



PR#062-23

PRESS RELEASE

MED Continues to Improve Market Access for Vulnerable Smallholder Farmers

Belmopan. March 9, 2023.

Today, the Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Economic Development's Resilient Rural Belize (RRB) Program, signed a memorandum of agreement with the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH) for the upgrade of 4.7 miles of farm feeder road in the Valley of Peace area. This will fulfill one of RRB's main program objectives of upgrading public infrastructure, such as roads, drainage, and information systems, to improve market access for poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers across Belize. The cost of upgrading the feeder road is approximately BZ\$2.2 million and is slated to begin in April 2023.

The RRB program, designed to enable farmers to adapt and be more resilient to climate change, is funded through the Green Climate Fund and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Primary beneficiaries include cooperatives such as the Valley of Peace Lagoon Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited.

CEOs Dr. Osmond Martinez and Victor Espat signed on behalf of the MED and MIDH, respectively. Dr. Geraldo Flowers, RRB Program Manager, and Mr. Evandale Moody, MIDH Chief Engineer, witnessed the signing. Hon. Julius Espat, Minister of MIDH and Area Representative for Cayo South, delivered the keynote address.

Ends

For more information, contact:

Dr. Geraldo Flowers

Programme Manager

Resilient Rural Belize

geraldo.flowers@med.gov.bz