

At this time, the Islands do not produce agricultural products on a commercial scale. However, Islanders do raise vegetables (e.g. maize, beans, cassava, etc.) and citrus fruits for their own use. Agriculture on Middle Caicos could be developed to produce these and other tropical fruits (e.g. potatoes, sugar cane, peas, bananas, cotton, sweet apples, pumpkins, papaya, guava, etc.). The TCI Government is giving priority to agricultural development and hopes to establish a food processing industry.

The Caribbean community in Canada is a potential market for these Island products. Both consumers and retailers in the Greater Toronto area have expressed interest in having these island products available here. However, the Islanders lack knowledge of the Canadian market and do not have an official trade promotion office in Canada to provide the TCI Government and the private sector with information and recommendations. Thus far, the TCI have not benefitted from the programs of the Trade Facilitation Office (Canada (TFOC) to help the Islands' exporters and tourist industry penetrate the Canadian market. The Canadian Importers Association (CIA) may be a useful contact for TCI exporters as well as a valuable participant in the proposed information exchange.

Recommendation 8

Canadian food and fisheries products importers should be approached to determine their interest in participating in the proposed seminar to exchange information and ideas on increasing Canadian trade and investment with the Islands.

Recommendation 9

The Trade Facilitation Office Canada (TFO) should be approached by CIDA and by the Department of External Affairs to find an appropriate means of helping TCI exporters become more familiar with the Canadian market.

Recommendation 10

The Department of External Affairs should assist the Government of the TCI in obtaining information on the Canadian market for products which are or could be produced in the Islands for export.

VIII. INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In 1987 the TCI Government published a brief but attractive and informative booklet, "Investment Opportunities", which provides general background information on the Islands; the political, economic and social environment; sectors of opportunity; and 'how to' go about investing in the Islands. (See