

Government Support for Industrial Development

Based on the 2012 Policy Statement of the Honorable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in relation to Duty Free Concessions on raw materials to the sector; the granting of duty free concessions to all Manufacturers, including Agro-processors, duty free concession on all raw materials, plant and equipment imported for use in their operations. To access this facility, all manufacturers and processors will be required to make a formal request through the Ministry of Industry and all conditions in the Fiscal Incentive Act will apply to this program. (See 2012 Budget Address pg 114-115

<http://www.finance.gov.vc/finance/images/stories/pdf/budget%20address%202012.pdf>)

Guidelines for Accessing Duty Free Concessions to Agro- Producers

Applicants must submit a letter addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture indicating the nature of their business and setting out their request for Duty Free Concession. The following list of information is also required, attached to an application:

- Entity or Producer must be a bonafide/ Registered Agro-Producer.
- Copy of Certificate of Registration
- Copy / copies of the invoice/ quotation for the imported item MUST be submitted along with the letter.

Additionally, the Ministry provides support to producers within the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Sector by through a Small Grant Programme. Criteria and requirements to access this facility is made available through an application form provided. (see attached downloadable form).

Current and potential Investors are encouraged to take advantage of these policy provisions by contacting the staff of the Industry Unit (456-6957), CED (451-2235), SVG Bureau of Standards (457-8092) for further guidance.

Small Business Grant Program

Background and objective

The Industry Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture coordinates and administers a development program geared specifically towards the producers in the agro processing sector. The assistance given to small agro processors in the form of a small business grant is geared towards assisting producers and entrepreneurs to become more competitive on the local market, where they are faced with competition from imports.

The support to producers are in the areas of the following:

- Product development
- Labelling
- Packaging
- Innovation
- Product Testing

Prerequisite for Beneficiary Assistance

- Entity must be a locally registered business-sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company.
- Entity must be operating legally in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Entity must not have more than a yearly turnover of EC \$ 50,000
- Entity must submit to a capacity building training by a reputable Business Support Organization (BSO)
- Entity must submit to verification and consultative visits by the SVG Bureau of Standards

Procedures

- An application form detailing background of business must be completed by the applicant.
- Applicant must be working along or indicate commitment to working along with the Centre for Enterprise Development Inc. and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards.
- Items for procurement must be clearly listed with an original and accompanying proforma invoice.
- Suppliers of items to be procured must be reputable and credible.
- Invoices with items procured or purchased must be submitted to the Industry Department.

Grant Amount

Due to limited available funding, there will be an upper level ceiling of \$2,000 per award.

Program Selection

Call for proposals would be advertised or communicated via print or electronic media indicating time and date for submission and closure of applications, as well as the eligibility criteria and selection process

Criteria for Selection

- Applicants must demonstrate sustainability of business subsequent upon disbursement of grant.
- Applicants must be deemed to have the capacity to successfully manage their own business.
- Applicants shall have a limit to **one** disbursement from the programme.
- Applicants **must not** be benefiting from a similar support from any other programme.
- Applicant **must attend and successfully complete a** basic business skills development training program with the Centre for Enterprise Development (CED).
- Applicants must submit to a verification and consultative visit by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards.



*Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries,
Rural Transformation
Industry and Labour*

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Tel. (784) 456-1410 , Email : office.agriculture.gov.vc

APPLICATION FOR SMALL GRANT OR CONTRIBUTION

(For funding under the Small Grants and Contribution Programme)

All applicants for small grants and contributions must provide the following information to be considered for support: Grants will only be given to firms that are legal entities and have a yearly turnover of EC \$ 50,000 or less.

1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

1.1 Name of applicant : _____

1.2 Name of Business: _____

1.3 Type of Business operation _____
(Light manufacturing, Agro-processing, other)

1.4 Start date of Business: _____

1.5 Number of years in Business : _____

1.6 Number of employees : _____

1.7 Projected employment in the next 2-3 years : _____

1.8 Type of Products traded : _____

1.9 Sales in the last year : _____

1.10 Current level of investment : _____
(Value of Machinery, equipment, etc)

2. GRANT REQUEST

2.1 Purpose of Grant: _____

2.2 Location of Business: _____

2.3 Commitment in having the SVG Bureau of Standards verify and assess product

Yes () No ().

2.4 Have you approached any other organization for financial assistance to conduct similar undertakings ? Yes () No ()

If yes , give details _____

2.5 List cost and items to be procured or purchased if any (attach list if space is not adequate)

The above quotation must be supported by an **original and recent** Proforma invoice/bill from a local or foreign supplier and **MUST** be submitted together with letters of recommendations from any reputable business support service provider and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards. The original bill head must state the words: **“Proforma Invoice”** and the name, address telephone/fax-numbers of the supplier, quantity and price relative to the support requested.

By signing this application, the applicant, on receipt of any grant or contribution, gives the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry the authority to conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation exercises of the business operation to determine whether the expenditure have or is contributing to the success of the business.

Signature of applicant:
