

CASTOR OIL INDUSTRY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Jamaica's fledging castor industry is positioned to benefit from opportunities for exports and investment along the full value chain, especially as it relates to castor oil, a key ingredient used in many cosmetics products across the globe. In particular, Jamaican Black Castor Oil is a unique formulation which has become a highly prized and recognized subset in the overall castor industry.



1. WHAT COMPRISES JAMAICA'S CASTOR INDUSTRY?

The castor industry is comprised mainly of small to medium sized farms, enterprises and distributors. Producers of Jamaican Black Castor Oil (JBCO) use the traditional or artisan technique and semi-mechanized methods whilst producers of cold-pressed oil, use the mechanized technique.

2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JBCO AND COLD PRESSED CASTOR OIL?

The main difference is the way the oil is processed. The Jamaican Black Castor Oil is processed using heat – the beans are roasted first which brings about the dark colour and aroma. Beans are then crushed and boiled to remove harmful ricin and make the oil safe for topical use on hair and skin. Cold pressed castor oil has little or no heat applied during the extraction stage. It can be used on its own or as a carrier oil.

3. IS THERE A BODY IN JAMAICA THAT OVERSEES THE PRODUCTION OF JBCO?

Driven by growing interest in authentic Jamaican black castor oil and bean, JAMPRO undertook work to develop and analyze the castor value chain. In 2016, stakeholder consultations were held, and a study was commissioned by JAMPRO and completed in August 2016. Along with the findings, one of the recommendations was to create the Jamaica Castor Industry Association (JCIA) which materialized in January 2017.

4. WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE JAMAICA CASTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION?

The mission of the JCIA is to create opportunities to ensure the protection, growth and sustainable development of the Jamaica castor industry by driving standards and regulations through the implementation of strategies to benefit stakeholders in support of Jamaica's economic growth.

5. WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE JAMAICA CASTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION?

It is the objective of the Association to provide the highest quality service to its members and in particular:

- to assist members to maximize their individual interests re-

lating to castor and to realize opportunities for castor through the development and implementation of strategic plans.

- to help foster Jamaican export opportunities for the castor industry
- to protect the castor industry through licensing, certification, trademark, copyrights, and geographical indication of castor products and specifically the Jamaican Black Castor Oil (JBCO).

6. WHAT ARE THE TOP PARISHES WITH POTENTIAL FOR CASTOR BEAN PRODUCTION BASED ON LAND SUITABILITY?

The parishes with the greatest potential for growing castor beans are St. Catherine, Clarendon, St. Thomas, St. Elizabeth, Portland, Hanover, Kingston and St Andrew. Notwithstanding, castor is grown island wide and is dependent on the proper conditions and soil type as explained in the answers to Questions 7 and 8 below.

7. WHAT ARE THE IDEAL CLIMATE REQUIREMENTS TO GROW CASTOR BEANS?

- **Elevation:** The limiting factor is the elevation at which Grey Mould infestation occurs. Good yields are seen at elevations at sea level (as seen at Bodles, St Catherine, 94ft/29 meters and Sam Motto, Manchester, 2300ft/700 meters) up to 1,500 meters
- **Precipitation and Temperature:** castor favours climatic conditions that provide it with a good supply of water in the early stages of growth. Twenty to thirty-two (20-32) inches or 500mm to 1,000mm of annual rain fall is recommended for the first four months of growth after planting. Irrigation is necessary to achieve good yields for rainfall levels below 350mm per annum. Castor grows well at average temperatures between 20-30 degrees Celsius.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.jamaicatradeandinvest.org/sites/default/files/Land%20Suitability%20for%20Castor%20Cultivation-%20N%20Re-ece.pdf>

8. WHAT IS THE BEST TYPE OF SOIL TO GROW CASTOR BEAN?

The highest yields of castor are realized on loam to sandy loam soils. The soil should have very good surface and sub-surface drainage with adequate subsoil permeability for air and water to facilitate root growth. The soil should be flat or with a maximum slope of 12% (~7°). Soil pH for castor should be less than 8.5; a pH close to neutral is ideal (pH between 6.0 - 7) and electrical conductivity (EC) of less than 4.

9. HOW CAN THE QUALITY OF THE CASTOR BEAN BE ASSESSED?

There is currently no method for determining the quality of castor seeds for buyers and suppliers. Work is being undertaken to develop simple and cost-effective grading tool of castor bean oil content to ensure that farmers are properly rewarded for improved farming practices, seed variety and to ensure that processors/buyers have greater confidence and transparency in the value of their inputs

10. IS THERE A MARKET FOR JAMAICAN BLACK CASTOR OIL AND CASTOR BEANS?

There is indeed a vibrant market for castor oil and castor beans. The JCIA receives frequent calls from persons who are interested in growing the beans and from oil producers who require large amounts of beans. A 2016 study conducted by JAMPRO indicates that by 2020 global sales in castor oil are forecast to reach US\$3.4 Billion.

There is significant market opportunity for exporters of castor oil and manufacturers of cosmetic products. JAMPRO is working to expand the presence of Jamaican cosmetics and castor oil in the USA and the UK; and uses outward missions as a launching pad to strengthen the marketing of these Jamaican products in the United States.

11. IS THERE A FIXED PRICING STRUCTURE FOR CASTOR OIL AND CASTOR BEANS?

Prices fluctuate based on several factors but is mainly determined by demand and supply. Also sourcing of raw material and production costs are other factors which will influence prices. Castor bean prices range from J\$150 to



J\$450 per pound and the price of castor oil ranges from J\$12,000 to J\$25,000 per gallon.

12. DOES JAMPRO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN MARKETING THEIR PRODUCTS OVERSEAS?

As the national export and investment promotions agency, JAMPRO executes ongoing marketing initiatives including business matchmaking and trade missions to assist local castor oil producers to enter international markets. In partnership with the JCIA, the Agency aims to create more business opportunities for companies across the industry, including those growing and producing raw materials and enterprises manufacturing castor oil and value added derivative products.

13. DOES THE JAMAICA CASTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION/ JAMPRO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

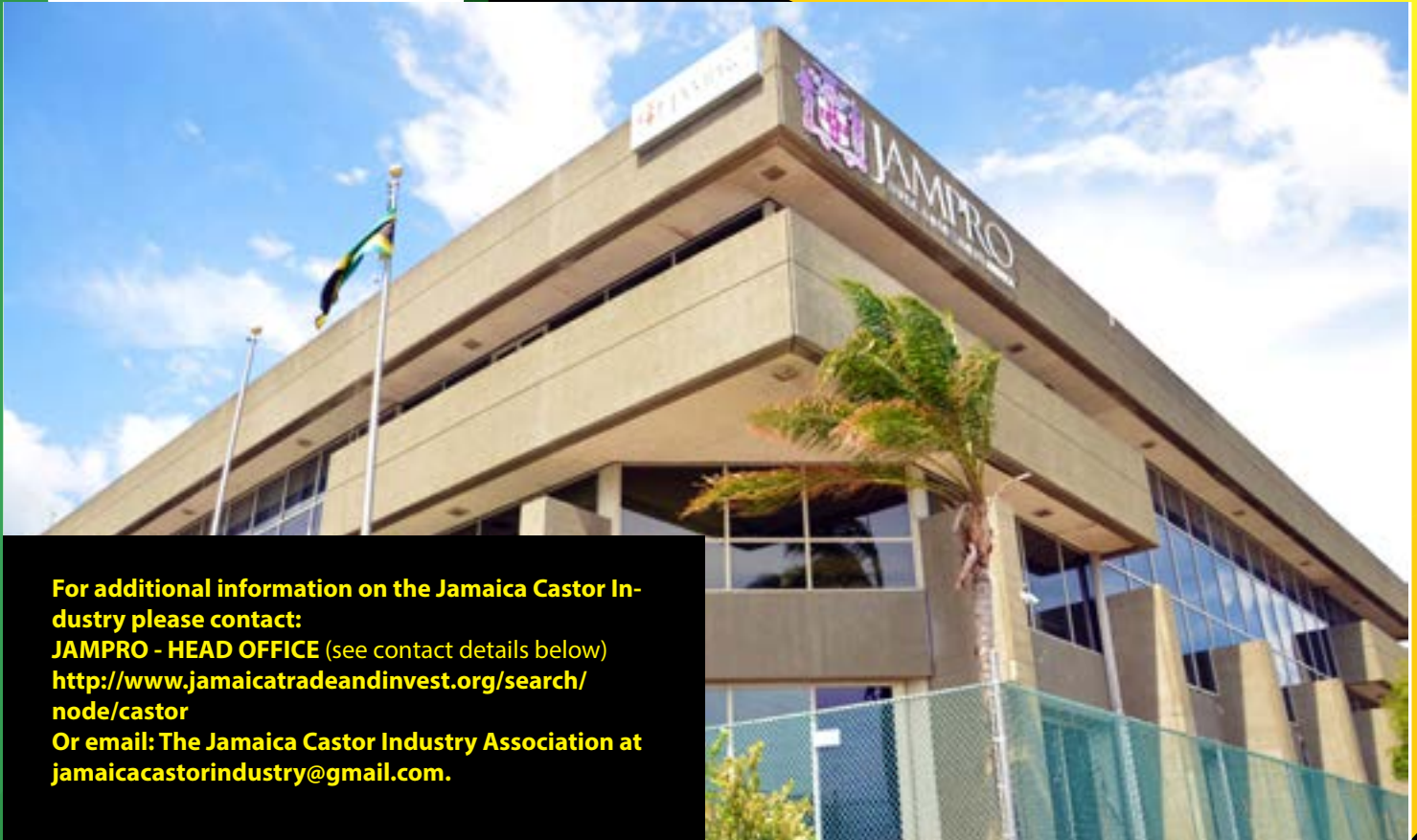
Currently the association does not provide financial assistance; however, assistance is given to members with finding alternative financial options and in the near future access to special financial windows such as JMEA/ EXIM Bank facility, NCB loan and VISA Credit Card facility.

14. HOW DO I REGISTER TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE JAMAICA CASTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION?

Registration forms can be obtained from JAMPRO via email or by visiting our offices. Completed forms are returned to JAMPRO along with the relevant supporting documents (as indicated on the form). An annual membership fee of \$10,000 is payable to the JCIA's bank account at JN Bank.

15. HOW DO I RECEIVE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS HOSTED BY THE JAMAICA CASTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION/JAMPRO?

Interested individuals should submit their contact details to the JCIA Secretariat, c/o JAMPRO; contact details will then be added to the database and will be included in all emails relevant to the industry.



For additional information on the Jamaica Castor Industry please contact:
JAMPRO - HEAD OFFICE (see contact details below)
<http://www.jamaicatradeandinvest.org/search/node/castor>
Or email: The Jamaica Castor Industry Association at jamaicacastorindustry@gmail.com.

CONTACT US

HEAD OFFICE

18 Trafalgar Road
Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I.
Phone: +1 876 978 7755; 978-3337
Toll Free: +1 888 INVESTJA (468 4352)
Fax: +1 876 946 0090
Email: info@jamprocorp.com

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Montego Bay Convention Centre
Rose Hall, Montego Bay
St. James, Jamaica W.I.
Email: jampromobay@jamprocorp.com

NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

303 Eglinton Avenue East, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1L3, Canada
Tel: 416 932 2200 (main) 416-598-3008
Fax: 416 932 2207
Toll-Free: 1 877 744 2208
Email: jamprocanada@jamprocorp.com

AND

767 3rd Avenue, Second Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: 646 213 0101
Email: jampronewyork@jamprocorp.com

LONDON OFFICE

JAMPRO / Jamaica Trade Commission
1 Prince Consort Road,
London SW7 2BZ, England
Phone: + 44 20 7 584 8894
Fax: + 44 20 7 823 9886
Email: jamprouk@jamprocorp.com