

# Bajan rum 'follows GI rules'

The West Indies Rum Distillery (WIRD) maintains that its rum-making process follows the rules of the Geographical Indicator (GI).

WIRD, one of the main rum distilleries in the country and producer of Plantation rum, now changed to 'Planteray', on Tuesday announced the global distribution of its newest Cut & Dry coconut rums.

The flavoured rum is a fusion of Barbados rum and fresh coconuts. Like most of their rums, it is aged in cognac barrels. During a media briefing at the STADES Visitor Centre in Brighton Road, St Michael, owner of WIRD, Alexandre Gabriel, fielded questions about the making of the Cut & Dry in relation to the GI for Barbados rum.

"We believe that GIs are here as a consecration of the heritage of an island, preserving that heritage, and controlling the authenticity of the product. So in that case this is fermented and distilled here in Barbados. We actually use local molasses for this... we even do a little cane juice, as we have a cane mill at a sugar cane milling station.

"We also try with juice, doing all the expressions, and that fits with the CARICOM rule of rum which is really fermented and distilled here on the island but also the raw material is from here... This is probably the only still that was locally made that is in existence," Gabriel said.

## Expression

A master blender from Cognac, France, and owner of Maison Ferrand, Gabriel stated that room for expression should be allowed. While there may not be a collective agreement on GI it's an important topic as it relates to the creation of rum.

"Because of the diversity, sometimes we have people say - 'Barbados rum', because of all this knowledge, these different pieces of equipment, this knowledge that the people have can create different expressions of rum."

Gabriel also noted that patents held by the founder of WIRD, the late George Stades, affirm the distillers' authenticity to Barbadian rum.

"It's normal this discussion, what makes Barbados rum. We



Alexandre Gabriel, owner of Barbados' West Indies Rum Distillery Ltd. (FP)

believe in GI and I think it's important. Before that there was what was called Caribbean rules of rum which pre-dates GI as GI is a European concept. The Caribbean had something that pre-dates that concept called the CARICOM rules of rum.

"The guy who started this distillery has patents about rum-making. This is a country that owns patents about rum-making, so does the equipment that was designed here. Not so many islands have their own patents about rum-making and that is part of the heritage of this distillery," Gabriel said.

## Third party

GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation unique to the location. For example, champagne which relates to a sparkling wine made in the region of Champagne, France, can be identified only as such when made in that region.

A GI enables those

with rights to the power to prevent a third party from using it. In that way, sparkling wines which do not originate from the region of Champagne cannot be identified as such.

The GI has emerged as one of the most important instruments for protecting the quality and reputation of goods of any origin. It also helps to promote goods of a particular region or country and is eligible for relief from acts of infringement.

The conversation on GI has been a long-running discussion among the top rum manufacturers in the country.

Three of the four distillers - Mount Gay, Foursquare and St Nicholas Abbey - have collectively agreed a GI for Barbados rum, as prepared by the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation in consultation with its legal counsel. WIRD, however, differs from other rum distillers on how the GI should work asking for more flexibility within the regulations. (JRN)

## Goddard acquires International Meal Company

GCG Group, a division of Goddard Enterprises Ltd (GEL), with their joint venture partner, the LSG Group, a leading provider of specialised solutions for airlines, airports, and industrial sector companies, has completed the acquisition of International Meal Company's (IMC) operations in Colombia, a standout player in the sector with a strong regional presence.

Anthony Ali, chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director of Goddard Enterprises Limited, confirmed, "We are delighted to welcome the Colombian team of the International Meal Company into the GEL Group. This acquisition is a pivotal move within our strategic expansion blueprint, IMC Colombia is a well-run business and will be immediately accretive to our overall performance."

With this acquisition, the company has strengthened its position in the country, introducing new catering production facilities that now serve leading national and international airlines at key airports in cities such as Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Cartagena, and Bucaramanga. In addition, the company has boosted its concession infrastructure with three stores at Jose Maria Cordova International Airport in Rionegro, Medellin, and two at Rafael Nuñez Airport in Cartagena.

The concessions will be maintained until the GCG branded concessions are eventually introduced to the Colombian airports.

Paulo Teixeira, CEO of GCG Group, stated: "The acquisition of IMC Colombia aligns with our strategic objectives to diversify and accelerate our growth across the region. It strengthens our role in the dynamic airline catering market, enhancing our competitive edge in this industry and at the same time expands our growing concessions business which complements our recent acquisition of IMC in Panama." (PR)

## USAID holding workshop on youth crime in Caribbean

There is a three-day workshop, which ends today, being held by the United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and in collaboration with the Government of Grenada and the CARICOM Secretariat in St George, Grenada, to share best practices on addressing youth crime and violence in the Caribbean.

The theme of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) technical working group conference, "Adaptive Management in Citizen Security," underscores the importance of staying nimble and adapting to new information in a changing context.

During her remarks at the opening ceremony, US Embassy Grenada Principal Officer Frances Herrera

stressed the importance of collaboration, stating that, "Consequently, our partnerships with CARICOM and national governments are indispensable. By working hand in hand, we can influence policy frameworks that prioritise crime prevention and youth development."

USAID Eastern and Southern Caribbean Regional Representative Mervyn Farroe emphasised that the US government has for many years partnered with regional governments to prevent youth crime and violence by providing youth with positive opportunities and building more effective, transparent justice systems.

Since 2010, the United States has worked with Caribbean governments through CBSI (the

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative) to reduce illicit trafficking, increase citizen security, and address the root causes of crime and violence in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados, The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

CBSI advances common security objectives in the Caribbean, focusing on transnational criminal organisations involved in drug-related crimes, systemic violence, corruption, weak judicial systems, and at-risk youth. To date, the United States has committed nearly \$905 million in equipment, training, and technical assistance to the Caribbean region through CBSI. (PR)