



Sowing Seeds of Change: Omar Newell Launches Groundbreaking Agriculture Program in Port Maria

Kingston, Jamaica. January 14, 2025: Farmers in Farmers' Heights, Port Maria, will soon benefit from a transformative initiative piloted by Member of Parliament Candidate for Central St. Mary and Deputy Shadow Minister of Trade, Investments, and Global Logistics, Omar Newell. The agriculture pilot project, a cornerstone of Newell's economic vision for the constituency, aims to tackle long-standing challenges faced by farmers while unlocking the sector's potential for growth.

"Conversations with farmers revealed clear barriers to success, including high upfront costs for land preparation, limited post-harvest storage, and restricted market access," said Newell. "This project is designed to address these challenges head-on, allowing our farmers to focus on what they do best: farming."

The initiative is a collaborative effort, with Newell partnering with prominent businessman Noel Reid, who provided equipment at heavily subsidized rates, and local enterprises committed to offering storage solutions and guaranteed purchase agreements. The program's initial cohort includes over a dozen farmers cultivating Irish potatoes and watermelons on lands allocated through Michael Manley's 1970s Project Land Lease initiative.

Member of Parliament Dr. Morais Guy, a steadfast advocate for farmers in the constituency, lauded Newell's efforts. "Omar's initiative represents a meaningful step forward in empowering our farmers and enhancing agricultural productivity in Farmers' Heights and beyond. I stand ready to support the growth of agriculture across the constituency."

Dr. Dayton Campbell, Shadow Minister of Agriculture, praised the program, stating, "This is precisely the kind of targeted intervention the PNP seeks to expand nationally. Agriculture is a vital engine of economic growth, and initiatives like this show how thoughtful support can empower farmers and strengthen our economy."

This support for local agriculture aligns with the PNP's broader vision for national development.

Newell also outlined his plans for the program's future. "We're already working to align agricultural outputs with market needs. In the coming months, we'll introduce livestock and explore how agriculture can drive value-added production and job creation as part of a broader industrial policy."

The pilot program is a promising first step in Newell's mission to revitalize agriculture and create sustainable economic opportunities for the people of Central St. Mary.

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