

## **PCJ's Collaboration on the Small Scale Biodiesel Pilot Project (SBP) with the Ministry of Agriculture's Bodles Agriculture Research Station**



**Signing of the Research Partnership Agreement (L-R) Mr. Donovan Stanberry, Permanent Secretary – MOAF and Mr. Nigel Logan, Actg. Group Managing Director – PCJ**

The PCJ's Board and Management approved the Small-Scale Biodiesel Pilot Project (SBP) in July 2009. The SBP is in its first year of implementation, and is seeking to assess the viability of producing biodiesel from locally grown feedstocks such as castor and jatropha. This project is designed to advance the introduction of biofuels in Jamaica, guided by the Biofuels Policy and related legal and regulatory instruments, which are based on appropriate commercial and economic models.

To support the SBP, in December 2009 the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) entered into an agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Riso Centre to implement components of the project under the "Development of a Biodiesel Strategy for Jamaica, to Ensure Compliance with Jamaica's Biodiversity Strategy". UNEP provided grant funding of US\$50,000.

In January 2010 PCJ invited government agencies to collaborate on the SBP as land partners. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Bodles Agricultural Research Station responded indicating that they would support the project by providing ten (10) acres of land and technical support. The MOAF through its Research and Development Division

undertakes market-driven and priority-based research and development programmes to increase competitiveness and output in the agricultural sector.

PCJ and The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries R&D Division signed the Research Partnership Agreement (RPA) on July 8, 2010 giving the go ahead to establish ten (10) acres of intercropped jatropha and castor at the Bodles Research Station, Old Harbour. This research and development phase of the project will involve the cultivation and harvesting of six (6) varieties of oil nuts to determine their oil content and relative productivity. The plots will be designed in collaboration with R&D Division. This research will consider the harvest potential under the prevailing climatic condition and soil conditions consistent with marginal soils.

The project's goals are to demonstrate energy independence to Jamaican farmers on a small scale and inform national policies and medium to large scale developments. The objectives are to investigate the productivity of feedstock varieties, on marginal lands and process oil derived from the feedstock to biodiesel for vehicular trials. The project is slated to last five years and is estimated to cost J\$13.5Million.