



BIOTRADE

By Anita James
Biodiversity Coordinator
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries
and Forestry
BIODIVERSITY EXPOSITION 2010



What is Biotrade?



- It is an initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) since 1996
- Supports the development of biodiversitybased sectors in developing countries
- It is implemented with national, regional and international partners
- Supports businesses and local communities that depend on biodiversity for their living



What is Biotrade cont'd?



- It promotes the conservation of biodiversity
- Organisations following biotrade practices must support local development and respect traditional knowledge
- Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT), 2007, a non-profit association which builds on efforts of UNCTAD to guide businesses in good biodiversity practices and promote biotrade









The Biotrade Network



 Aims to promote trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development



 Partners include governments, trade promotion organisations, business associations, NGOs, academia and cooperation programs that implement the biotrade concept













BIOTRADE NETWORK cont'd



- Currently more than fifteen (15) countries benefit from Biotrade programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America
- The network develops methodologies, tools, guidelines and standards to enhance the implementation of biotrade principles
- For example, there is a verification framework for native natural ingredients



ACHIEVEMENTS OF BIOTRADE



During its fourteen years of existence

- Sustainable practices fostered
- Use of native biodiversity enhanced
- Biodiversity-based sectors promoted
- Access to national and international markets for small and medium enterprises facilitated
- Enabling policy environments for development of sustainable biobusinesses promoted
- Marginalised communities provided with sustainable development opportunities







PRODUCTS AND SERVICES SUPPORTED

- Natural ingredients and products for cosmetics, essential oils, natural dyes, soaps, creams and butters, moisturisers
- Natural ingredients and products for pharmaceuticals extracts and infusions from medicinal plants, natural medicines, capsules
- Natural ingredients and products for food, fruits, cereals, grains, roots, nuts, cocoa, fish products, jams, sweets and snacks, jellies, pulps and juices,









Products and services cont'd



- Wildlife for trade : chameleons, snakes, tortoises
- Flowers and foliage: heliconias and other tropical flowers
- Handicrafts, furniture, decoration objects, jewelry, garments
- Sustainable tourism, ecotourism, naturebased tourism, birdwatching etc







Examples of biotrade successes

- Communities in Bolivia have exported skins and products derived from the caiman crocodile to Italy generating over US\$1.4 million in sales in one year
- Exports of these products to the US, now total \$500,000US
- Management plans adopted by communities ensure that harvesting of the species does not exceed its rate of production and that the environment for the species is clean for them to thrive



Examples cont'd



- Biotrade has helped novel foods to enter the EU by revising the EU Novel Foods regulation
- Consequently native foods of developing countries are only now making their way into international markets
- Has benefitted 30000 producers in Southern Africa, 3000 rural families in Peru and 4800 women in Namibia





Possibilities for Saint Lucia



- The Small Grants Program Biodiversity
 Products Initiative for LAC documents
 biodiversity products in several categories.
- Over 100 products were documented in the region
- Disseminated throughout the LAC region and to potential funders, marketers, retailers and capacity builders in Europe and North America



Possibilities cont'd



- Also an online portal with a database of the products
- Ultimate aim of the portal is to create learning exchanges between producer organisations and funders, marketers and retailers about the products and explore their potential for further development.





For further information

- Contact Anita James at :
- □anitavja@gmail.com
- ☐Tel: 468-4122/27
- ☐ 4th Floor Ministry of Agriculture, The Waterfront, Castries







THANK YOU •FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND **ATTENTION!**