



PR#500

## PRESS RELEASE

### Registration Ceremony Held for New Co-operative

*Belmopan. October 8, 2021. 5:15 p.m.*

The Department of Co-operatives, responsible for the registration and regulation of co-operatives, today held a registration ceremony for the Valley of Peace Lagoon Farmers Co-operative Society Limited.

This new co-operative has transitioned from a self-regulated farmers' association to a formal enterprise under the oversight of the department. This gives it access to, among others, auditing and conflict resolution services and entrepreneurial development programs.

The co-operative consists of 32 members – 22 men and 10 women. It operates from the Lagoon Area of Valley of Peace Village, Cayo District, and engages in vegetable and fruit production including cabbage, lettuce, potato, onion, bell peppers, tomato, and watermelon.

Present at the ceremony were Hon. Jose Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise; Mr. Gareth Murillo, Registrar of Co-operatives; Mr. Andrew Harrison, Chief Agriculture Officer; Mr. Ever Blandon, Chairman of the Co-operative; representatives of the Resilient Rural Belize project; farmers of the co-operatives; and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise.

**Ends**