**NOTE 1:**

**OUR TRUCKS AT GRUPO ESFUERZO NOW HAVE GPS MONITORING FOR INCREASED SECURITY**

Thanks to a Global Positioning System (GPS), all of Grupo Esfuerzo's trucks are monitored in real-time since May 19.

"This guarantees greater security for our customer's cargo, allowing us to be informed of any stop or detour in the fruit's transport route", assured Roberto Gómez, company general manager.

Implementing GPS in the vehicle fleet, also makes it possible to generate the most efficient routes, saving time and resources; this is essential to meet delivery deadlines.

This project had an initial investment of $1,000 and also responds to a corporate strategy to mitigate the risks related to the safety, security and well-being of the workers, in this case, our truck drivers.

"This project allows us to, not only improve our management system in controls and security but also provide greater peace of mind to our clients and collaborators," said Gómez.

Grupo Esfuerzo is a Costa Rican banana company with more than 30 years of experience, which provides employment to, approximately, 500 people.

Grupo Esfuerzo currently exports Cavendish bananas to England, the United States, France, Italy, Germany and Japan. Their production is equivalent to 1.5% of the Costa Rican market.

**NOTE 2:**

**GRUPO ESFUERZO EXPANDS ITS PRESENCE IN THE BANANA MARKET WITH THE ACQUISITION OF TWO MORE FARMS**

In December 2020, Grupo Esfuerzo decided to expand its presence in the banana market with the acquisition of two new farms to reach a total area of 960 hectares, of which 550 hectares are currently in production.

These are the Vesta farm in Valle La Estrella, which comprises more than 240 hectares of primary forest for the protection of biodiversity, and the Agrotubérculos farm in Cahuita in Talamanca, in the beautiful South Caribbean. Both located in the province of Limón.

The two farms were purchased from the Taylor family. “Vesta is known to be the oldest banana farm owned by an independent grower” recalled Don Eduardo Gómez, founder of the company.

Jaime Gómez, member of the Board of Directors of Grupo Esfuerzo, stated that "this decision seeks to expand our production and place a greater volume of fruit in the international banana market. It also allows us to be more competitive and mitigate risks for the peace of mind of our customers.

In this way, we also seek to impact the local economy and contribute even more to building the country's brand around the world, thanks to the sustainable production of high-quality Costa Rican bananas.

"In the last four years, through actions such as this, we have tripled our business size, opened new independent marketing channels and increased productivity per hectare on our farms. All thanks to the contribution of our collaborators, customers, commercial partners and suppliers," the executives concluded.

**NOTE 3**

**GRUPO ESFUERZO PARTICIPATES IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM TO PREVENT FLOODING IN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITIES**

After Grupo Esfuerzo acquired a farm in the community of Bristol in Matina de Limón in 2017, its directors became aware of the local population's need for a structure to prevent the dreaded and constant flooding during the rainy season.

For this reason, they participated in a successful public-private partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT), the National Banana Corporation (CORBANA), the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Attention (CNE), JAPDEVA and the local government.

As a result of this joint work and based on the results of a study of the Matina river, a dam was inaugurated last April to prevent the river from breaking course on its left bank, which would've directly affect the small community of B-Line, cattle ranchers and small farmers in the area.

The residents of Bristol, Corina and Baltimore, who use this route, also benefit from the project.

"Let's recall that practically every year, during the rainy season there are communities in Limón that are flooded by rivers that break their course. This impacts thousands of people, requiring the opening of temporary shelters and causing economic losses, a situation that harms Matina, which is already the most underdeveloped county in the country according to the Human Development Atlas," said Roberto Gómez, general manager of Grupo Esfuerzo.

**NOTE 4:**

**GRUPO ESFUERZO LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO HONOR THE TRUST OF ITS CUSTOMERS AROUND THE WORLD**

As part of an effort consistent with its commercial strategy and in line with actions to expand its presence in the global banana market, Grupo Esfuerzo launched its new website this July.

"We want to offer a new communication channel and a point of contact with our customers in North America, Europe and Asia by creating a user-friendly website, that is accessible and contains valuable information in 3 languages: Spanish, English and German," said Roberto Gomez, general manager of the company.

This webpage will also serve to increase the confidence of potential buyers abroad and to publicize the latest news about the Costa Rican business group.

"In the future, we want to diversify our production, for example, and this site will help us communicate to the world what we have to offer," said Jaime Gómez, company director.

The site is also a tool for transparency and accountability as part of Grupo Esfuerzo's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.

For this reason, the consulting company in charge of developing the project was Vanguart Agency, a firm with more than 12 years of experience in CSR and sustainability communication.

"In building this website, we wanted to reflect the essence of Grupo Esfuerzo, its philosophy of doing triple-impact business and its contribution to the country," stated Laura Villalobos, CEO of Vanguart Agency.

Villalobos also explained that "it was a wonderful experience to realize that there are socially and environmentally responsible family businesses that go the extra mile, managing their impacts and prioritizing the well-being of their employees, their families and communities. It has been an honor to work with the Gómez family and Grupo Esfuerzo.”

In fact, one of the greatest virtues of the website is a robust Sustainability section that sets out, in detail, all of the actions implemented by the company in terms of Governance, Environmental and Social, and their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Grupo Esfuerzo specifically works for SDGs 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 17, which are related to quality education, adequate housing, decent work and economic growth, sustainable communities, responsible production and the protection of biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems.

Finally, the site will also compile and document the success story of Grupo Esfuerzo starting in 1989, when Eduardo Gómez acquired the first farm, until today when they export 1.6 million boxes per year to more than 6 countries and employ around 500 local people.

"Through the website, we will honor the values instilled in us by our founder, a leader and an example of perseverance, service and effort," the company's Manager proudly assured, as he contemplated the launch of the new website that is now available to all those interested in doing business with Grupo Esfuerzo.