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Santa Fe Mega Farm investment a success story

November 17, 2014 By [GuyanaTimes](#)

- scope of operations to be further expanded

Agriculture Minister, Dr Leslie Ramsammy on Sunday witnessed the loading of harvested rice from the Santa Fe Mega Farm investment which was then transported to Brazil. The cargo rice was first processed at the Santa Fe Mill which was constructed by the investors.

This is the third time the Simpson family of Barbados is successfully harvesting rice which is being used to supply the local Region Nine (Upper Takatu-Upper Essequibo) market as well as Brazil.

For 2014, more than 8000 tonnes of cargo rice was exported to Brazil.

Santa Fe Inc investor, Sir Kyffin Simpson is adamant that the investment at Santa Fe since its inception continues to be a favourable one and committed to ensuring additional growth in the Hinterland region.

The project modelled its cultivation on techniques used in Brazil as well as that in Guyana and utilises a Brazilian expert to guide the process.

“There continues to be progress every time I visit Santa Fe... such success is a model which shows what can be done in savannah lands,” the Agriculture Minister said.

The Agriculture Minister alluded to the fact that there continues to be tremendous potential for agriculture development in the hinterland which thus far has largely remained untapped.

Since its inception, the project has also welcome successful harvest of not only rice but cash crop and the production/rearing of piglets, cows and sheep as the investors begin a modern Cattle Industry.

Minister Ramsammy praised the Santa Fe investors for buying into the idea that Savannah agriculture does not need to be limited to cattle.

The project first started with 120 acres of rice. However, the Simpson family who are also the owners of Sol Group realised this was not enough and has since significantly expanded their operations.

To date, the Santa Fe Project is not only equipped with a certified mill to process the paddy, but the necessary infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation canals and a pump system.

The project is also set to utilise the savannahs for soya beans and corn cultivation which will significantly aid the Caribbean in reducing its imports of the said commodities and allow for trade and expanded markets within the region.

The project is being managed and supervised by Guyanese Richard Vasconcellos. Of the 60 employees, 57 are Guyanese from Region Nine.

The Agriculture Minister was accompanied by Agriculture Ministry



Agriculture Minister, Dr Leslie Ramsammy with others at the Santa Fe Mega Farm, Region Nine



Inside the rice factor at the Santa Fe Mega Farm, Region Nine

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Permanent Secretary George Jervis; National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) Chief Executive Officer, Dr Oudho Homenauth; Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) Chief Executive Officer, Dindyal Permaul; National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) Chief Executive Officer, Lionel Wordsworth; Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) Deputy General Manager Rickey Ramraj; and Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) Board, Deputy Registrar Suresh Singh.

The Santa Fe team included the owner Sir Kyffin Simpson, Chairman of Santa Fe Board of Directors, Ronald Hardford, President of Itikawa Arroz (rice), Nelson Itikawa and Guyanese Director Richard Vasconcellos.

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