



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ONGOING PROGRAMMES

Fit For Market (FFM, FFM SPS, FFM+)



Facilité ICR



ACP Business-friendly



FO4ACP



Digital Finance for Resilience (DFS4RES)



ACP Quality Infrastructure



Business ACP



DIRECCT



EURIZ



DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

Fit For Market (FFM) programmes support companies in the horticultural sector and their environment to ensure their international access to horticultural and national markets while complying with sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and market requirements, individually or collectively. Support includes food safety, environmental management, social compliance and business management. The main types of support are related to the implementation of a management system (on social themes, environment, quality) meeting the requirements of international certification standards required by customers (GLOBALG.A.P., HACCP, Rainforest Alliance, SMETA, etc.). Set up in the continuity of FFM past programmes, the new FFM Plus (FFM+) is tailored to facilitate the transition of ACP horticulture towards more sustainable food systems, addressing the priority areas identified in the Farm to Fork strategy of the European Green Deal. In the Caribbean, COLEAD and the **Caribbean Agribusiness Association** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at promoting and strengthening the development of agribusiness in the Caribbean, improving competitiveness through increased capacity to produce better quality food and more secure, better market access and strong business and management skills. The **FFM SPS** programme has trained and awarded certificates to 661 participants from different countries' public sector services (including from the Caribbean) that implement improved SPS analytical, control and enforcement procedures for local and export markets.

COLEAD, through **FFM** and **FFM SPS**, in collaboration with the **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture**, has launched the Caribbean Agrifood Business Series



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to support a more resilient and greener agricultural and agrifood business sector in the Caribbean. This Caribbean Agrifood Business Series aims at **(i)** exchanging ideas and best practices on selected priority issues; **(ii)** showcasing successes of smallholders, businesses and micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs); **(iii)** promoting and documenting forthcoming innovations and technologies benefiting smallholders and MSMEs; **(iv)** promoting networking amongst various stakeholders in the food chain; and **(v)** disseminating research findings. In June 2021, a third virtual training course on implementing official controls was provided for inspectors in the Caribbean by **FFM SPS**. In 2022, the programme organised multiple training sessions addressing public services in specific areas. In Trinidad and Tobago, the trainings offered, addressed the topics of Organisation of official control and Pest Risk Assessment.

ACP Business-friendly is designed to achieve two key outcomes:

- Adopting and implementing business-friendly, inclusive and responsible national policies and legal frameworks.
- Strengthening productive, processing, promoting and marketing capabilities and value chains.

In 2022, ACP Business-friendly and the **Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA)** continued their collaboration to extend technical assistance support to Caribbean Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) to promote investment in the region. In April 2022, CAIPA members were briefed about the UNIDO investment opportunity development approach, including reference to the UNIDO investment promotion toolkit and methodology. CAIPA members were asked to indicate their interest for closer collaboration to coach IPAs in the development of investment opportunity profiles using the UNIDO methodology.

UNIDO received requests from Trinidad and Tobago's **InvestTT** for further technical support. Initial meetings were held with IPAs to provide more detail on the investment profiling methodology and agree on work plan and definition of concrete support in terms of priority project profiling to be showcased on the "Invest-in-ACP" portal. Technical hand-holding sessions with InvestTT continued throughout the 2022 to support respective investment opportunity profiling interventions and to promote the same via the "Invest-in-ACP" Portal. As at end of December 2022, investment opportunity profiling campaigns on UNIDO's Digital Investment Profiling System (DIPS) were set-up for the three IPAs and work was planned for continuation in 2023.

At regional level, the programme works also with the **Caribbean Export (CEDA)** on organic regulations, exports, market activation for value chains.



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Some activities are designed to benefit the cocoa value chain actors at the Caribbean region. The programme received an expression of interest to attend the Salon du Chocolate (Paris) from companies in Trinidad and Tobago, building on the success of 2022 participation with Dominican and Jamaican companies. Innovation and product development is being explored through the partnership with Michael Laiskonis and the 25 Basque Culinary Centre, who are already working with cocoa actors in the Caribbean.

The **ACP Quality Infrastructure (QI)** programme supports ACP policy makers, institutions and private sector actors to (i) enhance the regional Quality and Regulatory infrastructure governance; (ii) strengthen the availability of the value chain-specific QI services; (iii) promote quality culture and practices. The programme complements and builds on the ongoing achievements of the ACP Business-Friendly programme reinforcing the UNIDO's programme action (Meso-level component). ACP QI was officially launched in the Caribbean at the 41st Meeting of the **CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)** Council, in October 2022.

The **ICR Facility** supports private and public stakeholders and regional institutions, to improve their investment climate and business environment by facilitating public-private dialogue, among other actions. At regional level, ICR Facility supported the **Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA)** in an analysis of the credit reporting infrastructure in fifteen CARIFORUM countries. The intervention provided an in-depth assessment of credit bureaus and collateral registries in the region, and highlighted opportunities for reform at the regional level. In addition, the **Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA)** received support to analyse the insolvency frameworks around the region. The ICR Facility provided advisory services to the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** to assess how CDB could structure its private sector lending and in assessing the feasibility of a supply chain and trade finance facility for the Caribbean region.

FO4ACP aims to increase the incomes and improve the livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and safety of organized smallholders and family farmers by strengthening regional, national and local farmers' organizations. One of the key areas for intervention in the region is the development, strengthening and consolidation of technical advisory services and training systems.

At regional level, the programme supports also the mapping and systematization of information related to farmers' organisations. This mapping exercise provides key insights into the legislation and institutional rules governing the establishment of farmers' organisations, unions or associations in different countries.



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In collaboration with *PROCASUR*, an interactive online platform was developed to create an innovative learning environment for training programmes addressing farmers' organisations. The platform is an important tool for sharing experiences, knowledge and good practices directly among peers. Under the FO4ACP programme, FAO and PROCASUR undertook the mapping of 30 farmers' organisations whose membership range in size from 7 to 700 producers.

DFS4RES Digital Finance for Resilience in ACP countries aims at deploying digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to deepen financial inclusion, and accelerate economic recovery from COVID-19, in order to make economies and societies more resilient to external shocks. In 2022, the programme launched in Trinidad and Tobago, kicking off with a diagnostic and market assessment of digital finance gaps and opportunities. The diagnostic incorporated contributions from the **Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Digital Transformation** of Trinidad and Tobago amongst other public and private sector entities, including banks, telecom operators, FinTech and banking associations, with support from the **Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)**.

Based on the diagnostic the team undertook an initial scope to tackle policy and market issues related to the availability of digital payments. As covered in the DFS Market Assessment, the availability of digital payment products is at a very nascent stage, due primarily to restrictive legal and regulatory frameworks, lack of policy initiatives as well as private sector innovation inability to operate in the market. Ahead of tackling broader digital finance issues related to lending, insurance, consumer protection and financial literacy, a large effort is needed to support a more enabling environment for digital payments to flourish as the rails for a broader suite of digital financial services.

In 2022, DFS4RES also technical assistance and support related to policy and regulation. The aim of this support was focused on developing an enabling legal and regulatory framework for digital payment solutions and in particular, e-money wallet providers, to enter markets, as well as improving the policy ecosystem for digital finance in general.

DIRECCT (Digital Response Connecting Citizens) is implemented jointly by Agence française de développement (AFD) and the Belgian development agency, Enabel. In the Caribbean, DIRECCT supports the **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)**, which is setting up a unified system for collecting and managing public health data in the countries of the Caribbean community. This investment in the health security supports integration of real-time digital surveillance systems to enhance risk assessment, monitoring, prevention and control of established infectious diseases



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and new and emerging public health threats by CARPHA and CARPHA Member States. CARPHA also coordinates capacity-building of Member States' Ministries and Authorities of Health to implement these systems for local, sub-regional and regional surveillance, with a focus on gender equity and human-centred technology.

Another activity undertaken at the Caribbean regional level is the Virtual E-Commerce Accelerator Programme (VEAP), implemented by **Caribbean Export (CEDA)**. VEAP is aimed at building capacity of Business Support Organisations (BSOs) and firms to adopt e-Commerce technologies and processes leading to broader and more effective market reach, customer engagement and export sales.

EURIZ guarantee helps to increase credit accessibility for MSMEs, by engaging in cooperation initiatives with a wide variety of financial institutions. Implemented by PROPARCO (AFD Group), EURIZ covers agricultural and agri-business, health, education, digital, and microfinancing companies owned by women or young people, who are facing increased difficulties in accessing finance. In 2022, the programme reinforced the offer of the EURIZ guarantee and developing activities in the Caribbean region

MORE INFORMATION

- **Read the Monitoring Report 2021:**
<https://businessacp.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Annual-Report- online-version.pdf>
- **Visit the "Programmes' Highlights" page on the Business ACP website:**
<https://businessacp.com/en/94071-2/>