

- Assist domestic suppliers in three sectors with authentication and brand integrity by reinforcing trust with the other participants in the global value chain, related to reliability and trustworthiness of the laboratory infrastructure in which they operate
- Create the ability to test and measure the properties and impact of materials and products, particularly those related to health and safety
- Facilitate an environment for integration, improving the inclusion of measure to increase the quality and competitiveness



EPA AND CSME STANDBY FACILITY

The Project was the second multi country initiative approved for implementation by the EPA and CSME Standby Facility Steering Committee in 2020. 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.

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 STANDBY FACILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE REGIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME IN BARBADOS, DOMINICA AND SAINT KITT'S AND NEVIS PROJECT

A USD874,932 project to increase business competitiveness, strengthen manufacturing and reduce production costs



IMPROVING
BUSINESSES



STRENGTHENING
TRADE



BUILDING
CAPABILITIES

ABOUT

The Strengthening of the Regional Quality Infrastructure Programme in Barbados, Dominica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis Project will outfit public laboratories with equipment and train staff at these facilities to provide specialised tests required by businesses preparing for export. This will result in increased support for export ready firms in those countries through the provision of testing services in metrology (measurement) by state labs otherwise known as National Metrology Institutes. The tests which will be administered by these labs, are usually sourced overseas, and ensure goods produced for export meet the required standards for entry into new target markets. Satisfying these parameters also results in increasing the quality of commodities produced and traded by enterprises. Once the requirements of the new market regulators are met the goods will be allowed entry and trade can follow.

This project responds to growing demands for calibration and testing services by businesses in the region and builds technical capacity in the area of quality and standards. Businesses involved in

transportation, agro-processing and manufacturing will be beneficiaries once public labs are internationally certified and resourced. A National Quality Policy for Saint Kitts and Nevis which governs and guides how the country creates and integrates systems for increasing the quality of goods and services produced will also be formulated.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Access to, and trade with new countries have the potential to increase exports and economic opportunities for Caribbean businesses. Entry into new markets also provide regional producers with a larger pool of potential consumers for their products. These new economic opportunities can increase both employment and profits of exporting businesses by extension enhancing local and regional economies. The costs of accessing tests locally or even at a lab within the region will also aid businesspersons with reducing expenditure associated with production. Ideally firms may be better able to compete not only on price but also on quality. Adherence to global standards in the production of goods and services by local firms also provides consumers with safer and more standardised items for consumption.

The project will:

- Develop a national policy to guide the implementation of quality related activities in Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Equip national metrology labs to achieve and maintain international recognition for its measurement capability through the Stepwise Improvement Programme (SIP) approach
- Provide labs in Barbados, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis with the resources identified to ensure accurate and comparable results by making test and measurement results traceable, through the use of appropriate adjustment and reference materials
- Allow producers to compete, conform to market requirements and connect to the global market

