



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to face developmental challenges, especially in terms of reducing poverty and unemployment to levels that are compatible with its per capita income. As poverty is concentrated in rural areas, agricultural development remains crucial for addressing these challenges and supporting national food security. However, the agriculture sector has generally not adapted in an effective manner to the evolving demands of global trade networks. Moreover, market performance is hindered by the existing rudimentary market structure for fresh produce, the lack of aggregation of smallholders and the underdeveloped agro-processing industry throughout the country. If strategic investments are made to improve agricultural productivity and increase producers' access to markets, beneficial outcomes are expected for employment and income levels. With the national context in mind, this project was designed to strengthen the capacities of farmers, fishers, agro-processors and aggregators, as well as Government staff, to apply inclusive and sustainable agribusiness development approaches that enhance market access and increase the sale of local agricultural produce.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Under the World Bank-funded Technical Assistance Agreement signed between FAO and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, prospective beneficiaries were supported to develop business idea proposals (BIPs) and business plans (BPs). This assistance included training workshops, coaching sessions and access to business tools, which strengthened the capacities of farmers, fishers, agro-processors and aggregators in business development. Direct support for the revision and finalization of BIPs and BPs was also provided to numerous productive alliances comprising project beneficiaries. These efforts were bolstered by field visits that sought to identify business opportunities and oversee agribusiness development from the BIP phase to the BP phase. The Evaluation Criteria Matrix for BIPs and BPs was prepared, revised and finalized, with substantial efforts being undertaken to ensure that all World Bank requirements were met. Moreover, various instruments were developed to efficiently determine the viability, profitability and sustainability of prospective agribusinesses. Six productive alliances completed the BP development phase, making use of the Financial Model Tool, which allows businesses to forecast their future financial performance and identify opportunity areas. Finally, comprehensive training on digital extension and advisory services was delivered to Government staff, covering a range of topics that support local agribusiness creation. At the request of the Government, the Technical Assistance Agreement was terminated early.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 648 958

Duration

September 2019 – November 2022

Resource Partner

Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Partners

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

Beneficiaries

Local farmers, fishers, agro-processors and aggregators, as well as Government staff concerned with agricultural extension services

IMPACT

This project contributed to the larger World Bank-funded Regional Agriculture Competitiveness Project being implemented across countries in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. These efforts aim to reduce rural poverty and enhance agricultural development through inclusive agribusiness growth and employment creation. Although the early termination of the project did not allow for the implementation of BPs, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains in a stronger position for future agribusiness development.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- The BIP and BP templates, as well as the business proposal training manual and training modules, were reviewed and finalized.
- Business proposal writing workshops and mentoring sessions were delivered to productive alliances.
- A total of 160 hours of training on developing business proposals was delivered to agribusinesses and agri-entrepreneurs, reaching 187 beneficiaries.
- The Evaluation Criteria Matrix for business proposals was revised and developed in accordance with World Bank requirements.
- Sixteen BIPs were developed and submitted for evaluation.
- Full BPs were developed for six productive alliances.
- A monitoring and evaluation system for BP implementation was developed.
- Four training sessions were delivered to Government staff on business planning and extension and advisory services methodologies, including digital agriculture.



Project Code

FAO: UTF/STV/001/STV
Donor: SVG-RACP-C-DC-02

Project Title

Technical Assistance to the World Bank OECS Regional Agricultural Competitiveness Project

Contact

FAO Representation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
FAO-VC@fao.org

Partnerships and Outreach
For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy