

# Advancing Agricultural Technology Access in Grenada “Alquimi Farmer Empowerment Program”

## Main Objectives:

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- To provide access to, and training in technology advancements in climate resistant protected agriculture and high yield hydroponic farming systems **to empower existing farmers and youth;**
- To provide a financing solution to support a national program;
- To build climate resistance into the local food supply chain to provide advantages to marketing boards, agri-processing firms, supermarkets, and the tourism industry;
- To expand locally grown crop production to reduce import levels.



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The Stakeholders:



The Customers:

Financed By:



Loan Guarantee Program:



Technical Certification:



Government:



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## The Plan:



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- Alquimi supplies turnkey 4500 sf hurricane resistant, hydroponic greenhouse system for training center funded by agency (\$200K);
- Alquimi trains local hydroponic specialists as instructors – hands over greenhouse operation which is financially self sustaining;
- Instructors train local farmers to certification level administered by TA Marryshow Community College;
- Farmer then qualifies for specific guaranteed loan product from GDB for model 3200 sf turnkey greenhouse (approx. US\$120K);
- MNIB guarantees 100% off take of all produce based on single dedicated crop (ie. lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, etc.);
- Farmer’s annual revenue (based on lettuce at US\$1.56/lb x 40,000 lbs/annum) increases to US\$63K/annum.
- Over initial 3 year period loan is 100% repaid, gross income to farmer of US\$69K (or US\$23K per annum);
- In 4th year, farmer gross revenue increases to US\$63K/annum.

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## The Benefits:

## Following are the major benefits of the program:



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- Establishment of a full time ‘state-of-the-art’ hydroponic/greenhouse training facility in the host country;
- The training facility will actually produce approximately 60,000 lbs of high quality produce of various crop types annually which can also be sold to GMIB, so even the training facility is financially self sustainable;
- Training programs administered by the TA Marryshow CC will enhance its curriculum in agriculture;
- Approximately 12-15 students can be trained at one time, and we predict the training term will be short (ie 30-60 days);
- Once certified, these trainees can work on high tech hydroponic farms anywhere in the world;
- The Grenada Development Bank will benefit from being able to provide commercial loans, guaranteed indirectly through MNIB as customer;
- MNIB will benefit from gaining access to a consistent food supply chain on a year round basis to expand their supply capabilities to its customers;
- The new farmers not only acquire a high demand skill set and certification, but can increase their earning potential by 1500% over traditional land based farming on the same area of land.

= Knowledge Transfer! Job Creation! Self Sustainability!  
National Food Security! Higher Quality Food!