



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Media Release

Beyond 315 – A Start-up Colony

30th January 2023

After successfully implementing and managing a 315-hectare reforestation exercise as part of its ethos of 'No Net Loss', The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) is hoping to leverage the versatility of forests to support sustainability. Using a more holistic approach and by extending the project into a broader programme, NGC is executing **'Beyond 315'**. One of the initiatives under Beyond 315, was a five-day beekeeping workshop geared towards reforestation workers..

The workshop, **'A Start-up Colony'**, introduced the members of the Rio Claro Reforestation Group to facets of setting up a functioning apiary unit. Nine participants from the reforestation group were trained alongside six persons from the Apiary Unit.

Consisting of theoretical and practical sessions, the workshop was delivered by the Northern Apiary Section, Apiary Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources four certified apiarists and a consultant from the El Reposo Demonstration Station, Sangre Grande.

The main topics delivered, inclusive of practical lessons included the following:

1. What is beekeeping
2. How to use equipment and tools associated with beekeeping
3. Requirements of a beekeeper
4. Forage and social behaviours of bees
5. How to handle, care and respond to bees
6. How to identify a suitable environment for an apiary
7. How to lay out and maintain an apiary
8. Components of a hive
9. How to extract honey from a hive
10. The business of beekeeping

Myles Lewis, Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, NGC noted that, "Sustainability has been the driving force behind all of our CSR programmes and our Beyond 315 programme is an initiative we are extremely proud of at NGC. Even after we made good on our commitment to reforesting 315 hectares of degraded forest, as part of our "no net loss" philosophy, we felt that there is still value to be derived, as we seek to deepen and expand our Green Agenda."

The next step is to plan and coordinate with the Apiary Unit and Forestry Division to identify lands near Union Village, Rio Claro, to set up an apiary for the group to work with and potentially turn into a business. It is hoped that participants will be able to eventually generate income from the sale of honey and byproducts of an apiary. In addition to the economic activity, it is anticipated that bees, as pollinators, will play a crucial part in improving and maintaining local biodiversity.

For more information:

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