

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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July – September 2026



Top News

New Leadership Transitions:
Introducing New Faces

Introduction of:
Professor Neville Bissember

CMA's 29th Annual General
Meeting: 7th – 9th December 2026

CMA's Changes & Growth in 2026

As we enter the third quarter of the year, we wish to advise our membership of upcoming changes, which we trust you will receive positively.

Our executive team has been working diligently behind the scenes to strengthen the objectives and strategic direction of the Association. We look forward to sharing these developments with all stakeholders and appreciate your continued support.



Collaborating Ideas

01/04

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS



Dale Wiest



Benjamin Valdez

- There have been a few leadership transitions within a few of our member companies, which we would like to bring to your attention.

NATIONAL FLOUR MILLS (NFM) **Mr. Ian Mitchell**, Chief Executive Officer of the wholly State-owned National Flour Mills Limited, has stepped down, ending a tenure of just over 5 years. His resignation took effect on March 31, 2026.

Mr. Mitchell was appointed National Flour Mills' CEO on February 1, 2021. Before becoming NFM's chief executive, Mitchell served as managing director of Ansa Polymer. An engineer by training, he has more than 22 years of experience in Trinidad and Tobago's manufacturing sector.

In the interim, pending the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer, **Mr. Jason Mohammed** will serve as interim Chief Executive Officer, effective April 1, 2026.

Source: Joel Julien, Daily Express (March 3, 2026) [Mitchell steps down as NFM CEO | Local Business | trinidadexpress.com](https://trinidadexpress.com/news/business/mitchell-steps-down-as-nfm-ceo-local-business/)

- The Secretariat and Members of CMA would like to express their gratitude to both Ian and Dale for their years of dedicated service and valuable contributions during their tenure, and extend a warm welcome to Jason and Benjamin as they assume their new roles.

JAMAICA GRAIN & CEREALS LTD. Welcome on board, Benjamin!

Seprod Limited (SEP) announced the retirement of **Mr. Dale Wiest**, General Manager of Jamaica Grain and Cereals Limited effective April 7, 2026. The company also welcomed **Mr. Benjamin Valdez**, who has been appointed as Dale's successor. Mr. Valdez brings over 25 years of executive leadership experience spanning manufacturing, agro-industrial operations, and commercial strategy across Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and the United States.

Source: Businessuite Online (April 21, 2026) <https://businessuiteonline.com/corporate-movements-april-2026/>

NATIONAL FLOUR MILLS Welcome on board, Jason!



Ian Mitchell



Jason Mohammed

CMA MEETS BISSEMBER



Professor Neville Bissember
Senior Lecturer in Department of Law

History and Background

Professor Neville Bissember, a proud Guyanese national, currently serves as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Law within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Guyana, a position he assumed in 2022. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He was also a distinguished Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the United States.

Professional Background

Before transitioning into academia, Professor Bissember built an extensive and distinguished career in public service and international law. He served in Guyana's Foreign Service in several key roles, including Minister Counsellor and Legal Adviser. His international experience includes serving as Legal Counsel with the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) in Brussels, Belgium, as well as Acting Chef de Cabinet and Adviser in the Office of the Secretary-General at the CARICOM Secretariat. Since 2006, he has held the position of Assistant General Counsel at CARICOM.

The Caribbean Millers' Association Limited (CMA) recently engaged the expertise of Professor Bissember, who will serve as the Association's advocate in efforts to increase the Common External Tariff (CET) on imported flour from extra-regional sources. Members will receive further details on this initiative at the upcoming **Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for December 8–9, 2026, in Jamaica.**

We look forward to a productive collaboration with Professor Bissember and warmly invite members and stakeholders to register early for our 29th AGM. Details on this year's theme, along with registration forms, venue, and schedule, will be circulated in due time to assist with timely travel and accommodation arrangements.

UNCOVERING JAMAICA: AMAZING FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW!

- Jamaica has the oldest Golf Club in the Western Hemisphere, the Manchester Golf Club, established in 1868.



- Jamaica has been a private haven historically and was the filming location for the first James Bond movie, "Dr No", released in 1962, and starred Sean Connery as James Bond.
- The telephone was introduced to Jamaica just seven years after Alexander Graham Bell's invention in 1876. The first installation occurred in Black River, St. Elizabeth, in 1883, a town that was also the first in Jamaica to receive electricity, reflecting its rapid economic growth fueled by the logwood trade, Jamaicans.com. By 1884, Kingston had 50 telephone subscribers, indicating early adoption in urban centres.



Extract from Jamaica Daily Gleaner, 1890

- The island produces Blue Mountain Coffee, one of the rarest and most expensive coffees in the world.



CMA's Courtesy Visit



L-R: Benjamin Valdez, General Manager JGC; Tracy-Ann Peynado, Admin. Assistant, JGC; & Derrick Nembhard, CMA Secretary/Treasurer

The CMA Secretary/Treasurer visited Jamaica Grain & Cereals to meet the new General Manager, Benjamin Valdez, on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Jamaica Flour Mills Limited and Jamaica Grain & Cereals Limited will be the sponsors of this year's 29th Annual General Meeting in Jamaica.

MOTIVATION CORNER

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

- Winston Churchill -



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