

Growing Your Own Food

A garden in every state run facility – response to rising world food prices.

This is part of the government's plan to ensure food security for Jamaicans. In addition to providing food subsistence, the gardening will become occupational therapy for the able bodies residents of these homes and the excess produce will be sold to generate income. It also ties in with the government's campaign - Eat what you grow and grow what you eat.

So far just under two million dollars has been pumped into a project to expand agricultural production in institutional homes. The objective of this project is to establish sustainable food gardens and backyard agricultural ventures by producing vegetables and chicken meat to supplement the diet of persons in these institutions. The pilot project is to be launched at Savanna-la-mar Golden Age Home in , Westmoreland and will be carried out under the guidance of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), with support from the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

Residents of the Home will work with the Westmoreland Association of Street People, to plant vegetables and tubers intercropped with sweet peppers, on a quarter acre of land. Chicken rearing will also be a part of the activity.

Source : www.jis.giov.jm