



explains Otto Friesen, Bel-Car’s Managing Director. “Belizean leaders, along with some government officials, started looking for an export market, and found it in the Caribbean. There was a private company that had invested a little bit into Belizean bean products, but production increased and demand for quality increased from the market side, and that company wasn’t up to the demand. The farmers got frustrated and wanted to expand their production. So, they pooled their resources, purchased the private company, along with a state-of-the-art processing plant, and became Bel-Car.”

Within a decade, Bel-Car was shipping some eight million pounds of black-eyed peas throughout the Caribbean and to markets as far away as North, South, and Central America, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and Australia, making Belize the world’s fourth largest exporter of the product. “80 to 85 percent of our production goes to the Caribbean,” says Friesen. “The other

AT A GLANCE  
BEL-CAR EXPORT & IMPORT  
COMPANY LIMITED

**WHAT:** A cooperative growing and distribution company

**WHERE:** Spanish Lookout, Belize

**WEBSITE:** [www.belcar.bz](http://www.belcar.bz)



20 percent goes almost all over the world.”

Today, the company continues to export about 6.5 million pounds of black-eyed peas and five million pounds of red kidney beans, every year, with a an approximate value of \$US4 million. In addition, Bel-Car exports refined cornmeal, and when available: white corn, yellow corn, hominy corn (cracked corn), corn grits, corn gluten, black beans, and light speckled kidney beans. “We are, by far, the biggest exporter of pulses (dried legumes) and grain



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