

SPEAKING NOTES

FOR

Mrs. Daintyann Barrett-Smith,

Project Manager,

Second Rural Economic Development

Initiative (REDI-II) at the

Jamaica Social Investment Fund

At

The Jamaica Agri-Business Investment

Forum 2025

On

Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Salutations.

Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Debbie Bisson

His Worship the Mayor of Montego Cay, Councilor Richard Vernon

Mr. Ian Murray – Chairman of Agro-Investment Corporation,

Mr. Vivion Scully – Chief Executive Officer, Agro-Investment Corporation,

Other Representatives from the Agro-Investment Corporation,

Other distinguished sponsours

Members of team JSIF,

Members of the Media,

Investors, Financiers, Development Partners.

Good evening,

It is my pleasure to bring you greetings on behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, JSIF, as a proud sponsor of this important Agriculture Business Investment Forum.

It was easy for us at JSIF to offer our support to this initiative, which highlights the vital role agriculture plays in driving economic growth, food security, and sustainable development. Over the years, JSIF has supported several agriculture projects which have significantly influenced farmers productivity and access to markets, we continue doing so through our flagship Agriculture and Tourism project, the Rural Economic Development Initiative, which is in its second phase--- REDI II.

Included in the objective for the REDI II project is to optimize Agriculture production, enhancing business mentorship and coaching, invest in agriculture technology that will aid in alleviating the effects of climate change and creating linkages between agriculture and tourism. All of which are objectives that are in line with the Agro-Investment Corporation's vision in this conference.

The funding for REDI-II has been facilitated through a World Bank loan of 40 million US dollars, the projects successes in it first phase has paved the way for this massive injection of funding that is aimed towards bolstering Agriculture and improving the tourism through tapping into community tourism and its immense potential as diversify the sector.

With Agro-Investment Corporation and its work being directly aligned with the work being done through REDI-II we at JSIF has partnered with them on many projects and we are again delighted to be a part of yet another initiative as we move towards a common goal of improving the agricultural sector and ultimately improve the lives of Jamaicans.

As a sponsor, we see this forum not only as a platform for dialogue but also as an opportunity to foster partnerships, showcase innovation, and open doors for investment that will benefit our farmers, communities, and the nation.

As well as address critical issues such as climate change resilience, market access, and the inclusion of women and youth in agriculture.

We commend the organizers for bringing together such a diverse group of visionaries and practitioners, and we look forward to the fruitful exchanges and collaborations that will emerge.

Once again, we extend our warmest greetings and reaffirm our commitment to supporting agriculture as a cornerstone of progress.

Thank you.