



## **TOPCO LAUNCHES RANGE OF 1 LITRE JUICES AND JUICE DRINKS**

- ***DDL Group invests G\$4B in new Tetra Pak plant***
- ***Local farmers to see increased demand for fresh fruits***

**DIAMOND, EAST BANK DEMERARA, GUYANA, FEBRUARY 15, 2021:** Tropical Orchard Products Company Limited (TOPCO), a subsidiary of Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL), today announced the launch of its new range of TOPCO 1 Litre juices and juice drinks, in four delicious flavours, on the local market.

As Guyana's leading value-added company, The DDL group invested G\$4 billion in a new Tetra Pak packaging plant, as well as a fruit processing plant in 2020. In spite of COVID-19 and its many limitations, the DDL Group remained committed to responding both to consumer demand and to a commitment made to farmers that TOPCO would provide a growing market for their produce.

The TOPCO expansion is a part of a larger five-year G\$10B expansion project, announced by DDL Executive Chairman Komal Samaroo in 2017. In describing the project, Samaroo said that "Despite oil and gas, the agriculture sector must be developed. He noted that the value-added processing of the nation's fruits and vegetables into pulp and juices, and eventually milk supplied by local dairy farmers, for local consumption and export is a huge step in that direction."

Prior to the expansion, TOPCO was purchasing 1 million pounds of fruits per year of cherry, passion fruit, carambola and guava from farmers. With the expansion, the volume is expected to increase to 4 million pounds per year. The range of fruits is also being expanded to include mangoes, pineapple, and citrus.

Set to reap tremendous benefits are our local farmers. Samaroo noted that, "Farmers will benefit from this project through a guarantee that their supply of fruits to TOPCO is secure, with stability of prices in spite of market demand/supply conditions. There is also the potential to increase their cultivation of fruits to increase supply to TOPCO. He added that, "Another benefit to farmers will be the ability to collaborate with a network of technical and financial agriculture-support agencies, as part of the holistic market-driven approach to developing partnerships with local fruits and dairy farmers."

The new 1 Litre TOPCO Juices provide a practical and nutritious ready-to-drink product for which there is an increased demand both locally and in the region. TOPCO's progression into the 1 Litre category makes it a healthy juice choice for the entire family, as these juices are also rich in vitamin C to boost your immune system.

The new 1 Litre juices and juice drinks are available in four fruity delicious flavours - Pineapple, Orange, Orange Unsweetened and Cherry, and are now available at leading supermarkets countrywide.

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