

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Dept. Of Agriculture To Host 5th Annual Value Added Market Day

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ST. CROIX -- The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture will hold the 5th Annual Value Added Market Day Vendorama from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p. m. Saturday, July 29, at the Rudolph E. Shulterbrandt Agricultural Complex, D.O.A. announced today.

The purpose of the market is to allow local farmers and vendors to showcase products that are made from locally-grown agricultural produce. Products expected to be available to the public include honey, soaps, fruit wines, fruit-flavored honey wines, fruit juices, hot sauces, jams, baked goods, lotions, beauty products, plantain chips and much more.

"The environmental conditions in the Virgin Islands are perfect for the cultivation and production of a large number of tropical fruits. However, availability of these fruits is seasonal," D.O.A. Commissioner Carlos Robles said. "This is an excellent venue for persons in the community to show what they can do to extend the shelf-life and add value to perishable produce. Value-added items can significantly increase a farmers' income."

"Over the years, we have seen an increase in the number of vendors participating in the activity. It is a good sign that residents see the benefits of adding value to locally-grown produce by using various processes to make valuable items for locals and tourists," said Program Coordinator Audrey Browne.

Federal and local government agencies will also be present to provide information on programs and incentives that are available to start or improve businesses, according to D.O.A.

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