

My Career in Crop Husbandry



With a *Certificate in Crop Husbandry*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Crop Farmer/Entrepreneur
- Field Assistant
- Farm Attendant
- Laboratory Assistant II
- Technical Assistant IV
- Budder
- Plant Nursery worker/Supervisor

NB: Although the job titles may vary, the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined.

Careers in Crop Husbandry

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

Career Overview

Farming involves the cultivation, harvesting and marketing of crops manually and mechanically. It required the ability to do hard physical work in outdoor weather conditions.

Typical Duties:

- Determine the kinds and amounts of crops to be grown.
- Hire, direct, supervise and trains workers.
- Supervise or prepare land either manually or mechanically, propagate plants, sow seeds, spread fertilizer, spray crops and harvests and or assist in the harvesting of sugar cane, vegetables and other field crops.
- Deliver or arrange for delivery and marketing of crops.
- Purchase or arrange for the purchasing of seed, fertilizer and other supplies and maintains equipment and buildings.

Work Environment

Most jobs in this sector involve working outdoors, early mornings, evenings and weekends. Farm work can be dirty and dusty and may not suit people who suffer from allergies. You can work full-time (40-hour week), part-time or as a casual worker. From time to time, you may be required to work overtime. A regular driver's license may be required and the ability to operate

farming equipment. Individual employers may pay more depending on the skill and experience of the worker. In some instances, farm workers may be given free or low rental accommodation or lodging.

Qualifications and Licenses

Traditionally, no particular qualifications were required to become a farm worker; however, it helps to have a general interest in farming and working outdoors. Training is usually provided on the job continually. It is more useful to have a technical qualification in some specialty of farm work like a Certificate in Agriculture from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, SJPP certification through City and Guild or a C/NVQ certification.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Ability to do hard physical work
- ❖ Practical skills and technical knowledge
- ❖ Awareness of health and safety
- ❖ Communication skills and the ability to follow instructions
- ❖ Reliability, responsibility and motivation
- ❖ Willingness to work flexible hours

References

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 611 section 6111, page 148 – Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development (1990)

Barbados Public Service (Qualifications) Order 2001, Government Printer, Bay Street, St. Michael, Barbados

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/farmworker.aspx>
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