

# Belize



The Natural Niche

A Country of Offshore Opportunities

## AGRIBUSINESS & AQUACULTURE



# Agribusiness

## Sector Overview



Given Belize's long-standing tradition as an agricultural connoisseur, the opportunities for agribusiness investments are immense! Our close proximity to the North American, Central American, South American and Caribbean markets offers easy access to premium markets. In addition, the availability of productive land resources for a wide range of agricultural commodities means that both input provisions and output processing activities continuously spell out great prospects.

AgriBusiness serves as the foundation of the Belizean economy and continues to be the base force propelling the local productive sectors onward. To date, the once traditional agricultural productions (i.e., citrus, banana, sugar cane) have been undergoing gradual, yet planned transformation - broadening its pillars to encompass sectors, such as AgroProcessing, green gold crops (i.e., grains, cacao beans, cottons), renewable energy crops (i.e. sorghum, sugar crops), and organic crops farming. The AgriBusiness sector can be viewed from a multiplicity of angles:

- Traditional Agricultural Commodities: (grains [rice, corn], legumes [assorted beans], assorted vegetables, fruits & assortments [sugar cane, citrus, banana, pitaya, pineapple, mango])
- Organic Agricultural Commodities: (grains [rice, corn], legumes [assorted beans], assorted vegetables)
- Livestock Farming (dairy use, cattle meat production)
- Bio-Fuel Feedstock Production (sugar cane, sorghum, Jatropha)
- Agro-Processing (citrus juice, fine sugar, pepper sauce, corn cereal, coconut and cohune oil, chocolate, fillet, sausage, assorted sauces and powders)
- Agricultural Inputs (NPK granular fertilizer, organic fertilizers)



## SNAPSHOT OF TOP COMMODITIES IN PRODUCTION

District / Region	Commodities
Corozal	Black Beans, Red Kidney Beans, Yellow Corn, White Corn, Sorghum, Sugar Cane, Papaya, Peanuts, Plantain, Honey
Orange Walk	Red Kidney Beans, Black Eye Peas, Yellow Corn, Rice, Sorghum, Soy Beans, Sugar Cane, Hot Pepper, Papaya, Peanuts, Plantain, Cattle, Milk, Honey, Cotton
Belize	Coconuts, Cashews
Cayo	Red Kidney Beans, Black Eye Peas, Yellow Corn, White Corn, Rice, Sorghum, Soy Beans, Peanuts, Plantain, Coconuts, Cattle, Milk, Honey, Tilapia, Bio-Diesel
Stann Creek	Black Beans, Hot Pepper, Orange, Grape Fruit, Banana, Coconuts, Shrimp
Toledo	Black Beans, White Corn, Rice, Hot Pepper, Cacao, Cattle
Offshore / Water Areas (mariculture)	Cobia, Lobster, Conch, Fin Fish, Crabs, Sea Cucumber



## Why Belize?

- Strategic location: close market proximity to North American, Central American, South American, and the Caribbean markets.
- Availability of high-yield arable land: over 1,998,230 acres (38%) of the total land area are considered agriculturally suitable.
- Well-positioned for organic and eco-labeled production: branded with an aura of quality and distinctiveness pursued by consumers in the new era.
- An abundant pool of skilled and vibrant workforce.
- Not within the high hurricane landfall probability belt.
- All-year round mild average water temperature of 80o F (27 o C).
- Long-Standing Democratic System with an Independent judiciary.
- Stable foreign exchange rate: fixed (pegged) to the US dollar since 1978
- No limitation on the repatriation of profits or dividends.
- Availability of Government Incentives: Fiscal Incentive Program, Export Processing Zone Program, Commercial Free Zone Program, Qualified Retired Persons Program.
- Preferential Market Access: European Union, CARICOM nations, Caribbean Basin Initiatives (USA), Favorable trading relationships with Central American nations.

## Investment Opportunities

It is irrefutable that regardless of how advanced the technology may be, “food” remains the indispensable need that overrides other priorities in our daily life. The Government of Belize has been relentlessly assigning high emphasis on securing access to foods, while encouraging the trading of viable national surpluses for long-term diversity. AgriBusiness opportunities include:

- Production of raw produce: (traditional agri-produce, organic agri-produce, aquaculture).
- Value-addition to agri-produce, aquaculture products, and livestock.
- Biofuel (power generation, ethanol, bio-diesel).
- Production of inputs (agri-inputs [e.g., organic fertilizer], packaging materials).
- Provision of storage and export-handling facilities for agro-products (mobile and fixed).
- Transportation and delivery of end produce to consumers (local and export).

## Beltraide Support

Serving as the country’s Investment Promotion Agency, BELTRAIDE is committed to help potential investors to:

- Secure the requisite business establishment information,
- Meet the key decision makers pertaining to the proposed undertaking,
- Access the financial and intellectual capital that is required to make business happen.

We build relationships to make it easier for the investor to build their business, and to enjoy the benefits of one of the most competitive tax regimes in Central America and the Caribbean. Whether you are looking to locate a headquarter or expand an existing business, the team is prepared to provide

answers to questions pertaining to site selection, local demographics, labor composition, potential local investors, and available incentives.

In the quest to investment promotion, we have dedicated a Business Development Unit with emphases on:

- Coordinate participation of local enterprises, and other agencies in relevant trade/investment shows, trade/investment missions, national tours, and other promotional events;
- Develop and execute strategies and activities for increased market access for Belizean products and services;
- Develop, manage, and improve investment and trade business relationships;
- Continuously seek potential Investment opportunities for Belize;
- Coordinate the development and continuous update of relevant industry information for the ease of information sharing through promotional collateral material;
- Develop standardized promotional/marketing presentations, proposals;
- Analyze and identify trade opportunities by coordinating with Business and Investment Facilitation Unit and networking with other stakeholders;
- Provide facilitation throughout the entire investment experience;

The key to the success of this Unit depends on keeping investors satisfied and motivated through our unique business development strategies. We ensure that each investor receives the support of an experienced team that is dedicated to the business growth of the local industries in the priority sectors, and strive to create and to leverage market opportunities to enhance the success of the country. We utilize our experiences and skills to provide innovative and competitive programs, marketing solutions and operational assistance to investors.

**Together, we are here to Make  
Business Happen!**

## Contact Agencies

### **Belize Agricultural Health Authority**

Phone: (501) 822-0818

Website: [www.baha.bz](http://www.baha.bz)

### **Belize Bureau of Standards**

Phone: (501) 822-0446

Website: [www.bbs.gov.bz](http://www.bbs.gov.bz)

### **Ministry of Energy, Science & Technology, Public Utilities**

Phone: (501) 822-3336

Website: [www.estpu.gov.bz/](http://www.estpu.gov.bz/)

### **Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, Sustainable Development**

Phone: (501) 822-0810

Website (Fisheries): [www.fisheries.gov.bz](http://www.fisheries.gov.bz)

Website (Forestry): [www.forestdepartment.gov.bz](http://www.forestdepartment.gov.bz)

Website (Environment): [www.doe.gov.bz](http://www.doe.gov.bz)

### **Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture**

Phone: (501) 802-2249

Website: [www.mnra.gov.bz](http://www.mnra.gov.bz)

### **Public Utilities Commission**

Phone: (501) 223-4938

Website: [www.puc.bz](http://www.puc.bz)



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