

## **Appendix A**

### **Mutual Mission**

#### **JAMAICA ECUMENICAL MUTUAL MISSION CASTOR BEAN PROJECT**

Our JEMM Partners (Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission) have begun a program aimed at alleviating poverty, particularly in the rural areas of Jamaica where many of the persons there have lost jobs during the COVID pandemic.

There are many areas around the rural churches that are used for cultivation of crops and this makes it ideal for local farmers to participate in this project.

The project aims for the farmer to have an expected yield of between 1500 and 2500 pounds of the beans per acre each year.

The amount paid to the Jamaican farmers for the beans is \$1.00 US per pound. A good crop year could yield the farmer approximately \$3,000 US dollars per year.

The castor beans will be collected from the farmers and sent to a processing plant where the castor oil is expressed from the bean.

We applaud our JEMM Partners for their work in getting this project off the ground and for helping to provide an income for the farmers.

#### Random Facts about Castor Beans and the Castor Plant:

- The leaves produce an alcoholic compound that has been found to have specific medicinal properties that prevent liver damage.
- The bark extract has been found to be an anti-inflammatory agent
- Castor plant extracts are used to prepare insecticides
- Castor leaves are fed to silkworm larvae until they get in chrysalis stage
- Castor oil is used extensively in food processing, a flavoring agent and a mold deterrent

Our JEMM Partners are collecting monies to buy the Castor seeds to provide to farmers who don't have any other way of getting the seed. If you would like to participate in this project, please go to the donation page of the presbytery and access the Mutual Mission Site. [Presbytery Donations – Presbytery of St. Augustine \(staugpres.org\)](https://www.staugpres.org/donations)

Bob Bell, Co-Chair  
Mutual Missions Committee