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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Agriculture Hosts Coconut Training for Northern and Central Belize

Belmopan, November 24, 2026.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI), in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), has successfully delivered a series of specialized training sessions on coconut pest and disease management across northern and central Belize.

The training workshops are implemented under the FAO's global initiative, "One Country One Priority Product" (OCOP), spearheaded in Belize by the MAFSNGI to safeguard the country's expanding coconut industry against critical phytosanitary threats and promote green enterprise in Belize's coconut sector.

In the Corozal District, twenty-seven local coconut farmers benefited from an intensive two-day workshop held on October 27 and 28. To ensure the broader transfer of technical knowledge and prepare the next generation of agricultural professionals, the project team also extended the training to academic institutions, reaching over 50 students at the University of Belize (UB) on November 5 and at Centro Escolar México Junior College (CEMJC) on November 17 and 18.

Throughout the sessions, participants gained practical insights into identifying major pests and diseases affecting coconut production, along with effective, sustainable control and management strategies. A key highlight for the participating students was the opportunity to conduct hands-on field and laboratory identification of various coconut pests and pathogens.

The students demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and keen interest in plant health and agricultural field sciences. Initiatives like these play a vital role in building the technical capacity of emerging field personnel, ensuring that future graduates entering the workforce are fully equipped to protect and sustainably manage Belize's coconut resources.

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