

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2022

Punta Gorda
Toledo, Belize



Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Limited held its 3rd annual general meeting.

On Saturday, August 27, 2022, Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Limited (TFCGL) held its 3rd Annual General meeting under the vision *“To be a thriving and sustainable cacao sector where farmers prosper, community members are empowered, and the land is preserved”*.

Trio community members (men, women, and youths) and invited guests such as Maya Mountain Cacao (MMC), GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP) country coordinator, Copal Tree Lodge, Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA), Green Creek Farmers' Cooperative (GCFC), PGTV and Ya'axché Conservation Trust were present to commemorate seven (7) years of advanced cacao agroforestry and livelihoods enhancement through the implementation of the first ever agroforestry concession in Belize.

TFCGL and Ya'axché Conservation Trust joined hands in 2015 to establish Belize's first cacao-based agroforestry concession within Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR) by lobbying the Government of Belize for its establishment. TFCGL thirty-one members have been investing resources into the production of premium cacao beans.

During the AGM, the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Isabel Rash, outlined the group's efforts and progress. This was coupled with various dynamic presentations on the concession timeline, its successes, challenges, financial trajectory, as well as cacao production records for the year 2018-2022.

TFCGL's executive committee underwent its electoral process to document the changes in leadership positions. Members and invited guests witnessed the voting and election of the new leadership that is mandated to oversee the day-to-day operations of the association as well as its cacao enterprise for the next two years. The new 2022-2024 TFCGL executive committee is comprised of:

Chairman: Manuel Tut
Vice Chairman: Greyson Rash
Secretary: Hector Cho
Vice Secretary: Martha Cholom
Treasurer: Marcus Tut
Vice Treasurer: Armando Rash
Counselor: Marcus Choc

TFCGL community-based approach towards conservation and sustainable development has been inspiring Belize and beyond. Ya'axché and TFCGL continue working towards a sustainable cacao sector.

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