

INCREASING THE EXPORT CAPACITY OF MICRO AND SMALL AGRO-PROCESSORS USING THE CLUSTER APPROACH PROJECT

ABOUT

The Increasing the Export Capacity of Micro and Small Agro-Processors Using the Cluster Approach Project is focused on strengthening and developing MSMEs in agriculture. The project seeks to leverage elements of the agro-processing value chain to amalgamate benefits to producers of agricultural outputs and also stabilise and increase exports. The initiative will provide assistance to agro-processors in Jamaica and support to the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) to improve infrastructure and systems. This will ultimately increase the ability of entrepreneurs to produce goods satisfying required standards for entry to desired markets while also strengthening and promoting Jamaican made products. Project activities will enable and provide manufacturers with resources to churn out high quality products with inputs from farms adhering to good agricultural practices. It will also address some challenges experienced with agro-processing exports related to market access, supply of manufacturing inputs, packaging and sustaining exports by offering solutions through the establishment of an agro-processing cluster, capacity building, knowledge transfer and provision of equipment.

PROJECTS BENEFITS

The clustering approach and capacity building interventions will strengthen JBDC's ability to provide gender sensitive and inclusive services to MSME clusters, in accordance with internationally accepted Food Safety Management Systems (FSM) practices. It will also enhance access to local and international markets as a result of improved infrastructure, technology, brand development and market promotion information.

The project which commenced in May 2021 will provide a wide range of improvements including:

- Renovation and upgrading of an agro-processing food incubator in compliance with identified food safety management standard



- Procurement and installation of equipment
- Implementation of pre-requisite actions for food technology incubator FSSC22000 certification
- Training and capacity building for JBDC staff and stakeholders, primary producers and agro-processors on Good Agricultural Practices, Good Manufacturing Practices, compliance with, and management of the export-oriented supply chain.
- Capacity building for agro-processing cluster and primary producers on business cluster dynamics and business development.
- Brand development and market promotion

EPA AND CSME STANDBY FACILITY

The project was approved for implementation by the EPA and CSME Standby Facility Steering Committee in 2021. The EPA and CSME Standby Facility is a EUR 8.75 million programme financed by the European Union 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.