

# InterCambio

Policies, Trade and Agribusiness

II - 2005

ISSN 1814-8247

## Presentation



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as the specialized agency of the Inter-American System through its Office in Belize, continues to implement aspects of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda for the provision of technical and developmental assistance in the Institute's six strategic areas of focus via Policy, Trade and Agribusiness

Development; Agricultural Health and Food Safety; Education and Training; and Information and Communication.

This agenda was prepared using the Institute's model of consultation, dialogue and consensus building with national authorities. This process aims to meet the needs of Member States for technical cooperation that responds to their demands and priorities.

Our Belizean counterparts and partners in the public and private sectors, are the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA), Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), International Regional Organization on Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE), Citrus Research and Education Institute (CREI), University of Belize and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE).

In this opportunity IICA's Belize Office and The Unit for Policy and Negotiation of the Technical Secretariat of IICA, have combine effort to prepare a special issue of the bulletin "INTERCAMBIO". The objective is to contribute with the debate on Trade and Negotiation, global opportunities and open markets, focusing in Belize.

### Abstract

En esta oportunidad la Oficina del IICA en Belice y la Unidad de Políticas y Negociaciones Comerciales de la Secretaría de Cooperación Técnica, combinan esfuerzos en la preparación de este boletín especial de InterCambio, con el objetivo de contribuir al debate en los temas del comercio, las negociaciones comerciales y la apertura de mercados, en los cuales el sector agroalimentario de Belice está inmerso. Este volumen recoge dos artículos, el primero de ellos de la Especialista Regional en Políticas y Negociaciones Comerciales, Juana Icela Galván titulado "CAFTA: Los retos para el sector agrícola de Belice; y un segundo preparado por el Economista Manuel Jiménez, Especialista del la Secretaría Técnica del CORECA/CAC. En una sección final se presenta estadística del sector agroalimentario beliceño. Esperamos que la información que se presentan sea de utilidad.



# Profile of Belize

## Geography

- Central America/Caribbean
- 23,000 Km<sub>2</sub>
- Rainfall – 60”-160”
- Relief – Swamps-Maya Mountains

## People

- Population 270,000
- Density 17 per sq mile
- Multi-ethnic

## Natural Resources

- Barrier Reef
- 42% Protected Areas
- Network of Rivers and Lagoons



## State of Agriculture in Belize

### a. Economic Importance

Item	2002	2003
GDP (%)	30	30
Export Earnings (%)	86	89
Employment (%)	29	28

### b. Traditional Export (millions BZ \$)

Product	2002	2003
Citrus	80.0	84.9
Sugar	68.6	73.8
Bananas	41.0	52.6
Marine Products	67.7	110.2

### c. Non-Traditional Export (millions BZ \$)

Product	2002	2003
Papaya	15.5	16.6
RK Beans	2.1	1.6
Cow Peas	2.5	3.4
Habanero Peppers	0.4	0.6

### Other Products

- Rice
- Beef
- Cashew
- Beans
- Pork
- Pineapple
- Vegetables
- Dairy Products
- Soybean
- Fruits
- Poultry



# DR-CAFTA: The challenge for the agricultural sector of Belize.<sup>1</sup>

By Juana I. Galvan de Tuñón  
IICA Regional Specialist in Trade Policy and Negotiation

There is general concern about how the recent agreement signed by the Central American countries, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America will affect Belize. In this article, I will briefly examine this issue and analyze what alternative Belize has.

First, I will present a summary of the main achievements of five Central American countries as well as the opportunities open to them with regard to a Free Trade Agreement with the United States of America. The purpose of this summary is to place CAFTA in its true context.

Second, we will examine some statistics and facts to facilitate an understanding of what is meant by the benefits and challenges of trade between Belize and the Central American countries and Belize and the United States, insofar as Belize is concerned.

Third, and this is probably the essence of the article, I will present some specific points related to CAFTA that could directly or indirectly impact Belize and trade insofar as they could pose challenges, in some cases, and in others, they could present opportunities.

Finally; I will suggest some strategic actions to increase trade between Belize and these partners and avoid any damage that CAFTA might represent for Belize.

Let us start by examining the objectives of CAFTA.

During the preparation period, before the negotiation, the five Central American countries agreed on the following main objectives:

1. To consolidate the preferences they enjoyed under the CBI.
2. To extend these preferences to goods like textiles, apparels, and others.
3. To protect the sensitiveness of some agricultural products.
4. To promote investment through an expanded market
5. To include cooperation as a part of the treaty.

At the end of the negotiation, how were the objectives achieved?

1. The treaty recognizes preferences for CBI beneficiary products.
2. The preferences were extended to all products. In the case of textiles a formula

---

1. Extract of a Conference prepared for Belize.

was agreed upon to allow a percentage of material from outside the free area.

3. Quotas were established and four exclusions were agreed upon: potatoes and onions from Costa Rica, white corn from the rest of the countries and sugar from the US.
4. From the negotiator's and the Government's point of view, CAFTA is good enough to attract investments from the US and other countries that would like to benefit from the newly-created free trade area of 315 million people.
5. A cooperation agenda was discussed and a commitment was established to make available resources to strengthen Central America's ability to administer the agreement and benefit from it.

► In summary the opportunities afforded by the agreement for Central American countries are:

- Investment
- Institutional improvement
- Opportunities for specific products
- Cooperation, mainly in sanitary conditions of the region and coordination between the institutions responsible for this topic.

In the short term, I can see fewer opportunities than in the medium term. The most obvious is the stability of conditions for market access which promote interest in buyers and investors. In the long term, Central America will have organized trade relations with its major trading partner, which give it more security and stability than it enjoyed under the CBI.

Another positive effect is the strengthening of Central America's institutional framework,

especially the integration process, which will enable it to administer the agreement and, of course, obtain more resources for cooperation and coordination in areas such as plant and animal sanitary measures and food safety.

Opening their markets to greater competition can bring changes in production, technology and products quality standards. On the other hand, an open market implies costs. I am referring to the cost of adaptation to compete, the displacement of products and producers, and the cost of innovation and reconverting activities. These costs are economic, but they are also political and social and they are not always easy or feasible to achieve.

Central America is in the process of reviewing its strategy to become more competitive and re-evaluating its comparative advantages so that it can focus its meager resources on a realistic vision of macroeconomic policies.

► Analysis of Belize's trade and the effect of CAFTA

Let us move to some statistical data. As mentioned before, this review of statistical data will facilitate an evaluation of the opportunities or challenges that CAFTA will present for Belize and their scope. It is not an extensive analysis. In another article of this Bulletin we will find a more comprehensive statistical and trade discussion.

The following table shows the total balance of trade between Belize and Central America from 1998 to 2002. Each year there has been an increasing trade gap. Additionally, Belize has an agricultural trade gap with all countries of the region, except for Panama in 2001. This means that insofar as trade is concerned, Belize has not yet benefited.



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

		Belize: Balance of trade by selected countries (1998-2002) (thousand of US\$)				
		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Costa Rica</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	-	-	-	-	-
	Imports	712	304	1,720	1,946	2,415
	Balance of trade	(712)	(304)	(1,720)	(1,946)	(2,415)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	-	-	-	-	-
	Imports	247	9	397	520	542
	Balance of trade	(247)	(9)	(397)	(520)	(542)
<b>El Salvador</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	37	-	28	58	4
	Imports	3,422	9	5,779	6,142	5,444
	Balance of trade	(3,385)	(9)	(5,751)	(6,084)	(5,440)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	-	-	-	-	-
	Imports	317	-	195	162	160
	Balance of trade	(317)	-	(195)	(162)	(160)
<b>Guatemala</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	258	-	130	469	245
	Imports	8,290	715	12,109	16,512	17,971
	Balance of trade	(8,032)	(715)	(11,979)	(16,043)	(17,726)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	119	-	32	350	60
	Imports	545	-	936	1,501	1,294
	Balance of trade	(426)	-	(904)	(1,151)	(1,234)
<b>Honduras</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	757	-	256	4	-
	Imports	430	568	4,528	2,035	3,024
	Balance of trade	327	(568)	(4,272)	(2,031)	(3,024)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	454	-	221	-	-
	Imports	13	-	862	43	631
	Balance of trade	441	-	(641)	(43)	(631)

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Nicaragua</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	-	-	-	-	-
	Imports	20	-	198	137	129
	Balance of trade	(20)	-	(198)	(137)	(129)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	-	-	-	-	-
	Imports	-	-	55	-	-
	Balance of trade	-	-	(55)	-	-
<b>Panama</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	-	3	14	661	29
	Imports	994	329	2,647	34,751	5,042
	Balance of trade	(994)	(326)	(2,633)	(34,090)	(5,013)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	-	-	-	644	-
	Imports	74	-	69	40	103
	Balance of trade	(74)	-	(69)	604	(103)
<b>Central America</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	1,111	3	493	885	193
	Imports	5,261	1,210	14,677	44,849	15,894
	Balance of trade	(4,150)	(1,207)	(14,184)	(43,964)	(15,701)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	712	-	351	1,113	245
	Imports	8,941	724	13,687	17,277	19,407
	Balance of trade	(8,229)	(724)	(13,336)	(16,164)	(19,162)
<b>United States</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	59,701	1,431	98,710	92,090	60,665
	Imports	156,757	60,577	224,203	239,365	176,046
	Balance of trade	(97,056)	(59,146)	(125,493)	(147,275)	(115,381)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	38,751	776	78,067	21,491	18,827
	Imports	30,146	18,209	33,778	33,428	29,465
	Balance of trade	8,605	(17,433)	44,289	(11,937)	(10,638)
<b>World</b>						
TOTAL	Exports	146,425	85,465	185,528	181,889	164,485
	Imports	292,266	284,597	446,933	519,540	526,924
	Balance of trade	(145,841)	(199,132)	(261,405)	(337,651)	(362,439)
AGRICULTURAL	Exports	122,955	9,381	162,280	63,074	64,896
	Imports	57,111	57,837	64,662	71,975	61,471
	Balance of trade	65,844	(48,456)	97,618	(8,901)	3,425

SOURCE: Trade Policies and Negotiations Unit of IICA, with data from UNCAD/WTO



Most of Belize's exports to Central America are poultry meat, animal fat, grain and seafood products. These exports do not have high tariff in most of the products. It can therefore be concluded that the reduction in tariff or the removal of it insofar as US products are concerned, does not represent a threat to exports from Belize<sup>2</sup>. It is a matter of increasing and improving the offer to gain a greater share in the market, rather than gaining a concession in CAFTA.

On the other hand, exports from Central America to the USA before CAFTA had the same tariff treatment as CBI beneficiary such as Belizean products. The displacement of trade will therefore be based on how much Central America improves the competitive advantage it has with respect to what it has to offer the American market.

### ► Other aspects to consider:

From the point of views of investment the situation is different. For investment attraction Central America as an integrated region has some conditions, such as more human resources, the stable framework that CAFTA represent for investors and an open market in both directions. So a company established in Central America from any country can import parts or raw materials from the USA and export value added products to that same market and others, including Belize.

Another aspect to take into account is the pressure that the market imposes for better sanitary and quality conditions. Certifications, food safety systems and other quality aspects are part of the cooperation agenda that comes with the signing of CAFTA, the aim being to get better competitive conditions.

### ► Conclusions and Recommendations to improve trade flows despite CAFTA.

1. It seems that CAFTA itself cannot harm exports from Belize significantly. Nevertheless, a trade deviation can be produced as a normal consequence.
2. With the strengthening of quality standards, such as sanitary conditions and food safety systems, Belizean products can face tough competition from American products in Central America and Central American products in USA markets.
3. Cooperation resources from the United States to Central America does not include Belize.
4. Investment flows tend to prefer a market with stable conditions such as the one offered by CAFTA.

In the face of this panorama, Belize could have various alternatives. Some of them are:

- Seek a Trade Agreement with The United States that will give the same stable market access conditions and make investment prospects attractive.
- Maintain the status quo with regard to access to the American market, while seeking better competitive conditions.
- Strengthen trade relations with its neighboring countries through a trade agreement to facilitate integration, joint ventures and experiences in production.

The policy and strategy that Belize adopts for its trade policy will define the course of action and the consequences for the agricultural sector.

*December, 2004.*

---

2. May be with the exception of grains (rice) that in most cases have progressive tariff reduction in CAFTA.

# Strengthening Agrifood Trade between Belize and the other Central American Countries

8

Excerpt from a technical paper written by Dr. Manuel Jimenez,  
Specialist of the CORECA/CAC Technical Secretariat

## ► I. Introduction

Belize is the second smallest country in Central America and the one with the smallest population. It has a surface area of 22,966 km<sup>2</sup>, or 4.32% of the regional total. The estimated population in 2001 was 257,310, while the region as a whole had over 38 million inhabitants in 2002.

It is a stable small economy and has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region. Its gross domestic product topped US\$805 million in 2001, around 1% of the regional total. Belize, Costa Rica and Panama are the only three countries with per capita incomes of over US\$3000. Belize's economy experienced the strongest relative growth in the last biennium - 4.7% and 3.7% of GDP in 2001 and 2002, respectively. The country maintains a fixed exchange rate against the U.S. dollar (1 US\$ = 2 BZ\$). Inflation during the last two years was low - 1% and 1.5% in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

The chief macroeconomic indicators highlight the importance of the agricultural sector in Belize. It contributes 23% of GDP, employs 29% of the economically active population and

generates around 70% of the total value of exports. According to the document *National Food and Agriculture Policy 2002-2020*, expanded agriculture, or the agrifood sector, accounts for 35% of GDP and 41% of all employment. The primary sector's contribution is complemented by that of a large proportion of the agroindustrial sector. It is estimated that 90% of the manufacturing sector uses inputs from agriculture, fisheries and forestry (sugar, citrus-fruit concentrate, animal feed, agrochemicals, furniture, canned foods, gelatins, chips, juices, milk, ice cream, sauces, sausages, etc.), and that this activity generates around 12% of all jobs.

Primary goods account for over 80% of Belize's exports. Their relative share increased from 82.4% to 88.7% between 1980 and 2000. By contrast, in all other Central American countries, except Nicaragua, the relative share of manufactured goods increased significantly during the same period.

The export products and export markets are few in number. A small group of goods (sugar, citrus fruits, bananas and marine products) accounted for 80% of the total value of all goods exported in 2000, and 93% of all agricultural exports. The United States, the main export market, grew in





relative importance between 1997 and 2001, from 45.1% to 53.8%. Next in importance is the European Union, whose share fell from 44.1% in 1997 to 29.7% in 2001. In third place is CARICOM, which accounted for 4.6% and 6.4% of exports in 1997 and 2001, respectively.

In 2001, imports of food, beverages and tobacco were equivalent to 16% of all exports. During the last five-year period, they peaked at 18.5% in 1998 and fell to their lowest level in 2000 (14.4%).

The relative importance of agricultural trade with Central America is limited and varies considerably. Over the last five-year period, imports fluctuated between US\$7,930,000 (in 1999) to US\$4,433,000 (in 2001), giving an annual average of US\$5,868,000. Exports are much smaller than imports, averaging US\$459,000 per year, and fell dramatically from US\$873,000 to US\$101,000 in two consecutive years (1999 and 2000). The agricultural balance of trade is consistently negative.

## ► II. Agricultural Trade between Belize and the Central American Common Market (CACM)<sup>1</sup>

In some cases, data from the information sources used had to be combined to establish

relative results. This limitation should be borne in mind. This situation could be remedied if this research is expanded and more time is available to gather data.

### A. Relative importance of Belize's agricultural trade

Belize's agricultural exports account for the lion's share of the value of total exports. According to FAOSTAT, agricultural exports contributed around 70% of the total during the period 1991-2001. This high relative share is confirmed by data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives, which puts agriculture's contribution to total exports in 2002 even higher (86%).

Traditional export products (sugar, citrus fruits, bananas and marine products) accounted for 80% of the total value of exported goods, and 92% of the value of agricultural exports. According to the MAF (2003), the other 8% was made up of nontraditional products, basically papaya, peanuts, black-eyed peas, cacao, honey and sweet and hot peppers.

Exports to the Central American countries showed a clear downward trend in the period 1991-2001. According to data from FAOSTAT, the relative contribution of the total Central American agricultural exports (Central American Common Market (CACM) and Panama), excluding Belize, fell from 64% in 1991 to 35% in 2001.

1. This section contains a summary of agricultural trade between the members of the Central American Common Market (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and Belize for the five-year period 1997-2001. The results are based on data from SIECA (Permanent Secretariat of the Central American Economic Integration Treaty), FAO (U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization), and ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean).

Belize's agricultural exports to the Central American countries have fallen considerably in recent years. In 2001, exports of agricultural goods to the CACM countries were only US\$464,000, or barely 0.17% of the total value of exports recorded by ECLAC for that year (US\$269 million).

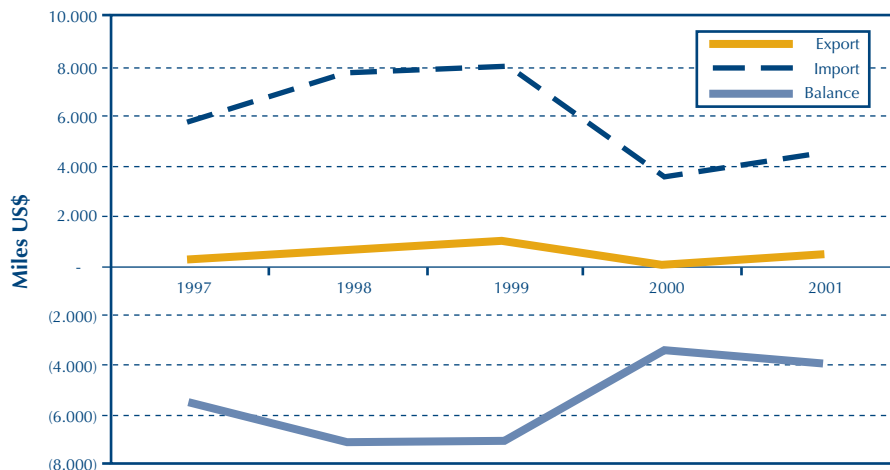
Imports of agricultural goods from the CACM countries were US\$4.4 million (data from SIECA). With the total value of imports put at US\$462 million by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC,) agricultural imports from Central America accounted for less than 1% of that figure.

of Belize's agricultural trade with the CACM is small in relative terms. Imports fell sharply in the last two years. Exports have been erratic, with marked ups and downs during the last five-year period.

### B. Agricultural trade balance

Belize's agricultural balance with Central America is negative. However, the gap has been reduced over the last three years, reversing the trend of a growing trade deficit (see next figure).

**Figure 2. Belize. Agricultural exports, imports and trade balance with the CACM. 1997-2001.**



### C. Main agricultural products imported from the CACM

Two of the biggest imports are oranges and pineapples. Together they account for nearly 40%

of the value of total imports. Other products with a share of between 4% and 6% are non-alcoholic compound preparations for the production of beverages, corn flour, other food preparations, palm nuts and kernels for planting, and cereal-based products obtained by blowing or roasting.



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

**Belize: Value of agricultural imports from the CACM by Sistema Arancelario Centroamericano (SAC)\* - 1997-2001 (CACM: Agricultural exports to Belize by SAC 1997-2001) In US\$ and percentages**

SAC	DESCRIPTION	Absolute	% of total agri. exports	
		1997-2001	%	ACCUM. %
08051000	Oranges	5683588	19%	19%
08043000	Pineapples	5341914	18%	38%
21069030	Non-alcoholic compound preparations for the production of beverages	1669009	6%	43%
11022000	Corn flour	1572099	5%	49%
21069090	Other food preparations	1297741	4%	53%
12071010	Palm nuts and kernels for planting	1279057	4%	57%
19041000	Cereal-based products, obtained by blowing or roasting	1039206	4%	61%
21041000	Preparations for soups, stews or broths; prepared soups, stews or broths	944698	3%	64%
21032000	Ketchup and other tomato sauces	790296	3%	67%
09019000	Other roasted coffees	753210	3%	69%
19053000	Cookies, waffles, wafer sticks and wafers	749374	3%	72%
20098090	Other fruit juices	655674	2%	74%
19011010	Preparations of products listed under headings 0401 to 0404	568012	2%	76%
03062310	Larvae for reproduction	414329	1%	78%
17049000	Other confectionery items not containing cacao	398329	1%	79%
24011090	Other unstripped or unstemmed leaf tobacco	356964	1%	80%
19049000	Other cereal-based products obtained by blowing or roasting	334723	1%	81%
21039000	Other prepared mustards	309625	1%	82%
03062390	Other shrimp and crawfish	297738	1%	83%
20097090	Other juices	264999	1%	84%
10051000	Corn for planting	252751	1%	85%
22021000	Water, including mineral and fizzy water, containing sugar or another sweetener	249632	1%	86%
15162090	Other animal or vegetable fats and oils	247277	1%	87%
20094000	Pineapple juice	228505	1%	88%
19019040	Food preparations of the kind mentioned ...	200294	1%	88%
20029090	Other processed or preserved tomatoes	185061	1%	89%
41012100	Whole hides	180000	1%	90%
	Other	3077193	10%	100%
	Total	29341298	N/A	N/A

Source: Prepared by SCAC/IICA, based on SIECA data.

\* Central American Tariff System.

### D. Imports by country of origin

Between 1997 and 2002, there was a major shift in the relative importance of Central American suppliers. Costa Rica used to supply over 60% of all imported agricultural goods but its absolute and relative share as a supplier has fallen dramatically. Guatemala is now the leading supplier, thanks to an absolute increase in its exports and the fall in Costa Rican exports. Between them, these countries accounted for 84% of the total value of agricultural goods imported by Belize from the CACM during the period 1997-2001. El Salvador is Belize's third supplier, with an average relative share of 13%.

### E. Main agricultural products exported to the CACM

Livestock products and grains account for the lion's share of exports to the CACM countries (together they make up over 70% of the total). Homogenized preparations of meat and offal from cattle (SAC 16021010), animal fat from the bovine, ovine and caprine species (15020000), and edible meat and offal of fowls of the species *Gallus Domesticus*, not cut in pieces, frozen (02071200) account for 41% of the total value of exports. Staple grains (rice, yellow and white corn and beans) make up the other 30%.

Belize: Value of agricultural exports to the CACM by SAC - 1997-2001 CACM: Agricultural imports from Belize by SAC 1997-2001 In US\$ and percentages				
SAC	DESCRIPTION	Absolute	% of total agri. exports	
		1997-2001	%	ACCUM. %
16021010	Homogenized preparations of meat and offal from cattle	553020	24%	24%
15020000	Animal fat from the bovine, ovine or caprine species	249189	11%	35%
10063000	Semi-bleached or bleached rice, including polished or glazed rice	226716	10%	45%
10061090	Other paddy rice	188132	8%	53%
10059020	Yellow corn	184782	8%	61%
02071200	Edible meat and offal of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> , not cut in pieces, frozen	131847	6%	67%
20091910	Orange concentrate	83451	4%	70%
03034200	Yellow fin tuna fish	80441	4%	74%
03037500	Shark products	60525	3%	77%
02071410	Meat and offal of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> , in paste form, mechanically boned	52834	2%	79%
22083000	Whisky	50297	2%	81%
10059030	White corn	45868	2%	83%
41012100	Whole hides	44392	2%	85%
21069030	Non-alcoholic compound preparations for the production of beverages	40945	2%	87%
07133310	Black beans	34984	2%	88%
03037900	Other fish	30154	1%	90%
20081990	Other processed and preserved edible fruits and other parts	29713	1%	91%



SAC	DESCRIPTION	Absolute	% of total agri. exports	
		1997-2001	%	ACCUM. %
18069000	Other blocks, slabs or bars of chocolate	28509	1%	92%
15079000	Other soybean oils	14518	1%	93%
12099900	Other seeds of herbaceous plants cultivated principally for their flowers	12599	1%	93%
01039200	Live swine weighing 50 kg or more	12148	1%	94%
03023200	Yellow fin tuna fish (Thunnus albacares)	11596	1%	94%
Other		130052	6%	100%
Total		2296712	100%	NA

Source: Prepared by SCAC/IICA, based on SIECA data.

## F. Exports by country of destination

The value of the exports sold to each country is variable. El Salvador was the most important destination in terms of the weighted average for the period analyzed, but its share fell markedly in the last two years (3% and 1%, in 2000 and 2001, respectively). Honduras replaced it as the most important destination in the last year, with over half of all exports, while no exports were reported for the year prior to that. Costa Rica and Guatemala were the other two relatively important countries in the last two years. Nicaragua reported no imports from Belize in the period studied.

Guatemala is an important market because of its proximity. In 2000, it became the main destination for Belizean exports, although its share of total exports declined considerably the following year. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) (2003), successful exports to Guatemala include corn, beans, rice and chicken.

## G. Summary

Belize's agricultural trade with the CACM is meager. In the last two years, it was less than one

per cent of total trade in both directions (exports and imports). A few primary products are involved. The performance of exports and imports is erratic, which shows that there is no consolidated, stable trade relationship. The negative trade balance narrowed in the last two years, thanks to a significant reduction in Belizean imports from the CACM countries.

## ▶ III. Trade Policy - Belize and the CACM Countries

To examine ways of expanding trade between Central America and Belize, we must first consider the legal-institutional issues involved. We will then make proposals that should be analyzed during the course of the proposed study. We shall look briefly at the following aspects:

- The Central American countries in the context of the economic subsystem (Central American Common Market)
- Belize and its trade links with the world through Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

- The external trade relations of the Central American countries
- Belize and its trade links with the world

## A. Regional markets

The Central American countries and Belize form part of two integration systems that are similar in some respects. They have incomplete customs unions whose goal is to establish a Common External Tariff (CET) and achieve higher levels of integration, such as the implementation of common policies, including a common external trade policy. Nonetheless, as a member of CARICOM, both the Central American countries, and Belize, have been expanding their external trade relations with various regions and countries, either individually or as part of a group.

Belize formally became a member of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in 2001 and has participated in the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) since 1997. Belize is active in the political, social and environmental fields, but does not form part of the economic subsystem. Therefore, it cannot engage in the free trade of goods<sup>2</sup> within the Central American Common Market as the Central American countries have since the 1960s.

Central America and the Caribbean are part of the same region and, with the G3 (Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia), make up the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). However, this alliance has not led to the expansion of trade among the Member States,

for three main reasons: i) the recurring obstacles to trade among these countries<sup>3</sup> (transportation, language, logistical considerations, sanitary restrictions, volatile supply and demand); ii) the tariff protection that still prevails among developing countries and that has prompted them to sign free trade agreements with each other; and, iii) the lack of political will to translate intentions into concrete actions.

Central America and CARICOM began to develop stronger ties in the 1990s, by means of ministerial conferences<sup>4</sup> where they have discussed issues of interest to both regions, such as science and technology, transportation, the environment, tourism, the development banking system, disasters and sports. In 1999, they approved a Framework Program for Cooperation between Central America and CARICOM that establishes four areas for action: i) Central America-CARICOM economic relations; ii) tourism; iii) the war on drugs; and, iv) illegal arms trafficking.<sup>5</sup>

Apart from the agreement negotiated recently between Trinidad & Tobago and Costa Rica (which was extended to the other CARICOM countries but has yet to be ratified by the respective congresses), there are no special trade arrangements (agreement, treaty, preferential lists) between the Central American countries and Belize.

At present, the imports of the Central American countries and Belize enjoy most-favored-nation (MFN) status. In most cases, the tariff is the same as the Common External Tariff (CET) that each region applies (although

2. There is free trade for all goods originating in one of the States Party, except sugar and coffee.

3. Notes by Norman Girvan. See [www.acs.aec.org](http://www.acs.aec.org).

4. Four ministerial conferences have been held: Honduras (1992); Jamaica (1993); Costa Rica (1996); and Guyana (1999). Source: SIECA. Estado de Situación de la Integración Económica Centroamericana hasta Marzo del 2003.

5. SIECA. Estado de Situación de la Integración Económica Centroamericana hasta Marzo del 2003.



there are exceptions and non-equivalent tariffs, many of them related to agriculture). There is important informal trade and border trade that could be expanded if the Central American countries and Belize were to formalize their trade relationship.

To make it easier for the reader to understand, the following table compares the trade arrangements of the Central American Common Market (CACM) and the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), which is advancing toward a single market and economy.<sup>6</sup>

Comparison between the CACM and CARICOM		
ITEM	CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET	CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY
DATE OF CREATION	1960. The Central American Common Market has been moving towards a customs union since 1996	1972. CARICOM is now in the process of consolidating a Single Market
MEMBER COUNTRIES	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (5)	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Bahamas, St Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago (15)
FTAS AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT	Mexico, Dominican Republic, Chile, Panama, Canada, United States CARICOM (only Costa Rica). CBI and GSP.	Venezuela, Dominican Republic. Lomé IV (Cotonou), CBI, CARIBCAN
CET	0% Capital goods and raw materials 5% Raw materials produced in CA 10% Intermediate goods 15% Final consumer goods 10% of the tariffs are not harmonized and there are sensitive products with tariffs of over 15% that can reach the levels of the WTO bound tariffs.	40% across the board, with exceptions

6. Establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Summary of Status of Key elements. At [www.caricom.org](http://www.caricom.org).

ITEM	CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET	CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY
<p>INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK</p>	<p>In addition to economic and trade matters, the Central American Integration System (SICA) has made progress in other areas, such as social, environmental and political issues, and in which Belize has been participating.</p> <p>The following councils exist within the economic subsystem:</p> <p>Council of Ministers for Economic Integration (COMIECO) and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and its Secretariat</p>	<p>National administration for CARICOM Affairs</p> <p>Caribbean Court of Justice</p> <p>CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standardization and Quality, and its national bodies</p>
<p>FUTURE ACTIONS</p>	<p>Consolidation of the Customs Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Unrestricted mobility of goods without exceptions</li> <li>■ Free trade in services</li> <li>■ Common External Tariff</li> <li>■ Common Customs Administration</li> <li>■ Mechanism for collecting, administering and distributing tax revenues</li> <li>■ External trade policy</li> <li>■ Common agricultural policy</li> <li>■ Standardized trade regulations</li> </ul>	<p>The signing of all the regional agreements and understandings is an ongoing process and some members of CARICOM have yet to ratify some of them.</p>

Source: SIECA and CARICOM. See [www.sieca.org.gt](http://www.sieca.org.gt) and [www.caricom.org](http://www.caricom.org)

## B. Tariff situation and non-tariff barriers

Each regional market has made progress with economic integration, but individual agreements have also been struck by countries in both regions (Central America and CARICOM) in the multilateral trade system, following the Uruguay Round, and based on free trade agreements signed by the two regional blocks. The most

direct effect of these individual negotiations has been the deterioration of the Common External Tariff. This has made some countries more competitive than others and created problems related to the triangulation of goods.

CARICOM has a Common External Tariff (CET) of 40% for agricultural products. Belize applies this tariff to 445 tariff lines. The highest tariffs for agricultural products apply to ethyl alcohol (90%),





bovine, swine, ovine, caprine, equine and avian meat, and specific fruits and fats (40%).

The tariffs for bilateral trade between the Central American countries and Belize are high compared to those applied to the same products in the main export markets, where they usually enjoy tariff exemptions. This situation is made worse by logistical problems related to trade and transportation.

The following table shows the tariffs for the main imports originating in the CACM listed in Table 2 (exports from the CACM to Belize).

Belizean products entering the Central American market must pay the CET (0-15%, depending on the product). If there is no CACM bound tariff for the products concerned, Belize must pay the rate established under the Central American Tariff and Customs Agreement for non-common market countries.

With regard to non-tariff barriers, all the Central American countries converted discretionary import mechanisms, such as licenses and quotas, into equivalent tariffs through the tariffication process, and specific products are subject to tariff quotas.

Belize requires non-automatic import licenses for a group of sensitive products under its domestic legislation on supplies. It does so for three reasons: i) it lacks the port infrastructure needed to control pests and diseases and enforce technical standards; ii) to protect small producers; and, iii) because of a now-defunct import-substitution strategy designed to encourage certain activities.

The following table shows a summary of the WTO bound tariffs and quotas, and products for which Belize requires import licenses or to which other import restrictions apply.

Belize. WTO bound tariffs and quotas and other import restrictions - 2003		
WTO TARIFF (1995-2004)	PRODUCTS ENTITLED TO WTO TARIFF QUOTAS <sup>7</sup> AND ACTIVATED QUOTAS	OTHER IMPORT RESTRICTIONS
110% for all agricultural products  70%: Wheat or meslin flour and (1101.00) and food pastes (1902.00.1)	Did not report tariff quotas in its List at the WTO  <i>Products requiring a non-automatic license:</i>  Rice, beans, corn, eggs, fruits and vegetables, meat and meat preparations, sugar and molasses, milk, poultry meat, citrus fruits and citrus fruit juices, jellies, marmalades and sauces, animal feed, peanuts	Non-automatic import licenses  Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations  <i>With indirect effects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pricing policy</li> <li>■ Marketing of products by a government-controlled organization.</li> </ul>

Source: CAC Secretariat, with information from the WTO, IDB and SIECA.

7. Products subject to tariff quotas usually have tariffs consolidated at the WTO higher than the consolidated level that appears in the second column.

## ► IV. Preliminary Identification of Opportunities and Threats

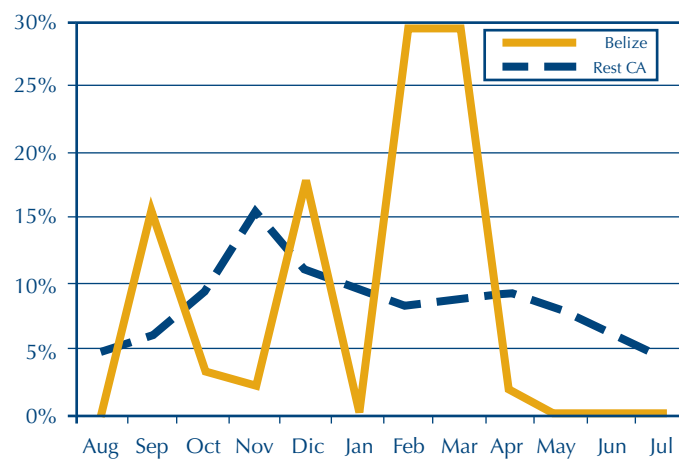
### A. Opportunities

1. Political integration with Central America, which permits Belize to take part in the sectoral ministerial councils, especially the Central American Agricultural Council.
2. Belize and its Central American trading partners are members of agencies that can help strengthen trade, such as IICA, FAO and RUTA.
3. Geographic proximity to the other Central American countries, which makes trade relations easier in terms of transportation costs, the possibility of splitting consignments, and the speed with which business can be completed (delivery time, for example). Two-way trade could help reduce transportation and other marketing costs.
4. Less stringent Central American health requirements. Generally speaking, the Central American market is less demanding, although it is gradually adopting the international standards established by major trading partners. Belize can take advantage of this, while tougher entry requirements will also spur it to enhance its control systems, and thus be better prepared to meet the growing requirements of international markets.
5. The liberalization and deregulation of the markets of its Central American trading partners make trade easier. The Central American countries have reduced their import tariffs, eliminated most of the obstacles to trade and abolished practically all the price controls on agricultural products. On the other hand, the continued existence of price controls in Belize could become an obstacle to increased trade. Products whose prices are fixed by the government include cheeses, powdered milk, cooking oil, rice, flour, fish, sugar, bread, coffee and beans (MAF 2003).
6. Under the free trade agreement between Costa Rica and CARICOM, Belize will enjoy privileged status. This treaty will give the less developed CARICOM countries, including Belize, immediate, unilateral access to all products originating in the country, except those excluded from the Tariff Reduction Program.
7. Market niches or temporary windows. Belize's Central American trading partners have seasonal products that are not available year-round. By carefully planning harvests, Belize could take advantage of temporary windows for products like basic grains. The tariffs are extremely low, based on quotas in some cases.

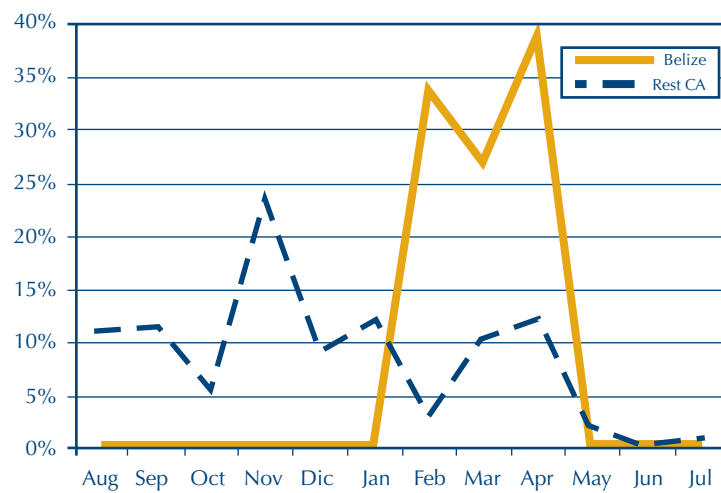
The example of basic grains is shown below. The figures compare the monthly output of Belize and the weighted average of the other Central American countries. The CAC Secretariat has the information necessary to make similar comparisons for each country and each grain.



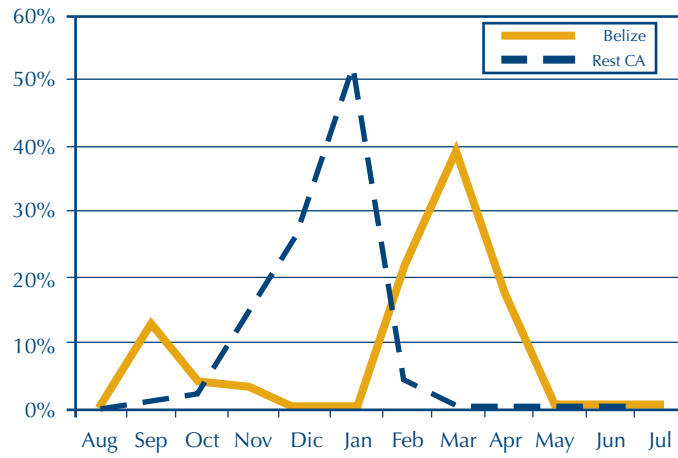
**RICE. MONTH PRODUCTION OUTPUT**  
(2002-2003 Season)



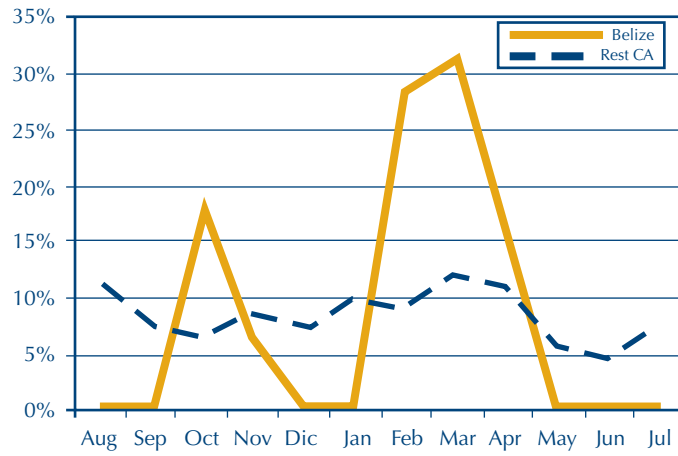
**RED BEANS. MONTH PRODUCTION OUTPUT**  
(2002-2003 Season)



**YELLOW CORN. MONTH PRODUCTION OUTPUT**  
(2002-2003 Season)

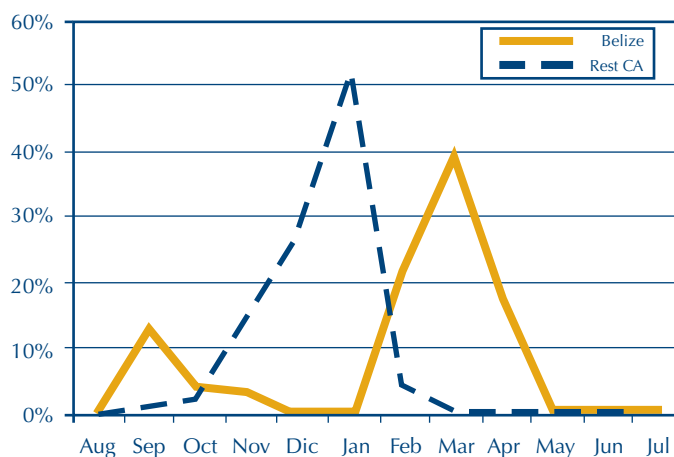


**BLACK BEANS. MONTH PRODUCTION OUTPUT**  
(2002-2003 Season)





**SORGHUM OR MACILLO. MONTH PRODUCTION OUTPUT**  
(2002-2003 Season)



8. It is believed that a large amount of informal trade takes place between Belize and its neighboring countries, specifically with Guatemala and Mexico. Generally speaking, informal trade is expensive and tends to have its own system of taxes or payment of filters. If this is the case, it could grow once the conditions for formal trade improve.
9. At the international level, Belize enjoys privileged status because of the size of its economy. Two major markets (United States and Europe) have special arrangements for Belize.
10. Belize enjoys a privileged position. It forms part of the Central American isthmus and borders with Mexico, and its communications (especially by air) make it a country that, for trade purposes, is close to the United States. It is also close to its CARICOM trading partners.
11. The existence of national and regional systems of information on prices and markets of potentially attractive products for trade is an important element for promoting stronger trade relations.

## **B. Threats**

1. The free trade agreements signed by Central American countries increase the possibilities of further trade. The numerous agreements in effect and in the process of being negotiated by the Central American countries grant easy reciprocal access but limit the possibilities of trade with third parties. A partial treaty or free trade agreement between Belize and the other Central American countries could help prevent this disadvantage from becoming more serious.

2. Fragile nature of the preferential treatment that the country receives. Belize's trade with its large trading partners, the United States and European countries, is based on special market arrangements with guaranteed prices and quotas or tax exemptions. If these advantages were to be reduced or lost, the country would have to compete in more open markets or channel resources toward other productive activities.
3. In the case of citrus fruits, the preferences could disappear in 2008. In the case of bananas, a more open system is planned for the single market in the European Union, based on tariffs. The system of preferential quotas for sugar based on a unilateral concession could be modified or not extended when the program ends.
4. Tougher market requirements. It was stated that the Central American market offers the temporary advantage of being less stringent. Nevertheless, governments and consumers in general are becoming more demanding. Broadly speaking, these requirements have to do with health and safety, environmental concerns and working conditions.
5. The documents consulted regarding Belizean agriculture emphasized the critical importance of competitiveness.

The MAF regards its main challenge as being “to identify and access markets and then develop or adapt appropriate technologies in order to improve labour productivity, improve quality of product, and formulate cost/effective policies, incentives and services that will provide small

farmers/fishers with the capacity and tools required to succeed”.<sup>8</sup>

As part of these efforts, it is proposed that trade with the Central American trading partners be expanded. To achieve this, it is necessary to tackle the constraints and shortcomings that limit the country's capacity to export and compete with imports, and develop the strengths needed for increased two-way trade. The following is a list of the strengths and weaknesses identified by the authors of this report. It must be borne in mind that the findings rest on secondary sources, and could be revised or enhanced based on primary information.

## A. Weaknesses

1. Low productivity and high production costs of a number of products (cost of financial resources, and even packaging). In some cases, the high costs stem from the difficulty of achieving economies of scale due to the small volume of production of the good or service.
2. Internal price controls and quantitative restrictions to trade could limit the capacity to increase Belize's trade with Central America. The Development and Marketing Corporation buys and sells products, fixes prices and issues import permits.
3. Domestic prices higher than the cost of imported goods could stimulate imports and lead to the collapse of controlled prices. Domestic prices lower than those of the

---

8. Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries & Government of Belize. **The national food & agriculture policy** (2002-2020) No farmer = no food. (2003).Belize p21.



country's trading partners could lead to a massive outflow of the products concerned, with the consequent risk of shortages.

4. Quantitative restrictions. Quantitative restrictions to trade in agricultural products remain in place. Non-automatic licenses are required for the following products: rice, beans, corn, eggs, fruits and vegetables, meat and meat preparations, sugar and molasses, milk, poultry, citrus fruits and citrus fruit juices, jellies, marmalades and sauces, animal feed and peanuts. Quantitative restrictions have become vulnerable measures, and they may have to be converted into tariffs as a result of the trade negotiations.
5. Third-country tariffs. One of the main difficulties Belize faces in entering the market of the other Central American countries, and which the latter also face in entering Belize's market, is the payment of the tariffs applied to third countries. With the entry into force of the Costa Rica-CARICOM free trade agreement, Belize's exports would enjoy preferential treatment.
6. The information system on agricultural prices and markets it's developed.
7. Difficulties in meeting quality and certification standards. This calls for progress to be made with other non-price factors, such as the regularity of supplies, product differentiation, services, management capability, compliance with technical and safety standards, etc.).
8. The quantity, quality and regularity of the supply are inadequate.
9. Inadequate infrastructure. According to the MAF (2003), the inadequate infrastructure contributes to the high production costs,

and limits the growth of the sector and reduces its competitiveness. Reports mention weaknesses such as the network of feeder roads, storage centers and marketing facilities.

10. Exports depend on few products with little value added.

## B. Strengths

1. Belize's membership of the Central American Integration System is propitious for closer trade relations between Belize and Central America.
2. Belize has at least two important trade events each year: the National Agriculture and Trade Show (usually in May) and Expo Belize, in September as part of the independence celebrations. These events could be used to promote Belize's trade with the other Central American countries.
3. Forming part of the Central American information systems on prices and markets, and the supply and use of commodities, gives Belize access to basic information needed to plan trade better.
4. Geographic location. Its proximity to its Central American trading partners reduces transportation costs and makes it easier to market goods in smaller quantities.
5. Productivity is low. This would suggest that the adoption of technology could increase yields considerably.
6. The country's success in exporting grains and chicken to Guatemala. Also, the possibility of finding market niches or seasonal windows for products with which

the country has acquired experience, such as: aquaculture products (shrimp, lobster and others), fruits (mango, papaya), honey, red peppers, red and black beans, peas and organic cacao.

7. The recently completed strategic planning process establishes a long-term vision for the agricultural sector and offers important elements (including policies) for strengthening trade with the Central American countries.

Belize has designed a long-term agriculture and food policy (2002-2020) entitled “No farmer = no food.” It contains a vision statement for the agricultural sector that highlights competitiveness, diversification and sustainability.

*The National Food and Agriculture Policy (2002-2020)* sets out objectives for the agricultural sector that are consistent with the aforementioned vision. These objectives are to: accelerate the diversification of agriculture geared both to exports and the domestic market; promote agro-processing and value adding; support the establishment and development of organic agriculture; promote the expansion of local and international markets and trade; increase the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of agribusinesses; improve and conserve the natural productive and resource base; improve access to productive resources and services and create opportunities for small farmers, women and young people, and indigenous people, particularly in poor, marginal areas; and strengthening the institutional capabilities for providing effective support in trade and marketing, research and extension, as well as in education and training.

A medium-term sectoral strategy is also being prepared, as part of which an international trade strategy has been developed, in both cases with collaboration from IICA.

This long-term proposal (2002-2020) includes specific policies for trade and prices consistent with the sectoral vision and the international trade strategy.

## ▶ V. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions

1. The agrifood sector is especially important for Belize, because of its contribution to GDP (35%), employment (41%), the generation of foreign exchange and food security.
2. Belize's export trade is dominated by agricultural products (around 70%), most of them primary products (over 80%). The number of products is small (sugar, bananas, citrus fruits and marine products make up 80% of the value of all exports) as is the number of markets (77% of exports go to the U.S. and the European Union). Food, beverages and tobacco account for 16% of the total value of imports.
3. Belize's agricultural trade with the CACM is limited, erratic and consists of a few primary products. In the last two years, it was less than 1% in both directions (exports and imports).
4. With over 38 million consumers, the Central American market offers opportunities for the expansion of trade.





5. Belize's market of agricultural products is still regulated by policies that the other Central American countries have abandoned, such as the application of non-automatic import licenses, price controls and government involvement in the marketing of sensitive goods.
6. Belize recently completed a strategic planning process that establishes a long-term vision for the agricultural sector. This would make it easier to develop specific strategies, in particular for the objective of strengthening of trade with the other Central American countries. The vision statement highlights three core elements of the process of developing the sector: competitiveness, diversification and sustainability.
7. *The National Food and Agriculture Policy (2002-2020)* also contains a statement of the objectives of agricultural policy, and specific policies for trade and prices. Some of the most important objectives proposed for agricultural policy -which is closely linked to trade- are as follows: accelerate the diversification of agriculture geared to exports and the domestic market; promote agro-processing and adding value; support the establishment and development of organic agriculture; promote the expansion of local and international markets and trade; increase the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of agribusiness; and improve the institutional capabilities for providing effective support in trade and marketing, research and extension, as well as in education and training.

The policy framework foresees a process of trade liberalization and deregulation of the market that will make it easier for the country to integrate into international trade.

The document also lists opportunities, threats, weaknesses and strengths that should be taken into account in establishing the definitive strategy for strengthening Belize's trade relations with the other Central American countries.

## Recommendations

A single general recommendation is made regarding the strategy, followed by specific recommendations related to its implementation.

1. *General.* Expand the research on which this report is based to develop a strategy for strengthening trade between Belize and the other countries of Central America. The following specific recommendations could be useful as input for the next stage.
2. *Specific recommendations related to the strategy*

The authors of this document make the following specific recommendations. They vary in nature and order of importance, and should be taken into account in developing the definitive strategy.

- a. **At present, Belize's trade with the other Central American countries is very limited. This neighboring market of over 38 million consumers has a great deal of potential, however, a multiple-pronged strategy is proposed comprising the following components:**
  - **Market penetration** (current product in current market): More exports of the products currently exported, taking advantage of the experience acquired. Regular information on prices and

markets is needed, and the country should take advantage of the lower tariffs for products subject to tariff quotas, and the temporary windows for seasonal products. Belize will have preferential access to the Costa Rican market once the free trade agreement with CARICOM enters into force.

- **Market development:** (current product in a new market). Another way of increasing trade would be to identify goods produced in Belize that have not yet been exported. Belize could increase its trade with Central America by identifying goods that it currently produces but does not export to this market. Other products that make a smaller contribution should not be ruled out; Belize could become a supplier of them. Products for which demand is small could be attractive, given the small scale of some agricultural activities in Belize.
  - **Product development:** Over the longer term, the country could explore the possibility of producing competitively primary or processed products that Central America imports from third countries, and which Belize does not yet produce commercially. Strategic partnerships could be considered with Central American investors interested in developing new products (for Belize) for the Central American market.
- b. **The possibilities of trade in the opposite direction should also be analyzed, as this would make increased trade more attractive to both parties (Belize and the**

**other Central American countries). Two-way trade can have a positive impact on marketing costs, particularly transportation costs. Imports from Central America could be increased by:**

- Purchasing raw material to increase agroindustrial production and thereby achieve economies of scale.
  - Substituting imports from third countries with purchases of primary and processed products from Central America.
  - Creating alliances between Belizean and Central American businesspeople to consolidate supplies and thereby permit bigger, more regular supplies to third markets.
  - Promoting relations among businesspeople by organizing meetings, trade missions, fairs, etc.
- **Promotion of investments.** Alliances between Belizean and Central American businesspeople are a first step for promoting joint investments. One of the objectives of the foreign trade policies of developing countries is to attract Direct Foreign Investment (DFI). It is a strategy that many highly successful Central American companies have been implementing in the following areas:
- The distribution and sale of goods and services
  - Investment in plant and production capacity in other countries of the region
  - Strategic alliances between national companies and companies operating in other countries of the region
  - Regional integration through mergers or acquisitions in several countries



## ▶ VI. Bibliography

- BELTRAIDE. (undated). Business Directory. Available at: [http://66.70.66.221/beltraide/serv\\_directory.cfm](http://66.70.66.221/beltraide/serv_directory.cfm).
- CARICOM Secretary. Establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Summary of Status of Key Elements. [www.caricom.org/archives](http://www.caricom.org/archives).
- ECLAC (2002). Balance preliminar de las economías de América Latina y El Caribe. Santiago, Chile.
- Food & Agriculture Policy. Belize.
- FAO (undated). FAOSTAT. Available at: <http://apps.fao.org/default.htm>.
- FAO. Trends and Challenges in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Caribbean. Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. April 2002.
- Galván, J. (2003) Estrategia para el sector agrícola de Belice: Propuesta para estrategia de comercio internacional. IICA. San José. Costa Rica.
- Girvan Norman. El Gran Caribe. John Clifford Sealy Memorial Lecture. Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. April 2001.
- Girvan Norman. Reinterpretar al Caribe. University of the West Indies. Revista Mexicana del Caribe. No. 7, 2000.
- IICA & AECI (2000). Directorio Iberoamericano de Gremiales Agroalimentarias. San José, Costa Rica.
- Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries & Government of Belize (2003). The National U.S. Embassy Belize (2000). Country Commercial Guide: Belize. Belize.
- Proyecto Estado de la Región -UNDP- (2003). Segundo Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano en Centroamérica y Panamá. San José, Costa Rica. Editorama S.A.
- SCMCA (2003). Informe Preliminar Desempeño de las Economías de Centroamérica y República Dominicana en 2002. San José, Costa Rica.
- SIDE (2003). Situación y perspectivas de los Ministerios de Agricultura y los Gremios Agropecuarios en los países del CORECA. San Jose, Costa Rica.
- SIECA (2003). Estado de situación de la Integración Centroamericana hasta Marzo 2003. Available at <http://www.sieca.org.gt>.
- UNDP (2003). Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano 2003. New York, U.S.A. Editorial Mundi-Prensa.
- U.S. Embassy Belize (2000). Country Commercial Guide: Belize. Available at: <http://usembassy.state.gov/belize/www/hcountrycommercialguide.html>.
- WTO Schedule C - Belize, Section I - A (tariff); Section I - B (tariff quotas); Section I Domestic Support; Section II Export Subsidies.



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation  
on Agriculture (IICA)

[www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)

## ► InterCambio ◀

Intercambio is produced jointly by the Trade Policies and  
Negotiations Unit and the Directorate of Agribusiness  
Development for the Technical Secretariat of IICA.

Phone: (506) 216-0297 / Fax: (506) 216-0287  
PO Box 55-2200 Coronado, Costa Rica

Previous volumes are available at:  
<http://infoagro.net/comercio>