



TRINITARIO COCOA WEBINAR SERIES

Episode 3 – The Cocoa Pitch

Wednesday 28th September 2022, 9:30am (AST)



Event Agenda

- 9:30 – 9:34 am (AST) **Opening Remarks – Sekou Alleyne, President InvesTT**
- 9:35 – 9:48 am **Ministers – Introduction and Remarks**
Moderator - Ms. Jessie-May Ventour, Veteran Broadcaster
 - **H.E Peter Cavendish, Ambassador – Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago**
 - **Senator the Hon. Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry**
- 9:49 – 9:52 am **Cocoa Highlights – Episode 1&2**
- 9:53 – 10:03 am **Pitch Overview, Guidelines & Panelists Introductions**
Moderator - Ms. Jessie-May Ventour,
- 10:04 – 12:03 am **Pitch Session – 3 scale-ups, 2 start-ups, 2 special guests**
- 12:04 – 12:11 am **Cocoa Network Accelerator Initiative**
- 12:12 – 12:17 pm **Director of Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Ms. Albada Beekham**
- 12:18 – 12:23 pm **Vote of Thanks**



Senator the Honourable Paula GOPEE-SCOON

- Senator Gopee-Scoon is the **Minister of Trade and Industry** which is one of the frontline ministries within the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that leads the drive to position the country as a manufacturing base, and the business, trade and financial hub of the Caribbean.
- As Minister, her aim is to build upon and expand programs which improve the export capacity of the local manufacturing sector. She leads the charge towards stimulating domestic and foreign investments while implementing policies to enhance the global competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago. She believes in continuous stakeholder engagement to ensure participation in the growth and development of all sectors for a sustainable and vibrant economy.
- The work of InvestTT in this regard falls directly under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.



His Excellency Mr. Peter CAVENDISH

- Peter Cavendish was accredited as **EU Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago** on July 22nd, 2021. He hails from Dublin, Ireland and has worked for EU institutions since 1995.
- Mr Cavendish has held a number of roles including as Head of Sector, Directorate-General ECHO Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Head of Division, Financial Control of EU Delegations, Head of Division, Inspection of EU Delegations and Head of Division, Security of EU Delegations.
- Prior to joining the Commission, he worked in the financial and petro-chemical sectors.
- He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Master of Business Studies, from the University College of Dublin.



Albada BEEKHAM

- Albada Beekham is the **Director for Research in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries**
- She is qualified in traditional plant breeding with a Masters of Philosophy degree in Plant Science from the University of the West Indies. She also holds a BSc honours degree in Agronomy from UWI and was trained at the University of Birmingham England in Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.
- Ms Beekham has over 30 years' working experience in the Ministry of Agriculture in Agronomy and Research. She has directed and supervised research projects in Cocoa, Vegetables, Fruits, Coconuts and Root Crops.
- She served as the Chair of the Board of Management of Plant Quarantine Services from 2019 to 2022 and is also a member of several national committees including the National Biosafety Action Plan Committee and the Anti Illicit Trade Task Force. Additionally, she serves as National Focal Point on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under the Food and Agriculture Organization.



Sekou ALLEYNE

Sekou Alleyne is the **President of InvestTT**

- Sekou Alleyne is a strategic business development professional,
- He attained his MBA from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business and earned his Bachelor of Commerce at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.
- He has leveraged his extensive background in Toronto's real estate development and leasing market to play a leading role in the investor attraction effort in InvestTT since its inception.
- Mr. Alleyne was intimately involved in the attraction and facilitation, of the set-up of Trinidad and Tobago's first international Call Centre, iQor, which now has three locations in Trinidad.
- His primary focus at InvestTT, the national investment promotion agency of Trinidad and Tobago, is to strategically improve the visibility of Trinidad and Tobago as an investment destination of choice and to improve the ranking of the IPA in terms of its ability to attract new investments.



John HADAD

- John Hadad graduated from **Queen's University, Ontario, Canada in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Physics.**
- He co-founded HADCO Limited in 1992 together with his brothers Robert and Joseph. John holds the position of Group co-Chief Executive Officer at HADCO Group.
- John was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Malta on March 12, 2014.
- He completed the Owner/President Management Program from the Harvard Business School in 2016 and was appointed to the Board of Directors of Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited on October 30, 2020.
- On June 15th, 2021, John was appointed as the Chairperson for the Institutional Advancement Committee of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Port-of-Spain.
- He is committed to excellence, and deeply passionate about building sustainable businesses that enrich all employees, suppliers, customers, and communities involved.



Crisen MAHARAJ

- Crisen Maharaj is the Manager of Capacity Building and Funding at ExporTT which is responsible for delivering services and initiatives to reduce constraints companies encounter when attempting to export or enter new markets.
- He is also responsible for the management of exporTT's Tobago office.
- A member of staff since February 26th 2009, Mr. Maharaj is focused on ensuring that exporters have export- ready operations, with export- ready, internationally competitive products and services.
- Crisen has work experience in various areas, including Marketing, Finance and Professional Development.
- He has a Bachelor's Degree in Information Systems and Management, and a Master's in Business Administration with a specialization in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.



Markus MANN

- Markus Mann is a **Producer - Artist – Entrepreneur of Markus Mann Music.**
- Combining elements of reggae, alt-soul, funk, rock, and folk music, Mann is able to create tracks that are entirely unique to him as an artist.
- Mann has spent his time working and traveling around mainland Europe, where he performed with respected artists such as The Wailers, Patrice, Jain, Irma, Selah Sue, Orelsan, Tikeh Jah Fakoley, Fat Freddy’s Drop, Nada Surf, Keziah Jones, and Pete Doherty, to name a few.
- He has also functioned as a ghost-writer for several well-known artists, a record producer and score writer for various films, television series and advertising synchronizations operating under his independent label Markus Mann Music.
- Since 2015 he signed a deal merging his company with global juggernaut label BMG Music and his music can be heard regularly in European and US Circuits.
- Mann keeps himself busy in other projects working conscientiously as an avid agricultural investor, actor, script writer, model, and author.



Michael MCQUILKIN

- Michael McQuilkin is the **Manager, Investment Banking, Republic Bank Limited.**
- Mr. McQuilkin has +5 years of capital markets experience including prior roles in equity research at Canaccord Genuity and asset management at Republic Wealth Management.
- Prior to his roles in finance, he worked as a Professional Geologist for seven years in Calgary AB, with Talisman Energy and Repsol Oil and Gas Canada Ltd.
- Mr. McQuilkin is a CFA Charter holder and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Geology and a minor in Geophysics from the University of Calgary.



Sandy ROOPCHAND

- Sandy Roopchand is the **CEO/Managing Director, Royal Castle**.
- She has seventeen (17) years in the hospitality industry with direct experience in management of finance, sales and operations within the fast food environment.
- During her tenure the restaurant chain grew with the addition of 21 new stores.
- She is a Qualified Accountant and has been a member of ACCA (UK) since 2000.
- Ms. Roopchand possesses a Master Certificate in Foodservice Management from Cornell University- School of Hotel Administration



Pramilla RAMDAHANI *(Panel Moderator)*

- **Pramilla Ramdahani is the Vice President of Investments at InvestTT.** She leads the portfolio of foreign direct investments into Trinidad and Tobago at InvestTT, the National Investment Promotion Agency of Trinidad and Tobago with responsibility for attracting, promoting and facilitating foreign and local direct investments.
- Prior to joining InvestTT in 2020, Pramilla spent just over 20 years in Canada working in economic and social development notably entrepreneurship, innovation and higher education in the public sector.
- As an accomplished innovation leader, entrepreneurial executive and educator, Pramilla brings a formidable 20+years of global experience in transforming economic development ecosystems, accelerating market-led innovations and attracting investments from diverse sources to support the growth and scalability of companies including female-led businesses.



Ms. Jessie-May VENTOUR *(Panel Moderator)*

- A seasoned **Broadcaster and Media Professional**, Jessie-May Ventour has some 30 years experience in the media.
- Many know her as host of several radio and television morning shows over the years, with her most recent stint as host of "The Morning Brew" on CNC3, last year.
- At present, she is part of the news team at Guardian Media Limited, and is broadening her media experience with a foray into cyberspace, working on the online platforms for The Guardian Newspaper and CNC3 Television.
- Apart from the media, Jessie-May also has worked with various government ministries and agencies, and the United Nations, in the corporate communications field.

Contact Us



www.investt.co.tt



marketing@investt.co.tt



(868) 225-4688