

MOAF TRADE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRADE UNIT OF THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

SECURING EXPORT GROWTH IN A PANDEMIC



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CROPS YOU CAN EXPORT DUTY FREE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!

Jamaica became a signatory to the CARICOM Dominican-Republic (DR) Trade Agreement in August 1998, and the Agreement was ratified in 2006. Through this Agreement, Jamaica has duty free access into the DR for the following products:

- Pigeon Peas
- Guavas, fresh or chilled
- Potatoes, fresh or chilled
- Papaya, fresh
- Pineapples
- Passion fruit juice
- Essential oil of lime
- Lettuce, fresh or chilled
- Cabbages,
- Cucumbers, fresh or chilled
- Leguminous Vegetables, shelled
- Coffee
- Bananas
- Okra
- Mangoes
- Avocados

For information on export procedures, contact the Trade Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Products for Export Expansion into the Dominican Republic:

The products below have a high potential for export to the Dominican Republic:

- Beverages
- Fish and Shellfish (Rock lobster and Crawfish)
- Vegetables
- Water
- Pork

For information on export opportunities and procedures, contact the Trade Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

ATEAM

AGRICULTURE TRADE ADVISORY MECHANISM

TO ADDRESS

TRADE

BARRIERS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is in the process of establishing an Agriculture Trade Enforcement Advisory Mechanism (ATEAM), which will serve as a joint government and business partnership to remove unjustified trade restrictions.

The rationale for the establishment of the ATEAM is based on the recognition that there is a need for increased coordination and collaboration among entities whose work coalesces around issues of international trade,

as the nature of trade as a cross-cutting discipline makes a multidisciplinary approach both efficient and effective. As a result, the ATEAM will work in an integrated manner on current and emerging agricultural trade issues through a structured mechanism, which will prove to be valuable, given the importance of assessing varied perspectives in the policy development process.

Membership and Governance

The ATEAM will comprise the following Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

- Bureau of Standards Jamaica.
- Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Division
- Veterinary Services Division.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- Jamaica Manufacturers & Exporters Association
- Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce



Achievements to date

- Terms of Reference developed
- Implementation Plan developed
- Strategic partnerships established with JAMPRO, JMEA, Bureau of Standards

Next Steps

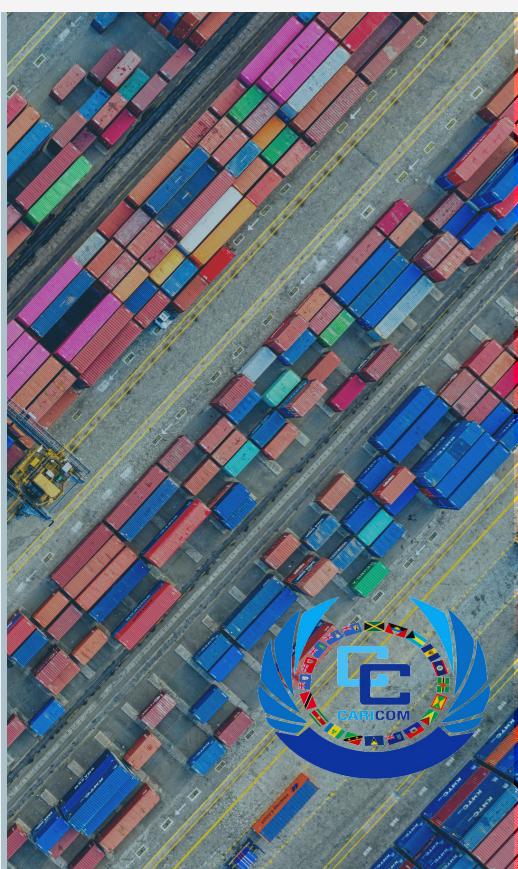
- The ATEAM will be launched in August of 2021

WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is working assiduously to conclude the negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies. The mandate is to 'clarify and improve' existing WTO disciplines on Fisheries Subsidies. A virtual meeting of ministers took place on July 15, 2021 to advance negotiations on mitigating harmful subsidies. Ministers were guided by a set of questions and discussed the way forward.

JAMAICA'S POSITION

Jamaica would like to ensure that any discipline adopted will not affect its ability to develop the fisheries sector. As such, Jamaica is seeking the provision of policy space to support artisanal fisheries. Additionally, the disciplines should not hinder Jamaica's ability to transform the sector. Jamaica will continue to press through the ACP Group the case for its interests to be addressed in the negotiations.



CARICOM RULES OF ORIGIN AND COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF (CET) UNDER REVIEW

The CARICOM Secretariat is in the process of reviewing the Rules of Origin (RoO). RoO are used by governments to determine the country in which imported goods should be treated as having been produced.

For imports under preferential trade agreements, importing countries have to ensure that the lower or preferential rates are made available to products from preference-receiving countries. As such, they need evidence to show that the imported product has been, if not wholly produced, substantially transformed in a preference-receiving country.

With the review of the RoO, our local industries stand to benefit from the modernization of these two regional trade policy instruments as we are now presented with the opportunity to make the rules more favourable for our industries.

TOP EXPORT PICKS FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE - UK EPA

- NATURAL HONEY
- COCOA
- YELLOW YAM
- BANANA
- MANGOES
- GINGER
- SWEET POTATOES
- COFFEE
- TUMERIC

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PRODUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAMME

The Production Incentive Programme being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the Rural Agriculture Development Authority (RADA), is providing Big Investment Opportunities in commodities with high demand on the local and traditional export markets: the USA, UK and EU.

The programme, which aims to increase and sustain agricultural production to meet market demand, provides technical assistance and input support to maximize the output and returns for investors and farmers of:

- HOT PEPPER
- IRISH POTATO
- YAMS (Sweet, Negro & Yellow Yam)
- DASHEEN
- STRAWBERRY
- CASSAVA
- PINEAPPLES

Investors looking for new export opportunities will benefit from reduced risk by choosing commodities under the PIP, as a result of the targeted support provided through this programme.



MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH RADA.



BONUS FEATURE

LICENCES REQUIRED FOR THE EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Exporters must register with **JAMPRO** to receive the appropriate designation. The following categories of products also require approval or licences, which can be obtained from the appropriate agency:

Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Division:

- Fresh Agricultural Produce, a certified packaging facility is required.

The Veterinary Services Division:

- Apiculture products
- Animals

The Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (JACRA):

- Coffee products
- Coconut
- Cocoa
- Spices (Pimento, Nutmeg, Ginger and Turmeric)

For more information on the export registration and renewal procedures, please visit JAMPRO's online exporter registration platform at www.jexporter.com or their offices located in Kingston and Montego Bay.