



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SUMMARY OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM

RATIONALE

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in Caribbean society. It strikes at the very core of human existence. As food security is emerging as a major challenge to Caribbean countries, it is important to introduce the scientific approach to students during their formative years so that they will develop a lifelong appreciation of this subject. Additionally, agriculture is an excellent vehicle for the enjoyable application of theory taught in several other subjects. The study of Agricultural Science also provides for the development of social and emotional intelligences, with opportunities for enacting core human values such as respect, responsibility, caring and kindness. Agricultural Science is one of the subjects in the primary schools curriculum and is timetabled for two periods per week. The curriculum is taught from Infants to Standard Five and all students are expected to achieve the competencies identified.

PROCESS GOALS

The goals of the curriculum include the development of

- Skills in crop and animal husbandry
- Knowledge of agricultural career pathways
- Self reliance, positive work ethics and healthy risk taking
- An appreciation for the environment and its conservation
- An understanding of elementary science and technology concepts
- Appreciation of the principles and practices of healthy lifestyles including physical, mental, social and emotional well-being

CONTENT STRANDS

There are five major strands in this curriculum. They include

1. Weather and the environment
2. Crop and livestock production
3. Agro-processing
4. Farming systems agencies and organisations
5. Careers in agriculture and entrepreneurship

TEACHING STRATEGIES AND ASSESSMENT

Varied teaching strategies and assessment methods are included in the curriculum. Some include problem-based learning, field trips, practical demonstrations, group discussion, role-playing and model-making.

Assessment strategies include the demonstration of skills, quizzes, classroom projects, portfolios, essays, product evaluation and record-keeping.