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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **GOB Strengthens Climate Resilience in Agriculture**

*Belmopan, February 25, 2026.*

The National Meteorological Service of Belize (NMS), within the Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, is hosting a five-day Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) Training of Trainers from February 23–27, 2026, at the Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room in Belmopan.

This training is being conducted in collaboration with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Barbados, and the University of Reading in the United Kingdom under the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP). CRESAP is implemented by the Belize Social Investment Fund with financing from the World Bank.

PICSA is an innovative approach designed to build resilience at the farm level by strengthening decision-making through the integration of location-specific climate information with data on crops, livestock, and livelihoods. The approach emphasizes practical, hands-on tools that are easily understood and applied by farmers, while also exploring livelihood alternatives beyond on-farm activities. These include identifying and selecting suitable crop varieties, crop practices, crop management, livestock, and livelihoods (including the Resource Allocation Mapping System [RAMS] and livelihood options tables). PICSA has been successfully implemented in over 30 countries around the globe, including Guyana, Jamaica, and Dominica, and continues to support climate-smart agricultural planning and farmer-led decision making.

The training will engage key stakeholders and agricultural extension officers, equipping them with participatory tools and increased understanding of climate information products, including historical climate information, interpreting short-term forecasts and warnings, and seasonal forecasts prepared by NMS and CIMH. Participants will have the opportunity to apply PICSA tools directly with farmer groups, facilitating discussions on historical rainfall and temperature patterns, as well as farmers' perceptions of climate variability and observed trends in their communities.

This initiative underscores the Government of Belize's continued commitment to strengthening climate services, enhancing agricultural productivity, and promoting sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices nationwide.

**Ends**