



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

T11TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) REGIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RPSDP) IMPACT REPORT 2017-2022

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA BENEFITS 2017-2022

USD361,556.75
awarded to
14 FIRMS
via the
Grant
Programmes


99
participated

in **6 training and certification programmes** held in country

1
firm

participated in the **Absolutely Caribbean Trade Show**

332 stakeholders


benefitted from at least **34 different interventions and 32 webinars**

2 stakeholders

attended **trade missions, expos, and conferences**


1 participant
benefitted from the **WE-Xport programme**

3 stakeholders were
present at the
CAIPA activities


1
firm
benefitted from the
OECS Youth Accelerator

CARIBBEAN EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CARIBBEAN EXPORT)

THE ONLY REGIONAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS ORGANISATION OF THE FORUM OF CARIBBEAN STATES (CARIFORUM).

Caribbean Export works closely with the CARIFORUM Directorate, relevant government ministries across the Caribbean, as well as with other public-private sector agencies that have responsibilities to develop and promote business, trade, and investment.

Caribbean Export is in its fifth year of implementing the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Regional Private Sector Development Programme (RPSDP), which began in 2017 and will end in 2023. With funding of **USD29,011,075** under 11th EDF RPSDP, together with contributions from CARIFORUM beneficiary states, the Agency has been able to support over **12,402** stakeholders in 2017-2022 from the **15** countries across the region, impacting the growth of the region's private sector.

Antigua and Barbuda has seen **332** participants (entrepreneurs, firms, BSOs, and government ministries) benefit from at least **34** different Caribbean Export interventions and **32** webinars during the 2017-2021 period of Caribbean Export's implementation of the 11th EDF RPSDP.



“Without the direct assistance grants schemes, my business would have never been able to see the rewards it has had date!”

-
Lamblion Group Co Ltd.

One of the most direct ways in which Caribbean Export has achieved private sector development is through its flagship funding programme, the Direct Assistance Grant Scheme (DAGS). The Agency has awarded USD 3,976,003.06 in direct assistance grants to 108 CARIFORUM firms over the period 2017-2022. There were two Calls for Proposals made in 2018 and 2019. In Antigua and Barbuda, Caribbean Export awarded a total of USD203,214.11 (USD186,982.66 in 2018 and USD16,231.47 in 2019) via the DAGS to 6 firms, representing the manufacturing/agro-processing and tourism sectors.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency with funding from the EU developed the Direct Support Grant Scheme (DSGP) a non-reimbursable grant valued between USD5,000 – USD 16,000, provided for CARIFORUM firms to implement approved projects. Since January 2020, the Agency has launched **2** successful calls under the DSGP. **149** beneficiaries were awarded grants totaling USD3,416,140.11. From Antigua and Barbuda **7** firms were awarded grants totaling USD143,342.64. **3** under the 2020 call and the remaining **4** in 2021.

The Agency also collaborated with the Caribbean Development Bank to launch the Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) on May 31, 2021. The TAP provided 100% coverage of eligible costs or a maximum of USD15,000.00 per grant. The collaboration resulted in the disbursement of USD935,289.55 to 61 beneficiaries. **1** firm from Antigua and Barbuda (**MSB Enterprise**) benefitted from the programme receiving USD14,999.99.

Beneficiaries of grant funding originate from a multiplicity of sectors. **Tourism (9) Manufacturing (2), Agriculture/ Agroprocessing (2) and Services-ICT (1) were amongst the greatest impacted sectors.**

The Productivity Network (ProNET) training is designed for owners and managers of CARIFORUM SMEs operating primarily in the manufacturing sector to enhance business efficiency and effectiveness. The training was launched in 2010 and is executed in partnership with GIZ and local BSOs, comprising of 10 modules, which cover key areas on managing and enhancing the competitiveness of a business.

Caribbean Export's collaboration with the World Bank's Entrepreneurship Program for Innovation in the Caribbean (EPIC) saw the launch of the Caribbean Investment Facilitation Project (CIFP)/LINK-Caribbean. This programme supports the on-going development of a structured business angel investing ecosystem in the Caribbean (Caribbean Business Angel Network - CBAN) and the distribution of investment facilitation grants (Co-Investment Grant and Investment Readiness Grant). During the period, the Agency awarded a total of USD650,000.00 in Co-Investment Grants to 10 firms and USD350,000.00 in Investment Readiness Grants to 14 firms. USD20,000.00 was also provided through the 5-5-5 Pitch Competitions.

Supporting SMEs through capacity building is a key component of the Agency's work. The delivery of training and certification, and increased access to market intelligence including improving SMEs knowledge of relevant trade agreements, contributes towards this component. 99 participants from Antigua and Barbuda participated in 6 such initiatives held in country.

Caribbean Export also provides export promotion support to SMEs through market penetration initiatives including trade missions, expos, and conferences. For the period 2017- 2022, Caribbean Export supported and assisted approximately 364 participants from firms within various CARIFORUM States, to attend approximately 29 trade mission and expos. A total of 2 stakeholders from Antigua and Barbuda benefitted from this support.

Investment promotion is another important area of focus for Caribbean Export. As the Secretariat for the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA),

Caribbean Export's work in investment promotion is focused on capacity building, brand development and promotion, research and information, advocacy, and supporting the sustainability of the CAIPA. 3 stakeholders from Antigua and Barbuda were present at four CAIPA activities executed by Caribbean Export.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency hosted the Absolutely Caribbean Virtual Tradeshow (ACVT) on November 5, 2020. The event benefitted forty-seven (47) CARIFORUM firms from alcoholic beverages (8 firms), natural cosmetics (10 firms), natural products (18 firms) and sauces and condiments (11 firms) sector. 1 firm from Antigua and Barbuda (**Antigua Distillery Ltd**) benefitted from this intervention.

Caribbean Export continually renews its emphasis on fostering environments to increase employment creation, inclusiveness; particularly for youth, women, and indigenous groups in CARIFORUM States, through targeted interventions that provide new and innovative frameworks for growth and development.



Jacqueline Cort-Thomas, Villas at Sunset Lane.

The WE-Xport programme was designed in 2018 to support Caribbean women in business to start exporting or increasing the exports of their products and services. The programme provided support to twenty (20) women-owned businesses within CARIFORUM, towards the improvement of their export development and competitiveness. The WE-Xport programme cohort included the manufacturing firm **Lindengrove Corporation (Villas at Sunset Lane)** from Antigua and Barbuda.

The OECS Youth Accelerator was created in 2020 in partnership with the OECS CBU to provide business coaching for youth owned MSMEs in the OECS to develop their export capacities and competitiveness. 14 youth-owned firms from the agribusiness, manufacturing, information and communications technology (ICT), and sustainable energy sectors, participated in the project. 1 firm from Antigua and Barbuda, **Mec Designs**, benefitted from this Accelerator.

During the virtual tradeshow, exhibitors engaged in



two hundred (200) B2B meetings.

Seven themed webinars



based on the sectors of interest were hosted with industry experts during the tradeshow.

The ACVT attracted

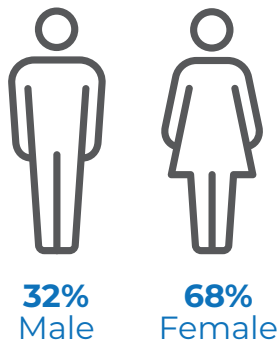


seventy (70) qualified buyers, four hundred and fifty (450) registrants and two hundred and forty-three (243) attendees.

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Lamblion Group Co. Ltd.

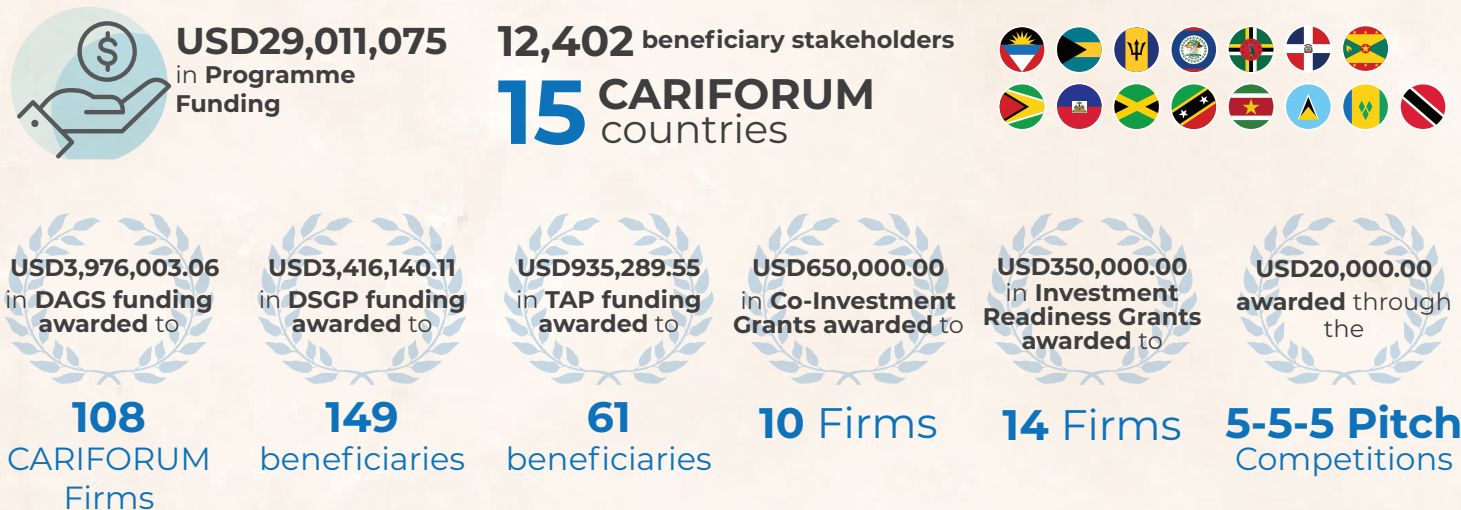
The **gender distribution of Antigua and Barbuda stakeholders that participated at Caribbean Export’s interventions over 2017-2022** was



The **sectors that benefitted from the Agency’s interventions included:**



11th EDF RPSDP (2017-2022) Statistics at a Glance



Please note that the participants total provided does not reflect the total number of beneficiary firms, as one firm is likely to have participated in multiple Agency interventions and would be counted as a participant for each. Further, a single firm may have sent multiple participants to an intervention.