



Agricultural Sectors

A Top Export Prospect for Trinidad and Tobago

September 2014

Overview

Poultry Meat and Products

Eggs

Beef

Dairy Products

Corn

Prepared Food

Fresh and Processed Fruit

Tree Nuts

Condiments

Wine & Beer

TT's agriculture sector share of GDP remained at 0.6 percent in 2013. Domestic agriculture production increased recently in some areas due to greater efficiencies, however, competition from imports, labor shortages and rising costs of inputs continue to constrain the sector.

The market for consumer-oriented and seafood products presents considerable opportunities for U.S. suppliers. While local food processing is more developed than in most other Caribbean countries, TT remains dependent on the importation of a full range of food products to satisfy local demand. The GOTT recently zero-rated all food items - removal of 15 percent value added tax - with the exception of luxury items and alcoholic beverages in order to address rising food prices. Thus, opportunities exist for U.S. suppliers of practically all consumer-oriented and seafood products. According to U.S. trade data, in 2013 the United States exported to TT record levels of poultry meat, dairy products, beef, eggs, corn, fresh and processed fruit, condiments, prepared food, tree nuts, and wine and beer.

In 2013, TT imported \$122,898,000 in agriculture goods and beverages from the US. This was up 13 percent from 2012.

The local food and beverage sector continues to offer significant investment opportunities, particularly for manufacturers who utilize unique regional agro-products to develop goods. In light of the increased access to global markets and North America's appreciation and desire for exotic foods, as well as the growth of gourmet lifestyles in more developed metropolitan communities, this sector has an opportunity to create and innovate in the production of specialty items for regional, international, and local markets.

Agribusiness opportunities include: seed culturing, classification, bio-stimulation and bio-conversion, organic fertilizers and pesticides, greenhouse technology, crop evaluation, packaging, warehousing, transportation, food processing, and cocoa processing or chocolate manufacturing.

Web Resources

InvesTT: <http://www.investt.co.tt/targeted-sectors/agribusiness>

For More Information

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