

USDA names Caribbean Produce Exchange CEO Advisor to US Fruit and Vegetables Industry Committee

As Advisor to the U.S. Fruits and Vegetables Industry Committee, Santiago will be representing more than 25 sectors at local, regional and national levels.

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, November 15, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack announced the appointment of Ángel R. Santiago, CEO of [Caribbean Produce Exchange](#) (CPE) as an advisor to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee (FVIAC) for the Brokerage, Distribution, Import, Export, and Wholesale industries of these food categories for the United States and its territories. This appointment will be valid until October 2024.



Angel R. Santiago President & CEO, Caribbean Produce Exchange

The FVIAC, established in 2001, advises the Federal Secretary of Agriculture ad honorem on issues and factors affecting the fruit and vegetable industry. Committee members represent more than 25 sectors including: organic and non-organic producers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, industry trade associations, importers, exporters, processors, foodservice providers, food intermediaries, state departments of agriculture and farmers' markets, at local, regional and national levels. The committee works under USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) standards and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This is the first time since the committee's inception that a Puerto Rican has been appointed to participate in this advisory committee.

The AMS states that the diversity of the boards, councils and committees it oversees should reflect the diversity of their industries in terms of member experience, production and distribution methods, marketing strategies and other distinctive factors, including, but not limited to, individuals from historically underserved communities, who will bring different

perspectives and ideas to the table. Throughout the nomination process, AMS amplifies its reach, to pay special attention to underserved and vulnerable communities, to ensure the diversity of the population with members who bring their knowledge, skills, expertise and capacity to serve a population with diverse needs.

With more than 22 years of experience in the food industry, Mr. Angel R. Santiago has vast experience in the strategic development of a wide range of programs in multiple categories of innovative products and services, to meet the local and export market. His professional leadership includes, among other achievements, the implementation of initiatives in support of local agroentrepreneurs, skills programs and training for federal quality compliance, safe food handling, marketing and distribution, as well as the F2F program that allowed CPE to buy local food so that farmers would not lose their crops during the COVID-19 pandemic and then distribute more than 1.5 million boxes of food throughout Puerto Rico during the health crisis that brought food insecurity. "It is a true privilege and I am honored to be able to collaborate with Secretary Vilsack and the USDA as an advisor on factors affecting the produce industry, the national market, as well as issues related to production methods, distribution, marketing strategies, and other impact factors for more than twenty industries," Santiago said.

The official USDA announcement can be downloaded here:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-appoints-members-fruit-and-vegetable-industry-advisory-committee>

About Caribbean Produce Exchange:

Caribbean Produce Exchange is the leading distributor of fresh fruits, vegetables and eggs in Puerto Rico with more than 62 years of experience in the safe handling of highly perishable foods. It is the first company in the Caribbean to have USDA Good Agricultural Practices certification and has maintained for more than 36 consecutive years the Blue Book "Trading Member" recognition.

Its product portfolio includes leading brands in fruits, vegetables, eggs, cereals, organic, dairy and frozen products, as well as other high-quality consumer products. His services include fresh produce supply chain management, pre-cut fresh food processing, packaging and distribution of local products, logistics, marketing and planning services.

For more information about Caribbean Produce Exchange, you can access:

www.caribbeanproduce.com or <https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanproducepr/>

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