

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **GIP Research Report 2026**

The Growth Inducement Programme (GIP) of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) invites persons to submit research papers to be included in the upcoming GIP Research Report 2026.

In light of the evolving economic landscape, the GIP has identified 16 critical research topics that align with the broader goal of fostering inclusive economic opportunities for all Jamaicans. These topics are designed to generate actionable insights that can help dismantle barriers to economic participation, promote greater economic resilience, and enhance the overall quality of life for citizens. Covering a wide range of critical issues, they focus on enhancing safety and security, developing human capital and infrastructure, improving governance to streamline business processes, and advancing economic diversification. Additionally, they examine the effects of digital transformation, climate resilience, crime reduction, demographic changes, the creative economy, agribusiness, waste-to-energy initiatives, and renewable energy development. By exploring these areas, scholars, policymakers, and industry leaders can help shape strategies that boost Jamaica's competitiveness, promote social equity, and sustain economic growth. While these topics are specific, they serve as guidelines, and we welcome research that aligns with the respective research areas.

The GIP aims to create a platform for sharing innovative research on challenges, opportunities, and solutions related to economic growth in Jamaica. Selected papers will be featured in the 2026 GIP Research Report, which will be distributed through various media outlets and shared with key decision makers. Copies of earlier Research Reports and other GIP publications may be viewed at: [www.pioj.gov.jm](http://www.pioj.gov.jm).

Key stakeholders, including government ministers, agency heads, private sector leaders, academics, and media representatives, will receive the Report. This presents a valuable opportunity for researchers to showcase their findings and engage with national decision-makers.

In addition to the opportunity for broad dissemination of your work, networking, and potential future collaborations, participants can expect the following significant benefits:

- A deeper understanding of the Jamaican economy and its drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth through discussions and recent studies.
- The chance to strengthen your research paper through feedback from a multi-disciplinary expert panel.
- The opportunity to contribute to national discussions and influence the development of strategic initiatives for nation building.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS & PAPERS

1. Choose a topic from the GIP's Research Agenda that aligns with research you have planned, commissioned, or conducted, provided that data collection was completed on or after **January 1, 2024**. Applicants must:
  - Ensure the research methodology and execution are rigorous
  - Have the rights to share the findings.
  
2. For the GIP's consideration, the applicant must submit:
  - An extended abstract of not more than 600 words (see Sample in Chart 1) consisting of the following:
    - Problem Statement
    - Objective
    - Methodology
    - Findings/Results (if the paper is already completed)
    - Conclusion (if the paper is already completed)
  - The surrounding information should include:
    - Title
    - Name(s) of author(s) and affiliations (institutions and positions)
    - The lead author's email address and telephone number
    - Keywords (4–6 highly related keywords)
    - Short biography of the lead author (150 words maximum)
    - A cover letter indicating that the author(s) have agreed to the submission and give their permission for the abstract and related research paper/parts thereof, if selected, to be edited and published by the PIOJ/GIP.

All abstracts must be submitted in Microsoft Word format and emailed to [gip@pioj.gov.jm](mailto:gip@pioj.gov.jm) by 11:59 PM (Jamaica time) on **Thursday, May 1, 2025**. Should your abstract be short-listed to advance to the next stage:

- The draft research paper should be emailed to [gip@pioj.gov.jm](mailto:gip@pioj.gov.jm) by 11:59 PM (Jamaica time) on **Monday, September 8, 2025**.
  
- The finalized research paper should be emailed to [gip@pioj.gov.jm](mailto:gip@pioj.gov.jm) by 11:59 PM (Jamaica time) on **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**.

We invite you to share this opportunity with as many suitable candidates as possible and provide the names of interested parties, likely topic from the Research Agenda (if known), and their contact information (phone number and email address). This information and any requests for clarification may be directed to Janielle Green, Operations Officer ([gip@pioj.gov.jm](mailto:gip@pioj.gov.jm) | 876-935-5198).

We look forward to your participation.

## CHART 1: SAMPLE OF ABSTRACT

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**Title of Paper:** Study of Barriers to Access and Completion of Tertiary Technical Education in Jamaica

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**Keyword:** Tertiary Technical education, Disadvantaged youth, Jamaica

### **Abstract:**

**Problem Statement:** The strong barriers to access and completion of tertiary technical education, by youths, were assessed from three perspectives. From the *individual perspective*, there were financial challenges relating to tuition payments and miscellaneous fees and a general lack of awareness of tertiary technical education. From the *community perspective*, limited examples of family deriving success through educational attainment and violence in the school environment contributed to the adverse educational trajectory among youths. From the *gender perspective*, challenges emerged principally in the forms of pervasive sexual harassment and early pregnancy.

**Objective:** The study was designed to investigate the barriers disadvantaged students face in accessing technical tertiary education.

**Methodology:** The first stage was a qualitative research, which consisted of 16 focus groups with males and females between 17 and 25 years in the lower socio-economic group. The second phase was a quantitative survey with 824 participants.

### **Results/ Findings:**

1. More than 90 per cent of each student type endorsed education as “very important”, more than 75 per cent agreed that their life goals could not be achieved without furthering their education and they were very committed to their goals and 9 in 10 of each student type endorsed skilled qualification as being “very important” to life goals.
2. Those pursuing tertiary technical/vocational education/training were more likely than the other groups, to cite high-level career aspirations.
3. Despite financial challenges, at least 8 in every 10 persons have never applied for financial aid/scholarship, mainly because of their perceived limited qualifications and ignorance of related sources of information.
4. Lack of exposure to career counselling did emerge as a barrier.
5. Most respondents in all groups agreed that both males and females (pregnant or not) were given the same access to educational institutions.
6. Main barriers to programme completion (i.e. programme drop-out) were related to financial difficulties, specifically their ability to pay tuition or supporting expenses. Only 7 per cent went on to complete the programme they stopped.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Develop more robust activities and programmes coordinated from start to finish to include technical tertiary institutions, parent-teacher associations and NGOs. Interventions should strive to be sustainable and include providing some support services e.g. day and after care for children. The latter will have two advantages: i) freeing up parents to go to training, ii) ensuring children have a safe and supportive after school environment including home-work supervision.
2. Focus on increasing the intake/uptake of students into tertiary technical education and cadre of technical teachers/educators.
3. Mainstreaming the disabled into educational facilities is the only way to ensure a measure of equity. Therefore, educational institutions must be equipped to facilitate this, including repurposing equipment.

## APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH AGENDA

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1. **Cultivating the Growth Mindset: The Role of Policies, Laws and Institutions in Shaping Inclusive Development Outcomes.** The concept of mindset adjustment as a critical factor for accessing and utilizing opportunities in an inclusive growth framework. It aligns with the growing recognition that economic and social progress requires more than just structural and policy reforms—it demands shifts in societal attitudes, cultural norms, and individual behaviours.
  - a. **Key Research Questions**
    - i. What role do policies, laws and institutions play in shaping societal mindsets toward growth and inclusivity?
    - ii. How have countries like Singapore, South Korea, Rwanda and the United States used deliberate strategies to cultivate growth-oriented mindsets?
    - iii. What cultural, legal, or institutional barriers hinder mindset adjustments in Jamaica?
    - iv. How can Jamaica adapt these lessons to foster a mindset conducive to inclusive growth?
  - b. **Expected Contributions**
    - i. Practical strategies for governments to design interventions that foster the desired mindset.
    - ii. Insights into how cultural and institutional factors shape individual and collective behaviours.
    - iii. Policy frameworks for creating environments conducive to inclusive growth.
2. **Quick Wins for Inclusive Growth: Strategies to Build Momentum, Public Trust and Youth Engagement in Jamaica.** Jamaica faces significant public disillusionment due to the lag between policy implementation and perceivable benefits. While ambitious reforms are underway, citizens remain skeptical, with many expressing frustrations at the lack of visible, immediate impacts on their lives. The goal of this paper should be to propose actionable strategies that could deliver visible results in the short term while aligning with Jamaica's broader vision for inclusive growth. These interventions should not only provide practical solutions to pressing issues but should also help to rebuild trust in the government's ability to improve the lives of its citizens. A special focus should be placed on youth engagement, recognizing its vital role in promoting inclusiveness, increasing legitimacy, and fostering trust in government.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What are the most pressing areas where Jamaicans, particularly youth, need immediate relief or visible change to restore public confidence?
- ii. How can quick-win strategies be effectively aligned with long-term development goals to avoid policy fragmentation and ensure sustainable youth engagement?
- iii. What can Jamaica learn from global examples of quick-win interventions in similar contexts, especially those that have successfully integrated youth participation?
- iv. How can quick-win interventions be communicated to maximize public buy-in and foster optimism, and encourage active youth involvement?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. A list of practical, actionable quick-win interventions that can be implemented within the next 12-18 months, with a focus on initiatives that engage and benefit the youth.
- ii. Policy recommendations for effective implementation that consider the political, social, and economic realities of Jamaica, emphasizing mechanisms for meaningful youth participation.
- iii. Communication strategies to ensure public engagement and trust-building throughout the process, highlighting approaches to effectively reach and involve young people.

3. **The Economic and Social Costs of Crime: Implications for Inclusive Growth in Jamaica.** Crime remains a significant barrier to Jamaica's development, influencing wealth creation, public safety, human capital development, and societal cohesion. Its ripple effects extend beyond the island, impacting the Jamaican diaspora's engagement and contributions. This research paper should examine how crime undermines the inclusive growth and propose actionable solutions for addressing its costs and consequences.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What are the direct and indirect economic costs of crime on businesses, livelihoods, public finances, and wealth creation in Jamaica?
- ii. How does crime impact human capital development, including education, workforce productivity, decision to migrate and public health?
- iii. What are the social and psychological effects of crime on communities, including its influence on societal cohesion and trust?
- iv. How does crime affect the Jamaican diaspora's willingness to invest, visit, or contribute to national development?
- v. How can the strategies that have been effective in other countries be harnessed/adapted for application in Jamaica?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Quantification of Crime's Costs: Insights into the financial, social, and human capital losses caused by crime, including its effects on diasporic investments and remittances.
- ii. Strategies for Wealth Preservation: Policy frameworks to reduce crime's economic toll and foster an environment conducive to wealth generation.
- iii. Engagement with the Diaspora: Recommendations for leveraging the Jamaican diaspora's resources and expertise while addressing safety concerns that may hinder their involvement.
- iv. Global Best Practices: Lessons from countries like Colombia, South Africa, and Rwanda on balancing crime reduction with inclusive growth initiatives.

4. **The Demographic Transition: Addressing Jamaica's Aging and Declining Population for Inclusive Growth.** Jamaica faces a dual demographic challenge: a declining birth rate and an aging population. These trends present risks to workforce sustainability, economic productivity, and social welfare systems. Addressing these challenges requires a dual focus: maximizing the productivity of the existing labour force while improving skill levels to foster economic resilience. Innovative policies must balance support for an aging population with strategies to enhance workforce participation, productivity, and intergenerational equity within the framework of inclusive growth.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What are the economic and social implications of Jamaica's aging and declining population for inclusive growth?
- ii. How can technology and the digital economy be leveraged to enhance productivity among Jamaica's aging workforce, enabling their continued contribution to economic growth and inclusive development?
- iii. How can targeted skills policy improve the productivity and adaptability of Jamaica's existing workforce?
- iv. How have countries like Japan, Finland, and Chile successfully adapted to demographic transitions while fostering workforce resilience and inclusive growth?
- v. What cultural, legal, and institutional barriers hinder Jamaica's capacity to respond effectively to demographic shifts?
- vi. What strategies can Jamaica implement to enhance workforce productivity, support its aging population, stem the potential for labour shortage in the future, and sustain economic growth?
- vii. How does the migration of youth from Jamaica to other countries impact the labour market, economic productivity, and efforts to achieve inclusive growth, and what strategies can mitigate these effects?

- b. Expected Contributions**
    - i. Insights into how maximizing workforce productivity and improving skill levels can mitigate the challenges of an aging and declining child population.
    - ii. Evidence-based recommendations for targeting skills policies to align with workforce needs and inclusive growth objectives.
    - iii. Practical strategies for creating a sustainable, resilient economy while fostering intergenerational equity and supporting demographic transitions.
  
5. **Post-Implementation Assessment of Social Protection Initiatives to Enhance Inclusive Growth.**

Conduct a post-implementation assessment of one or more social protection initiatives in Jamaica, designed to reduce poverty, promote economic resilience, and enhance social equity. The researcher may choose to evaluate initiatives such as cash transfer programmes, unemployment benefits, or targeted subsidies, using methods like surveys, focus groups, and data analysis to assess their real-world impact.

  - a. Key Research Questions**
    - i. How effective have social protection initiatives been in reducing poverty and promoting economic resilience in Jamaica?
    - ii. What are the challenges and successes in the implementation of these programmes from the perspectives of beneficiaries and policymakers?
    - iii. How can post-implementation assessments (e.g., surveys, focus groups) help identify gaps in coverage, targeting, and delivery?
    - iv. What lessons can be drawn from global examples (e.g., Brazil's Bolsa Família, Mexico's Oportunidades) for improving the effectiveness of social protection initiatives in Jamaica?
  
  - b. Expected Contributions**
    - i. In-depth evaluation of the outcomes and challenges of social protection initiatives, identifying successes and areas for improvement.
    - ii. Practical methodologies for conducting post-implementation assessments, including innovative data collection tools like surveys and focus groups.
    - iii. Policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection programmes, contributing to long-term poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth.
  
6. **Assessing Jamaica's Waste-to-Energy Initiatives: Progress, Challenges, and Future Directions.**

This paper should examine the current status of Jamaica's waste-to-energy (WtE) initiatives, evaluating their effectiveness in waste management and renewable energy production. It should analyze the progress made since the implementation of the National Energy-from-Waste Policy

2010–2030, identify existing challenges, and propose strategies to enhance the role of WtE in achieving Jamaica's sustainable development goals.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- a. What advancements have been made in Jamaica's WtE initiatives since the adoption of the National Energy-from-Waste Policy 2010–2030?
- b. What are the primary challenges hindering the development and implementation of WtE projects in Jamaica?
- c. How can Jamaica optimize its WtE strategies to align with national renewable energy targets and sustainable development objectives?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- a. Provide a comprehensive assessment of the progress in Jamaica's WtE initiatives, highlighting key achievements and areas needing improvement.
- b. Identify and analyze the challenges impeding WtE project development, including technical, financial, regulatory, and social factors.
- c. Offer policy recommendations and strategic actions to enhance the effectiveness of WtE initiatives, contributing to improved waste management and increased renewable energy generation in Jamaica.
- d. Support Jamaica's sustainable development by outlining pathways to integrate WtE solutions into the national energy and environmental frameworks.

7. **From Ideas to Action: Bridging the Gap Between Conceptualization and Effective Implementation of Growth Initiatives.** The persistent challenge for Jamaica lies not in generating innovative growth initiatives but in effectively implementing them to achieve tangible results. This research explores the systemic barriers to implementation and provides actionable strategies to enhance execution capacity. It focuses on bridging the gap between conceptual brilliance and on-the-ground effectiveness, identifying lessons from other nations and tailoring solutions to Jamaica's unique socio-economic context.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What systemic factors hinder the effective implementation of growth initiatives in Jamaica?
- ii. How have countries like Singapore, Rwanda, and Estonia successfully transitioned from planning to execution in their development strategies?
- iii. What role do governance, institutional capacity, accountability, and culture play in ensuring successful implementation?
- iv. What practical, context-specific frameworks can Jamaica adopt to move from great ideas to impactful actions?



**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Frameworks for addressing institutional and systemic barriers to implementation in Jamaica.
- ii. Insights into governance models and best practices for operationalizing growth initiatives.
- iii. Policy recommendations tailored to Jamaica’s socio-political context for achieving impactful results.

**8. Building Climate Resilience in Jamaica's Agriculture Industry: Assessing Gaps and Opportunities, and the Role of Affordable Crop Insurance.** The agriculture industry is a critical pillar of Jamaica’s economy and a vital component of its food security. However, climate change poses significant threats, including extreme weather events, droughts, and shifts in growing seasons. These challenges undermine the sector’s ability to engage in long-term contracts, consistently meet market demands, and sustain its viability, leaving it often in a cycle of recovery from successive climate shocks. This research should aim to assess the gaps in the industry’s current climate resilience strategies, evaluate what has been done at both the national and farmer levels, and propose actionable solutions to enhance adaptive capacity. A key focus should be on exploring affordable crop insurance models as a component of building resilience.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What are the key vulnerabilities of Jamaica’s agricultural sector to climate change?
- ii. What measures have been implemented at the national level to build climate resilience in agriculture, and how effective have they been?
- iii. How have Jamaican farmers individually responded to climate-related risks, and what barriers prevent broader adoption of adaptive practices?
- iv. What successful practices from comparable countries can Jamaica adopt to strengthen both national and farmer-level resilience?
- v. How can affordable crop insurance models be designed and implemented to effectively support Jamaican farmers in mitigating climate-related risks?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Identification of Gaps: A comprehensive review of existing policies and practices, identifying areas requiring urgent attention.
- ii. Practical Solutions: Actionable strategies for integrating climate resilience into national agricultural policies and farmer-level practices.

- iii. Policy Frameworks: Recommendations for a cohesive, multi-stakeholder approach to climate-resilient agriculture that supports Jamaica’s inclusive growth objectives.
  - iv. Insurance Model Proposals: Detailed analysis of affordable crop insurance models suitable for Jamaica, including implementation strategies and potential challenges.
9. **The Impact of Increased Broadband and Internet Connectivity on Productivity, E-commerce, and Inclusive Growth.** The expansion of broadband and internet access has transformative potential for productivity, economic diversification, and inclusive growth. This research should explore how enhanced connectivity can catalyze bottom-up diversification through e-commerce, bridge inequality gaps, and foster innovation. By examining global and local case studies, it should seek to identify strategies for leveraging digital infrastructure as a driver of inclusive development.
- a. **Key Research Questions**
    - i. How does increased broadband and internet connectivity influence productivity and economic diversification?
    - ii. What role does the internet play in enabling bottom-up economic diversification and growth, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)?
    - iii. How have countries such as Estonia, India, and Kenya utilized broadband expansion to advance inclusive growth?
    - iv. What barriers exist in Jamaica for maximizing the benefits of internet connectivity, and how can these be overcome?
    - v. What policy interventions can align broadband expansion with inclusive growth goals?
  - b. **Expected Contributions**
    - i. Strategies for leveraging broadband to enhance productivity and promote economic diversification.
    - ii. Insights into the role of e-commerce in empowering underserved communities and driving inclusive growth.
    - iii. Policy recommendations for addressing barriers and aligning digital transformation with IGIF goals.
10. **Ensuring Sustainable Road Maintenance in Jamaica: Strategies for Long-Term Quality and Fiscal Responsibility.** This research paper should explore the approaches to ensuring that Jamaica's road infrastructure is repaired for the long term. It should examine methods, materials, and contractual guarantees that can minimize costs, disruptions, and ensure value for money, all while improving productivity and road safety.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What strategies, materials, cutting edge relatively affordable technologies, and techniques can be employed to ensure that Jamaica's roads are repaired and maintained to a high standard for extended periods?
- ii. How can guarantees in contracts with contractors (such as performance bonds or warranties) incentivize long-term maintenance and road quality?
- iii. What are the cost/benefit trade-offs between different approaches to road repair and maintenance, considering Jamaica's fiscal constraints?
- iv. How can the government balance quality, cost-effectiveness, and minimize commute disruption in road infrastructure projects?
- v. What lessons can Jamaica learn from countries like Singapore and South Korea, which have successfully implemented long-lasting infrastructure solutions?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Practical Strategies: Recommendations for integrating long-term guarantees and efficient materials into road contracts to ensure sustained road quality.
- ii. Cost-effective Solutions: Insights into how Jamaica can balance quality, cost, and disruption in road repair and maintenance.
- iii. Policy Frameworks: Actionable policy suggestions for ensuring fiscal responsibility in road infrastructure projects, contributing to sustainable, inclusive economic growth.

11. **Post-Implementation Assessment of Bureaucratic Reforms to Improve Ease, Speed, and Cost of Doing Business.** This study should conduct a post-implementation assessment of one or more bureaucratic reform initiatives aimed at improving the ease, speed, and cost of doing business in Jamaica. The researcher may choose to evaluate reforms such as digitalization of business registration, licensing processes, or tax reforms, utilizing methodologies like mystery shopping, surveys, and stakeholder interviews to assess real-world outcomes.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. How effective have recent bureaucratic reforms been in improving the ease, speed, and cost of doing business in Jamaica?
- ii. What role do post-implementation assessments (e.g., mystery shopping, surveys) play in identifying areas for improvement in the reform processes?
- iii. How do stakeholders (e.g., businesses, citizens, government employees) perceive the impact of these reforms on daily operations and efficiency?

- iv. What lessons can be learned from international examples (e.g., Estonia, Singapore, Rwanda) in conducting post-implementation assessments of bureaucratic reforms?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. A detailed evaluation of the outcomes of specific bureaucratic reforms, identifying successes and areas for improvement.
- ii. Practical methodologies for conducting post-implementation assessments, including innovative techniques like mystery shopping.
- iii. Policy recommendations to enhance the impact of future reforms, based on data-driven insights.

12. **Transitioning to a Green Economy: Exploring Renewable Energy Opportunities in Jamaica.** The paper should investigate Jamaica's potential for transitioning to a green economy, leveraging its abundant natural resources, such as solar and wind energy, to support sustainable development. It would assess the economic impact of expanding the renewable energy sector, explore barriers to adopting solar and wind technologies in rural communities, and examine the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in advancing renewable energy infrastructure. The study should also consider how these initiatives would enhance climate resilience, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, and promote inclusive growth.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What would be the economic implications of expanding Jamaica's renewable energy sector for sustainable development and inclusive growth?
- ii. What barriers should be addressed to facilitate the adoption of solar and wind energy technologies in rural communities?
- iii. How should public-private partnerships (PPPs) be leveraged to accelerate renewable energy infrastructure development in Jamaica?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. The paper should provide a comprehensive analysis of how the renewable energy sector would contribute to Jamaica's GDP, employment, and energy security.
- ii. It would identify practical strategies to overcome barriers to renewable energy adoption, particularly in underserved rural communities.
- iii. The study should offer a roadmap for fostering public-private partnerships that would drive renewable energy infrastructure development and support Jamaica's transition to a green economy.
- iv. The research would highlight how renewable energy initiatives should enhance climate resilience and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

13. **Expanding Jamaica’s Creative Economy: Unlocking Opportunities for Global Growth.** This paper should examine the immense potential of Jamaica’s creative industries as a driver of inclusive growth, employment generation, and global competitiveness. Given Jamaica's global cultural influence in music, dance, sports, fashion, and film, the paper should explore how to formalize and expand the creative economy. It may address policy frameworks, the role of digital platforms in monetization, and strategies for connecting Jamaica’s creative industries to global markets while overcoming challenges.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What policy frameworks should Jamaica adopt to formalize and expand its creative industries, ensuring sustainable growth and inclusivity?
- ii. How can digital platforms be leveraged to effectively monetize Jamaican cultural content, enhancing revenue generation and international visibility?
- iii. What are the key challenges and opportunities in linking Jamaica’s creative industries to global markets, and how can they be strategically addressed?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Develop actionable strategies to formalize and grow Jamaica’s creative industries.
- ii. Propose a comprehensive policy framework to address regulatory, infrastructural, and financial needs.
- iii. Demonstrate the economic benefits of leveraging digital platforms to monetize cultural content.
- iv. Highlight how creative industries contribute to employment, tourism, and export revenue.
- v. Identify pathways for integrating Jamaica’s creative economy into global markets.
- vi. Provide evidence-based solutions to overcome barriers such as limited financing, market access, and intellectual property protection.
- vii. Showcase the potential of Jamaica’s creative economy to enhance its global cultural influence.

14. **Unlocking Potential: Enhancing Agribusiness and Agro-Processing for Sustainable Growth in Jamaica.** This research should explore key areas within Jamaica’s agribusiness and agro-processing sectors, focusing on value-added opportunities, the economic viability of climate-smart agriculture, and the export potential of Jamaican superfoods and specialty crops. The aim should be to assess how Jamaica can capitalize on its agricultural heritage while responding to global market demands for organic and sustainable products.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. What are the key value-added opportunities within Jamaica's agribusiness sector, and how can they contribute to economic growth?

- ii. What is the economic feasibility of implementing climate-smart agriculture practices in Jamaica, and what are their long-term benefits?
- iii. How can Jamaica position itself to take advantage of the growing global demand for superfoods and specialty crops?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. This study would provide insights into the potential for expanding Jamaica’s agribusiness sector by identifying specific value-added products.
- ii. It would contribute to policy discussions on integrating climate-smart agriculture, demonstrating its economic viability and sustainability.
- iii. The research would assess the competitive advantages Jamaica could leverage to become a key player in the export of superfoods and specialty crops, enhancing the country’s presence in global markets.

15. **Leveraging Education for Economic Growth: Expanding Jamaica’s Education Sector, Innovation, and Workforce Development.** This paper will explore the potential for expanding Jamaica’s education sector to become a key export industry, aligning with global trends towards knowledge-driven economies. It will investigate the role of higher education in fostering innovation and supporting economic diversification, while also examining how educational systems can be restructured to meet the evolving needs of the labour market, ensuring that a future-ready workforce is cultivated.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. How can Jamaica expand its education sector to serve as an export industry, particularly targeting the Caribbean diaspora?
- ii. What role does higher education play in fostering innovation and contributing to economic diversification in Jamaica?
- iii. How can the education system be better aligned with the future economic needs of Jamaica, preparing a workforce capable of supporting emerging industries?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Provide insights into the opportunities and challenges of leveraging education as an export sector.
- ii. Contribute to the discussion on aligning higher education with innovation and economic diversification efforts.
- iii. Offer policy recommendations for adapting the Jamaican education system to meet future labour market demands.
- iv. Support sustainable economic growth by outlining strategies for workforce development and industry alignment.

16. **Navigating Shifting Global Alliances: Implications of Evolving International Relations for Jamaica's Economic and Sustainable Development.** This paper should examine how changes in international relationships influence Jamaica's economic growth and sustainable development. It should analyze the effects of shifting global alliances, trade agreements, and geopolitical dynamics on Jamaica's trade, investment, and development strategies. The study aims to identify opportunities and challenges arising from these changes and propose strategies for Jamaica to adapt and thrive in the evolving global landscape.

**a. Key Research Questions**

- i. How do evolving international relations and global alliances impact Jamaica's trade and investment opportunities?
- ii. What are the potential risks and benefits for Jamaica's economic and sustainable development stemming from current geopolitical shifts?
- iii. How can Jamaica strategically position itself to leverage changing international dynamics to promote economic growth and sustainability?

**b. Expected Contributions**

- i. Provide insights into the influence of global geopolitical changes on Jamaica's economic prospects.
- ii. Contribute to discussions on aligning Jamaica's foreign policy and economic strategies with the evolving international environment.
- iii. Offer policy recommendations for enhancing Jamaica's resilience and adaptability to global changes, supporting sustainable economic development.
- iv. Support strategic planning by outlining approaches for Jamaica to engage effectively with international partners amidst shifting alliances.