



**2018 YEARLY AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION REPORT
POLICY AND PUBLIC PRIVATE SECTOR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

The following report is a review on the commodities that have been harvested up the December of 2018.

The report is a compilation of data collected from Extension, Industry, Associations and large farmers.

Primary Agriculture Output Value 2018 at Producer's Price			
Economic Value of Agriculture Output 2018			
Commodities	Value (BZ\$) 2017	Value (BZ\$) 2018	% Chg
Sugarcane (tons)	\$ 101,144,657.60	\$ 77,641,707.39	-23%
Banana	\$ 88,844,250.80	\$ 85,752,456.00	-3%
Citrus	\$ 53,166,236.60	\$ 36,647,091.59	-31%
Marine Products	\$ 41,705,347.20	\$ 44,073,879.62	6%
Fruits	\$ 30,565,583.00	\$ 22,100,135.14	-28%
Grains/Legumes	\$ 94,787,346.40	\$ 88,220,319.92	-7%
Vegetables & Roots and Tubers	\$ 25,261,577.20	\$ 22,810,860.45	-10%
Livestock	\$ 152,634,520.75	\$ 152,141,788.66	0%
OUTPUT	\$ 588,109,519.55	\$ 529,388,238.76	-0.97

The Livestock sector is the highest economic output contributor at \$152 million in the country. With the Poultry industry being the largest income earner in this category at \$114.9 million.

The grains and legumes sector is the second largest economic output earner for the country amounting to over \$88 million. Economic output has however decreased by 7% as compared to last year.

The Banana sector is ranked at third, with its contribution remaining relatively stable at \$85.7 million, which has decreased slightly by 3%.

Sugarcane is ranked as the fourth highest income earner for the country amounting to \$77.6 million in economic output, a decrease of 23% as compared to last year.

Marine products sector is the fifth largest economic earner with \$44 million; experiencing an increase of 6% as compared to last year.

The Citrus sector, one of the traditional ranks as the sixth main economic output contributor in the country.

TRADITIONALS

SUGAR

SUGARCANE		2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (tons)		1,670,432	1,707,537	2
Price	\$	60.55	45.47	-25
Value	\$	101,144,657.60	77,641,707.39	-23
Total Acreage		92,000.00	99,227.00	8

Sugar cane production as compared to last year increased by 2% due to the expansion in acreage planted in the west. Income generated from the sales of raw sugar decreased by 23% due the 25% drop in price paid for the ton of sugar.

While the industry braces to meet the immediate price challenges posed by the loss of preferential markets in the EU market (October 2017), it is investing in expanding Direct Consumption Sugar production and guaranteeing markets in CARICOM.

Major updates on the industry include investment from private sector to meet local and regional demand of product. ASR has invested BZE \$22 million in increasing the Direct Consumption Sugar annual production from 30,000 to 50,000 tons. The company is planning to invest another \$BZE 10 million in repairs and improvements of the mill and power plant to increase the efficiency in the plant. This would bring the current investment to \$BZE 50 million.

CITRUS

CITRUS DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION		2017	2018	%Change
Lime				
Quantity (lbs)		150,000	150,000	0.0
Price	\$	0.50	0.33	-34.0
Value	\$	75,000.00	49,500.00	-34.0

FRESH CITRUS EXPORTS		2017	2018	%Change
Lime				
Quantity (lbs)		33,304	879,320	2540.3
Price	\$	0.50	0.50	0.0
Value	\$	16,652.00	439,660.00	2540.3

CITRUS DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION			
Orange (90 lbs/bx)	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (90 lbs/bx)	160,042	121,670	-24
Price	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	0
Value	\$ 1,920,504.00	\$ 1,460,045.40	-24
Grapefruit	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (80lb box)	186,106	205,475	10
Price	\$ 11.68	\$ 11.94	2
Value	\$ 2,173,997.24	\$ 2,453,371.50	13
Total Acreage	6,107	6,107	0

Orange production for the local market has decreased by 24% prices remain high and steady at \$12. The low productivity of the trees is due to their age and HLB infected status. Currently farms are independently replanting groves. While grapefruit production has increased by 35% and prices remain steady at \$11, the replanting program mostly focuses on the regrowth of orange groves. In the next three years, when the trees mature production, and productivity is expected to increase.

FRESH CITRUS EXPORTS			
Orange	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	604,666	286,900	-53
Value	\$ 218,515.00	\$ 98,855.89	-55

Due to the low production of oranges, fresh fruit exports decreased by 53%. It is expected that with the new trees production demand may be stabilized for the local and export market.

BANANA

BANANA			
Apple Banana (Bunches)(30 lbs/bunch)	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (Bunches)(30 lbs/bunch)	4,800	6,779	41
Price	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	0
Value	\$ 38,400.00	\$ 54,232.00	41
Banana Domestic Consumption			
Quantity (40 lbs/Box)	586,730	553,892	-6
Price	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	0
Value	\$ 7,040,760.00	\$ 6,646,704.00	-6
Total Banana Production (lbs)	183,329,800	177,245,431	-3
Total Banana Value	\$ 81,765,090.80	\$ 79,051,520.00	-3
Total Banana Acreage	6107	6107	0

While Banana production has decreased slightly by 3% and as a result income earned has also, production is expected to increase due to the adoption of good management practices by majority of the banana farmers. A few farmers have also sold their farms to foreign investors. In addition, the Zabaneh farm, one of the large banana farms, will once again start production of bananas. The bananas are destined to the EU market.

LIVESTOCK

BEEF

Beef	2017	2018	%Change
Dressweight (lbs)	3,270,456	3,931,200	20.2
Beef Export (on the hoof) (lbs)	3.75	\$ 3.75	0.0
Value	\$ 12,264,210.00	\$ 14,742,000.00	20.2

The total cattle population to date is 162,212 heads of cattle. Cattle slaughtered increased by 20% to meet local demand of meat. Prices for dress weight cattle have remained stable from 2017 to 2018.

Milk	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	10,548,453	11,008,870	4.4
Price	0.56	\$ 0.49	-12.5
Value	\$ 5,907,133.68	\$ 5,394,346.30	-8.7

The national demand of milk has also increased by 4% however prices have decreased by 13%. The local milk industry production is expected to remain steady.

Farmers that produce dairy either use it for home consumption or they sell to the Western Diaries processing facility.

SHEEP

Sheep	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	98,935	118,395	19.7
Price	2.75	\$ 2.50	-9.1
Value	\$ 272,071.25	\$ 295,987.50	8.8

Heads of sheep slaughtered has increased by 20% as compared to last year figures. While prices for sheep have dropped by 9%, overall there has been an increasing domestic demand for sheep meat. The sheep industry is expected to grow.

The Ministry policy is that of implementing the traceability system for sheep like that being used for livestock under the BLPA system and to formally export to the neighboring markets.

PIGS

Pigs	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	3,920,856	4,680,360	19.4
Pigs Export(on the hoof)(lbs)	3.50	\$ 3.50	0.0
Value	\$ 13,722,996.00	\$ 16,381,260.00	19.4

Pigs slaughtered increased by 19% as compared to last year's figures and as result total output increased by 19%. Price for pigs remain stable.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also working on improving the pig breeding stock to increase the production of healthy pigs.

HONEY

Honey	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	83,107	120,108	44.5
Price	3.50	\$ 3.50	0.0
Value	\$ 290,874.50	\$ 420,378.00	44.5

Even honey prices have remained the same, honey production has increased by 45% and as a result the income earned for the production has increased also by 45%.

Honey production is being supported by the government of Belize. A strategic plan and regulations are being developed in order to ensure that industry has a plan and is protected. Moreover, the Ministry will be implementing a honey bee plot in Central farm to train farmers. Honey bees will also be imported to ensure and improve the quality and current production of honey.

POULTRY

Poultry	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	43,310,912	43,380,811	0.2
Price	2.36	\$ 2.31	-2.1
Value	\$ 102,213,752.32	\$ 100,209,673.41	-2.0

Poultry production has increased slightly by .2%. The reason for the stable production is because there is no increase in local demand of the product. The price paid for chicken has decreased by 2% because several chicken farmers are competing on the local market.

As a result of the lower prices being paid on the market for chicken, the values earned from chicken sales also decreased by 2%.

Spent hens	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (no. heads)	150,000	150,000	0.0
Price	5.00	\$ 3.50	-30.0
Value	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 525,000.00	-30.0

The number of chicken slaughtered by the processor as compared last year remains the same. There has been no increased demand for chicken in the local market.

Eggs	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (dozen)	4,806,281	5,105,050	6.2
Price	3.00	\$ 2.39	-20.3
Value	\$ 14,418,843.00	\$ 12,201,069.50	-15.4

The demand for eggs however has increased by 6%. As compared to last year prices have decreased by 20% and as a result income generated has also decreased by 15%.

TURKEY

Turkey	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	698,660	512,227	-26.7
Price	4.00	\$ 3.85	-3.8
Value	\$ 2,794,640.00	\$ 1,972,073.95	-29.4

The number of turkeys slaughtered as compared to last year decreased by 28%. The reason for this is because there was a surplus of slaughtered turkey available in the market from 2017 that lasted into mid-year 2018. Moreover, prices dropped by 4%, for this reason the income generated from turkey also decreased by 30%.

Total Economic output for the Poultry Industry in 2018 amounted to \$114,907, 816

GRAINS AND LEGUMES

CORN

Yellow Corn	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	185,640,640.00	156,908,349	-15.5
Price	0.21	\$ 0.23	9.5
Value	\$ 38,984,534.40	\$ 36,088,920.27	-7.4
Total Acreage	41,288.00	38,807	-6.0

This year yellow corn acres harvested were 6% less than last years. This year's production was expected to be high, however there was a drought (July to August) during the time of planting and during harvest there was flood (January and February) ; these two events affected production. Prices however increased by 10% which negatively impacted income generated by 7%.

White Corn	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	11,750,175.00	14,534,450	23.7
Price	0.30	\$ 0.23	-23.3
Value	\$ 3,525,052.50	\$ 3,342,923.50	-5.2
Total Acreage	7,226.00	6,876	-4.8

White corn was affected by similar conditions to that of yellow corn. White corn however was able to maintain a small economic output loss of 5%. The 2018 white corn crop yielded 25% more pounds of corn in 5% less land at a lower price of 23%.

Farmers have expressed an interest in the continued growth of corn at the average rates however losses due to weather changes and drop in prices are discouraging farmers increased production. Several farmers are substituting corn with soybean.

Blue Creek one of the major corn producing communities is intending to decrease corn acres by 20% to 30% and plant soybean instead. In 2017, the Blue Creek community had experienced difficulties selling corn at a good price and had challenges with storage. The Spanish Lookout Community, another of the major corn producers, on the other hand, is increasing its production in Corn and Soybean. The Spanish Lookout community did not suffer the loss due to excess production since they have storage facilities that enable them to sell corn all year round.

While corn production may be decreasing in some areas, interest also exists in the production of corn meal. This year Belize, through Belcar, started exporting corn meal to the Caribbean. In addition, corn meal is also being exported to Guatemala. The product is expected to increase in demand and its production is projected to become stable.

RICE

Rice paddy	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	41,338,600.00	29,487,155	-28.7
Price	0.40	\$ 0.40	0.0
Value	\$ 16,535,440.00	\$ 11,794,862.00	-28.7
Total Acreage	9,812.00	6,715	-31.6

As compared to last mid-year, production harvested fell by 29%. Acreage planted was 32% less than the year 2017. One of the reasons for the large decrease in acreage planted was because, a large farmer in Blue Creek due to financial constraints, closed its rice farm. The farm usually produces 25% of production in Blue Creek. Spanish Lookout continues to produce on the same yearly acreage.

Prices remain stable however economic output decreased by 29%.

RK BEANS

RK Beans	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	11,541,300.00	11,987,850	4
Price	\$ 0.97	\$ 0.90	-7
Value	\$ 11,195,061.00	\$ 10,789,065.00	-4
Total Acreage	16,717.00	16151	-4

There was a slight decrease in acres harvested due to the drought experienced by Indian Creek and Ship yard. Ship Yard Community loss 75% of their production due to unfavorable weather conditions.

While RK beans production experienced some losses, productivity has increased. Prices for RK Beans have decreased by 7% which affected the income generated by the commodity by 4%.

BLACK BEANS

Black Beans	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	3,649,500.00	6,873,100	88.3
Price	0.95	\$ 0.95	0.0
Value	\$ 3,467,025.00	\$ 6,529,445.00	88.3
Total Acreage	4,283.00	9,548	122.9

Black bean is mostly grown in Toledo in communities such as Indian Creek. There was a drastic increase in acreage planted of over 123% and as a result production harvested increased by 88%.

Even with the healthy production and profit margin. Unfavorable weather conditions hindered the expected higher production for example Shipyard, lost 40% of its production.

COWPEAS

Cowpeas	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	3,681,200.00	3,406,400	-7
Price	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.65	-4
Value	\$ 2,503,216.00	\$ 2,214,160.00	-12
Total Acreage	3822	4347	14

The cowpeas acres harvested decreased by 14%, due to unfavorable weather conditions, drought during planting and heavy rains during harvest. The Shipyard community one of the major producers of cowpeas was severely affected by the weather conditions. Price also decrease by 4% causing the economic output of cowpeas to decrease by 12%.

SOYBEANS

Soybean	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	28,740,490.00	25,961,387	-9.7
Price	0.45	\$ 0.45	0.0
Value	\$ 12,933,220.50	\$ 11,682,624.15	-9.7

Pounds harvested decreased by 10% this year as compared to the last. Little Belize reported that approximately 70% of its production was lost due to a drought experienced during planting and heavy rains during harvesting of the first cycle. Little Belize is the main producer of soybean during summer.

Moreover, Spanish Lookout, another large producer, plants during the winter months of November and December and harvests until March and April. Spanish Lookout is the main supplier of production data for the end of the production year.

As mentioned in the report several farmers, have substituted from the production of corn to soybean. Spanish Lookout has indicated the intention to increase the production of this commodity. Soybeans are being used for food as a source of protein. The community is also making investments into the crude oil for machines and refined oil for human consumption. The Community is also interested in meeting the CARICOM demand of Soybean Oil for human consumption.

SORGHUM

Sorghum	2017	2018	%Change
Quantity (lbs)	22,242,900.00	18,078,700	-18.7
Price	0.18	\$ 0.25	38.9
Value	\$ 4,003,722.00	\$ 4,519,675.00	12.9
Total Acreage	10,813.00	8,304	-23.2

Sorghum harvested this year as compared to last year decreased by 19%, due to a 50% drought loss in the production of Shipyard Orange Walk during the month of March. The increase in price of 39% ensured the 13% higher income earning from Sorghum as compared to last year.

VEGETABLES ROOTS AND TUBERS

Commodity	2017	2018	%Change
Sweet Pepper	\$ 7,143,570	\$ 5,933,520	-17
Irish Potato	\$ 2,163,525	\$ 2,715,752	26
Tomatoes	\$ 2,702,353	\$ 2,337,840	-13
Plantain (bunches)*	\$ 2,085,538	\$ 2,286,074	10
Cabbage	\$ 1,271,740	\$ 1,337,397	5
Onion	\$ 1,246,588	\$ 1,158,268	-7
Hot peppers (local)	\$ 1,125,480	\$ 1,140,075	1
Cocoa	\$ 1,881,565	\$ 849,317	-55
Ginger	\$ 392,583	\$ 776,125	98
Carrots	\$ 674,739	\$ 692,807	3
Cocoyam	\$ 600,600	\$ 553,148	-8
Cucumber	\$ 520,792	\$ 375,733	-28
Lettuce	\$ 552,846	\$ 360,505	-35
Squash	\$ 123,120	\$ 288,600	134
Sweet Potato	\$ 160,350	\$ 247,238	54
Celery	\$ 263,363	\$ 224,910	-15
Cauliflower	\$ 163,575	\$ 140,262	-14
Pumpkin	\$ 827,929	\$ 132,458	-84
Broccoli	\$ 131,625	\$ 125,700	-5
Cho-cho	\$ 181,601	\$ 95,025	-48
Yampi	\$ 44,778	\$ 71,723	60
Yam	\$ 65,680	\$ 65,300	-1
Chinese Cabbages	\$ 81,000	\$ 52,625	-35
String Beans	\$ 25,900	\$ 32,418	25
Sweet Corn (ears)	\$ 129,277	\$ 28,800	-78
Okra	\$ 69,955	\$ 24,238	-65
Vegetables & Roots and Tubers Totals	\$ 25,261,577.20	\$ 22,810,860.45	-10%

The totals generated from the sales of locally produced vegetables, and roots and tubers has decreased by 10%. As mentioned above weather conditions have been affecting production levels. Average market prices for the category have remained the same.

While sweet pepper, irish potatoe, tomatoes, plantain, cabbage, onions and hot peppers have managed to generate over \$ 1 million in economic output. Income generated and production for sweet peppers, tomatoes and onions have decreased. Production figures for Cocoa decreased drastically by 55% from 537,590 lbs to 242,662 drastically affecting income generated from that product.

Production and income generated from Ginger on the other hand has increased by 98% from 157,033lbs to 310,450 lbs at \$2.50 a lb.

Developments

- Spanish Lookout Export Body: The Spanish Lookout Community is setting up a business facility in Grenada and start operations on the 15th of October 2018. The company will sell products from Western Diaries, Quality Poultry, Country Meats, Country Foods, Belcar and Tropic Rice.

The commodities of immediate sale are eggs, rice, beans, corn, beef, chicken, ice-cream, other: shrimp, hot sauce and honey.

PROJECTIONS

It is projected that Banana yields will be boosted, and that disease-free soil beds and rejuvenated soil profiles will be maintained with the introduction of the scheduled replanting programme and the adoption of a ten-year banana follow cycle. In addition, one of the large banana farms, will resume production of bananas. Moreover, it is expected that cattle production will increase in the next three years, upon the maturing of the replanted trees. In addition, sugar production is expected to increase due the investments of two major companies and their interest in accessing the Direct Consumption Market of the Caribbean. The trade of live cattle is also expected to increase due to the high demand of the product in the neighboring country of Guatemala. Trade of cattle with Guatemala was formalized in 2017 and the country has been declared free of tuberculosis and brucellosis permitting the cattle farmers to have access to several neighboring markets. It is also projected that the Poultry industry will be taking advantage of the Caribbean market for chicken, in 2017 two companies were certified by CARICOM to export to the region. Recently a market for crude soybean oil has opened for Belize in Jamaica, it is projected that the market will be maintained, demand will increase and be extended to other products.