

"PRESS RELEASE"

Stakeholder workshop was held to improve the agricultural value chain in Belmopan

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprises (MAFSE), in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), successfully conducted a stakeholder workshop to improve the value chain of potatoes, coconut, and pitahaya on 8th and 9th June 2023 at MAFSE in Belmopan. The workshop was held as a part of the Advisory services on With/Post COVID-19 Agricultural Value Chain Improvement in Belize (the JICA Project), which commenced in February 2023.

The workshop's objectives were to develop action plans and select pilot projects to improve the value chain of the three commodities, potatoes, coconut, and pitahaya, through discussion among the value chain stakeholders from the public and private sectors. In total 33 participants in the workshop consisted of farmers, local traders, the officials of MAFSE, the Belize Marketing and Development Corporation (BMDC), the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), the University of Belize, the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, Beltrade, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and La Inmaculada Credit Union.

The workshop was opened at 10 am on 8th June with the remarks delivered by Mr. Juichiro SASAKI, the Resident Representative of the JICA Belize Office, and Dr. Victoriano Pascual, the Acting Chief Agriculture Officer, MAFSE. The participants were divided into three groups to discuss the three commodities separately, develop action plans, and select pilot projects. The participants with different backgrounds and expertise actively discussed each commodity's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, devised action plans to improve each value chain, and selected pilot projects based on the evaluation of action plans. In closing the workshop, Dr. Pascual and Mr. Kenichi Machida, the leader of the JICA Project team, presented the certificate of participation to all the participants.

The selected pilot projects are being reviewed by MAFSE and JICA to finalize the project plans. JICA plans to provide financial assistance to facilitate the implementation of pilot projects as much as USD 13,000 for each commodity.



Opening remarks by Mr. Juichiro SASAKI, the Resident Representative of the JICA Belize Office.

Group work (pitahaya value chain)



Group work (potato value chain)

Presentation (coconut value chain)



Presentation of the certificate

Presentation of the certificate

農業省、ベリーズ大職員の能力強化
2023年6月に実施した農業バリュー
チェーンのアクションプラン計画ワーク
ショップに関する報道が、現地の新聞
「Amandala」に掲載されました。