

Rural communities benefit from JN entrepreneurship workshop

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WESTERN BUREAU:

THE HANOVER Parish Development Committee (HPDC) continued its Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) Foundation-funded Entrepreneurship Workshop series last week with a two-day workshop in the remote rural Axe and Adze community in eastern Hanover.

Thirty-seven residents of Axe and Adze and neighbouring communities of Forrest, Success, Bessie Baker, Mt Peto and Golden Grove participated in the workshop.

SEGMENT SERIES FUNDING

This segment of the series was funded by the JNBS's Lucea branch as a Branch Advisory Project.

"I am pleased with the turnout. This is something JNBS Foundation encourages," Virginia Turner, project manager of the JNBS Foundation, said during her presentation on the second day of the workshop.

"The workshop was exciting and it was good. It aimed to inspire and encourage young people," president of the Axe and Adze Citizens' Association, Pastor Rupert Shippey, told **Western Focus**. "I got a lot of phone calls since then from other persons who had not participated but who want to attend next time



Photo by Claudia Gardner

Participants in last week's Hanover Parish Development Committee's Entrepreneurship Workshop series pose along with presenter and marketing manager of RADA, Saleem Clarke (stooping, left) in the Axe and Adze community. The workshop is one of four to be held in remote-rural communities in the parish, and is being funded by the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation.

around. It was one of the best ideas the HPDC has come up with. We are happy they have brought it to our area and everyone is thankful for that."

The HPDC launched the Entrepreneurship Workshop Series in February. The workshop series is aimed at training and providing guidance to access financing to approximately 600 persons in the parish this year.

Last week's session featured presentations from the HEART Trust NTA; Rural Agricultural Development Authority's (RADA) new marketing officer, Saleem Clarke; Hanover Parish AIDS Association; JNBS Small Business Loans; the HPDC and the JNBS Foundation.

According to the workshop series project manager, Conroy Ghans, the workshops are geared at bridging



Jamaica National Building Society Foundation project manager, Virginia Turner, addresses participants in the Hanover Parish Development Committee's Entrepreneurship Workshop series last Thursday in Axe and Adze in eastern Hanover.

the gaps between the micro and small businesses and the financial sector. The broader aim of the project is to teach the participants modern skills for transition to owning and managing their own businesses.

Ghans said that at start-up, and even during the first few years of business, entrepreneurs often have

difficulty providing assets which are accepted as collateral by traditional lending institutions, thus limiting their options for financing. Some entrepreneurs do not have a clear and workable business plan, which hampers the start and growth of their business.

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