

## **Invitation to participate in Caribbean Export Development Agency's mission to Accra Ghana**

The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) invites interested CARIFORUM SMEs to submit their applications to participate in a trade and investment mission to **Accra Ghana** scheduled for **5-9 June, 2023**.

### **Background**

Caribbean Export, as the regional trade and investment agency for CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic, has as its remit the promotion of Caribbean trade globally and steering investments our way. Consistent with our 2021-2024 strategic plan, "Building Business, Transforming Lives for a Resilient Caribbean" we continue to identify new and innovative ways to bolster this agenda including looking at opportunities with non-traditional partners.

In recent years, Caribbean- Africa relations have been building momentum. In 2021 the inaugural Caribbean Community (CARICOM)- Africa Summit was held. At our landmark Caribbean Investment Forum in November 2022 held in Trinidad Tobago, we welcomed the Secretary General (SG) of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as our featured guest. In his remarks, the SG emphasised the opportunities in Africa as the fastest growing continent on the planet.

This changing dynamic is bearing fruit. In December 2022, the Board of Directors of the African Export - Import Bank (Afreximbank) approved US\$1.5 billion funding to enable member states of CARICOM to tap into the Bank's financial instruments to assist identified economic sectors and work to strengthen local financial institutions to source finance for MSMEs.

For this reason, Caribbean Export believes it is timely to undertake a mission to Accra Ghana to explore the trade and investment opportunities between the two regions. Consequently, Caribbean Export will therefore lead a small delegation of SMEs and business/investment support organisations from the region to participate in this programme.

### **Objectives**

The objective of the mission will be to explore opportunities for trade, investment and cooperation between countries of the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) and Ghana.

Specifically, the mission will seek to:

1. Identify potential partnerships for joint activities to promote trade and investment between CARIFORUM countries and Ghana
2. Facilitate Business – to – Business meetings between CARIFORUM SMEs and private sector counterparts in Ghana in identified sectors.

The sectors of focus for this activity are:

1. Renewable energy;
2. Agriculture and Agriculture Technology (AgTech); and
3. Information Communications Technology (ICT) including Financial Technology (Fintech).

Caribbean Export will provide:

- A business-to-business matchmaking programme to meet with businesses/associations in Ghana.
- Return airfare to Accra Ghana, via the most direct and economical route for one representative of each participating company.
- Ground transportation and meals (where applicable) as part of the business exchange programme.

Participants are responsible for their accommodation, meals, ground transportation including to and from the airport, and any other associated expenses.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Firm must be registered and operating in a CARIFORUM country
- Firm must be operating in one of the 3 sectors of focus identified
- Firm must be in operation for at least 3 years and demonstrate sound management capabilities
- Firm must be able to demonstrate export potential/or desirous of forming cross-border alliances and international partnerships

To be considered for this mission, please complete the [Expression of Interest](#) by **midday AST 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**. For answers to queries, email the team at [africamission@carib-export.com](mailto:africamission@carib-export.com)

Successful applicants will be informed by **14<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**, on their selection.

Please note that submission of the form does not guarantee participation/selection. Incomplete forms will not be considered.