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What is the aim of the Agricultural Incentive Programme (AIP)?

The aim of the AIP is to act as a catalyst for the development of a modern and technologically driven Agricultural Sector while complementing the current Strategic Plan of the Ministry.
What are the elements of the AIP?

The elements of the AIP are:
- Vehicles for Agriculture
- Machinery and Equipment
- Water for Agriculture
- Soil Conservation
- Land preparation/Land Clearing
- Establishment and Rehabilitation of Crops (coconut/citrus/coffee/rice)
- Protected Agriculture Systems
- Integrated Pest Management
What are the elements of the AIP?
(Continued)

- Establishment of housing for livestock (sheep/goat/cattle/pigs/poultry/rabbits)
- Waste Management
- Fisheries (boat engines/new pirogues/aquaculture)
- Post Harvest Operations and Marketing
- Youth in Agriculture
- Security for Agriculture
- Agro-processing
Who can apply?

Any person who is registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) as a farmer/company/co-operative/apiarist/fisherman/service provider/agro-processor and demonstrates that they are actively involved in Agriculture.
• **What are the requirements to access the AIP?**

Applicants MUST:

- be a registered farmer (Citizen of Trinidad and Tobago)
- 18 years or older
- provide proof of interest in land documents (deed/lease/statutory declaration/land and building tax)
- provide proof of original receipts for goods and services. Farmers are also required to provide copies of ALL documents
- register their fishing vessel with MALF/THA
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- **Where can a farmer apply?**
  Applications can be made at the Ministry’s Agricultural Offices and also at the Forestry and Fisheries Division Offices.

- **When can a farmer apply?**
  A farmer can apply from Monday to Fridays during the hours of 8:00am and 4:00 pm except on weekends and public holidays.
Can a farmer access all the incentives?

A farmer can access all the incentives once he/she meets the eligibility criteria for that particular incentive.

How long are invoices/bills valid for incentives?

Invoices/bills are valid for one year. However, it is advised that purchases should be done after the registration process has been approved by the Ministry.
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- **Are online invoices considered for incentives?**
  Yes. Farmers are required to provide the exchange rates from Central Bank along with the invoice for online purchases.

- **Is prior approval required before an application is done?**
  Yes. Farmers should contact the Agricultural County Offices before:
  - construction of buildings
  - construction of ponds and
  - establishment or rehabilitation of crops
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- Is labour cost included in the construction of buildings?
  No. Calculations are done on items purchased for construction only.

- Are mobilization costs included in the construction of ponds?
  No. Calculations are done on pond construction only.
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- **Would Site visits be conducted?**
  
  Yes. Site visits will be conducted by extension officers for all applications.

- **Are there any opportunities given to farmers with expired registration cards?**
  
  Yes. Farmers who have begun the renewal process, passed the field inspection and are awaiting the new card can access the AIP.
• **What is the time period for payment of an Incentive?**

Incentives are paid based on the availability of funds. However, farmers must meet all the requirements for each incentive to be recommended for payment.

• **Can a farmer be disqualified for an Incentive?**

*Yes.* Due to non-conformity to general and specific eligibility criteria.
• **Are there procedures for complaints?**
  Yes. Complaints shall be made to the County Agricultural Officer where the application was submitted.

• **Does the Ministry offer concession on importation of Agricultural Equipment?**
  Yes. Requests should be made directly to the Office of the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.

• **Can a farmer apply for Incentives on items that concessions were received?**
  No. A farmer CANNOT apply for incentives on items that concessions were already received.
What are the requirements for Motor Vehicle VAT Exemption?

Farmers must first meet the requirement for the Vehicle Incentive to qualify for Motor Vehicle VAT exemption. Please contact your respective Agricultural County Office for additional information.

Where can a farmer apply for the Motor Vehicle VAT exemption?

Applications are done at the County Offices of the Ministry.
• **When can a farmer apply for the Motor Vehicle VAT exemption?**

Farmers **MUST** make an application before he/she purchases the motor vehicle. It is advised as soon as the farmer receives the quotation for the vehicle.

• **Would a site visit be done for the Motor Vehicle Vat Exemption?**

**Yes.** Site visits will be conducted by Extension Officers for all applications.
How long does the Motor Vehicle Vat Exemption take?

Vat Exemptions should take approximately three (3) weeks.

How often can a farmer apply for Motor Vehicle Vat Exemption?

Farmers are eligible for Motor VAT exemption every four (4) years.
Where can I collect my Motor Vehicle Vat Exemption?

Documents are collected at the Regional Administration Offices (North and South) and taken to the VAT Administration Office, Board of Inland Revenue, Port of Spain.
AIP FAQs
FISHERIES
What are the Fisheries Incentives offered?
Fuel Rebate, Vehicle Subsidy, Vessel Subsidy and Aquaculture Subsidies

Who qualifies for Fisheries Incentives?
Registered Vessel Owners and Registered Aquaculturists
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- What is the required documentation needed to apply for incentives?

(a) Proof of Vessel Ownership
(b) Proof of Aquaculture Registration
(c) Original Invoices for goods and services
(d) National ID
(e) Certified Copy for Vehicle Subsidy
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- **What is the value of the incentive (monetary/percentage)?**

  (a) Fuel - Gasoline/Litre - (0.12%)  
  - Diesel/Litre - (0.10%)  
  - Oil - (0.75%)

  (b) New Pirogues - (25% to maximum of $5000)

  (c) New multipurpose vessels - (20% to a maximum of $100,000)

  (d) Used multipurpose vessel - (10% to a maximum of $50,000)

  (e) Upgrading commercial fishing vessels to HACCP standards - (25% to maximum of $10,000)
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- How are Incentives paid?

(a) Fuel rebate is paid quarterly
(b) Vehicle is paid in tranches over 3 years
(c) Vessel Subsidy is a one off payment
Is there a time period in which applications are to be made?

(a) Not more than 3 months from fuel invoice date for fuel subsidy applications

(b) Not more than 6 months from invoice date for vehicle or vessel subsidy applications

How long does it take to process incentive applications?

(Approximately one (1) month from receiving the application)

Note: All incentive payments may vary due to the availability of funds
AIP FAQ’S FORESTRY
What is the Forestry Incentive Programme?

The Programme assists in arresting and reversing the cycle of deforestation and land degradation on private lands.
**What is this Programme about?**

- The programme encourages the promotion of sustainable land-use practices;
- The development and promotion of economically and ecologically viable forestry and agro-forestry systems;
- The restoration of degraded private lands;
- The optimization of timber production on private lands and;
- The generation of employment opportunities in rural/agricultural communities.
What are the Incentives offered for this Programme?

The Programme offers Six (6) Incentives:

1. Watershed Rehabilitation – This incentive encourages landowners to plant forest seedlings on their land, in return, they are given back 50% of the cost of the operation up to twenty-five hundred dollars ($2,500.00) per hectare.
What are the Incentives offered for this Programme? (continued)

2. Machinery and Equipment – Farmers involved in rehabilitation of watersheds, taungya gardens and the establishment of fire traces and nature trails are eligible for 50% of the cost up to twenty-five thousand dollars 25,000.00).
3. Perimeter Fire Trace-
This incentive is given to encourage farmers to establish fire traces around and within their estate, to help prevent the loss of vegetation due to fires. Farmers are eligible for 20% of the cost up to two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00) per kilometre.
What are the Incentives offered for this Programme? (continued)

4. Vehicles-
This incentive is available to farmers when a minimum of two (2) hectares of land is rehabilitated in any year, with a minimum of four (4) hectares targeted for rehabilitation. Vehicle incentives are paid in five annual tranches, each equivalent to one-fifth (1/5) of the value of the incentive.
What are the Incentives offered for this Programme? (continued)

5. Taungya Land Clearing-
This incentive should not exceed eight hundred dollars ($800.00) per hectare for land clearing. The farmer is required to grow food/agricultural crop simultaneously with the Forestry Divisions establishment of forest trees.
What are the Incentives offered for this Programme? (continued)

6. Establishment of Nature Trails - Nature Trails has to be recommended by the Tourism Development Corporation (TDC) and must be 1 kilometre in length and 2 metres in width. Farmers are eligible for 15% of the costs up to five hundred dollars ($500.00) per kilometer.
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

• **How often are these incentives paid?**

Incentives are paid on the availability of funds.

• **Who is eligible for this programme?**

Any citizen of Trinidad and Tobago eighteen (18) years and older;
Private land owners who legally owns a minimum of 1.0 ha or two and a half acres of land.
How can I join the Forestry Incentive Programme?

Persons can register for the programme at the following:

Farm Road St. Joseph - 225-3818;
Balisier Avenue San Fernando - 225-376 or
Email – privateforestryfd@gmail.com
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- What are the documents required to register with this programme?

An Original and Copies of the following:

1. Identification Card (ID card) or any other form of accepted National Identification

2. Certificate of Title/Deed - ownership of freehold land
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- **What assistance can I expect if I am not familiar with this Programme procedures?**

The Forestry Division will assist any individual in the following:

1. **Provide technical assistance to farmers, community groups and other organizations**
2. **Process incentive claims to assist farmers in establishing and maintaining plots**
3. **Monitor and Assess Projects’**
4. **Conduct basic training in forestry and agro-forestry practices**
• I am a registered farmer with the Agricultural Incentive Programme (AIP). Am I also eligible to register for the Forestry Incentive?

Yes. However, your agricultural farming land must be clearly defined from your forestry land in the required hectarage.
I am a registered farmer for both agriculture and forestry. I recently purchased a Brush cutter, can I submit two (2) incentive claims?

NO. Only one incentive claim can be made. All claims are thoroughly checked to ensure that there is no duplication.
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

• Do I have to pay for the assistance/service of forest officers?

No. This service is Free

• Where can I obtain further information?

Interested Persons can send their request to privateforestryfd@gmail.com for further information
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

For further information, please visit or contact any of the following Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Offices:

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION NORTH (RAN)
112 Farm Road, Curepe
Tel: 663 - 2052, 663 - 3531, 663 - 4774, 645 - 6284
Fax: 645 - 9963

COUNTY ST. GEORGE WEST
- 112 Farm Road, Curepe
Tel: 662 - 5127 / 1886
Fax: 662 - 3898

COUNTY ST. ANDREWS/ST. DAVID
- El Reposo Demonstration Station
  Oropouche Road, Sangre Grande
Tel: 668 - 2449
Fax: 668 - 2855

COUNTY ST. GEORGE EAST
- Amazon Road, Wallerfield
Tel: 667- 8488
Fax: 667- 8441
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

For further information, please visit or contact any of the following Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Offices:

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION SOUTH (RAS)
Inverness Avenue, San Fernando
Tel: 225 - 4727, 225 - 4637
Fax: 225 - 3289, 225 - 3290

COUNTY NARIVA/MAYARO
- Poole Agricultural Office
  Mayaro Breeding unit
  Pond Road, Ecclesville, Rio Claro
  Tel: 644 - 2326 / 2882
  Fax: 644 - 2326

COUNTY VICTORIA
- Breeding Unit Trace, Craignish,
  Princes Town
  Tel: 655 - 3428, 655 - 5637
  Fax: 655 - 7526

COUNTY ST. PATRICK EAST
- Ramjattan Street, Penal
  Tel: 647- 8460, 647-1167, 647- 4451
  Fax: 647- 4672

COUNTY ST. PATRICK WEST
- Cedros Breeding Unit
  Reid Road, Point Fortin
  Tel: 648 - 2384 / 1426
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

For further information, please visit or contact any of the following Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Offices:

**FISHERIES DIVISION**
- # 35 Cipriani Boulevard
  Newtown
  Port of Spain
  Tel: (868) 623 - 6028 / 8525
  Fax: (868) 623 - 8542
  Email: fishdiv@gov.tt

**AQUACULTURE UNIT**
- Aquaculture Demonstration Centre
  Bamboo Settlement #2
  Churchill Roosevelt Highway, Valsayn
  Tel: (868) 462-4348, 462-4337, 462-4344
  Email: aquacultureunit@hotmail.com

**MARINE FISHERY ANALYSIS UNIT**
- Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
  Western Main Road, Chaguaramas
  Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.
  Tel: (868) 634-4504; (868) 634-4505
  Fax: (868) 634-4488
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

For further information, please visit or contact any of the following Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Offices:

FORESTRY DIVISION
- Long Circular Road
  St. James
Secretary to Conservator of Forests
  Tel: 225 - 3868
Secretary to Deputy Conservator of Forests
  Tel: 225 - 3861
Receptionist – Tel: 225 - 3865

FORESTRY DIVISION
Inverness Avenue, San Fernando
Tel: 225 - 4727, 225 - 4637
Fax: 225 - 3289, 225 - 3290

SOUTH CENTRAL CONSERVANCY
Assistant Conservator of Forests – 225-3760
Receptionist – 225-3774

SOUTH EAST CONSERVANCY
Assistant Conservator of Forests – 225-3740
Receptionist – 225-3747
Forestry Information Unit/Library –225-3846
Secretary to Director, Forest Resource Inventory and Management – 225-3856
Wildlife Section -225-3837
National Parks Section – 227-3792
Community Forestry – 225-3821
Private Forestry/Incentive Unit – 225-3817

SOUTH WEST CONSERVANCY
Assistant Conservator of Forests -225-3761
Receptionist – 225-3774
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

For further information, please visit or contact any of the following Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Offices:

TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (THA)
Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries
Milshirv Administrative Complex
Cor. Milford & Shirvan Road
Tobago
Tel: (868) 639 - 1966 Ext 3584 / 3585