

NEWS



Organic – and more

A LOCAL ORGANIC FARMER wants Barbadians to put their money where their mouths are.

On the first anniversary of the weekly **Holders Market**, president of the Organic Growers And Consumers Association, Michael Bradshaw, said more funding would help to guarantee more organic crops.

"We want to have a method where consumers can invest in the farms themselves, so [farmers] can produce food especially for them which would be available each time they needed it," he said.

The **Holders Market** takes place every Sunday at **Holders House**, Holders Hill, St James.

Manager Jürgen Starck said **Holders Market** was originally conceptualized last year to give organic farmers a place to gather and sell their products. Since then, it had expanded to include craft vendors, pastry makers and people selling hot meals.

One of the highlights of the market was 13-year-old Julia Mussellwhite, who has been selling cookies for \$1 for the past ten weeks to raise money for UNICEF. She has raised a tidy \$2 000 so far and said she planned to raise \$3 000 more. Starck presented her with a special prize for her work.

The **DAILY NATION** spoke to a few of the vendors. Umoja Rock of **Why Weight?** said tourists were the ones who were mostly interested in the craft and jewellery but both locals and tourists bought the organic drinks and food.

Sheila Hope-Harewood has been part of the market from the beginning. She said it had been "very, very good" until the end of the tourist season.

"We still get some people from the tourist ships and a few locals; so it has been worth it being here," she said.

Hope-Harewood, who operates **Shemar's**

GEORGE "RAS MOSES" JACKMAN (right) showing Charmaine Rice a dog dumpling. He operates a natural medicine store.



Organic Products, said **Holders Market** was selective as it started out as solely an organic farmer market but was now much more.

"Now we are seeing ceramics and cushions, but we still have a lot of people who come for the organic products," she said.

The market also featured live music and tuk band. (CA)

FROM LEFT, president of the Organic Growers And Consumer Association, Michael Bradshaw, and association member Zonia Phillips speaking to Sarah Malcolm. (Pictures by Nigel Browne.)

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