

EPA and CSME Standby Facility

The "Enhancing Capacity of Stakeholders in the Agriculture Sector to Supply Quality Products in New Markets" Project is the second project approved for implementation in Saint Lucia under the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building. The Standby Facility is a EUR 8.75 million programme financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) and managed by CDB to support projects in CARIFORUM Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. It is intended to build capacity in the region and better position businesses to trade within CARIFORUM and the European Union.

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CARIFORUM



**CARIFORUM-EU
EPA CSME**
STANDBY FACILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

THE ENHANCING CAPACITY OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TO SUPPLY QUALITY PRODUCTS IN NEW MARKETS PROJECT

A EUR 328,320 project to improve compliance of Saint Lucia's fresh produce exports with internationally good Food Safety Management (FSM) practices.



IMPROVING
BUSINESSES



STRENGTHENING
TRADE



BUILDING
CAPABILITIES

ABOUT

This Project will improve how Saint Lucia's fresh produce value chain can meet quality standards for export to existing markets in the UK, Canada and CARIFORUM countries, as well as to new markets in the European Union (EU). Project outcomes will also contribute to the overall strengthening of the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI).

The country has already embarked on a programme aligned with its National Export Strategy (2020-2024) and has embraced a 'farm to fork' value chain approach. Both actions seek to boost productivity and compliance with international quality standards.

Through this Project, value chain actors such as farmers, fresh produce exporters and pack house operators will receive targeted support that will enable them to better fulfill international food safety requirements, increase their ability to expand market share and make use of new export opportunities.

PROJECT BENEFITS

This Project will enhance the capacity of fresh produce value chain stakeholders through training and certification in standards such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP). It will provide equipment to improve the cold chain component of Saint Lucia's agri-food value chain.

Potential outcomes include greater access by rural farming communities to export markets, which can lead to direct and indirect economic empowerment through job creation, particularly for youth and women.

Once implemented, this project is expected to have the following benefits:

- Improved trade performance in existing markets.
- Upgraded national quality infrastructure.
- Increased contribution of agricultural sector to national gross domestic product (GDP).
- Enhanced rural development and creation of employment for marginalised groups such as women and youth.
- Improved sub-regional quality infrastructure.
- Strengthened sub-regional trade facilitation measures.
- Improved development of SMEs.
- Increased public-private sector collaboration.
- Expanded visibility and presence of Saint Lucia products.

