



+-
**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
PRESS RELEASE**

Wednesday, February 06, 2012

EU continues support of sugar workers – reaffirms commitment to cooperation in agriculture

The European Union has again put forward a cooperative hand to former and current workers of sugar estates living in dilapidated sugar barracks.

This morning (February 6, 2013) at a ground-breaking ceremony and contract signing held in Springfield Clarendon, plans were unveiled for the relocation of the sugar workers to a new community, funded by the EU through the Sugar Transformation Unit (STU) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

This is the fourth such contract signing ceremony held in a series that upon completion will have seen works begin for 876 families to be relocated to greatly needed housing developments. Ground has already been broken for sugar barracks relocation works in the parishes of St. Thomas, Westmoreland and Trelawny.

In her remarks, EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Paola Amadei expressed to Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller her pleasure at seeing the start of the relocation project, set to benefit some 209 persons in 88 housing solutions.

The contracts signed which are valued at some \$161 million JMD to Seal Construction Company Limited, are a part of ongoing support provided to the sugar industry by the European Union. The EU for its part remains not only Jamaica's largest grant donor in agriculture, but also its largest provider of grant support overall.

In closing her remarks, Ambassador Amadei said *"Investing in food security is good macro-economic policy, and a viable, thriving agricultural sector requires not just investments in technology, and agricultural research, but in people"*. She also reminded government members and guests that the EU was *"happy to contribute to a sector with such great potential and are confident that this excellent level of cooperation will continue"*.

For more information:

**Contact- Andrew Raymore
Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands
Tel: 1 876 924 6333
andrew-neal.raymore@eeas.europa.eu**
