

# Agricultural society seeks JN boost

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**T**HE WESTMORELAND branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) has approached the Jamaica National (JN) Foundation for assistance in procuring a cold storage for the proposed JAS market in Westmoreland.

According to Harold Francis, parish co-ordinator, the JAS branch has already raised over \$100,000 from contributions made by farmers in the parish to help finance the project.

"We have approached the JN Foundation to seek funding to put in a cold room because we realise that once you are going into agriculture you are dealing with perishables, these things need proper storage," said Francis.

The need for a cold storage comes against the background of a plan by the JAS Westmoreland branch to establish a wholesale market for its farmers.

"We realise that all that we can do for our farmers, at the end of the day, if we cannot secure a market, technically, we would have wasted their time and a man does not have a market it does not make sense," said Francis.

## **FUNDS WILL OPEN MARKET**

He stressed that if the JAS is successful in securing the assistance from the JN Foundation, the market will be operational by July of this year. "We are looking at opening the market by July, the latest, and we want to do a demonstration on how this can work, on June 29 when we have our parish agricultural show, the same show we use to call Frome Show.

"We will have a section designated a flea market, where many farmers will be coming in with their produce and people who come to the show that day can buy whatever produce they need wholesale," said Francis.

According to him, the market will be located at the JAS premises, 71 Great George Street in Savanna-la-Mar and will operate similarly to the wholesale market in Newmarket.