

HEAVY RAINS RESULT IN SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE “MAHAUT” ROAD



A-1



A-2



B-1



B-2



C-1



C-2

(photos by Cecil H Henry)

The above pictures depict the level of damage on a major section of road in the Mahaut area. This event occurred around mid October-November 2005 and since then damage has hindered the free flow of motorists (farmers and tourists). The damage stretches for approximately 300 feet and is displayed in two (2) phases, 1 and 2 with the second occurring within 2-3 weeks of the previous. The heavy rainfall period has since ended, however, based on observations is quite possible that damage will worsen due to the movement of traffic, and more particularly heavy duty dump trucks which make their daily trips to the pumice mining area which is approx. 1/4 mile beyond the damaged area. No immediate plans have been drawn up to address this situation, notwithstanding that an international based contractor had just resurfaced the entire road from the highway.

Some of the measures which could be employed to arrest this current situation could include:

- Establishment of appropriate forest trees species on the site of the displaced soil.
- Improved roadside drainage.
- Installation of subsurface drainage system for the area.
- Upgrading the quality material for road construction/resurfacing.

Submitted by Cecil Henry, Ministry of Agriculture, St. Lucia.