



PRESS RELEASE 10.09.15: **Ganja research gets green light from the University of the West Indies**

CITIVA Jamaica, LLC enters research agreement with the University of the West Indies

Thursday, September 24, 2015 - Kingston, Jamaica: The University of the West Indies, Mona (UWI) made history in July by establishing itself as the world's premier institution for the research and development of marijuana and its use in the field of medicine. This was made possible through a partnership with CITIVA, LLC, which is a medical research company specializing in safe and effective cannabinoid products.

The goal of the partnership is to identify which combinations of cannabinoids are effective at treating specific diseases and symptoms. "Hopefully, with the help of UWI, CITIVA can begin to understand how and why cannabis has been effective at treating the various disease states we've seen success with," said Josh Stanley, founder and CEO of CITIVA LLC. When asked about the collaboration, UWI Principal Dr. Archie McDonald remarked, "We are excited to partner with CITIVA; they have done so much to advance this industry and people's understanding of the potential benefits of cannabis."

CITIVA created a local subsidiary, CITIVA Jamaica LLC, to focus solely on developing the Jamaican medical cannabis research and production markets. This was made possible by a recent change in Jamaican law, with overwhelming support from the Jamaican public, which makes cannabis a legally recognized therapeutic agent as well as a legal focus of study. The partnership with UWI will "impact the research and academic communities at UWI," according to David Palmieri of CITIVA.

Stanley introduced CITIVA's expert team at an information session held over the summer; the team includes Jack D'Angelo MD, Chief Medical Officer, David Rothman, head of the continuing medical education program, and Shaun Crew, chief agronomist. The session was attended by dignitaries such as UWI President Archie McDonald, MD; General Secretary for the People's National Party (PNP) Paul Burke and Kingston Mayor Angela Brown-Burke. Also in attendance was a diverse crowd of UWI students and professors, doctors, representatives of the Rastafari community and several farmers from the Ganja Growers Association. Public education was of high importance to the audience as well as the development of randomized, controlled trials that would validate the observational and anecdotal findings related to the active compounds in the cannabis plant.

The Future Of CITIVA in Jamaica

The CITIVA team and leaders from the medical cannabis industry have been able to maintain an open discourse about the implementation of the new trade with local officials, including Kingston's Mayor, Angela Brown-Burke, and the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining Hon. Phillip Paulwell. The Minister offered his support for the industry and expressed hopes that it would bolster the island's economy. CITIVA will be providing training and skills for numerous jobs pertaining to horticulturists, scientists, healthcare providers, technicians, growers, and numerous other staffing positions.

Amongst the research that will be done in Jamaica, CITIVA supports the Diabetes Association of Jamaica and one of their areas of focus will be on the medical benefits of cannabis in Type 2 Diabetes. The Diabetes Association of Jamaica is the country's largest provider of diabetic treatment services, seeing over 4500 patients daily. Diabetes is currently the number one cause of death of women under 70 in Jamaica and the second most deadly disease on the island overall. Treatment of the disease has become the biggest strain on the National Health Fund's limited resources.

CITIVA has also committed to sponsoring a Continuing Medical Education program for Jamaica's doctors and health professionals. The focus of the program would be to inform doctors about the endocannabinoid system along with the therapeutic qualities of the cannabinoids. This will be a joint project with the (UWI).

On October 15th CITIVA will be hosting a medical education seminar at UWI entitled 'Cannabinoids and the Management of Multiple Disease States'. This two part seminar is one of many that the company will host for local stakeholders and medical practitioners.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND OR TO SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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