



Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean

SAMOA Pathway priority areas	Sustained & Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth with Decent Work for All; Climate Change; Disaster Risk Reduction; Water and sanitation; Food security and nutrition; Waste Management
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 2, 8, 9, 16
Geography	Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Surinam, and Trinidad & Tobago.
Partners	<p>Donor Partners: EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Partner countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Surinam, and Trinidad & Tobago.</p> <p>Implementation partners: International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).</p> <p>“Alliances for Action” partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominican Republic: Ministerio Agricultura, Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana (JAD); Instituto Dominicano de Investigaciones Agropecuarias y Forestales (IDIAF), Bananos Ecológicos de la Línea Noroeste (BANELINO), Grupo Rica • Jamaica: Coconut Industry Board (CIB), Scientific Research Council (SRC), Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) • Guyana: National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED), Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC), Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) <p>Associated partnerships: SAFIN (Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network).</p>
Timeframe	Phase 1: 2013 – 2018 Phase 2: 2019 - 2022
Beneficiaries	The beneficiaries are smallholder coconut farmers, plantation operators, owners and workers, communities, young people and women in coconut product processing and marketing, and Small & Medium Enterprise coconut products manufacturers.

SIDS-Specific

The aim of the “Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean” partnership is to revitalize and sustainably develop the coconut industry in order to contribute to the economic development and improvement of livelihoods in the Caribbean.

The partnership - a collaboration between European Union (EU), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) - is implemented with the *Alliances for Action (A4A)* approach – a model that engages smallholder farmers and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) for attracting interest and investment in the coconut industry.

The A4A approach is clustered around five areas: 1) Understand, 2) Convene, 3) Transform, 4) Invest, and 5) Impact.



Measurable and Monitorable

Monitoring and evaluation of the partnership are centrally coordinated through the International Trade Centre (ITC).

On the regional level, a *Regional Stakeholder Platform* has been established to serve as an overall coordinating mechanism and for advancing regional policy.

On the country level, *National Stakeholder Platforms (NSPs)* have been established to ensure full engagement of stakeholders in the collection and analysis of data against a set of verifiable indicators, which forms the basis for preparing progress reports to donors.

Achievable & Accountable

All relevant partners and stakeholders are consulted on the development of roadmaps and for outlining responsibilities and expectations of each stakeholder.

The partnership utilizes the *Lead Farmer Model* – a model based on principles of peer learning, local and frugal innovation, and bottom-up development for achieving sustainable development.

On the local level - using this approach - a designated farmer leads a development cluster with the responsibility of supporting and nurturing knowledge exchange between local farmers. Each cluster - which also monitors progress of a peer - is linked with buyers, investors, research and extension services for a market-driven sustainable approach.

In this three-tiered scheme, development clusters support local farmers, National Stakeholder Platforms provide knowledge exchange at the national level, and the Regional Stakeholder Platform facilitates overall coordination and ensures accountability.

Resource-based & results focused

The partnership has resulted in several concrete results, including improved governance at regional, national and local level; a proven enabling structure for empowering smallholder farmers with the strong engagement of women and youth; increased readiness for sustainable investments in the region; mobilization of communities and stakeholders; and the establishment of a knowledge exchange network.

Although some challenges have been identified, including the required support needed to sustain engagement of smallholder farmers, the approach has proven to be quite successful in engaging stakeholders at all levels, and for encouraging product and market diversification in order to mitigate economic, social and environmental risks.

Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties

The project had its first phase stretching from 2015 to 2018. Through the A4A approach, the partnership has been successful in engaging and instilling a sense of ownership of stakeholders in the process. A guiding principle of the partnership has always been the notion of leaving no one behind and empowering vulnerable groups through an inclusive development process.

Partnership development

The *Alliances for Action (A4A)* methodology promotes coordination and collaboration between key national and regional stakeholders along the coconut value chain to address value chain issues.



In the region, it's the first time public and private sector representatives are forming alliances to unlock the potential and attract new investments and develop a sector in an inclusive and impactful manner. The effective intervention scope of the partnership is only limited by its level of funding. However, ITC and CARDI are working with national, regional and international partners to devise models that are locally owned, result in sustainable outcomes, and can be scaled to reach a sizable development impact.

Overall Learning

The main challenge has been the extensive level of support required to sustain the partnership, including forming agreed upon goals and maintaining stakeholder commitments. The inclusion of smallholder farmers in the overall planning and decision-making is a particular challenge as they are not always able to leave the farm, thus leaving them out of the process and undermining the guiding principle of the partnership of strong stakeholder engagement.

Future plans and sustainability

With the endorsement of the Caribbean Community Council for Trade and Economic Development and the Caribbean Forum Directorate, a proposal has been submitted to the European Union for a second phase of the partnership, which would seek to increase its impact, scale, scope and sustainability from 2019 to 2023.

The coconut sector has been included within the group of priority commodities selected by the Council for Trade and Economic Development, given the significant impact on economic development and food security it has in the region.

More information

- <http://ccidp.cardi.org/en>

Contact information

Mr. Matias Urrutigoity (urrutigoity@intracen.org)