



Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad & Tobago Limited

Media Release

Trinidad and Tobago makes History... Fine or Flavour Cocoa Attains Highest International Excellence!

COCOA OF EXCELLENCE, ROME, ITALY, On Thursday 16TH December 2021 during a virtual ceremony broadcast to more than 70 countries, the 2021 Cocoa of Excellence winners were announced. In the category of Central America and the Caribbean, 2 cocoa producers from Trinidad and Tobago won Silver Awards and 1 producer won a Bronze award, thereby reinforcing this country's place as the most awarded cocoa producing country in the history of the Cocoa of Excellence Programme. This year, to start the second decade of the Programme, the Cocoa of Excellence Programme made a significant change, by replacing the International Cocoa Awards with the first Cocoa of Excellence, Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards.

Trinidad and Tobago has won eight (8) International Cocoa Awards since the inception of the competition and now has 3 Cocoa of Excellence Awards to add to that tally.



Photo: Ms. Annette Mills

Winners of Silver Awards are Annette Mills of Heights of Aripo and Winthrop Harewood of Tableland. The winner of the Bronze Award is a group of Farmers of the Four Roads Tamana Cocoa Cluster who put together a combined cocoa bean sample comprising beans from the small farms of Helen Monsegue, Albert Maloney, Calvin David and Lincoln Salandy. This composite sample was processed by Martin and Jacqueline Matthew, winners of the 2019 International Cocoa Awards.



Photo: Mr. Winthrop Harewood



Photo: The Farmers of Four Roads Tamana Cluster



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Following a selection and evaluation process of 235 cocoa samples submitted from 53 origins, the three (3) Trinidad and Tobago samples were amongst the 50 entrants shortlisted for the 2021 Edition of the Cocoa of Excellence Awards. These three award winning samples were part of the five (5) winning samples of the 2021 National Cocoa Awards, which were submitted to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the global Cocoa of Excellence Programme.

The producers of these three (3) award-winning samples were trained under the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago's (CDCTTL) Microlot Development Programme, which provides technical guidance to process cocoa to highest quality standards which is targeted for international niche markets.

The journey to excellence of Annette Mills, Winthrop Harewood and the Farmers of the four Roads Tamana Cluster began at the National Cocoa Awards which is a flagship quality evaluation programme of the CDCTTL. The Company formed a National Organising Committee comprising of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, the Cocoa Research Centre- UWI (CRC), and exporTT.

The National Cocoa Awards celebrates the unique flavours of local cocoa, the passion and commitment of local cocoa producers to attain the highest quality, as well as our diverse cocoa culture. This competition is the precursor to select entrants for the global Cocoa of Excellence Programme.

Cocoa of Excellence is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Cocoa of Excellence recognizes quality, flavour and diversity of cocoas from origins around the world, to improve farmers' livelihoods and drive sustainability of the cocoa supply chain, since 2009.

Trinidad and Tobago is one of eight (8) countries that exclusively produce, 100% fine or flavour cocoa. The general flavours of Trinidad & Tobago have remained unique and distinct because of the climate, soil, flora & fauna, and processing. The CDCTTL will continue to promote and develop the expertise of local cocoa producers to international award-winning levels, in fulfilment of its mandate to champion the success of the fine or flavour cocoa industry.

To see all the winners, please click this link:

<http://www.cocoaofexcellence.org/2021-award-winners>