

## **San Juan to Cow Pen Road Funded under the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) 2012**

The upgrade of the San Juan to Cow Pen Road (for a length of 2.3 miles/ 3.7 km) at total cost of €2 million EUR/\$ 4 million BZD was financed by the European Union and the Government of Belize with funds from the Banana Accompanying Measures 2012. The overall objective of BAM is to foster social and economic development leading to the reduction of poverty, focusing on workers and families in the banana belt.

San Juan and Cowpen villages are home to 3,000 persons, who depend directly on the Banana Industry for their livelihoods. 20% of all bananas exported by Belize come from the Go Banana Farms 1, 2, and 3 located in Cow Pen. These farms approximately 600 workers with 70% of these workers residing in Cow Pen. The upgrade of the road will greatly benefit both the villagers and the Banana Industry in lessening the additional transportation costs and hardships which were caused by the deteriorated condition of the road. The upgrade resulted in a high-quality road, consisting of a surface dressing to pavement standard with double chip seal and concrete pavement, delivering safer roads through effective road marking, traffic signs, bus stops, sidewalks and pedestrian crossings. Important improvements to the drainage structures will help to mitigate against the yearly floods experienced by the villagers.



The San Juan to Cow Pen Road was inaugurated on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 by the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Belize, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska, the Minister of Agriculture, Honorable Godwin Hulse; and the Minister of Works, Honorable Rene Montero.