

## **Assessing the Effects of These Settlements on the Labor Market**

**(a)** Firstly it gave the homeowners a greater level of independence. They could 'hold out' until the planter made a better offer.

**(b)** They could not be threatened with eviction from the estates hut anymore. This meant that planter control over labor was severely weakened.

**(c)** It tended to help to keep the wage level high.

**(d)** This meant that once again the planters were faced with a big wage bill. The cost of production was still high.

**(e)** Some females became homemakers. They preferred to stay at home or do jobs from home such as washing and sewing rather than work on the plantations. From the days of slavery women represented a significant percentage of the field workers. This was a serious blow to the plantations.

**(f)** In some cases the effect was positive. Freedmen who lived in villages close to estates tended to work on the estates even if it was only part time. Others worked at planting and reaping season. These were the times when the planter needed to have a large and sure supply of labor.