

Belize Cacao Industry

Trade and Investment Mission 2018

May 8 – 11, 2018

Mission Itinerary

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

- 1:30 pm** **Hotel Pickup to Depart for Welcome Event**
- 1:45 pm** **Press Interviews**
- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm** **Welcome to the Cacao Industry Mission 2018 – Belize City, Belize**
The Belize Cacao Trade and Investment Mission will open with a brief overview of the activities in the mission including the overarching objectives.
- Speakers:** **Welcome Address**
Mr. Patrick Andrews – **CEO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
Keynote Address
Ms. Lejia Melanie Gideon – **General Manager, BELTRAIDE**
Delegation Address
Mr. Erwin De Weerd – **President, EURACEN**
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm** **Plenary Session – The Cacao Industry in Belize – Belize**
The plenary session seeks to provide a brief overview on the cacao industry in Belize including the national agricultural outlook, associated investment policies, trade agreements, cacao related standards, health regulations as well as trade and investment opportunities. The Plenary will follow by Q & A.
- Video Presentation** The Belize Cacao Industry Overview (2 minutes)
Moderator: Mr. Hero Balani, **Manager, BelizeINVEST Generation, BELTRAIDE**
Panelists: Mr. Jose Alpuche – **CEO, Ministry of Agriculture**
Mr. Lincoln Blake – **Director, Investment Policy and Compliance**
Mr. Andy Sutherland – **Director, Directorate General of Foreign Trade**
Mr. Kenrick Witty – **Plant Health Officer, Belize Agricultural Health Authority**
- 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm** **Closing Remarks**
Ms. Shahera McKoy – **Manager, EXPORTBelize, BELTRAIDE**
- 3:45 pm – 4:30 pm** ***Light Refreshments and Networking**
- 4:30 pm** **HOTEL DROP OFF – Belize City**

Download E-Copy of the **Itinerary** and the **Cacao Trade and Investment Prospectus** at
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Wednesday, May 9, 2018

- 6:00 am** **HOTEL PICK UP** – Belize City
- 6:00 am – 9:30 am** **DRIVE** – Belize City to Maya Mountain Cacao Ltd., Dump Toledo District (3.5 hours)
BREAKFAST – En Route (packaged)
- 9:30 am – 10:45 am** **Site Visit: Maya Mountain Cacao – Dump Road, Toledo**
Maya Mountain Cacao Limited sources premium quality cacao (cocoa beans) from Belizean farmers for markets of fine chocolate products. They provide a growing source of income for farmers, while contributing to reforestation efforts and promoting sustainable organic agricultural practices in Belize. The total acreage of farms comprises of a network of approximately 350 farmers.
Products: Fermented and sundried organic cacao (Forastero)
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am** **Travel to Maya House of Cacao**, (15 minutes)
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm** **Site Visit: Maya House of Cacao / Toledo Cacao Growers Association**
The Toledo Cacao Growers Association was established in 1986 as a non-profit company. It is operated as a cooperative that consists of around 1,000 farmers and a 9 member board who are elected at an annual general assembly.
Products: Raw Fermented and Dried Organic Fair Trade Cacao (Trinitario, Forastero, Criollo – Belizean Blend)
- 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm** **LUNCH and Travel to San Felipe, Toledo**
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm** **Site Visit: Finca Chocolat Ltd. – San Felipe Village, Toledo**
Finca Chocolat Ltd. was Founded by 4 Belizeans in 2015 and is located on San Felipe Road in the Toledo District. They have available primarily trinitario but also a bit of a mixed bag. Seeds have been chosen over a couple generations for vigor, disease resistance and early production. They have approximately 220 acres in cultivation with 110 acres planted in 2016 and 2017 respectively. The total farm is 515 acres. They intend to plant 100+ acres in 2018 and 2019 with any remainder to be planted in 2020.
Products: Cacao Beans (Primarily Trinitario)

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- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm** **DRIVE** to Belcampo Farms (30 minutes)
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm** **Site Visit: Belcampo Farms – Jacinto Ville, Toledo**
Belcampo Farm (Now Copal Tree Farm) was conceived under the concept of full vertical integration using sustainable methods with very low negative impact to the natural environment. The cacao program is aligned with this philosophy. The farm is fully certified organic and the existing cacao plantations provide refuge to a varied range of wildlife from jaguars to tapirs. Another facet of the operation is the ability to make chocolate on sight at the Agro-tourism Center. This allows testing every aspect of the post-harvest operation and they have done extensive tests with fermentation and drying procedures to make sure that they produce the beans that make the finest chocolate. They are also planning on manufacturing chocolate on a small scale in Belize. This will only use a small part of the total production. Currently they have close to 100 acres of cacao plantation. The first trees were planted in 2012. The older plantings were all mixed Belizean Trinitario while all the new planting are fine flavor Trinitario from FHIA. They are continuing to plant more trees and have a plan to move into a larger scale plan. This plan would involve rehabbing derelict citrus orchards by planting native hardwood trees as well as cacao.
Product: Cacao Beans (Trinitario)
- 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm** **DRIVE** to Punta Gorda (15 minutes)
- 5:00 pm** **HOTEL DROP OFF** – Punta Gorda
- 7:00 pm** **DINNER** – Punta Gorda

Thursday, May 10, 2018

- 7:30 am** **HOTEL PICK UP** – Punta Gorda
- 7:30 am – 8:00 am** **DRIVE** – Punta Gorda to San Antonio Village (30 minutes)
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** **Site Visit: Na'luum Cacao Institute – San Antonio Village, Toledo**
Na'luum Cacao Institute works with Cacao farmers, farmer groups and a few artisans (chocolate processors) including;

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- 1) Toledo Maya Women's Cacao Nursery Group (Santa Elena village) and
- 2) Rainforest Cacao Group (in Stann Creek).

Artisans (chocolate Processors)

- 1) Eladio's Chocolate Adventure
- 2) Akte'il Ha Chocolate Producer (Indian Creek, Toledo)
- 3) Chiquin' s Family Farm (Indian Creek, Toledo)
- 4) Scarlet Macaw Bread & Breakfast (Red Bank Chocolate Producer)

The Institute provides extension services to 154 smallholder farmers and has been facilitating organic certification for the farms.

9:00 am – 10:00 pm

Travel to Trio Village

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Site Visit: 3 R Farm Limited – Trio Village, Toledo

3 R Farm Limited is a mixed farming operation launched in 2005, with facilities in the Southern Stann Creek and Northern Toledo Districts. The company operates the following business units: Citrus, A pig facility selling piglets and animals for slaughter, A cattle farm, A cacao farm, Grain production (corn and soybean). These operations have been developed over a period of thirteen years and have been fine tuned to a high level of efficiency. Although the hallmark of the process has been patient, sustainable development of the various business units, the overarching vision has always been driven by product diversification and vertical integration. As it relates to its cacao operation, 3 R Farm Limited currently has 30 Acres of trees in production, and another 30 acres of young trees planted in early 2018 that will come into production in the next three years. In the seedling and juvenile stages, the trees are grown using shade trees. However, as the trees mature the shade trees are thinned out to promote greater photosynthesis. .

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

LUNCH – Trio Village

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Site Visit: Ya'axche Conservation Trust – Toledo District

Ya'axche Conservation Trust has been granted an agro-forestry concession and is now working with the Trio Cacao Cooperative who is engage in the sustainable farming of Cacao in Maya Mountain North Reserve.

3:30 pm – 7:30 pm

DRIVE – Toledo District to Belize City (4 hours)

7:30 pm

HOTEL DROP OFF / DINNER – Belize City

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Friday, May 11, 2018

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| 7:00 am – 8:00 am | BREAKFAST – Belize City |
| 8:00 am – 9:30 am | CLOSING – Mission Debriefing session with BELTRAIDE.
Shahera Mckoy – Manager, EXPORTBelize
Hero Balani – Manager, BelizeINVEST, Investment Generation |
| 9:30 am – 11:00 am | DEPART HOTEL FOR AIRPORT |

END OF MISSION

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