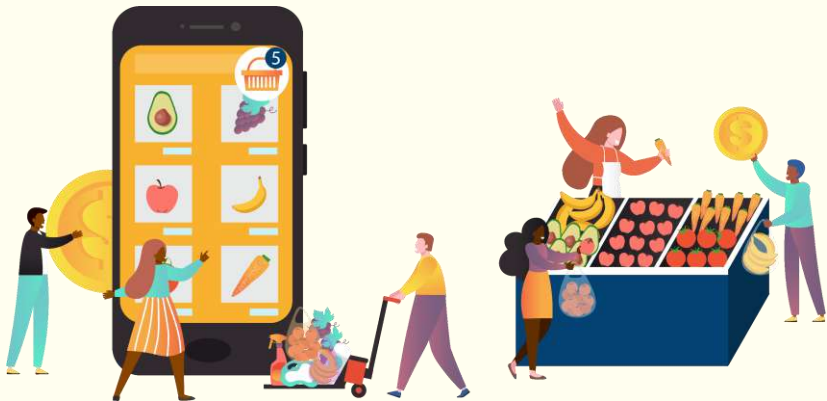


7 October 2021

Session n°3:

Post-COVID-19 : Building stronger linkages between agriculture and tourism: the key role of SMEs and businesses



Caribbean Agrifood Business Series ...



The background is a dark, swirling marbled pattern in shades of brown, teal, and black. A solid teal shape is in the top-left corner, and a teal shape with gold dots is in the bottom-right corner.

NEVIS GROWERS' COOPERATIVE LTD

BACKGROUND

The Nevis Growers' Co-operative started in 1991 with nine (9) members.

The Nevis Growers' Co-operative LTD, formerly the Nevis Growers Association, was established due to the Nevis island government's willingness to develop a central unit to assist the farmers, as a unified body of growers, with the storing and marketing of their products to enable sustainable livelihoods.

BACKGROUND

In 1991 the farmers received a grant from the Canadian Institute for Development Agency or CIDA. The grant was used to build a two-storey building.

A grant was also received from the Taiwanese mission, which was used to install a walk-in chiller at the marketing division to store produce from farmers.

A second grant was received from the Canadian firm to construct a chiller room.

BACKGROUND

The Nevis Growers' Co-operative also receives Technical Support from CARDI and the extension division from the Ministry of Agriculture to assist with crop variety selection, crop scheduling, pre-harvesting, grading of produce, storing, transporting, and delivering produce to the hotels.

A grant from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was used to provide a varied selection of seeds for farmers.

BACKGROUND

The Nevis Growers' Co-operative was operationalized in November 1992. Farmers were able to purchase seeds, sprayers, seedling trays, chemicals, chain link fences, pig mesh wire, and drip irrigation systems.

The Nevis Growers' Co-operative officially launched its farmer association in November 1992. The theme of the launch was Farming - Towards the Repositioning of the Nevis Economy through Proper Marketing Management.

BACKGROUND

The president of Nevis Growers' Co-operative stated that the reason for establishing the former organization was the newly constructed Four Seasons Resort. The Nevis Growers' Co-operative started with nine members and today has over 40 members.

Varity of Crops

The farmers of the organization have produced a variety of fruits and vegetables, including Banana, Sweet cassava, Tannia, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Yam, Sweet Pepper, Sweet Potato, Butternut Squash, Melon, Mango, Pawpaw, Tomato, Cucumber, Peanut, breadfruit, avocado, pear.

Farming in the Pandemic

The pandemic has been far-reaching even for farmers. COVID-19 has negatively impacted the farmers on the island of St. Kitts and Nevis. The members of the Nevis Growers' Co-operative were also negatively affected by Covid-19.

The negative impact on the cooperative members is because most of the produce from the cooperative members was sold to hotels. With COVID-19 limiting travel of people, the hotels started to reduce the amount of product purchased from Nevis Growers' Co-operative .

In Nevis, the hospitality industry is 40% of the economy. All farmers on Nevis had to reduce the number of crops produced for customers.

The cooperative members still face problems with logistics. They are still unable to get certain items that were normally readily available before the pandemic like chemicals, seeds fertilizers.

Farming in the Pandemic

The Nevis Growers' Co-operative decided to give \$1500 EC to 13 members of the cooperative



Nevis Grower Cooperative Members



Crop Harvesting



Nevis Agricultural Fair



St Croix Agricultural Fair



St Croix Agricultural Fair





*This series of events is organised by IICA and COLEACP.
COLEACP operates within the framework of development cooperation
between the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
and the European Union (European Development Fund – EDF), with the
support of the French Development Agency (AFD).*



Thank you

