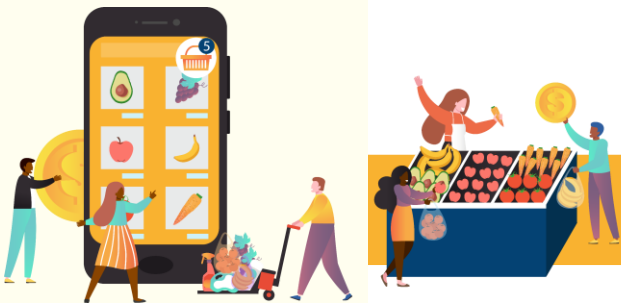


31 MARCH 2026



Session n°20:

Financing Caribbean agrifood entrepreneurs: strategies to access investment



Caribbean Agrifood Business Series ●●●



Funded by
the European Union

CARIBBEAN AGRIFOOD BUSINESS SERIES

Financing Caribbean Agrifood Entrepreneurs:

Strategies to Access Investment

31 March 2026

Presented by:

Mr. Wayne Elliott

Head – Technical Programmes | Caribbean Export Development Agency

WHO WE ARE

Caribbean Export Development Agency



www.carib-export.com

Caribbean Export Development Agency

About Us

CARIFORUM's only regional trade and investment promotion agency, serving 15 states across the Caribbean region. Headquartered in Barbados with a sub-regional office in the Dominican Republic.

30

Years of Transformation

15

CARIFORUM States Served

92%

Annual Implementation Rate

Our Mandate To build a globally competitive and resilient Caribbean private sector through export development, export promotion, and investment promotion.

OUR PRESENCE



Antigua



Bahamas



Barbados



Belize



Dominica



Dom. Republic



Grenada



Guyana



Haiti



Jamaica



St. Kitts



St. Lucia



St. Vincent



Suriname



Trinidad

HEADQUARTERS

Barbados

Bridgetown

SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE

Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo

MEMBER STATES

15 CARIFORUM States

Serving the full Caribbean region

Antigua & Barbuda • The Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Cuba • Dominica • Dominican Republic • Grenada • Guyana • Haiti • Jamaica • St. Kitts & Nevis • St. Lucia • St. Vincent & the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad & Tobago

HOW WE SUPPORT THE PRIVATE SECTOR

01

Capacity Building

SME training, export readiness & skills development

02

Technical Assistance

Hands-on advisory, mentoring & market intelligence

03

Research & Analysis

Data-driven insights for trade decisions

04

Grants

Direct & co-financing for business growth & certification

05

Investment Promotion

Deal facilitation, project packaging & investor matchmaking

OUR PROGRAMMES

Current active initiatives supporting Caribbean businesses

ACCESS TO Finance & TRADE

Regional Private Sector Development Programme

RPSDP III / EU III

€12 million initiative running from 2023–2027. It focuses on strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of CARIFORUM firms through digital transformation, green energy adoption, and increased access to finance, including grants and equity investments.

GENDER & TRADE

GRIT

Generating Resilient and Inclusive Trade

4-year initiative (2025–2028) funded by Global Affairs Canada. Supports 800 women entrepreneurs — and training resources for 10,000 more — across Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia & St. Vincent.

800 Women Entrepreneurs

CAPACITY BUILDING

Caribbean Digital Transformation Institute

IDB Regional Public Good

4-year initiative (2022 – 2026) funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that establishes a regional public good to coordinate the digital ecosystem and transform MSMEs across the Caribbean.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Current active initiatives supporting Caribbean businesses

EU-LAC Digital Accelerator

Digital Innovation and Business Venturing

A multi-sided platform that connects business opportunities from corporates to startups and innovative SMEs. It seeks to support joint ventures up to an investment-ready stage and provide specific acceleration services to each of them.

EU-FUNDED GRANTS

EU-LAC Social Accelerator

High-Impact Social Innovation

EUR 100,000–250,000 grants for projects reducing inequalities and benefiting women, youth and vulnerable groups across Latin America and the Caribbean.



Closes 8 April 2026

CAPACITY BUILDING

ProNET Training

10-Module SME Programme

Covers strategic planning, quality assurance, product development, digital marketing, financial management and export readiness. Designed to take businesses from growth-stage to export-ready.

10 Modules

OUR PROGRAMMES (Upcoming Opportunities)

FINANCE READINESS

OECS MSME Finance Readiness Workshops

1-day diagnostic workshops in St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica & St. Kitts. MSMEs complete a finance readiness diagnostic and build a 90-day action plan.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Caribbean Digital Transformation Masterclass

5-day immersive programme: cloud tools, AI & data analytics, e-commerce, digital marketing and cybersecurity. Special focus on women- and youth-led MSMEs.

E-COMMERCE

Virtual E-Commerce Accelerator (VEAP)

Structured programme covering online store development, payment integration, logistics, fulfilment and analytics. Available across CARIFORUM.

INVESTMENT FORUM

Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF)

Returns 2026, hosted in Barbados. Targets investment-ready projects of US\$3M+ in sustainable agriculture, green economy, digital transformation and logistics.

AGRIBUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS

Caribbean Export's reach in the agriculture & agri-business sector (October 2023 – Present)

1,324

Total Agri-Business Beneficiaries

Oct 2023 to present

11%

From CARIFORUM States

5

Agri-Segments Supported

Across the region

SECTORS COVERED

Agro-Processing

AgTech

Farming

Fishing & Aquaculture

Nutraceuticals

Value-Added Agribusiness

We focus on value creation, not primary production — supporting businesses that transform raw materials into export-ready products.

Supporting Caribbean businesses to move up the value chain

Standards & Certification

Helping businesses meet international food safety, quality and certification requirements to access global markets.

Branding & Market Positioning

Building distinctive Caribbean brands that resonate with international buyers and command premium prices.

Export Readiness

Training, diagnostics and advisory services to prepare businesses for the demands of export markets.

Commodity to Value-Added

Facilitating the shift from raw commodity exports to differentiated, processed, higher-margin products.

MARKET ACCESS & TRADE PROMOTION

Connecting Caribbean agrifood businesses to international buyers through targeted trade platforms

Agroalimentaria

SIAL Paris

ANUGA

VitaFoods

Specialty Fine Foods

Havana International Fair

Everything Vincy Plus Expo

Absolutely Caribbean Virtual Trade Show

Africa Trade Missions

Outcomes: International buyer exposure | B2B deal facilitation | Export standards compliance | Caribbean brand visibility

ACCESS TO FINANCE & GRANTS

Blended support combining grants, technical assistance and investment facilitation

BRIDGE (Digital & Green)

Supporting the twin transition — grants for digital adoption and green economy investments to future-proof Caribbean businesses.



Direct Support Grants Programme (DSGP)

Targeted grants for export-oriented businesses across CARIFORUM states to scale operations and access international markets.

Direct Assistance Grants Scheme (DAGS)

Equipment upgrades, certification, process improvements and sustainability investments. Co-financing model leverages private sector investment.

Dominican Republic Grants Scheme

Dedicated programme supporting SMEs in the Dominican Republic with export development and capacity-building finance.

CE-CDB Technical Assistance Programme

Hands-on advisory and technical support, pairing businesses with expert consultants to address competitiveness and market access gaps.

CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM 2026

- Hosted in Barbados • Investment-ready projects requiring US\$3Mn – US\$5Mn+
- Sustainable Agriculture | Green Transition | Digital Transformation | Trade and Logistics

Packaged Projects (2023–2025)

USD 54.8M

Sustainable Agriculture

USD 87.6M

Green Economy

USD 29.1M

Digital Transformation

TOTAL PIPELINE

USD 172 Million

KEY INSIGHTS & LESSONS

1

Access to finance remains the most binding constraint for Caribbean agrifood entrepreneurs.

2

Many firms lack investment readiness — formalisation, financial records and business planning need strengthening.

3

Market access drives innovation and standards improvement across the agrifood value chain.

4

Blended support (grants + technical assistance + market access) delivers the most impact.

5

Women- and youth-led agrifood businesses need dedicated, targeted pathways to investment.

Thank You

Questions & Discussion

Mr. Wayne Elliott

Head – Technical Programmes | Caribbean Export Development Agency

www.carib-export.com



Thank you

