



BELIZE



11TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) REGIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RPSDP) IMPACT REPORT 2017-2022

BELIZE BENEFITS

2017-2022

484 stakeholders

Total Grant Funding for Belize was **USD305,177.05** awarded to

13 FIRMS

1 participant benefitted from some activities of the WE-Xport programme



benefitted from at least **38 different in-person interventions and 39 webinars**



11 firms

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



participated in the **Absolutely Caribbean Trade Show**

144 participated

10 stakeholders



presented at the **CAIPA activities**



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



1 firm benefitted from the **IICA 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 **12,482** stakeholders in 2017-2022 from the **15** countries across the region, impacting the growth of the region's private sector.

Belize has seen **484** stakeholders (entrepreneurs, firms, BSOs, and government ministries) benefit from at least **36** different in-person interventions during the 2017-2022 and **39** webinars during the 2020-2022 period of Caribbean Export's implementation of the 11th EDF RPSDP.

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 USD3,976,003.06 in direct assistance grants to 108 CARIFORUM firms over the period 2017-2021. There were two Calls for Proposals made in 2018 and 2019. In Belize, Caribbean Export awarded a total of USD188,401.39 (USD94,381.93 in 2018 and USD94,019.46 in 2019) via the DAGS to **6** firms, representing the of manufacturing/agro-processing, tourism, and agriculture 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 – USD16,000, provided for CARIFORUM firms to implement approved projects. Since January 2020, the Agency has launched 2 successful call under the DSGP. **149** beneficiaries were awarded grants totaling USD3,416,140.11. **3** firms from Belize (**Belize Chocolate Company, Calico Jack's Village Ltd. and Rainforest Remedies Limited**) were awarded grants under the 2020 call and **1** firm (**Finca Chocolates Investments Ltd**) was awarded under the 2021 call for a total of USD71,775.67.

The Agency also collaborated with the Caribbean Development Bank to launch the Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) on May 31, 2021. The TAP will provide 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. **3** firms in Belize were awarded grants under the TAP (**Smiling Meats, Intranet Systems and Umbraland Boots**) receiving USD44,999.05.

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. From January 2017 to December 2022, the Agency hosted **19** ProNET training sessions benefitting at least **227** CARIFORUM participants. Belize has benefitted from **4** trainings as at the end of December 2022.

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. USD15,000.00 was also provided through the 5-5-5 Pitch Competitions.

“Working with Caribbean Export Development Agency means working with an organization that is about quality, production and the export development of firms”

- **Belize Chocolate Company**



Top:
Wilana Oldham,
Hot Mama's
participating in
SIAL, France 2018
Left:
Hot Mama's
product selection

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. **144** Belizean stakeholders participated in **6** such initiatives held in Belize.

Caribbean Export also provides export promotion support to SMEs through market penetration initiatives including trade missions, expos, and conferences. For the period 2017- 2019, 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 **9** stakeholders from Belize benefitted from this support.

Caribbean Export also sponsored 93 firms to attend the 4th CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum in Frankfurt, Germany, the flagship event for the Agency in 2019. The Forum provided the platform for firms and BSOs to exhibit their products and services to 68 European buyers and engage with potential investors. **2** companies from the Belize, **Travelers Liquor Ltd** and **Aunt Sadie's Belize Limited** (formerly known as Hot Mama's) benefitted as participants at the event.

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. **2** firms from Belize (**Naledo Belize Ltd** and **Aunt Sadie's Belize Limited (Hot Mama's Belize)**) benefitted from this intervention.

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.

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. **10** stakeholders from Belize were present at the seven CAIPA activities executed by Caribbean Export.

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.

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 agro-processing

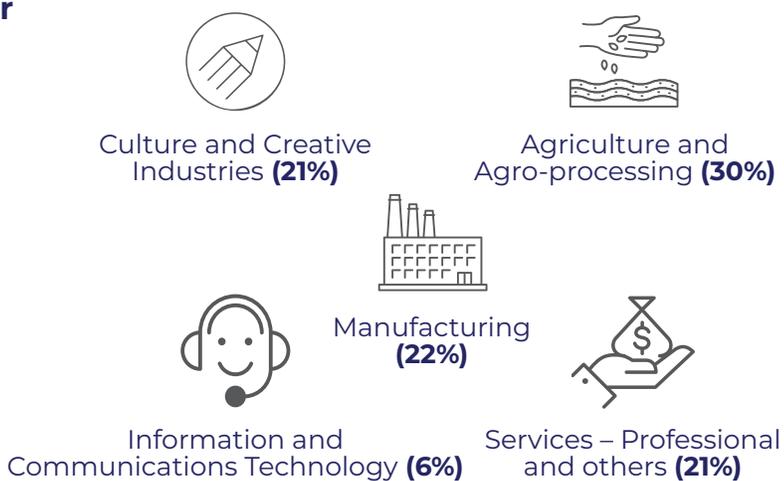
firm **Hot Mama's from Belize**. In addition, Hot Mama's participated in SIAL France in 2018 and the 4th EU-CARIFORUM Business Forum in 2019.

The Agency executed the IICA Youth Accelerator from August 2020 in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). This accelerator aimed to develop the export capacities and competitiveness of youth owned MSMEs in CARIFORUM. 8 agro-processing firms benefitted from this accelerator. **1** company from Belize, **Belize Tropical Golden Honey**, benefitted from the Accelerator.

The **gender distribution of Belizean 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



USD29,011,075
in Programme
Funding

12,482 beneficiary stakeholders

15 CARIFORUM
countries



USD3,976,003.06
in **DAGS** funding
awarded to

108
CARIFORUM
Firms

USD3,416,140.11
in **DSGP** funding
awarded to

149
beneficiaries

USD935,289.55
in **TAP** funding
awarded to

61
beneficiaries

USD650,000.00
in **Co-Investment**
Grants awarded to

10 Firms

USD350,000.00
in **Investment**
Readiness Grants
awarded to

14 Firms

USD20,000.00
awarded through
the

5-5-5 Pitch
Competitions

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.