



# Media Release

## EXPLORING NEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRO PROCESSING

**August 16, 2017:-** The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) continues to examine new and innovative opportunities to boost exports and increase access to markets in agro processing. On August 15, 2017, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry and technical staff met with Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company Director Mr Ashley Parasram and representatives of the British High Commission to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Lauding the company's innovative and enabling strategies in the area of agro processing for export Minister Gopee-Scoon reiterated the Government's inclination to support business ventures into high end lucrative markets. These initiatives, she emphasised, not only strengthen our economy but also solidify Trinidad and Tobago's brand internationally.

In examining the Ministry's role in facilitating the development of the cocoa processing industry and positioning the locally produced Trinitario beans for greater penetration of the European market, Minister Gopee-Scoon gave the commitment of the MTI to lend assistance in keeping with the national innovation policy and national quality policy currently in development.

The Minister commended the Cocoa company for its significant accomplishments over its two years of operations and assured Mr Parasram of the MTI's commitment to product quality improvement efforts. The Ministry, she added, is in the final stages of completing a National Quality Policy and consideration will be given to the inclusion of Cocoa Processing as a priority area. A clear vision is needed she said, ***"while there's significant work to be done there is also significant promise. We must work together to determine how best we can utilise this resource to benefit Trinidad and Tobago from a trade perspective."***

Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company operates a facility located at the La Reunion Estate, Centeno. It carries out breeding programmes, conservation, agronomy and processing trials, provides farmers with planting material and technical advice, training and infrastructure. La Reunion produces the highest quality of Trinitario beans, which have achieved global recognition by consistently winning awards at the Salon du Chocolat in Paris every year.

---

**END**

---