



DEVELOPING COCONUT WATER AND COMPOSITE FLOUR VALUE CHAINS IN SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has tried to reduce its reliance on banana exports since the European Union phased out preferential treatment to producers from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Against this background, there are indications that the development of coconut water and composite flour (based on cassava and sweet potato) value chains offers prospects for growth, as market demand for the end products is constantly increasing. However, in order to succeed in modern markets many challenges need to be addressed, including issues related to standards and food safety, among others. The project provided technical assistance to introduce an inclusive and market-oriented development approach, and to improve the capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour (the Ministry of Agriculture) to develop the two promising value chains in the country.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards (SVGBS) and farmers' organizations were trained in value chain development and upgrading strategies to support market-led sector development. Two national value chains (coconut water and composite flour) were analysed and further developed to coordinate public and private sector stakeholders, and to formulate and implement respective strategic action plans to strengthen both value chains. Six processing enterprises were engaged in public-private sector collaboration to improve operations and food safety requirements, and as a result are now in a better position to meet market requirements. The participatory learning approach and best practices introduced in value chain strengthening and food safety activities provided accessible and innovative ways of working for both farmers and processors. Exposure to discussions and demonstrations in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and food safety made it possible for a larger number of stakeholders, including farmers, to pursue desirable practices for quality improvement.

IMPACT

As a result of improving post-harvest handling to meet consumer preferences and market requirements, the participating enterprises are now better equipped to produce products in accordance with market requirements, creating greater opportunities for expanding production and income generation.

KEY FACTS

Cash received

USD 58 875

Duration

March 2016 – December 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour

Beneficiaries

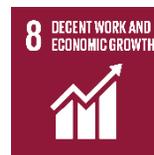
Staff of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour; small-scale farmers; agroprocessing enterprises; assemblers, agroprocessors, collectors, marketers, traders and retailers involved in production and marketing of coconut water and cassava and sweet potatoes processing; as well as relevant providers of support services to the two value chains

ACTIVITIES

- Two value chain coordination committees established at national level for the composite flour and coconut water subsectors; and regular meetings conducted during project.
- Three training sessions organized to improve capacities of Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholders of the two targeted value chains to manage value chain development and upgrading process.
- Individual value chain analyses completed for the coconut water and composite flour subsectors, the results of which were used to support the development of a participatory upgrading strategy.
- Coconut value chain workshop (25 participants) and composite flour stakeholder workshop (24 participants) conducted.
- Finalization of analytical reports and upgrading strategies and action plans for both value chains completed.
- Series of farmer-buyer meetings conducted for stakeholders in both the composite flour and coconut water subsectors.
- GMP initial and final inspections carried out by SVGBS to assess situation of five production facilities.
- Training workshop in GMP, food safety standards and packaging and labelling organized by SVGBS for eight sweet potato and cassava processors and support institution representatives; and workshop held on GMP and other applicable national standards for ten vendors, processors, workers and government officers in the coconut water subsector.
- Label consultations and technical assistance provided to the enterprises on requirements for label compliance.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Project Code

TCP/STV/3501

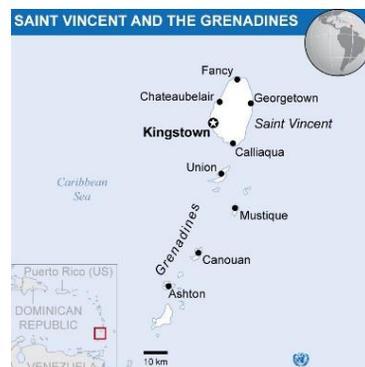
Project Title

Support to the Development of the Coconut Water and Composite Flour Value Chains

Contact

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