



Ministry of Food Production

Implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy for Sugar in Trinidad and Tobago

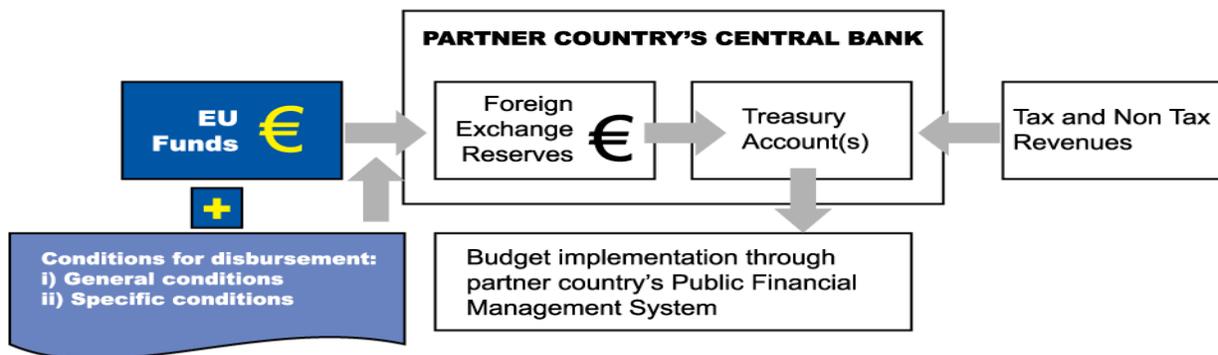
Programme Brief

Introduction

When the Government of Trinidad and Tobago made the decision to divest and restructure the sugar industry, the European Union (EU) stepped in to support the country to address the potential negative impacts of the restructuring, support agricultural and economic diversification, food security and sustainable development. A National Adaptation Strategy was developed and subsequently the EU allocated funding of €75 million over the implementation period 2007 to 2016.

This programme funding is given as Sector Budget Support, meaning that the money is directly transferred to the Consolidated Fund under the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and overseen by the Ministry of Finance (shown below in Figure 1). The implementing agency is the Ministry of Food Production.

Figure 1: Sector Budget Support – Funding Through Government Budget



Source: European Union

Some of the activities already successfully implemented include:

- ❖ Action plan to combat praedial larceny adopted by Cabinet
- ❖ Four (4) mega farms established on lands formerly owned by Caroni (1975) Limited in production.
- ❖ Revised agricultural incentive programme adopted by Cabinet
- ❖ Access roads constructed for 17 agricultural estates within 28-divisions
- ❖ Completion of training programmes for approximately 2,500 farmers

The activities currently being implemented are:

- ❖ 2000 acres of former Caroni lands under agricultural production
- ❖ Integrated Water Management Plan establishing the framework for drainage and irrigation systems for 70% of Caroni Lands used for agricultural purposes inclusive of Waste Water management
- ❖ Local Agricultural production increased by 5% in year 1 and 10% in year 2
- ❖ Inclusion of Green Buffer Zones and Water Reservoirs on 70% of areas targeted for industrial and residential estates on Caroni Lands.

Technical Assistance/Training

Along with funding, the EU has also provided Trinidad and Tobago with technical assistance. Projects undertaken to date include:

- ❖ **The Felicity Irrigation Project** - Consultants were engaged to assess the present situation with respect to irrigation/drainage development on the former sugar lands; review the existing plan for water resources development and management and identify a range of options for the development of a sustainable water management (irrigation/drainage) system in the Felicity area. The beneficiaries of this project include approximately 750 farmers in the Felicity area.
- ❖ **Support to the Statistical Unit of the Ministry of Food Production to collect, process and evaluate Agricultural Production data** – When the office charged with the responsibility of collecting and analysing national statistical data was shut down, agricultural data was unavailable in a timely manner. This technical assistance programme helped to ease the problem by assisting officers of the Statistical Unit to undertake data collection and analysis independently. The major objectives of this technical assistance project were to design and develop a database system that could be used to facilitate the imputation of data; populate the database with agriculture data for the past ten (10) years - from 2005 to present - provide training to the members of the Unit on data processing and evaluation and develop documentation such as a process training manual on the use of the data captured in the database.
- ❖ **Market Basket Survey for Pesticide Residues on Agricultural Produce in Trinidad and Tobago** - This technical assistance project provides assistance to the Ministry of Health's Chemistry Food and Drug Division to conduct a survey to determine use patterns of pesticides by local farmers as well as provide a Market basket survey of pesticide residues on selected agricultural produce and to provide recommendations for the development of specific regulations for pesticide residues in agricultural produce under the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Act 1979. This data will allow the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to create legislation to ensure that consumers are provided with healthy local foods.

The collaboration between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the European Union is aligned with several pillars of the National Policy towards creating sustainable development.

Pillar 1: People Centred Development - The Ministry of Food Production will continue to empower farmers to increase food production.

Pillar 2: Poverty Eradication and Social Justice - The Ministry of Food Production will promote opportunities to earn a sustainable livelihood from agricultural activities.

Pillar 4: A More Diversified Knowledge Intensive Economy- Greater emphasis will be placed on the diversifying the economy to increase the contribution of the Agriculture Sector to the Gross Domestic Product of Trinidad and Tobago.

Pillar 7: Foreign Policy- The Government will continue to endeavour fruitful ties with the European Union