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Current Initiatives

- 1. Cacao Project – OAS:** Objective is to provide mechanism for collaboration amongst industry stakeholders and to facilitate an improved system for collective marketing and efficient resource allocation. The development of a Marketing and Product Diversification Strategy for Belize's cacao/cocoa industry will foster functional value chain upgrading.

Belize Cacao Stakeholder Diagnostic was completed on April 30th 2021 with the following recommendations and suggestions:

- ❖ National Cacao Strategy and Policy Framework with private sector is driven elements, that outlines a road map for cacao development including components to improve cacao sector livelihoods.
- ❖ Establishing and updating an export strategy for cacao that includes a list of potential value added products to encourage diversification into exports such as cacao paste, butter and nibs in addition to export of whole cacao.
- ❖ Development of commercialization plans of different products using established standards.
- ❖ Development of national standards for various cacao products that have market potential including guidance on potential future CARICOM regional standards, to support exporters in their entry to markets with CARICOM Agreement.

2. Cacao Project – Compete Caribbean: The objective of this consultancy is to improve the knowledge of Belize cocoa farmers in agriculture best practices that will increase efficiencies in production, maximize yields and bean quality, and establish more sustainable and resilient operations.

Scope

Conduct training and related technical assistance in Belize in:

1. Farm operation best practices to increase productivity;
2. postharvest and quality management. Training will be based on scientific approaches and done online in train-the-trainer format

The following Nine (9) trainings were conducted:

Genetic Resources pipeline to provide elite varieties to farmers

- Identifying elite locally adapted Trinitario cacao

❖ Improving productivity of cocoa

- Soil Fertility Mapping

❖ Risk Mitigation in Cocoa Production

- An evidence-based approach to cadmium mitigation

❖ Improving Quality of Cocoa

- Developing regional and national standards on cocoa quality
- Quality management - Preharvest factors and postharvest processing
- SOP for the management of postharvest and storage facilities and record keeping
- Setting up a quality certification system

- Practical Workshop -Sensory analysis in quality certification
- Design and SOPs for a quality management Laboratory

PARTICIPANTS/BENEFICIARIES

Belize Chocolate Company

Cheil Mayan Chocolate

Finca Chocolat

Mahogany Chocolates

Maya Mountain Cacao

Toledo Cacao Growers Association

3R Farm

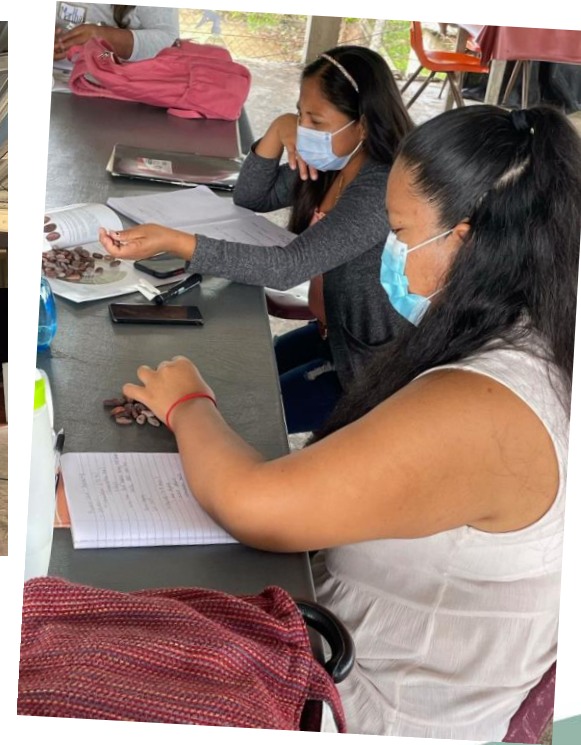
3. Female Entrepreneurship Program (Female Cacao Farmers) – BELTRAIDE with funding from Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), implemented the Female Entrepreneurship Program to strengthen the economic empowerment and leadership skills of women cacao farmers in Toledo.

A total of **12 women** graduated under the Female Entrepreneurship Program which was completed on March 11, 2022. The following trainings were conducted:

- ❖ Orientation & Legal Rights of Women
- ❖ Life and Business Goal setting
- ❖ Business Model
- ❖ Financial Management
- ❖ Important of Saving
- ❖ Introduction to standards and quality
- ❖ Business Continuity
- ❖ Customer Discovery & validation
- ❖ Computer for Everyday use
- ❖ Elevator Pitch
- ❖ Training Techniques

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM Cont'd

- ❖ The next step is for the women to transfer the knowledge to a minimum of 2 women in their community. In addition, the women will be competing for seed capital under the Angel Fund sponsored by the Taiwan Mission. Angel Fund is a closed finance opportunity for Female Entrepreneurship Graduates



6. BELTRAIDE Investment Incentive Programs

a. Fiscal Incentive (FI) Program

- ❖ Continuous administration of over twenty-five active beneficiaries across the key priority sectors.

b. Designated Processing Areas (DPA) Program

- ❖ Continuous administration of over thirty active beneficiaries across the key priority sectors.
- ❖ Strategic Outreach to over eight (8) agro-processing and agri-business companies

7. National Investment Policy and Strategy (NIPS):

On March 31, 2022, the consulting group finalized the National Investment Policy and Strategy and identified the following nine (9) key policy pillars:

- ❖ Policy pillar 1- Development of an integrated national strategy for promoting Investment
- ❖ Policy pillar 2 - Delivery of Government Services, Ethical Government, e-Government
- ❖ Policy pillar 3- Delivery of financial services for investment, access to finance for investment
- ❖ Policy pillar 4- Reform of the Taxation system for sustaining private investment
- ❖ Policy pillar 5- Revision of the existing regulatory framework and Judicial System to make it more investment friendly.
- ❖ Policy pillar 6- Encourage the development of a skill supply adapted to the needs of national and international investors
- ❖ Policy Pillar 7- Reform of the business incentives framework
- ❖ Policy Pillar 8- Development of infrastructure and internal logistics
- ❖ Policy Pillar 9- Fostering of Economic Diplomacy

9. Investment Promotion:

- ❖ Strategic Marketing Initiatives for future collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture includes facilitating joint investment missions, promoting Investment Spotlight Newsletter and Belize Investment Portfolio (BIP) to showcase agriculture investment opportunities.

10. Investment Pipeline:

Project Description	EST. CAPEX (M)
Development of a coconut and soursop farm on 4,800-acre of property located at the Monkey River Junction on the Southern Highway.	13.00
Sustainable agriculture food security project to cultivate plantains, beans, and okra among others, earmarked for international markets.	6.00
Project Description (Re-investment)	EST. CAPEX (M)
Farming company producing rice and corn and byproducts using sustainable practices.	22.00
Beverage bottling & distribution facility seeking to expand operations and production line.	0.90

CONCLUSION

1. BELTRAIDE continues to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture related businesses (MSME); 60 business included in the SBDCBelize database
2. To larger enterprises such as Marie Sharp where market access requirements are needed
3. To women led enterprises (e.g Female cacao farmer-Female Entrepreneurship Program, financed by Taiwan & Canada)
4. Business advising and production support through the MSME Enhancement Program (MEP)
5. Fiscal Incentive & Designated Processing areas that are agriculture related
6. BELTRAIDE looks forward to greater partnership in promoting local agriculture related Buy Belize MSME
7. Partnership on Central America related missions

Thank You!



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