



PR#115-24

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Closing of “Empowering Women Through Integrated Aquaponics in Community Garden” Training Program**

*Belmopan, July 19, 2024*

The Closing Ceremony of “Empowering Women through Integrated Aquaponics in Community Garden” training program was held today in Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District. The training is conducted under the project “Enhancing the Economic Empowerment of Women in Belize in the COVID-19 Post Pandemic Era,” collaborated between the governments of Taiwan and Belize, and is implemented by the Benque Viejo Town Council.

Through the program, women in the community were able to receive training on aquaponics in the community garden in Benque Viejo Town. Aquaponics is a sustainable farming method that combines fish farming with vegetable cultivation. The goal of the program is to promote women’s participation and engagement in community gardening activities, equip women with knowledge and skills in environmental stewardship, and provide them with a sustainable source of fresh, nutritious food production, thereby enhancing self-sufficiency and food security for both the women and the community.

In attendance at the ceremony were Hon. Jorge Espat, Minister of State of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Civil Aviation and Immigration, H.E. Lily Li-Wen Hsu, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize, Ms. Seidi Quetzal, Foreign Service Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mayor Jorge Rosales and members of the Benque Viejo Town Council, as well as Chief Robert Pan and Project Manager Jill Cai of the Taiwan Technical Mission in Belize.

**Ends**