

Tribute to the late Vincent Thompson from the Management and board of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

It is with great sadness that I today speak to you about the passing of a man who could easily be recognized as one of the stalwarts of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, JSIF where he worked for overyears.

Vincent's contribution to JSIF and to Agriculture is unmatched, and even saying that is an understatement. My time allotted here to pay tribute to Vincent is by no means enough to state all the many achievements and triumphs gained through his work on the Rural Economic Initiative, REDI in both its phases.

Vincent was at the helm of the project's Agriculture component, driving innovations in Green House cultivation, climate smart technology in agriculture, agro- processing and livestock rearing, just to name a few. Always knowledgeable about his field he would bring new and creative ideas to the forefront of the task we have at JSIF to implement the project.

After his passing the Caribbean Development Bank in a tribute spoke of Vincent as a great leader and storyteller who would not allow you to have a

dull moment on field visits to the country. A humble and generous man with a wealth of knowledge and experience in his field.

The World Bank also paid tribute to him for his work on the REDI project, speaking of him as a *kind soul, truly passionate and so dedicated to his work.*

It is no wonder after his passing community farming groups across the length and breadth of Jamaica collectively mourned the passing of a man who they saw as a friend and teacher and most of all one of them.

Vincent's knowledge of the subject matter of Agriculture could only be out done by his warmth, personable and overall positive and happy character.

He interacted with everyone in the office always cracking a joke and telling captivating stories about his many encounters with farmers in the field.

Vincent's distinctive greetings to staff members and management alike will be sorely missed, his pleasant demeanor and overall great spirit has left a void at JSIF. However, we take comfort in knowing that his time with us was well spent as his contribution to the organization and by extension Jamaica is exemplary.

Sleep well our dear Vincent, until we meet again.

