

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME.

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Overall objective: To enhance the resilience and sustainability of food systems in the Caribbean, in order to promote food and nutrition security.

Specific Objective: Improve agri-food logistics and distribution systems to enhance access to regional and extra-regional markets.

Project Background: The Caribbean Development Bank and the European Union have entered into a contribution agreement as part of a broader response to address the food security crisis in the Caribbean Region and to promote food and nutrition security, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Scope of the Financing Window: The resources will be used to finance actions aimed at developing sustainable channels for distribution of food products at a regional level. In this regard support will be provided to initiatives which improve logistics and enhance the efficiency of the intra-regional agricultural trade and maritime transport sector.

Prioritized areas include:

Strengthening Cold Chain and Agri-Food Logistics

Proposals should focus on strengthening the cold chain and optimizing logistics for perishable agri-food products. Submissions should detail interventions that ensure an unbroken cold chain management from farm gate to market through investments in cold storage facilities and supporting transport systems – land, air and sea. Proposals should also address logistics optimization via efficient routes, scheduling, and load consolidation (e.g., Less than Container Load - LCL for intra-island trade), alongside best practices in packaging and handling to minimize post-harvest losses, reduce transportation costs, and environmental impact.

Enhancing Port Efficiency for Agri-Food Trade

Proposals should focus on enhancing efficiency, climate resilience and management of port facilities - in particular those servicing CARICOM Wharves - critical for intra-regional agricultural trade. Submissions should detail interventions that leverage technology to improve management systems (e.g., digital platforms for documentation, tracking, and communication) alongside improvements in physical infrastructure. This includes upgrading/digitizing loading/unloading and other equipment, optimized storage, and robust security measures. Proposals must also outline strategies for emergency preparedness to mitigate risks from natural hazards and climate change impacts and the integration of renewable energy and energy-saving technologies to ensure sustainable and resilient port operations.

Modernising Maritime Transport Services for Agri-Food Products

Proposals should focus on optimising existing maritime transport services (including traditional schooner services) and introducing new services to increase efficient, reliable and safe agri-food trade within the region. Submissions should detail interventions for the retrofitting and modernization of existing vessels to include reliable cold storage and modular refrigerated cargo units, ensuring safe and temperature-controlled transport of agri-food products, alongside necessary portside infrastructure for produce off-loading, handling, temporary storage, inspections etc. to ensure food safety compliance. Proposals should also outline clear sustainability initiatives to improve fuel efficiency and reduce shipping costs, while ensuring all upgrades comply with maritime safety standards and significantly reduce post-harvest losses.

Proposal Guidelines

Financial Allocation: The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is € 1,378,273. Resources will be allocated on a competitive basis and based on the assessed value of the intervention. Individual country projects may benefit from a grant up to €600,000 with a

maximum of regional projects - covering more than two countries - may benefit from grant resources up to €1.3 million.

Project requirements: The call is open to agri-food producers/aggregators, processors, distributors, customs and excise departments, port authorities, terminal and maritime operators, within CARIFORUM member states.

Counterpart Financing: *Projects to be financed under this window are expected to provide counterpart financing of up to 30%.* Applicants are encouraged to allocate counterpart contributions directly to activities that support the project's core objectives and interventions. In-kind contributions for salaries, administrative, or similar expenses will not count towards the required 30% counterpart financing.

Blended Financing: in duly justified cases blending with other commercial based funds is possible, however, applicants proposing the use of grant resources to compliment such financing schemes should be able to demonstrate that the intervention will not duplicate or is at cross-purposes with previous interventions from CDB and/or other development partners.

Institutional Capacity: applicants will need to demonstrate that the executing/implementing agency is adequately resourced financially and technically. Also, applicants must assign a dedicated project coordinator to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

Eligibility: Only interventions benefitting clients within CDB's Borrowing Member Countries and CARIFORUM member States will be eligible for financing.

Qualifying Requirements: Proposals will be assessed and selected based on the following criteria.

- **Relevance:** How well the proposed project aligns with the call's objectives and addresses the identified challenges (15 points).
- **Design:** The clarity, logic, and coherence of the project plan, including its methodology and approach (15 points).
- **Feasibility:** The practicality and realism of the project, considering available resources, technology, and local conditions (20 points)
- **Effectiveness:** The likelihood that the proposed interventions will achieve their stated outcomes and deliver tangible, positive impacts (20 points)
- **Sustainability:** The potential for the project's benefits and operations to continue and be maintained after the funding period ends (10 points)
- **Environmental Sustainability:** The project's approach to minimizing environmental impact, integrating climate adaptation measures, and promoting resource efficiency (energy, water) (10 points)
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** The efficiency with which the project utilizes resources to achieve its objectives, demonstrating good value for money (10 points).

Proposals with a score equal to or greater than 70 points will be considered for advancement.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

- **Required Documentation:** Proposals must be submitted using the official templates – see link below - and include: a detailed project description, work plan with milestones, detailed budget (grant & counterpart), logical framework with SMART indicators, proof of legal registration, CVs of key personnel, and letters of commitment for counterpart funding and partnerships.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically via email to eu-cdb-fsp@caribank.org.
- Submissions must clearly include the reference number and title of this call for proposals, along with your proposal's title and the full name and address of the applicant.
- The deadline for submission is December 12th, 2025.