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PROJECT

A EUR 157,552 project to improve food safety management systems and export capacity of businesses in agro-processing

ABOUT

Agro-processors in Jamaica will have access to competent, cost effective, globally accepted food safety management resources provided by the national certification body with the implementation of the Expansion of Certification Services by the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) Project. A group of technical officers will be trained in select food safety requirements increasing the number of qualified persons available to examine, advise on, and endorse approved food safety management systems. Additionally, support will be given to NCBJ to establish the organisation as a testing and certification centre of excellence for much needed food safety management systems informed by the appropriate standards. These standards and supporting systems ensure that proper hygiene, handling, supply, transportation, management and even tracing of food bought and sold are effected. This will create an environment for the production of consumable products which are safe and of the highest standard for use.

The project also promotes gender equality, greater inclusion and economic empowerment strategies for women in the work of the NCBJ and BSJ by exposing personnel to training in gender mainstreaming in export certification activities.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The two year project which commenced in March 2021 will enhance the Quality Infrastructure; the Quality Infrastructure is the system which supports the production and delivery of high-quality goods and services. Once completed, firms in CARIFORUM countries with a keen interest in extra-regional food exports - such as Belize, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago-requiring specialist assistance related to food safety management will be able to access NCBJ's new services in food safety management. This will better enable regional exporters to satisfy the food safety requirement demands of their wide and varied target markets.

Additionally, national standards bodies in the Region will also gain access to the institutional knowledge of the BSJ and NCBJ related to standards regulations, certification, and best practices.

The project is also a potential game changer for Jamaican exporters as it will enable greater access to new markets and increase the value and quality of local exports. With this project, the NCBJ continues to strengthen conformity assessment systems to support trade building on previous initiatives.

