



## **Jamalco Sponsored Beekeeping Community Projects Reap Sweet Rewards**

Three of four Community Councils that benefitted from a bee-keeping income generating project between 2018 and 2019 are now reaping the sweet reward of hard labour after harvesting their first crop of honey from the project.

Over the two years, Jamalco invested approximately three million dollars in the bee-keeping projects at Port, Harmons Valley, Railroad and Mile Gully Community Councils.

Corporate Services Manager **DonnaMarie Brooks-Gordon**, one of the main objectives for this support is to encourage the Community Councils to boost social enterprise and improve economic prospects for residents in our operating communities. “Our aim is to help our residents to achieve self-reliance, while creating jobs for the unemployed. It is our hope that the proceeds from these projects will be used to improve the lives of persons within the communities while expanding the projects,” Mrs. Gordon said.

Manager of the Mile Gully Project Dennis Peart, told Jamalco’s Community Relations Officer, **Phillip Biggs**, that due to the prolonged drought last year, the yield was less than projected, but the council members smiled when they saw the 100% pure honey coming out of the extractor. “The Council will now be moving towards bottling, labelling and marketing of the product. We are expecting better returns when we reap the product again in another six weeks,” a proud Mr. Peart said.

At the Railroad Community Council, reaping of the sweet commodity was bittersweet for Council Chairman and Project Manager, Gaston Thomas, who proudly displayed several bottles of honey which was recently reaped. Mr. Thomas recalled the challenges experienced and the council members determination to keep the project active after the theft of nine of their boxes. “We were only able to rebound because Jamalco came to our aid and injected additional capital to replace the stolen boxes. I want to again express gratitude to Corporate Services Manager DonnaMarie Gordon for assisting us through that difficult time,” Mr. Thomas stated.

Beekeeping projects across the world have presented excellent income generating opportunities for rural communities, while advancing the business and marketing skills of community members. Community members also received formal training, through Jamalco, to ensure that council members are equipped with skills and knowledge to successfully keep and care the bees.

**-30-**

### **Photo Caption:**

- 1 CRO Phillip Biggs (right), gets a tour of the Bee farm at the Railroad Bee Keeping farm

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