



Increasing Participation of the Belizean Cacao Industry in the Cocoa-Chocolate Global Value Chain

A EUR240,555 project that strengthens cacao product development to increase export opportunities and improve livelihoods.

ABOUT

This two-year project addresses challenges faced by Belize's cacao industry including constraints to productivity, quality, value addition and export development.

Implementation is centralised in the country's Toledo district, where cacao is cultivated by hundreds of smallholder farmers. The project encourages good agricultural practices for the production of high-quality beans for certification. It also accelerates added value through the establishment of a facility for the preparation of cocoa-chocolate products.

These improvements will strengthen the national value chain and promote acceptance by the European Union (EU), where certified cacao products are in high demand.

The project is implemented by the Toledo Cacao Growers' Association (TCGA) with support from the EU and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).



PROJECT BENEFITS

Ultimately, this initiative will lead to inclusive and sustainable economic growth by improving the capacity of the TCGA and its farmers to meet international export standards and fulfill unique selling points for Belize cacao and cocoa products.



PROJECT FACT SHEET

Its main benefits include:

- Provision of a facility with operational equipment and training to sort, process and pack cacao beans.
- Support for Fairtrade and organic certification.
- Access to greater marketing channels through a new website and online presence.
- Boost in returns from productivity and on-farm labour.
- Increase in farmer incomes and strengthened target communities.

EPA and CSME Standby Facility

The project was approved for implementation by the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building Steering Committee in 2021.

The EPA and CSME Standby Facility is a EUR 8.75 million programme financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) being managed by CDB to support projects in 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, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago (CARIFORUM). It is intended to build capacity in the region and better position businesses to trade within CARIFORUM and the European Union.

Visit:

www.caribank.org/standbyfacility
www.belizetcga.com



CARIFORUM

