

**CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY MEETING
Protected Agriculture in Belize**

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Abstract

The traditional vegetables grown in Belize are becoming more difficult to manage because of the major pests that are becoming more resistant to chemicals. The ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) is seeking alternative solutions to this problem that is becoming a threat to our agriculture. Therefore one of the alternatives is Protected Agriculture.

Protected Agriculture in Belize is a promising technology to extend the calendars of harvesting traditional vegetables and also to assure the provision of fresh products to hotels and local market when the offer from open fields results in extreme limitation.

Not much is known about this technology by farmers in the country, but the ministry has trained extension officers to provide farmers with the basic help to be successful in this new technology. Further work is required to be done in this new field due to the economic importance and potential threat to the traditional vegetables in Belize. Our goal would be to develop a comprehensive and effective technological package programme for protected agriculture in Belize.