



Agro-Marketer Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July, 2011



COLD STORAGE FACILITIES IN AGRICULTURE

The Agricultural Sector is a major contributor to the economic development of Guyana. This sector is dominated by the production of rice and sugar. However, the loss of privileged access to the European Union (EU) markets and the increased instability in global commodity markets, coupled with the necessity to expand Guyana's economy, makes the expansion of the non-traditional sector very important.

Poor postharvest practices can cause significant losses to fruits and vegetables and result in reduced income. Some factors which contribute to postharvest losses include:

- Disease caused by fungi and/or bacteria
- Physical injuries due to insects, mechanical force, chemicals, heat or freezing
- Non-disease disorders resulting from storage conditions that disturb normal metabolism



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About this Newsletter

This newsletter is a quarterly bulletin of the Guyana Marketing Corporation. It provides information and market intelligence in non-traditional crops for the local and export markets. The newsletter is aimed at strengthening the information base of our farmers, agribusinesses and other stakeholders.



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COLD STORAGE FACILITIES IN AGRICULTURE CONT'D

Mechanical damage is one of the most severe and common postharvest defects which contribute to great economic loss. Mechanical damage can be visible such as cracks, bruises and cuts or invisible such as internal bruising. Apart from the physical defect caused by mechanical injury, the injured sites act as an entry for secondary infection such as bacteria and fungi, as well as the development of off-odours and off-flavours in the fresh produce.

The control of mechanical damage can be achieved by measures which include, the use of proper containers during harvesting and transportation of the fresh fruits and vegetables. Proper harvesting containers should consist of the following features:

- It must be sturdy
- It must allow for ventilation in an attempt to prevent the build-up of field heat.
- It must not contain any protrusions which can cause mechanical damage.
- It must be easy to lift (should be outfitted with handles)
- It should be stackable to prevent compression during storage and transportation
- It should be easy to sanitize

Notably, these containers can also be used to temporarily store the produce after harvest and facilitate transport to packinghouses or marketplaces.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the Guyana Marketing Corporation has recognized the need for proper harvesting and transportation containers of fresh produce. As such the initiative has been taken to avail this service to farmers, traders, exporters and other stakeholders. The use of these crates in harvesting, transporting, storing and processing activities can drastically decrease the losses attributed to poor handling practices.

In addition to the need for having proper receptacles for transportation of fruits and vegetables, thorough cooling immediately after harvest is pertinent to the delivery of quality produce to the consumer. Producing consistently high-quality produce and the ability to ensure that quality is maintained until the produce reaches the consumer, commands buyer attention and gives the grower a competitive edge.



Farmers placing produce in plastic crates



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Warehousing and cold storage are central elements in food harvest, preservation and distribution system which should not be considered in isolation, but rather as part of a primary sector commonly referred to as the “cold chain”. The term “cold chain” and the components thereof, refer to steps from harvest to consumption that extends the natural shelf life of a product by controlling the temperature.

Proper postharvest cooling can:

- Suppress enzymatic degradation and respiratory activity (softening)
- Slow or inhibit water loss (wilting)
- Slow or inhibit the growth of decay-producing microorganisms (molds and bacteria)
- Reduce production of ethylene (a ripening agent) or minimize the product's reaction to ethylene.
- Reduce spoilage and retain the quality of the harvested products

The importance of a cold chain system in maintaining a cold storage system along the value chain, for the marketing of non- traditional agricultural produce has also been given priority by the Guyana Marketing Corporation. The facilities that are required to maintain the cold chain logistics infrastructure, generally consists of Pre-cooling facilities, Cold Storages, Refrigerated Carriers, Packaging, Warehousing and Information Management system. This need is addressed by the Guyana Marketing Corporation which currently boast a fleet of refrigerated trucks and refrigerated containers to provide the cold chain facilities for the non- traditional agricultural produce.

The Cold Storage facilities and plastic receptacles are available at the Corporation’s packaging facilities which are located at Sophia and Parika. These services are readily available and easily accessible to farmers, middlemen and exporters.



Pictures of Guyana Marketing Corporation’s Refrigerated Trucks and Containers






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AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES FOR MAY VS APIL 2011 AT THE MAIN URBAN

Root Crops										
Item	Unit	Bourda Retail			Stabroek Retail					
		Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11			
Cassava	Kg	114.33	142.08	168.38	113.00	133.47	144.69			
Eddo	Kg	176.00	172.33	165.85	149.00	134.20	134.54			
Ginger	Kg	798.67	898.00	915.20	719.33	897.11	901.08			
Sweet Potato	Kg	216.00	218.78	223.67	202.67	195.80	179.38			
Yam	Kg	391.60	440.00	426.00	358.00	374.00	396.61			

Condiments & Spices										
Item	Unit	Bourda Retail			Stabroek Retail					
		Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11			
Celery	Kg	797.50	671.00	880.00	861.67	531.67	1,072.50			
Eschallot	Kg	552.67	265.83	405.03	609.33	255.20	439.44			
Hot Pepper	Kg	732.67	1,038.89	1,006.92	705.33	965.07	1,030.62			
Wiri Wiri Pepper	Pint	257.00	458.00	1,390.40	245.00	450.00	1,306.80			

Vegetables										
Item	Unit	Bourda Retail			Stabroek Retail					
		Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11			
Bora	Bundle	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00			
Boulangers	Parcel	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00			
Cabbage	Kg	375.33	339.78	421.95	380.67	310.93	420.82			
Calaloo	Bundle	54.00	43.00	43.00	49.00	34.00	42.00			
Corilla	Kg	440.00	359.94	338.46	418.00	356.40	378.00			
Cucumber	Each	49.00	36.00	41.00	48.00	36.00	31.00			
Ochro	Kg	324.00	189.93	208.15	336.00	191.77	227.90			
Pak Choi	Root	54.00	44.00	45.00	53.00	41.00	49.00			
Pumpkin	Kg	158.17	197.39	190.67	155.10	154.00	191.00			
Squash - med	Each	241.00	195.00	238.00	232.00	181.00	240.00			
Sweet Pepper	Kg	976.00	1,223.33	881.69	968.00	1,243.00	966.31			
Tomato	Kg	552.20	495.31	361.31	521.33	438.53	342.83			

Fruits										
Item	Unit	Bourda Retail			Stabroek Retail					
		Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11			
Lime	Each	31.00	33.00	33.00	29.00	30.00	30.00			
Orange	Each	37.00	47.00	50.00	35.00	45.00	47.00			
Papaw	Each	527.00	550.00	581.00	447.00	435.00	508.00			
Pineapple	Each	295.00	293.00	300.00	275.00	270.00	272.00			
Watermelon	Kg	279.33	242.00	223.00	268.00	250.25	228.46			
Coconut - Dry	Each	53.79	50.00	50.00	54.39	53.00	52.00			
Coconut - Water	Each	125.33	126.00	120.00	127.78	124.29	120.00			



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Staff Member's Participation of Seminar in China

Guyana Marketing Corporation's staff member Mr. Sheirdath Ram-sammy, recently attended a seminar on Agricultural Products Circulation System Building for Developing Countries, in the Republic of China. Twenty five participants from seventeen countries participated in the seminar, which was held from the 5th to 25th May 2011. The seminar included lectures, interactive discussions, meetings, onsite visiting and other multimedia teaching methods.

The seminar was aimed at providing a first-hand exposure of the facilities, technologies and policies that is used to develop the Agricultural Products Circulation system in China.

This exposure is intended to improve the existing Agricultural Product circulation system in Guyana.

Heads of Department and experts in the field of commerce and service industry were invited to give lectures to the participants.



Participants visit to a wholesale market

Some of the lecture topics included "Current Situation and Development of Modern Circulation System of Agricultural Products", "Introduction of Farmer-supermarket Partnership and A Comparative Analysis of Domestic and Foreign Model", "Food Safety Management and Setting up Green Market", "Brand Building of Agricultural Products and the Development of Cold Chain Logistics" and "Impact of Supermarket Development on the Circulation of Agricultural Products."

Guyana Marketing Corporation's Participation at Feminiton Exposition 2011

FEMINITON: 'Definition of a Woman' was deemed a success in not only displaying the skills of and opportunities available to women, but also in celebrating the achievements of great Guyanese women. This event was viewed as an inspiration to younger generations to achieve greatness. Small manufacturers featured prominently among the exhibitors who took up booths at the Feminiton women's exposition. The Marketing Arm of the Ministry of Agriculture; Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC)

participated in this historical event at the Guyana National Stadium, which was held on 27 to 29 May ,2011.



Guyana Marketing Corporation's Display

GMC's participation was aimed at enhancing the marketability of farmers' produce. In addition, successful women in various agencies, attached to the Ministry of Agriculture were also highlighted. Moreover, GMC showcased some of the different fruits and vegetables that are grown in Guyana along with the process items that are manufactured by different companies. This initiative was spearheaded by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security.



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Agriculture Market Information System

The Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) provides market information on various agricultural crops to farmers and residents nationwide.

AMIS is a system that allows farmers, agro-processors, exporters, agri-business investors and Guyanese in general to access the market prices of commodities through the use of the Short Messaging Service (SMS) offered by Digicel.

Cost of Service

This service costs Guyana \$5.00 VAT inclusive per text message.

Steps Involved in Texting:

1. Go into the message section of the phone
2. Type the commodity you want to obtain information on for example pumpkin
3. Go to the part where you type the number and type 1010.

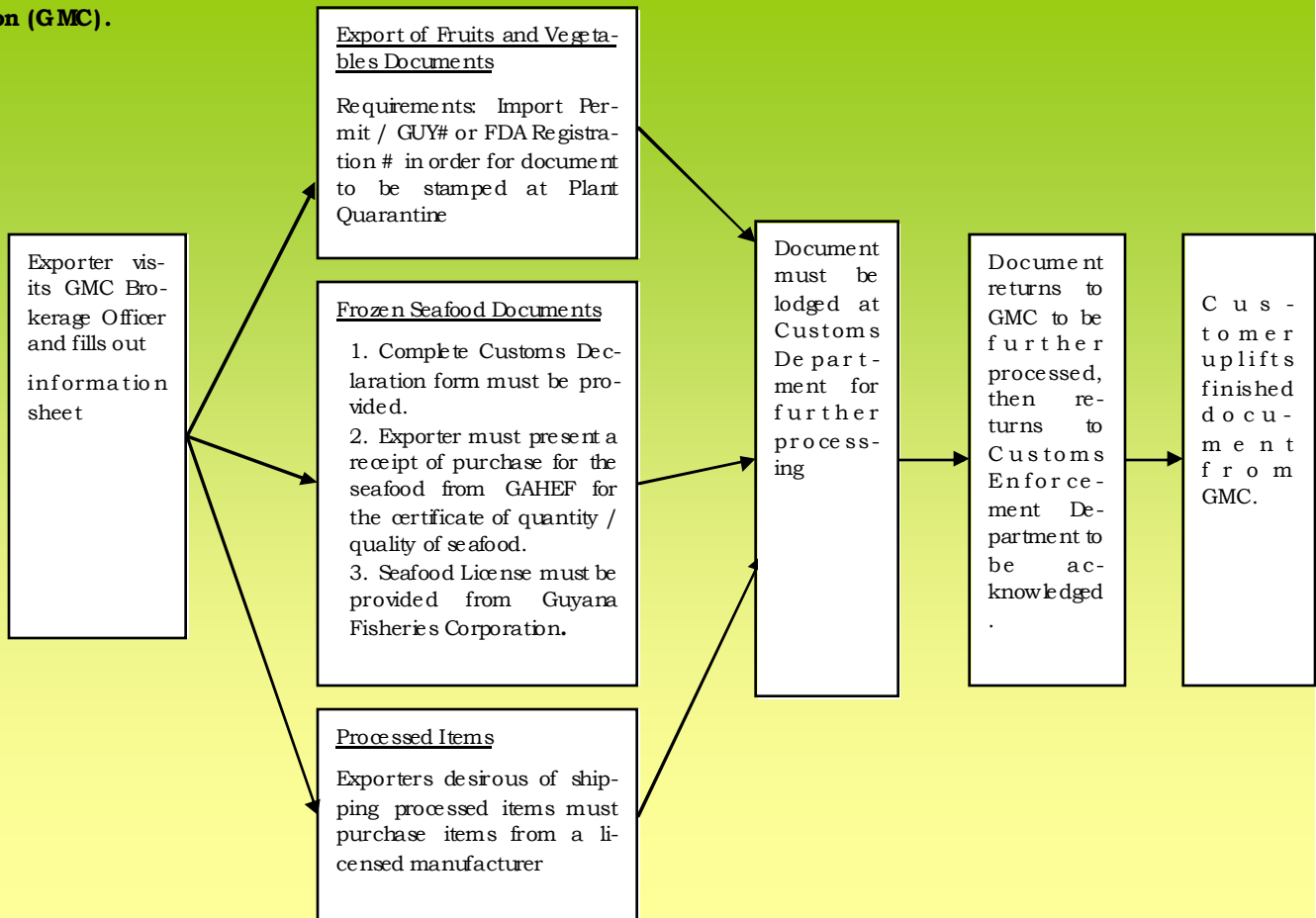
4. Press send

A message will be received within a few seconds with the information requested on your phone.



Guyana Marketing Corporation's Customs Brokerage Services

Procedure Involve in the Exportation of Agricultural Produce/ Products from Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC).





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Guyana Prison Service Agriculture Development Board Launched

The Minister of Home Affairs; Clement Rohee on Tuesday 17th May, 2011 launched the Guyana Prison Service Agriculture Development Board. The purpose of this board is to provide an oversight of the Guyana Prison Service agriculture sector, with a view of implementing the Agriculture Business Plan drafted by the Minister. This detailed plan seeks to accomplish total self-sufficiency and commercial gain by the Guyana Prison Service. (GPS). The Minister of Home Affairs stated that the potential for agricultural development within the prison system has two advantages: land and manpower at its disposal.

The Agriculture Development Board comprise of :

1. Directorate of GPS
2. Technical Officer GPS

3. Representative from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
4. Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. Representative from the Private Sector.
6. Representative from the Institute of Private Enterprise Development.
7. Representative from the Guyana Marketing Corporation.



GPS Agriculture Development Board

One of the primary goals of the Prison Administration is to develop the capacity of the agriculture sector to achieve a posture of self-sufficiency in vegetables, ground provision and meat in order to significantly reduce government expenditures on dietary intake for inmates. The focus of the Board will be at the Mazaruni, Lusignan and New Amsterdam Prisons, since these locations show the greatest potential and possibility in agriculture production.

The Guyana Marketing Corporation is delighted to be a part of the Prison Service Board and looks forward to making valuable contributions to the development of the prisons service.

Coming Soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Guyana Shop will be re– opened at its original location, 87 Robb and Alexander Streets, Lacytown Georgetown.

The Guyana Shop is viewed as providing an opportunity for both local producers and manufacturers to market their products locally and to overseas visitors and clients.

On the ground floor, consumers can expect a wide range of locally made products, fruits, vegetables and meats. The first floor, on the other hand will have a variety of locally made crafts available for sale, among others.





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Participation at Upcoming Events

JULY 2011

Nutrition Awareness Week
July 21, 2011

Berbice Exposition
July 22—25, 2011

Albion Community Centre
Ground.

Wakenaam Night
July 30, 2011

Wakenaam Community
Centre Ground

AUGUST 2011

Linden Night
August 6, 2011

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