

Video Transcript for Gregory Bailey, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Foreign Affairs

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My name is Gregory Bailey, Director of Agriculture, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbie Affairs.

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Some persons might be fearful of using their livelihoods in terms of being farm workers etcetera, etcetera, in terms of being replaced by technology.

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However, I think that the technology when implemented in a given area should also create job opportunities that counteract the loss of said jobs.

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For example, drone technologies now, which we have introduced at the Agricultural Extension department and to a lesser extent in the IT unit, where we can actually use GIS coordinates to find the various boundaries, map them and make life easier. So maybe you may not lose the job on the ground for the foot soldier.

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However, you have somebody that is required now to man the drones. Youth and women can also benefit from the fact that a lot of the activities involved, engaged in primary production are very labor intensive and digital transformation can help to reduce that laborious nature, for example, as it relates to land preparation, fertilizer application, the use of agrochemicals.

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We're encouraging our farmers for years to adopt technology. But as I would have mentioned earlier on, there's certain basic infrastructure that would need to be put in place to facilitate such an option and we look forward to the government to provide that type of infrastructure, especially in rural areas.