

The Sustainable Rural and Agricultural Development Research Cluster (S/RAD), SALISES, The UWI, Mona

# S/RAD SPEAKER SERIES

## COVID-19: New Imperatives for Food Security

### SPEAKERS:



**Mr Errol Grant**

Jamaican Farmer, Natural Health  
Consultant and Herbalist,  
Natures Medicine for Life Center



**Dr Donovan Stanberry**

Campus Registrar,  
The University of the West Indies (The UWI),  
former Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,  
Government of Jamaica, (co-moderator)

WEDNESDAY  
**07** JUL  
2021

**1:00pm** (Ja Time)  
Via Zoom

**Register online at**  
<https://bit.ly/3wnpYS7>



**MODERATOR: Patricia Northover**  
Senior Fellow, SALISES, The UWI, Mona

Web: <http://salises-srad.com/about.php>  
SRAD Focal SDG's: # SDG 2, 3, 8,  
Supporting SDGs: #SDG 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

WhatsApp/Call: 876-548-5708

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## About the S/RAD SPEAKER SERIES

Framed by the COVID-19 and other crises, the SALISES rural research cluster seeks to advance critical and decolonial rethinking for a paradigm reset in order to realize secure rural futures and authentic development pathways. Through this series, we will engage rural stakeholders in the region and elsewhere for realizing the SDG goals, vital to this cluster, of zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, plus decent work and growth in the context of the Plantationocene.

## COVID-19: New Imperatives for Food Security

With the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic and its deadly and disruptive impacts on lives, health, the labor force and market supply chains, millions have been thrown into states of food crises, with the number of persons who do not have enough to eat rising to 869 million as at June 2021, according to the UN, World Food Programme.

Food prices are accelerating rapidly and millions more may enter into states of food insecurity or crises. The Caribbean is a highly food import dependent space, with most of the region's food supply being heavily reliant on imports from the United States. In fact, "according to data from the International Trade Centre (ITC) the 15 nations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) source up to 94 per cent of their food imports from the US market (2018). 94 per cent of all CARICOM imports of cereals, 90 per cent of edible fruits and nut imports, 90 per cent of imports of edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers and 91 per cent of sugars and sugar confectionary imports originate from the United States" (2018). Source: D. Ewing-Chow-Forbes 2020

What are the lessons that we must take away for food security in the Caribbean and Jamaica given this COVID-19 shock within the context of climate change?

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