

SHELDON MICHAEL ELLIOTT
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

***Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries,
Research and Development Division,
Bodles Research Station***

Senior Research Director	2016 - present
Chief Plant Protection Officer (Acting)	2015 - 2016
Senior Plant Protection Officer:	2006 - 2015
Plant Protection Officer:	2000 - 2006
Research Assistant:	1997 - 2000
Laboratory Technician:	1989 - 1997
Trainee Laboratory Technician:	1987 - 1988

Administrative

- Coordinates the daily operations of the Plant Protection Unit and oversees specialized sections in the absence of senior officers
- Coordinates and oversees the direction, planning and implantation of the national research and development programme and specialized programmes of the Plant Protection Unit of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries
- Collaborates with organizations involved in Plant Protection in order to identify, review and determine priority research projects consistent with the overall policy and programmes of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries
- Collaborates with Crop Research to determine areas of collaboration in use of manpower and resources for effective and efficient operation of the Crop and Plant Protection Units
- Makes representation in respect of the provision of personnel, material and equipment necessary for the effective implementation of the Unit's research and development programme
- Ensures (subject to budgetary support) the availability of adequate physical and other facilities necessary for the efficient and effective conduct of the plant protection's research and diagnostic programmes
- Supervises staff within the Pathology, Entomology and Nematology section for proper management and functioning of the unit
- Assisted with the preparation of Plant Protection's Corporate and Operational plans
- Ensure Unit work plan and individual work plans of staff in Entomology, Pathology and Nematology are prepared
- Assisted with the preparation of detailed budget submissions for Capital and Recurrent activities

- Approve paybill and task work claims for permanent and temporary staff
- Verify travelling claims for Plant Protection staff
- Coordinate activities under the procurement of goods and services in the unit
- Assist in the determination of technical staff training needs
- Compile reports submitted by Senior Plant Protection Officers on research, diagnostics, advisory and other activities in the unit
- Reviewed scientific documents for staff in the Apiculture and Post Entry Quarantine units
- Determines unit's staff needs for employment and training and make recommendations to the Chief Plant Protection Officer or Senior Research Director, Plant Protection, accordingly.
- Reviewed reports, fact sheets, proposals and other technical documents submitted by staff in the unit

Technical

- Ensures the preparation, presentation/publication of scientific briefs, reports and articles;
- Collaborates with sponsoring an training agencies in developing and implementing training modules and programmes in Plant Protection
- Collaborates with consultants and contractors in pest management to facilitate the efficient and effective execution of terms of reference, as well as engender mutual exchange of technical information and technologies
- Reviews/edits technical information on Pest Management submitted by internal and external agencies for publication as reports, fact sheets, monographs, papers, bulletins, etc.
- Serves as technical resource person/consultant to various internal and external interagency committees and groups on matters pertaining to plant health management and pesticides
- Writes research papers, fact sheets, articles and other information products
- Serves as resource person and contact point on matters of plant protection for the local media and international organizations

- Coordinate the activities of Plant Protection's pest and disease diagnostic service with the aim of becoming accredited
- Participates in conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops representing the division and the Ministry at local and overseas fora
- Plan and execute research projects for the management of diseases of tree crops, vegetables, tubers, herbs and spices of economic importance
- Plan and execute research projects for the evaluation of fungicides to be used in integrated pest management programmes.
- Diagnose pest problems and make recommendations by using an integrated pest management approach.
- Gives technical guidance and supervision in the review of the Plant Protection Officer's research projects.
- Represent the Plant Protection unit to visitors, at open days, agricultural shows, seminars, conferences and workshops.
- Make presentations at local and overseas conferences, seminars, workshops and meetings
- Prepare proposals, technical papers, factsheets and posters
- Coordinate the compilation and entry of Plant Protection data for the National Pest List Database.
- Train staff in diagnostic techniques
- Train RADA Extension officers, farmers, exporters, Plant Quarantine officers, science teachers, and students from tertiary and secondary institutions
- Advise on technical matters to persons within and outside the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries on Plant Protection and Food Safety
- Serves as subject matter specialist contributor to various inter-agency projects and committees requiring plant protection input
- Serves as technical resource person to the Senior Research Director, Plant Protection, the Deputy Director, Crop and Plant Protection Research Director, and the Principal Research Director Research and Development as is necessary
- Represent the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries at workshops, conferences and meetings locally and regionally

Projects

European Union Capacity Building Programmes EDES, EPA1 and EPA2 funded through the Planning Institute of Jamaica

- Liaised with consultants from Europe re activities under the project Prepared list of supplies and equipment with specifications for laboratories in Plant Protection
- Reviewed specifications of equipment and supplies
- Participated in the tendering process for the procurement of equipment
- Evaluated bids and recommend awardee

Agricultural Competitiveness Programme funded through the Agro-Investment Corporation

- Attended meetings and workshops to review and give updates on the project
- Reviewed specifications of equipment and supplies

Human Resource

- Establishes and maintains a system that fosters a culture of teamwork, employee empowerment and committed to the Division's and organizational goals.
- Monitors and evaluates the performance of direct reports, prepares performance appraisals and recommends and initiates corrective action where necessary to improve performance and attaining established personal and organizational goals
- Participates in the recruitment of staff for the Unit and recommends transfer, promotion termination and leave in accordance with established human resource policies and procedures;
- Ensures the welfare and developmental needs of staff in the Unit are clearly identified and addressed;
- Provides leadership to staff through effective objective setting, training, mentoring delegation, communication and coaching
- Conducts performance evaluations for Senior Plant Protection Officers.
- Prepared probationary report for Senior Plant Protection Officers
- Ensures that the welfare and development needs of the staff in the Plant Protection Unit are clearly identified and addressed.

EDUCATION

- Northern Caribbean University, Manchester, Jamaica (2006)
Master of Science (MSc.), Biology (Microbiology) minor in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Pathology
- University of the West, Mona, Jamaica (1999), Mona, Kingston 7
Bachelor of Science (BSc.), Pure and Applied, major in Mathematics and Chemistry, minor in Phytopathology (Plant Pathology and Nematology) and Financial and Management accounts

EMPLOYMENT

- Northern Caribbean University (part-time)
Laboratory Instructor: 2004-2005
- National Commercial Bank (NCB)
Counter Clerk 1988- 1989

TRAINING

Technical

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- FAO Regional Virtual Training Workshop on TR4, July 2020
- Microbiological Technique Workshop I &II, European Partnership Agreement (EPA), BSJ, Kingston, Jamaica, 2017
- Implementation of Microbiological Validation Methods Workshop, EPA, Kingston, Jamaica, 2017
- Mold Determination Workshop, EPA, BSJ, Kingston, Jamaica, 2017
- Plantwise Plant Doctor App Workshop, CABI, St. Catherine, Jamaica, June 2017
- Advanced Research Skills Workshop , The University of the West Indies Tropical Medicine Research Institute Epidemiology Research Unit, UWI, Mona, Kingston Jamaica, July 2015
- Plant Pathology Molecular Techniques, Yucatan Science and Technology Complex, Sierra Papacal, Media, Yuc., Mexico August 11-29, 2014
- Microbiological analysis of Foodstuffs, Safe Food in ACP, Kingston Jamaica May 26-June 4, 2014
- Laboratory Management, Safe Food in ACP, Kingston Jamaica, January 6-10, 2014
- Customized Project Management training, Human Resource unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica 2013
- Capacity Building in Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices, Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, University of Maryland, USA, Kingston, Jamaica 2013
- Mite Identification Guide, Advanced Workshop, part 2, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, 2013
- Mite Identification Guide, Beginners Workshop, part 1, Bodles Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica 2012
- "ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation" 2012. Mona Visitors Lodge, University of the West Indies, Mona.
- Training in the detection of Citrus Greening (*Candidatus liberibacter*) using molecular tools 2011
- Brazilian study tour – tropical crop production, tissue culture facility, packing houses, food processing plants, agricultural extension facility, 2011

- Citrus Greening Molecular Diagnostic Workshop, University of the West Indies, Mona. Jamaica, 2011
- Training in Shoot tip grafting, re-grafting of Citrus for Citrus Greening, Biotechnology Centre, UWI, Mona
- Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network (CPDN)- Diagnostician Training, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. USA, 2010
- Molecular Identification of Fusarium species workshop, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas USA, 2007
- Fruit Tree Production and Nursery Management, 2006
- Post Harvest Technology, Jamaica, 2003
- Organic Inspection – Basic Farm and Community Grower Group Inspection, Jamaica, 2002
- Organic Farming for Entrepreneurs, Jamaica, 2002
- Irrigation and Water management, Jamaica, 2002
- Identification and Taxonomy of Bacteria and Fungi of Agricultural Importance to the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, 1998

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Human Resource Management for the Public Sector, Jamaica 2009
- Supervisory Management, Jamaica, 2006
- Customer Relations and Team Building, Jamaica, 2005

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Results of the post harvest diseases of yam bioassay used to formulate the protocol for export yams to the USA
- Developed protocol being used to manage the ginger rhizome rot in the ginger industry
- Developed protocol being used to manage anthracnose on mango in Jamaica
- Authored and coauthored factsheets, poster, papers, hand books and manuals on management of diseases of vegetables, tree crops, herbs, spice and condiment and roots and tubers.
- Collaborated with Agricultural Extension officers, Farmers and input suppliers to find solutions to pest problems in crop production.

SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

Thesis

- Elliott, S. M. 2006. Identification and Characterization of Micro-organisms associated with Ginger Rhizome Rot disease in Jamaica. Northern Caribbean University, Manchester, Jamaica

Papers

- Elliott, S. and Patterson A. 1999. Evaluation of selected fungicides against mango anthracnose *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* Penz. Investigations 1995 – 2000, Bulletin No. 70, Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica
- Elliott, S. and Prendergast, C. 2002. Evaluation of current and potential preplanting treatment for the control of rhizome rot disease of ginger in Jamaica. Plant Protection Annual Report
- Myers, L., Elliott, M. and Young F. 1999. Pre-plant treatments in the control of rhizome rot disease of ginger in Jamaica.
- Williams, J., Elliott, S and Prendergast, C. 2006. Chemical Control of Fungal Diseases of Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) in Jamaica. Plant Protection Annual Report
- Elliott, S., and Biney, E. 2003. The Evaluation of Fungicidal Treatments and Irrigation Methods on the Development of Mildews and other diseases on Cantaloupe/Honeydew Varieties in Jamaica. Plant Protection Annual Report.
- Elliott, S. 1999. Investigation into the leaf spot disease of ackee (*Blighia sapida*). Plant Protection Annual Report
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Presentation

- Identification of research priority for the management of diseases associated with fruit trees in Jamaica at the Seminario internacional de Sanidad Vegetal, Havana, Cuba, 2008
- Williams, J., Myers, L., Elliott S. and Chang P. Evaluation of fungicide treatments for control of powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*) on pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata* L.).

Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Fitopatología, Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 2007.

- Elliott, S. and Prendergast, C. 2002. Evaluation of current and potential preplanting treatment for the control of rhizome rot disease of ginger in Jamaica

Factsheets/Handbook

- Bacterial Canker of hot pepper
- Cercospora leafspot of lettuce
- Rhizome rot disease of ginger
- Management of mango pests in Jamaica
- Management of pests on escallion in Jamaica
- Management of major pests and diseases of mango in Jamaica
- Handbook of pests and disease of tree crops in Jamaica

Manual

- Soil Health Assessment
- Fruit Tree Crop Production
- Irish Potato Production
- Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) of Yam

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Fruit Tree Crop Coordinating Committee
- Food Safety and Modernization Act Committee
- Soil Health Technical Working Group
- Seed Health Policy Committee
- Potato Manual Committee
- Pesticide Control Authority - Pesticide Review Committee (Alternate representative)
- Onion Development Programme Technical Working Group
- National Agriculture Health and Food Safety Coordinating Committee
- Frosty Pod Rot Technical Committee
- Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA) Board (2018 –to present)
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Development and implementation of forecasting systems for major diseases of vegetable production, especially Downy and Powdery mildews cucurbits and purple blotch of onion.
- Biological Control of soil borne diseases of hot pepper, yam, sweet potato and Irish potato
- Mite Taxonomy and Management

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Conducts serological testing re viruses: Citrus tristeza virus and in collaboration with Post Entry Quarantine unit Bodles Research Station, and bacteria i.e ratoon stunting disease of sugarcane collaboration with SIRI.
- Certified Organic Inspector, June 2002, Independent Organic Inspectors Association / Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement
- Microsoft office tools – Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Publisher.
- Operating systems – Windows 2000, XP, Vista, Windows 7, Window 8
- Excellent oral and written skills
- Internet applications

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Microbiology – High School and Undergraduate level
- Plant Pathology – Undergraduate level
- Mathematics- High School
- General Science – High Schools

EXTENSION INTERESTS

- Conducting seminars and workshops
- Technology transfer to extension officers and farmers
- On farm research at Agro Parks
- Technical support to onion farmers

COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Vice President Cherry Gardens Citizens' Association
- Elder, Men's Ministries Director, Education Director, Sydenham SDA Church

REFERENCES

Mr. Don McGlashan
Director General
Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries
Hope Gardens, St. Andrew
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Ms. Jeannette Williams
former Chief Plant Protection Officer, Plant Protection Unit
Wallingford
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Vice President Administration
Graduate Studies
Northern Caribbean University,
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