



News Release

GK Foods to expand agro-processing footprint in Jamaica –Activities at new plant to target export markets

(Kingston, June 30, 2007) GK Foods & Services Ltd, a subsidiary of GraceKennedy Ltd will be opening its sixth manufacturing plant in Jamaica next year. The new facility will produce a range of conveniently portioned and packaged locally grown fruits and vegetables primarily for export markets.

The 60,000 square foot facility, which is situated in Denbigh, Clarendon contains a specialized agro-processing production line that will be augmented with newly acquired equipment and fully commissioned by mid-2018. A range of locally grown products will be further processed into value-added finished products.

A total of J\$215 Million will be spent on the acquisition of agro-processing equipment, installing blast-freezing capability, refurbishing and upgrading the facility and property, implementing a waste water management system and funding product research & development.

“We have been working toward this acquisition since late 2015 and I am pleased that we can now officially put this well placed facility to productive use. This plant, our sixth manufacturing plant in Jamaica, will be another channel for farmers to supply goods that are in high demand in North American and UK markets,” said Don Wehby, Group CEO of GraceKennedy Ltd.

Mr. Wehby added: “We expect to create employment for up to seventy persons and contribute to further growth in the agricultural sector as over time.”

GraceKennedy is a leading exporter of locally made goods.

Grace Foods is supplied by hundreds of farmers across the country with meat, fruits and vegetables. Grace Agro Processors Division (GAP) based in St. Elizabeth produces pepper products such as the world famous hot and spicy line of pepper sauces and the popular **Grace Fresh and Ready** brand of ready-to-cook vegetables which are available in supermarkets around the island.

Through its Farmers’ Assistance and Seedlings programmes, GAP helped reverse deficits in supply of chili pepper caused by droughts in 2014 and 2015. Instead of importing pepper mash, GAP has become an exporter of pepper mash producing more than 1,350 metric tonnes of pepper and scallion in 2016 and exporting 155 metric tonnes.

“We continue to look for ways to deepen our relationships with farmers across Jamaica as we develop new initiatives to absorb their supplies, incentivize productivity, and promote employment opportunities,” Mr. Wehby said.

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