



## PRESS RELEASE

(Thursday, May 01, 2014)

### **CARILED and Canada supports Beeston Spring Organic Farming**

**Kingston, Jamaica:** The Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED) approved support of the Beeston Spring Organic Farming Project in March 2014 to foster the promotion of the "Grow What You Eat, Eat What You Grow" programme and the use of organic farming and agro-processing techniques.

Local Economic Development Officer in the Westmoreland Parish, Jermaine Saunders said, "The project will be the first organic seed bank in Jamaica, and will incorporate the use of solar dryers, composting and organic seedlings on a demonstration site that will be used by the Organic Movement and the Jamaica Agricultural Society".

CARILED, a six year project funded by the Government of Canada, will work directly with 40 farmers and other stakeholders to develop the Beeston Spring Organic Brand. The local development project will also partner with the Westmoreland Parish Council, the Westmoreland PDC, the Jamaica Organic Agricultural Movement, the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, the Cooperative and Friendly Societies, US Peace Corp and the Social Development Commission.

CARILED and the US Peace Corp Volunteer will co-host the first training session on solar drying for the Beeston Spring Organic Farmers on May 01, 2014. The training is one of many related to organic farming methods, business development, business operations, marketing, branding and other best practices that will be delivered to the farmers in Beeston Spring.

### **About CARILED**

CARILED is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada, formerly the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It is a six year program launched in May 2012, with headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, and sub-offices in Saint Lucia (OECS) and Ottawa, Canada. The program is being implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA), the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). The program, focused on local economic development, currently works in seven Caribbean countries to develop models of LED that can be shared throughout the region. It aims to partner with 50 local government authorities to support the growth and development of 500 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). For more information on CARILED, please contact [cariled@fcm.ca](mailto:cariled@fcm.ca). FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES ONLY, please contact [kizzannleesam@fcm.ca](mailto:kizzannleesam@fcm.ca)