



## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize

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A Jamaican Ginger Farmer stands in his field during a visit around the FAO's Ginger Value Chain Project now underway in the country © **FAO/Martin Raine**

In Line with Regional Initiative Two (RI2) around Family Farming and Inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development, a new FAO project is seeking to revive Jamaica's Ginger Production Industry and provide an additional source of income for small farmers to sustain their livelihoods.

The project to support the development of the Ginger Value Chain in Jamaica sees FAO working in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries to identify ways to increase the production and marketing of ginger in the country, simultaneously increase diversity and create opportunities for improved livelihood in rural areas and especially among small farmers.

To date, FAO's technical expertise via consultant Martin Raine has identified key baseline indicators and further assessments are being done around the conditions required for the sustainable development of an inclusive ginger industry. The project seeks to:

1. Improve capacity of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries to develop and implement value chain upgrading strategies
2. Increase stakeholder participation in the development and upgrading of the ginger value chain.
3. Strengthen the efficiency of the clean planting material production system to support expanded production of ginger.



President of the Lydford Women's Group, Marcia Davis gets support from Community resident on site at the Lydford's women Group Pig rearing Project in rural St. Ann, Jamaica

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## Local female Group improve Livelihoods through FAO's Pig Farming Project

A Little over a year after its implementation, members of the Lydford/Moneague women's farmer Group have been reaping Pig Production successes beyond the initial projections.

The Group of women from the rural Lydford/Moneague communities in South East St. Ann with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Jamaica have turned to pig production to support themselves and their families in the absence of opportunities once linked to the bauxite sector.

Under a project that began in 2016, the FAO equipped the group of nine (9) women with financial resources and technical expertise to provide additional employment for women in the community and also expose them to pork production and business Management skills. Since then, the project's beneficiaries have been commending the FAO for what they say have contributed to the improvement of their income and livelihood opportunities.

Under the project, an 880 square feet piggery unit and adjacent sow paddock was created and the group presented with 15 pigs (three pregnant gilts, two maiden gilts and ten weaner pigs) as well as feed and medication inputs.

Notably, women in the group were also trained in livestock management, land and animal husbandry; animal bio safety and reproduction. The women also received business development training to include marketing and book-keeping.

To date, the group now has 42 pigs and counting and are looking to sustain the positive gains by expanding to agriculture micro-enterprising. Based on the active jerk seasoning and sauce industry in neighbouring Golden Grove and Walkerswood communities, the Lydford/Moneague Women's Group is assessing ways to move up the value chain for processed pork. There is also an opportunity to engage Community youth through collaboration with the newly opened Jeffreyville Agricultural School in Moneague.





Government and Non-Government stakeholders participate in a FAO workshop around capacity building related to the Implementation of Port and Flag State Measures to Combat Illegal Fishing in The Bahamas during February 2017. © FAO/D. Grant

## FAO Works with The Bahamas to Create Revised Fisheries Act

Recognizing the need to update the Bahamas' 2013 Fisheries Act, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with The Bahamas' Department of Marine Resources, the Office of the Attorney General, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and several other stakeholders have cooperated to prepare a revised 2017 draft Fisheries Act.

To ensure a comprehensive review of the document, stakeholders were involved in workshops from November 2016 to February 2017.

The preparatory workshop held November 16-18, 2016 was facilitated by FAO's Consultant, Ms. Judith Swan, and Mr. Raymon VanAnrooy and focused on Port State measures and support for the implementation and enforcement of such measures. The workshop also had the wider aim of building capacity relating to the Implementation of Port and Flag State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

In addition to the areas around Port State Measures, the workshop identified a wide range of

concerns that represented examples of provisions that need to be corrected, included or strengthened.

As a follow on, a second workshop on February 20-21, aimed to:

- Present, review and endorse the revised 2017 draft Fisheries Act from the earlier workshop; and
- to identify and address any outstanding issues in relation to the draft legislation.

The participants in the second workshop were as diverse as the first and included: the Department of Marine Resources, Bahamas Customs, the Port Authority, The Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Information Technology, the Nature Conservancy, The Bahamas National Trust and others.

Following both sessions, the final draft of the revised Fisheries Act was submitted to the Department of Marine Resources in early March 2017 for wider consultations and eventual presentation to the Government of The Bahamas.

## Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework Launched in Jamaica

Photo: FAO Jamaica participates during the launch of the UN's Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean (MSDF) launch on January 19, 2017 in Kingston, Jamaica. The FAO mounted a display to highlight the organization's work around the Sustainable Development goals with emphasis on SDG 2 related to ending hunger.

The UN MSDF 2017-2021 sets out how the UN Agencies will extend coordinated support to the achievement of the national development goals of the Governments of several Caribbean countries over the next five years. [Read more](#)



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## Onion Production gets boost in Belize under FAO project

**Photo 1: Recently built Onion storage units under FAO's Onion production Project in Belize.**

Since its January 2015 launch, the FAO's Project "Promoting Agribusiness Development in Northern Belize" have moved through several rounds of successes. The most recent is the completion of a series of Onion Farmer Field Schools and the construction of an onion storage area in the San Carlos Area of Northern Belize.

Construction of the Onion storage units is yet another output identified under the project to assist farmers in reducing post harvesting losses.



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**Photo 2: A Belizean Onion farmer tends to his produce during a FAO field visit in rural Belize.**

Under the Project which seeks to improve economic opportunities for farmers through Onion Production, Bee Keeping and Sheep rearing, the Value Chain approach has also been promoted to encourage sustainable livelihood support. Farmers from SanCarlos, Orange Walk and Patchakan, Corozal have also been trained in best practices in onion production, harvesting and post-harvesting which led to reduction in the cost of production and increases in the farmer's income.

Beekeepers and Sheep farmers who benefit from the project are also motivated by FAO's intervention. Read about a [Sheep Farmer who is one such beneficiary.](#)



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