal temperatures further threatens to reduce the quality of crops and production yields. The Ministry, through several projects and programmes, is building the local agricultural capacity to respond to the challenges through research, technology, and empowering our plant health and protection agencies and facilities.

I therefore take this opportunity to thank my team at the Ministry, led by the Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Branch in collaboration with the RADA, the Research and Development Division and Public Gardens, for raising awareness locally on the importance of plant health.

Plant health is everybody's business and so I urge all stakeholders to "Get Involved" and join us in preventing pest and disease outbreaks by promoting sustainable pest and pesticide management.

MRS. SANNIEL WILSON GRAHAM Chief Plant Quarantine Produce Inspector & Head of National Plant Protection Organization, Jamaica



Jamaica joins in celebrating May 12, the International Day of Plant Health, as a proud legacy of the International Year of Plant Health 2020.

As a country and the Ministry charged with the responsibility of safeguarding our agriculture and natural resources from the introduction of plant pests and diseases, we remain committed to continue to raise awareness of the importance of plant health, particularly among our traders (importers and exporters) and the international travelling public.

Over the last decade, the increase in trade and travel has tripled and this has seen a concomitant increase in the spread of pests and diseases. The Ministry, in collaboration with our stakeholders, continues to implement policies and safeguarding measures to minimize the risk of spreading pests and diseases through trade and travel by ensuring compliance with international plant health standards.

We continue to strengthen our monitoring and early warning systems to protect plants and plant health. But, we cannot do it alone, and so as we celebrate IYPH, we are calling all our importers, exporters and traders to "Get Involved". Help us prevent the spread of plant pests by being careful when ordering plants and plant products through channels such as

e-commerce with postal services that bypass regular phytosanitary controls.

PROTECTING PLANTS, PROTECTING LIFE

Interesting Facts

- Plants make up 80 per cent of the food we eat and produce 98 per cent of the oxygen we breathe
- Plant pests are responsible for the loss of up to 40 per cent of global food crops, and for trade losses in agricultural products exceeding US\$220 billion annually.
- The annual value of trade in agricultural products has grown almost three-fold over the past decade, largely in emerging economies and developing countries, reaching US\$1.7 trillion.
- Climate change is having a big impact on plant health. It threatens to reduce both the quality and quantity of crops, leading to lower yields. Rising temperatures are also exacerbating water scarcity, and changing the relationship between pests, plants and pathogens.

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

Farmers

- Prevent the spread of pests by using only certified pest-free seeds and seedlings.
- Regularly monitor and report the occurrence of pests on your farms.
- Adopt environment-friendly pest-management practices that do not kill pollinators
- Take advantage of modern digital technology, mobile apps and software to access information about how to prevent and manage plant pests and diseases and to report outbreaks.

Consumers

- Workers in the transportation industries, make sure that ships, airplanes, trucks and trains don't carry plant pests and diseases into new areas.
- Be careful when taking plants and plant products with you when you travel as they may spread plant pests and diseases. Contact the Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch beforehand to make sure that you are not infringing plant health laws.
- Be cautious when ordering plants and plant products online or through postal services as small packages can easily bypass regular phytosanitary controls. Purchase from reputable companies that provide international phytosanitary certification for safe trade of plants and plant products.



Ginger seedlings at nursery at Bodles Research Station.



Chavan Lyttle, Senior Agronomist at Bodles Research Station, converses with students at the RADA Agri-Tourism Expo in St. Ann.

HON FRANKLIN WITTER, JP, MP Minister of State



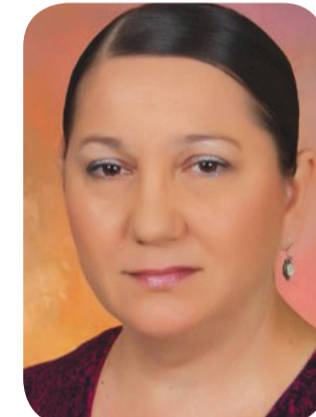
Healthy plants are fundamental to the way of life for humans and animals here in Jamaica and globally. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the conflict in Europe, continues to underscore the importance of food security.

Plants not only provide food for humans and feed for animals but also provide the very oxygen we breathe, and are the material from which clothes are made and natural building material is derived. It is therefore only fitting that the United Nations on the recommendation from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) pauses to raise awareness annually of the importance of plant health to agriculture, in particular, and to the general health and economic viability of a country.

We at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are quite seized of the importance of plant health to agricultural production and productivity and have a competent team of technocrats across our divisions and agencies who are ensuring our operations and projects reflect the importance of plant health.

We call on our farmers to "Get Involved" by ensuring that you prevent the spread of pests by using only certified, pest-free seeds and seedlings and monitor your crops for unusual pest occurrence, and engage in safe and environment-friendly pest management practices.

MRS. MARINA YOUNG Chief Executive Officer (Acting) RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



The United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). This observation seeks to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development. In continuing these efforts, May 12, 2022 – is designated International Day of Plant Health (IDPH).

The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), in support of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) - the Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Branch (PQ/PI), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF), is committed to the protection of the Plant Health System of Jamaica. Plant health includes the protection of plants and uses a range of measures to alleviate and prevent pests, weeds and disease-causing organisms from spreading into new areas especially through human interaction. In keeping with the National Plant Health Policy, RADA is responsible for providing complementary services to the NPPO and is responsible for implementing the following aspects of the policy:

- Training extension officers in improved methodologies to undertake general surveillance activities.
- Undertaking general surveillance activities.
- Training farmers in integrated pest management techniques.
- In collaboration with the Pesticides Control Authority, training farmers in proper pesticide usage and management.

We have demonstrated our commitment to meeting these goals through the designation of a special unit that deals specifically with plant health issues and assist in coordinating pest surveillance activities. In addition, RADA plays an integral role in the implementation of pest surveillance programmes and maintaining a database that can support the roles of our Agricultural Extension Officers in reporting these activities as well as providing data that can support policy decisions.

We believe in continuous support, sensitization and promotion of plants to our economy, health, environment and overall sustainability. We are committed to improving the capacities of our extension team to meet the needs of the current plant health system and mitigate the impacts characterizing climate change. This commitment is demonstrated through our partnership with the MOAF and the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International to introduce and train our extension staff as well as other stakeholders pertinent to the agricultural sector to include members from the MOAF, input suppliers, educational institutions, agro-parks, 4-H clubs, etc., in courses such as How to become a Plant Doctor, Crop Pest Diagnosis, and others. RADA has implemented and institutionalized the Plantwise Plant Doctor programme garnering additional benefits in data management and access to resources cementing our interest in the sustainability of our crop production systems as we share the overall goal to help farmers lose less of what they grow to plant health problems.

We are committed to working with our partners in the plant health system to secure our nation's food supply and protect the overall ecosystem upon which all lives



Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Parnel Charles Jr and Beven Martin-Dickenson, RADA Parish Agricultural Manager, view beet armyworm trap at onion field in St. Thomas.



Georgia Clarke, Research Assistant, Bodles Research Station, views East Indian mango seedling with Minister Witter at the RADA Agri-Tourism Expo.

DR CRISPIM MOREIRA FAO Representative for Jamaica, The Bahamas and Belize



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) wishes the government and people of Jamaica a Happy International Day of Plant Health. Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat.

Let us use this day to increase awareness of how plant health is fundamental to our food security and to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2, Zero Hunger and Jamaica's Vision 2030.

Protecting plants is protecting life.

DR. RONALD BLAKE Executive Director JAMAICA 4-H CLUBS



The Jamaica 4-H Clubs is pleased to be a partner in the observation of the International Day of Plant Health 2022 alongside the Plant Quarantine Produce Inspection (PQPI) Branch.

As sister agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, there is room for collaboration on this important issue of plant health and, by extension, our food security. No doubt the COVID-19 pandemic has sent the world in a tailspin and has brought to the fore, the need for greater understanding and appreciation of what happens with the foods that we eat, the plants that aid in their production and the importance of securing healthy foods.

We at the Jamaica 4-H Clubs have been preaching the message of food diversification and climate-smart agriculture as part of our initiatives to attract more youth in agriculture and for them to be engaged in more agricultural enterprises; as well as to encourage Jamaicans in engaging in their respective home gardens. These elements form part of our commitment to reintroduce Jamaicans to local foods that are healthy and nutritious. Some of these foods include the Spanish Needle plant and the staple popularly known as "baddoo".

The observation of the International Day of Plant Health is important to our citizens as it is our actions that will help us to put a dent in poverty, and improve our economic stability as they are encouraged to plant more of what they eat. The Jamaica 4-H Clubs pledges its support as part of the public education campaign in this regard.

Commendations are extended to the PQPI Branch in marshalling the efforts as we look forward to a successful day of activities as we seek to increase food production and engage in activities to ensure food security.



Integrated Pest Management
Practices include...

- 1 Use of pest-free quality-assured seeds.
- 2 Sustainable management of soils, nutrients and water.
- 3 Crop diversification and rotation.
- 4 Use of tree covers to prevent biological disease and for pest control.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



International Plant Protection Convention

