

Delays in Major Agricultural Infrastructure Projects in Guyana: Causes and Proposed Solutions

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Abstract: *Delays are a universal phenomenon in the construction industry, and there is no exception for major agricultural infrastructure projects undertaken in Guyana. The paper presents the results of a study conducted to identify and evaluate the relative importance of the main causes of delays, categories of delays and methods of minimising delays in major agricultural infrastructure projects in Guyana. Respondents for this study included personnel from clients (owners), contractors and consultants involved in drainage and irrigation projects in Guyana. It was found that the main causes of delays in construction of major agricultural infrastructure projects included: weather conditions, poor access to site, too optimistic estimate of project duration, unforeseen site and/or ground condition, and necessary change orders/variations. Moreover, client-related delays were ranked as the main category that caused project delays. Hence, it is essential to have sufficient time and money been allocated at the design stage and a multi-disciplinary team been employed in order to minimise delays in major agricultural infrastructure projects in Guyana.*

Keywords: *Agriculture; Construction management; Delay Time; Drainage; Irrigation*