

Strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure: Training and Equipment for Conformity Assessment Project

EPA & CSME STANDBY FACILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

A EUR118,960 project to strengthen the national quality infrastructure in order to facilitate trade outside of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

ABOUT

The Strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure: Training and Equipment for Conformity Assessment Project will see the procurement and installation of a Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) Instrument along with consultancy services that will train the staff of the Chemistry Laboratory at the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) in the use of the instrument. Housed and managed by the SKNBS, the equipment will ensure that Saint Kitts and Nevis has the capacity to test the quality of products made by agro-processors so they can comply with globally recognised standards. It will also assure that products meet contaminant residue requirements and be able to determine nutritional content. By testing the quality of these products agro-processors will now be able to tap into markets such as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the United Kingdom (UK), the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA). The Project supports the ongoing work of upgrading the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) of the Federation.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The Project will provide a wide range of benefits which includes:

- Expanding SKNBS' capacity to undertake additional needed conformity assessments through the use of the GC-MS;
- Improving trade facilitation and consumer protection;
- Providing services to the agro-processors especially nutritional analysis for labelling that will facilitate improved market access, therefore contributing to the diversification of the economy and increased employment opportunities;

- Developing the agro-processing industry which can be a means to mitigating economic fallout from significant decreases in the exportation of services;
- Building the capacity of the SKNBS to inspect, test and certify quality standards;
- Tapping into markets such as the CSME, the United Kingdom (UK), the EU and the USA;
- Assuring product quality and safety;
- Ensuring local suppliers can meet and adhere to globally recognised standards. Failure to meet such standards will inevitably result in revenue losses and potential loss of market share.

EPA AND CSME STANDBY FACILITY

The Project was approved for implementation by the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and CSME Standby Facility Steering Committee in 2021. The EPA and CSME Standby Facility is a EUR 8.75 million programme financed by the European Union being managed by CDB to support projects in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago (CARIFORUM). It is intended to build capacity in the region and better position businesses to trade within CARIFORUM and the European Union.

