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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Belize Signs BZ\$50 Million Grant Agreement to Build Climate Resilience in Sugarcane Industry**

*Belmopan, March 6, 2024.*

The Government of Belize reported that a fully funded grant of BZ\$50 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was approved for the project, “Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sugarcane Farmers in Northern Belize” — the largest climate change initiative undertaken by the country to date. Today, the Ministry of Economic Development, as the National Designated Authority to the GCF, proudly announces the signing of a grant agreement by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the accredited entity responsible for project implementation.

Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director, signed on behalf of CCCCC.

Hon. Christopher Coye, Minister of State for the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment, delivered his remarks virtually, expressing gratitude for the collective efforts that led to this historic achievement. He emphasized that this project catalyses a paradigm shift in Belize's sugar industry and agriculture sector as it will have a sustainable impact on the livelihoods of over 5,000 farmers in northern Belize. The minister further said, “We remain committed to championing other projects of this nature as part of our ongoing efforts to build climate and economic resiliency, including improving the sustainable livelihoods of the vulnerable population.”

The Government of Belize extends its appreciation to the Green Climate Fund for its unwavering trust and support in Belize's climate resilience

efforts. Additionally, the government acknowledges the collaborative efforts and diligent work of various stakeholders, including the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise, as well as industry stakeholders such as Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI), Sugar Industry Research & Development Institute (SIRDI), Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association (BSCFA), Northern Sugar Cane Growers Association (NSCGA), Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association (PSCPA), and Corozal Sugar Cane Producers Association (CSCPA).

The Government of Belize looks forward to advancing this project with the continued support of its partners as Belize seeks to strengthen its adaptive capacities, integrate innovative technologies, and promote sustainable practices in building climate resilience.

## **Ends**

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