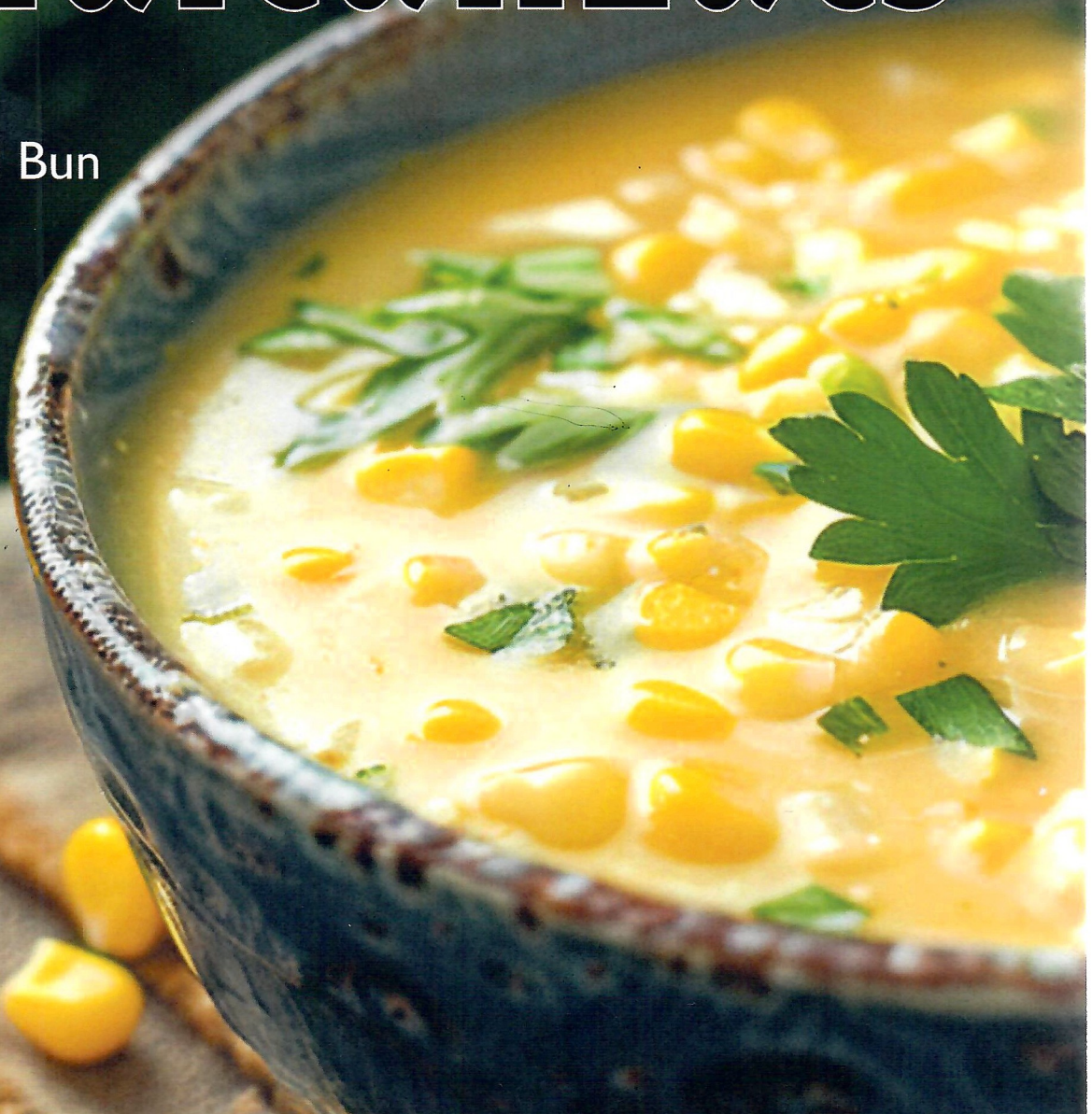


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# Jamaican Eats

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**Soups  
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Corn soup, pg. 16

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# After the storm...

## Replanting begins with Trees That Feed

Hurricane Melissa did more than damage land in Jamaica. It threatened food.

When the winds tore through fields and gardens in late October, 2025, they shook the future of farmers who depend on fruit trees to feed their families and supply their communities.

*Read on for more about how Trees That Feed Foundation (TTF) is working with Jamaica's Forestry Department to help farmers affected by the hurricane to replant and thrive.*

For farmers like Jean Marie Spratt, fruit trees are not just plants. They are meals. They are income. They are security.

She began planting corn at 6 years old. Farming, she says, is not just work.

"It will relax your mind. Looking at your plants. Your mind gets free. I love it. That's where we get our food, when we farm."

Eight years ago, she received her first fruit trees from Trees That Feed Foundation (TTF). Today she cares for nearly 600 food-bearing trees on her small farm in the parish of Clarendon. Breadfruit, mango, June plum, and other crops grow across her land. Between the trees, she plants vegetables to keep the soil productive and the field clean.

"I cherish every moment with the fruit trees," she said. "This was always my dream. But the finances weren't there. I was so happy when I heard about the TTF program."

When the hurricane hit, 56 of her trees were damaged. Some lost their taproots and could not be saved. Others were uprooted and laid flat. Fruit covered the ground. Branches snapped. Years of care seemed lost in a single night.

"The love I have for plants—when they are damaged, I feel like is someone pass away," she said.

But she did not give up.

She gathered soil and carefully covered exposed roots. She stood trees upright. She worked long hours in the heat, determined to save what she could. She still works about nine hours a day on her farm. She sells at her gate. There is always a market for fruit.

As her farm slowly recovers, Jean Marie is planning the next step, hoping to process value-added products like breadfruit chips, dried mango, or juice.

TTF plans to support her with equipment and entrepreneurship training. The goal is not just recovery. It is empowerment.

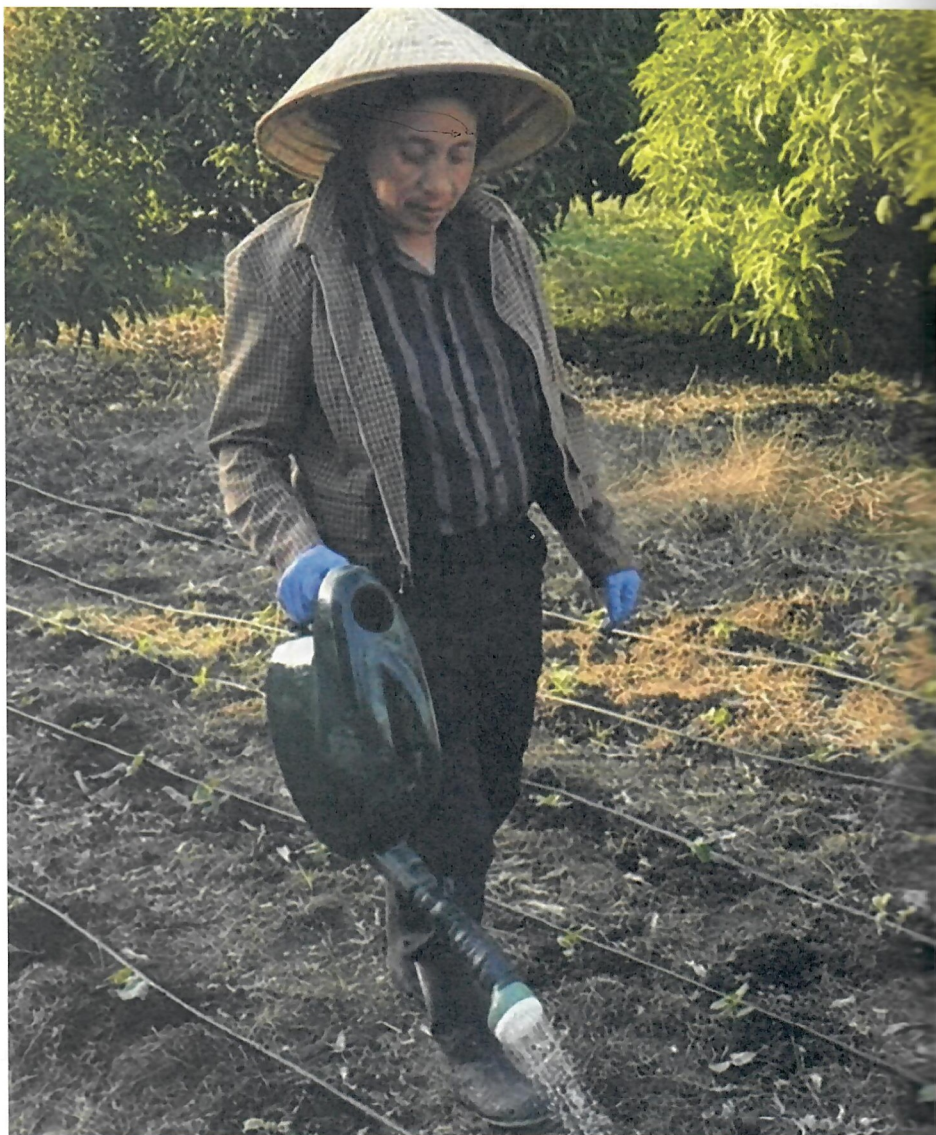


Photo of Jean Marie Spratt whose farm in the Gravel Hill District of May Pen, Clarendon was affected by Hurricane Melissa. Jean Marie says she's determined to continue feeding her community and building a sustainable future for herself.



Dr. Caroline McLean, interim dean, College of Natural and Applied Sciences Allied Health and Nursing, Northern Caribbean University and students from the Department of Biology, Chemistry & Environmental Science. Below: Lecturer Nadia Washington-Daley.

## Across western Jamaica, hope is taking root too

**A**t Mandeville-based Northern Caribbean University, lecturer Nadia Washington-Daley is leading students into communities hardest hit by the storm.

Their goal is bold: Plant 10,000 food-bearing trees across five parishes.

They began in Cave, St. Ann, where Nadia's family is from. Students planted yellow heart breadfruit, a beloved local staple.

The trees planted in Jamaica through Trees That Feed Foundation (TTFF) are purchased from local nurseries, strengthening the island's agricultural economy. The Jamaican Forestry Department coordinates pickup and distribution to ensure the trees reach the communities that need them most.

Student Adam Crowl, who lives in Cave, monitors the young trees and serves as a liaison with residents. The seedlings are surviving, even in dry and

stressed conditions where larger trees were lost and shade is limited.

Student Devonique Campbell remembers her first trip after the hurricane clearly.

"When we arrived, the trees were down, vegetation was gone and houses were damaged. People looked like they didn't know where to begin. It was a great experience to start planting."

When asked if she would go again, she said yes without hesitation.

After the first planting, congratulations poured in from university administrators and the number of students eager to participate doubled. The project is now a point of pride for the department.

"The university supports my goals. We are happy to have the students engaged in the field, making a lasting impact and contributing to environmental development in a tangible way," Nadia said.

Nadia and her husband, Pastor Rayon Daley, are also helping people in western Jamaica impacted by the hurricane in other ways. The couple is working with members of the Ewarton District of Seventh-day Adventist Churches and Eden's Valley Ltd. to provide clothes, meals, medical aid, building support and emotional care.

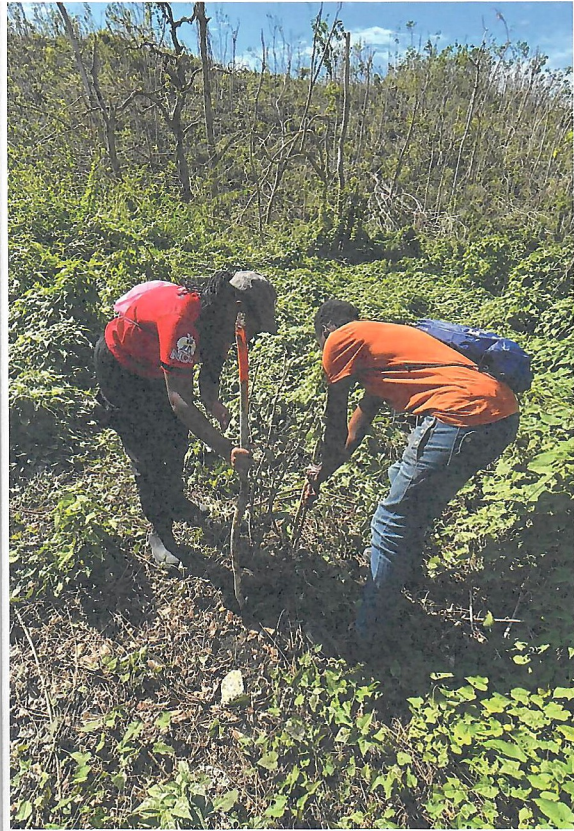
But Nadia believes that planting food-bearing trees is the long-term answer.

To TTFF supporters, she said, "This partnership is feeding people, restoring our environment and giving hope.

Thank you for being part of it."

Turn the page for pictures and more >>>





Above: Students of Northern Caribbean University replanting trees in Cave, St. Ann, following the hurricane; and trees being delivered for replanting. Below, some of the devastation caused by the hurricane; and Nadia Washington-Daley with student Bruce Rhule



# Breadfruit is more than food. It's part of daily life



Trees That Feed Foundation founder Mary McLaughlin with Jean Marie Spratt on the farm in Gravel Hill, Clarendon.

## About Trees That Feed Foundation (TTFF)

Trees That Feed Foundation founded in 2008, plants food-bearing trees in more than 20 countries to feed people, create jobs, and benefit the environment. Breadfruit is its flagship tree.

In Jamaica, TTFF works hand in hand with local nurseries and the Forestry Department to ensure trees are grown locally and distributed effectively.

Hurricane recovery is not just about rebuilding roads, it is about restoring food forests, replanting staples, strengthening food security and protecting the livelihood of people.

It is about putting food on the table—one fruit tree at a time.

For information and to learn more:  
[www.treesthatfeed.org](http://www.treesthatfeed.org)



*“I cherish every moment with the fruit trees. This was always my dream. But the finances weren't there. I was so happy when I heard about the TTFF program. Farming is not just work.*

- Farmer Jean Marie Spratt started planting corn when she was 6 years old.

continued from previous page



McLean Nursery photos



## Gift of trees for hard hit areas to grow

A representative of Jamaica's Forestry Department is shown here picking up breadfruit trees from farmer Alfred McLean's (in the blue shirt) nursery.

One hundred of the trees were given to Northern Caribbean University (NCU), lecturer Nadia Washington-Daley and her students for planting in Cave, St. Ann.



The area was hard hit by Hurricane Melissa in October. The trees were donated by Trees That Feed Foundation (TTFF).

