The Standby Facility for Capacity Building

**What is the official name of the programme?**
The official name of the programme is the CARIFORUM-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building.

**What is the Standby Facility for Capacity Building?**
The CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement and CSME Standby Facility for Capacity Building is a series of projects aimed at building capacity in the Region so that Caribbean businesses are better equipped and positioned to trade in the EU.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the European Union signed an agreement for the Bank to manage the funds under the Facility which will be financed by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

**Why is this needed?**
Small size and limited technical and financial capacity have made it challenging for Caribbean countries to adhere to their EPA and CSME commitments.

**What is it intended to do?**
The Standby Facility will complement other CSME and EPA capacity building activities being carried out under the 11th EDF EPA programme. The goals of the programme are to:

- improve Caribbean businesses’ ability to access CARIFORUM and EU markets;
- improve the regulatory environment so that Caribbean businesses are better supported and equipped to access CARIFORUM and EU markets;
- enhance technical capacity in both the public and private sectors so that they meet the sanitary and phytosanitary systems (SPS) requirements of international trade and;
- create awareness of the opportunities available and project outcomes.

**Who is eligible?**
National administrations such as Government ministries, departments and divisions and business support organisations (BSOs) are eligible to apply. Eligible countries under the programme are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

**How can you apply?**
The application process has two stages.

**Stage 1 - Submission and screening of proposals**
Eligible beneficiaries will be invited to submit proposals. These proposals can be channeled either through CDB’s Official Country Channels and/or National Authorising Officers in each country, but must be submitted through the application form at https://www.caribank.org/form/11thedfstandbyfacility

**Stage 2 – Project Appraisal**
CDB will provide technical assistance to beneficiaries for full appraisal of the project in accordance with CDB guidelines and procedure. The technical assistance will typically entail the assignment of a consultant to work with the beneficiary to develop an appraisal report (including poverty, social, gender and environmental analysis) for the project.

For more information, contact Ashaki Goodwin, Operations Officer, Regional Cooperation and Integration at edfstandbyfacility@caribank.org.