



Allman Town Primary Gets School Garden **-One of five established by Scotiabank on Labour Day**



Kingston, May 24, 2018: Scotiabank employees in the Corporate Area got their hands dirty on Labour Day planting a vegetable garden at Allman Town Primary School in central Kingston.

The team, placed top soil in several plastic containers cut out from drums and planted seedlings of pepper, calaloo, lettuce and pak choy in a containerised garden as well as watermelon in a nearby plot. The work was supervised by the Rural Agriculture Development Authority's representative, Santino Longmore.

"We chose seedlings that could easily grow in this environment," Longmore explained. "When we came and looked at the spot before, we saw that it was too shady; so we asked the school to cut away some of the tree cover to allow sunlight in."

Yanique Forbes Patrick, Scotiabank vice president for marketing, was among the gardening crew, which involved some 40 employees, at all levels, from head office and Corporate Area branches.

"We are trying to ensure that we have given this school the resources to, firstly, teach the students how vegetables are grown and their importance," said Forbes Patrick. "Secondly, we are ensuring that they actually have calaloo and other vegetables to eat."

Thamara Russell-Brown, vice principal at Allman Town Primary was appreciative of the work done by the Scotiabank employees. "I am really elated because the new curriculum requires that students know how to plant crops and take care of them," she said.

The vice principal noted that the grade-five students recently did an educational tour of a farm, so they would now have the opportunity to maintain the school garden as a project.

Establishing a school garden at Allman Town Primary was one of five major Labour Day projects that Scotiabank Foundation undertook across the island. The provision of school gardens is one component

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of the bank's Nutrition for Learning (NFL) programme, which seeks to enable some 34 primary schools and places of safety to provide healthier meals to children to facilitate learning.

Commenting on his involvement in creating a vegetable garden at Allman Town Primary, Scotiabank employee Douglas Seerattan said, "It is a worthwhile project because members of staff are able to give back to the community and to help the children."

His colleague, Shantee Dunkley, believes that "volunteerism is everybody's duty". She was happy to help create the school garden because "anything that's green is good and will give the children an appreciation of how plants grow."

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