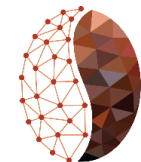




# TRINITARIO COCOA WEBINAR SERIES

*Episode 1 – Exploring Opportunities in a Fine/Flavour Cocoa Paradise*

*Wednesday 16 February 2022 10:00am (AST)*



**Cocoa  
Research  
Centre**



# Event Agenda

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- 10:00 – 10:05 am (AST) Welcome and Introduction
- 10:05 – 11:15 am **Panel Discussion**  
*Moderator: Ms. Jessie-May Ventour, Veteran Broadcaster*  
*Panelists:*
  - Franka Costelloe, Chairman - InvesTT
  - Peter Cavendish, Ambassador – Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago
  - Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Director – Cocoa Research Centre, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
  - Senator the Hon. Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry
  - Senator the Hon. Clarence Rambharat, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
- 11:15 – 11:45 am Question & Answer Interactive session
- 11:45 – 12:00 pm Closing Remarks



## Senator the Honourable Paula GOPEE-SCOON

- Senator Gopee-Scoon is the **Minister of Trade and Industry** which is one of the frontline ministries within the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that leads the drive to position the country as a manufacturing base, and the business, trade and financial hub of the Caribbean.
- As Minister, her aim is to build upon and expand programs which improve the export capacity of the local manufacturing sector. She leads the charge towards stimulating domestic and foreign investments while implementing policies to enhance the global competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago. She believes in continuous stakeholder engagement to ensure participation in the growth and development of all sectors for a sustainable and vibrant economy.
- The work of InvesTT in this regard falls directly under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.





## Senator the Honourable Clarence RAMBHARAT

- Clarence Rambharat is an Attorney at Law, Senator and the **Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries**.
- Senator Rambharat was admitted to legal practice more than 25 years ago in Trinidad and Tobago and later in Canada. He has an MBA in Entrepreneurship and postgraduate qualifications in Occupational Safety and Health.
- At present Senator Rambharat is the Chairman of the Legislation Review Committee of the Cabinet and is the Leader of Government Business in the Senate. Prior to that Senator Rambharat worked in sugar manufacturing, health care, oil and gas and international banking and finance.
- To date Senator Rambharat has spoken in Parliament on close to one hundred and fifty Bills and Motions.





## His Excellency Mr. Peter CAVENDISH

- Peter Cavendish was accredited as **EU Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago** on July 22nd, 2021. He hails from Dublin, Ireland and has worked for EU institutions since 1995.
- Mr Cavendish has held a number of roles including as Head of Sector, Directorate-General ECHO Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Head of Division, Financial Control of EU Delegations, Head of Division, Inspection of EU Delegations and Head of Division, Security of EU Delegations.
- Prior to joining the Commission, he worked in the financial and petro-chemical sectors.
- He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Master of Business Studies, from the University College of Dublin.





## Ms. Franka COSTELLOE

- Ms. Franka Costelloe is the **Director and Chairman of the Board of InvestTT** – the national investment promotion agency of Trinidad and Tobago.
- She brings more than 15 years of executive management experience in strategic planning, business development, investment analysis and operational negotiations.
- As the immediate past President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing Association, Ms. Costelloe is recognized for her deep commitment to national development, is a strong advocate for investment in MSMEs, and encourages public and private sector support for entrepreneurial initiatives as an important solution to the diversification challenge for Trinidad & Tobago.





## Professor Pathmanathan UMAHARAN

- Prof. Path Umaharan is the **Director of the Cocoa Research Centre, The University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.**
- Professor Umaharan is responsible for policy, strategic direction and governance of the Cocoa Research Centre. He is an expert in plant genetic resources management, genetic analysis and crop improvement.
- He has worked with several crops including cocoa, anthurium, hot pepper, tomato, cowpea, and pigeon pea, specifically with respect to genetic resistance to pest and diseases, yield and yield components as well as quality.
- The centre also curates the International Cocoa Genebank, Trinidad the largest and most diverse cocoa collection globally and houses the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre. The latter serves as a public-private sector interface promoting innovations and commercialisation along the cocoa value chain.





## Ms. Jessie-May VENTOUR *(Panel Moderator)*

- A seasoned **Broadcaster and Media Professional**, Jessie-May Ventour has some 30 years experience in the media.
- Many know her as host of several radio and television morning shows over the years, with her most recent stint as host of "The Morning Brew" on CNC3, last year.
- At present, she is part of the news team at Guardian Media Limited, and is broadening her media experience with a foray into cyberspace, working on the online platforms for The Guardian Newspaper and CNC3 Television.
- Apart from the media, Jessie-May also has worked with various government ministries and agencies, and the United Nations, in the corporate communications field.





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