

Global Change and Jamaica's Small-Scale Coffee Farmers



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Discipline: Rural Development, Agriculture
Sector: Academia
Projects/Current Issues: Vulnerability of Coffee Farmers to Global Change, Food Security, Adaptation, Resilience, Governance
Areas of interest for future projects: Crop Suitability Modelling, Redd+, Water Resources and Changing Climate

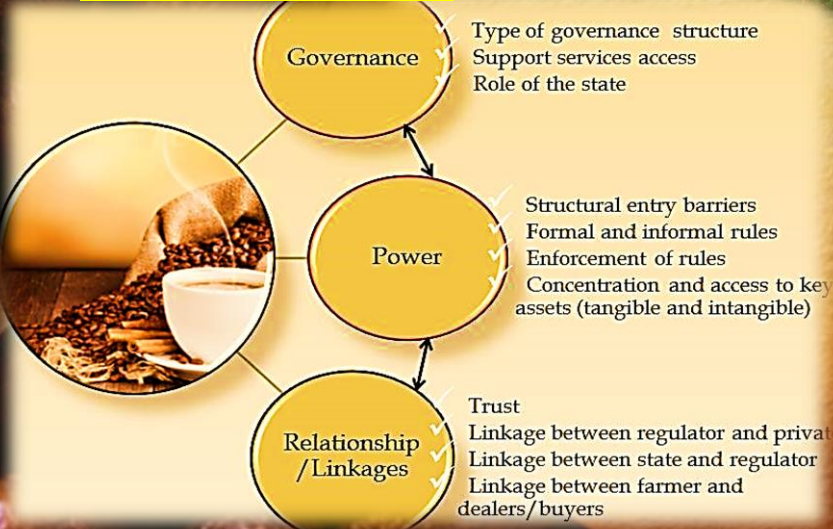


Farmer abandons coffee plot for cocoa

Coffee Leaf Rust

Leaf Miner between leaf layers

Farmer carrying fertilizer and water to farm



My current PhD work assesses the vulnerability and impacts of climate and economic change on the coffee sub-sector. A high value crop such as coffee is not only vulnerable to extreme climate events, but is also subjected to economic shocks. Small scale coffee farmers in both the Blue Mt and Non-Blue Mt areas have constantly faced the battle of safeguarding their livelihood through the midst of occupying marginal lands, increasingly high levels of capital investments for farm inputs, and meagre returns in the coffee supply chain. Farmers are further compounded by the fact that they occupy a “fragile space”; both in terms of the sub-sector’s dependency on one of its major export market as well as the susceptibility of crops to the changing climate. This research is of great importance since coffee is a vital export commodity, and is extremely important to the Jamaican agricultural sector as one of the largest earners of foreign exchange.