



PR#548

PRESS RELEASE

Call for Expression of Interest for the Agri-Business Incubation Program

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is launching a call for expression of interest for entrepreneurs to be a part of Cohort 1 of the Agri-Business Incubation Program.

The program is a pilot business development and support mechanism established as a part of the TCP BZE 3801 project to deliver the Output 2 – Technical assistance for strengthening the technical capacity of young and female entrepreneurs to develop and implement business ventures that are sustainable and climate-smart in different areas of the food system including production, processing, distribution, and commercialization.

The Belize Agri-Business Incubator is a business development support mechanism that focuses on nurturing innovative early-stage enterprises that have high growth potential to become competitive agribusinesses. The Incubator provides adequate technical and financial support services and permanent mechanisms and tools to develop and implement business plans to produce, agro-process and commercialize local production in the national and international market. The pilot incubation program directs special attention to income and employment generation and the improvement of livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups in rural communities of the Cayo District.

The application process is open to all entrepreneurs (i.e. youth, women, men, cooperatives, associations, and small producers' groups) with a business at any stage of the development process, from ideation, start-up, growth, formalization to maturity. Business ventures along any part of the food system are welcomed to apply, including those in input supply, production, processing, distribution, marketing, commercialization, and agri-support services. Registration for Cohort 1 remains open until November 30, 2021.

Interested individuals or enterprises can apply by emailing agri.incubator@agriculture.gov.bz or by calling 804-2079. Applications can also be obtained and submitted at the Extension Service Office, Central Farm, Cayo, or by scanning the QR code below.

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