

ture and possess a valid farmer's ID from the Ministry;

- c. Own agricultural land or fishing boats and related assets, or be in possession of a long-term lease (5 years or more), especially for assistance with crops.
- d. Can demonstrate to have cultivated, reared or fished for the last three (3) years.
- e. Agree to work together with the extension officers and representatives from the project, and with the consultants appointed by the respective Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)/Project Implementation Unit (PIU), to identify the investments and inputs needed as well as the proper use and handling of the inputs.
- f. Be willing to exhibit his/her plot as a demonstration plot, if required.
- g. Be willing to provide information to the relevant parties for Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) as well as for impact assessment
- h. Keep proper records of the whole farm enterprise
- i. Be willing to give feedback about the benefits derived from the help received and lessons learned.
- j. Agree not to use banned agro-chemicals on their farms and to adopt the best practices as recommended by the project.
- k. Agree to comply with subproject Environmental and Social Management Plan.

Criteria for Aggregators & Agro-processors

For an Aggregator or an Agro-processor to be eligible to participate in the project, the main conditions are the following:

- a. Be a registered business or producer association legally established, with taxes paid up to date or legally exempted from tax. Start-ups are also eligible.
- b. Comply with integrated pest management rules/regulations established by the project.
- c. Supply information on usage, storage, protection, disposal, etc; of pesticides and other agro-chemicals.
- d. Sign and adhere to the Subproject agreement with the respective PCU and PIU.
- e. Commit to work with a group of at least 10 FFs in the business plan.
- f. Agree with an investment amount not exceeding 50 % of the total investment under the subproject (Aggregators and Agro-processors (AAs) plus Farmers and Fisherfolk (FFs)).
- g. For project purposes, an AA legally established as an SME shall have between 6 to 50 employees.
- h. Agree to comply with sub-project Environmental and Social Management Plan.

What are the Items and Activities that can be Financed under a Productive Alliance Business Plan?

Grant funds are available to the maximum of US\$8,000 for Farmers and Fisher folk and US\$120,000 for Aggregators and Agro-processors.

Contact Information



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OECS AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS PROJECT



"Promoting Agri-Market Development"

Project Information Leaflet

Background

The OECS Agricultural Competitiveness (Agricom) Project is co-funded by the World Bank and the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is expected to contribute to the goal of decreased rural poverty and the food import bill as well as rural employment and promote shared prosperity.

Project Objectives

The project seeks to:

1. Increase access to marketing of agricultural products through the following:
 - i. Development and implementation an export market thrust for agricultural and fisheries products.
 - ii. Strengthened linkages between agriculture and fisheries and other sectors, particularly tourism, manufacturing and the environment.
 - iii. Identification of and address improvements in transportation and support services to ensure regular reliable movement of produce in the region and to international destinations.
 - iv. Development of focused programmes and networks for marketing of agricultural and fisheries products within and outside the region, including expansion of opportunities for joint marketing.
2. Contribute to food and nutrition security on a sustained basis by promoting the use of healthy and nutritious foods through various programmes.
3. Increase agricultural exports by developing a comprehensive export strategy for agricultural produce.

Who will Benefit From The Project

The main beneficiaries of the project are:

1. Small-scale individual or organized farmers and fisher folks (FFs).

2. Aggregators and agro-processors (AAs), including producer organizations (associations, cooperatives or similar formal organizations with legal standing); and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) such as wholesalers, traders, lead farmers (with legal standing to act as aggregator), and industrial agro-processors.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture Extension and other related staff are expected to be strengthened by the project.

Project Costs and Duration

The total project costs is US\$5.02 million and is for a period of five (5)years from June 2017—May 2023.

Project Components

Component 1: Support for Preparation of Business Plans - US\$430,000.00

Component 2: Implementation of Business Plans - US\$3,450,000.00

Component 3: General Agricultural Services and Enabling Environment - US\$360,000.00

Component 4: Project Management, Monitor-

ing, and Evaluation - US\$780,000.00

Criteria for Accessing Project Funds

To access grant funds , a **Productive Alliance (FF and AA)** must present a single **Business Plan which will qualify for project support on a competitive basis.**

FFs and AAs that meet the Project's eligibility criteria must be able and willing to enter into an agreement with each other to supply a particular product under specified set of conditions (quality, quantity, delivery place and time and price.

Criteria for Farmers and Fisher folk

To be eligible to apply for financing under a subproject, each prospective beneficiary farmers and fisher folk must:

- a. Participate in preparing the subproject proposal and be willing to sign a subproject agreement.
- b. Be registered with the Ministry of Agricul-

How is the Project Administered?

The project will be administered through:

1. A **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** of representatives of government and the private sector will provide overall implementation guidance and support, as well as inter-institutional coordination for the project.
2. A **Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)** in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning will be responsible for overall fiduciary, safeguards compliance and accountable for all procurement activities under the project.
3. A **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)** in the Ministry of Agriculture will be responsible for overall techni-