

Agri Info

The Quarterly Agriculture Newsletter of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

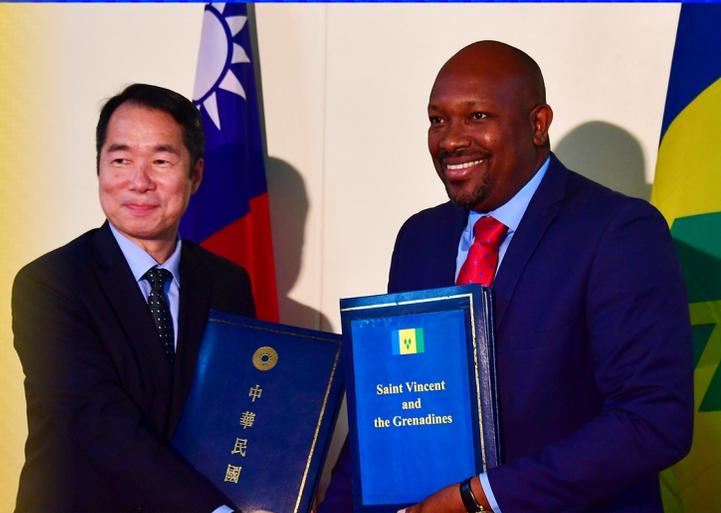


IICA Supports Resilience Building in Rural Communities

pg 8

An agreement signed to revitalize the Banana Industry.....

pg 4



Fisheries Summer Program “Changing perception through Fishery Education”

pg 12

For more information, feel free to contact us at the Communications Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture at 456-1111 ext. 312/472 or email us at citumaf2@hotmail.com

Table of Contents

Pg#

Newsarticles

4

An agreement signed to revitalize the Banana Industry

8

IICA Supports Resilience Building in Rural Communities

10

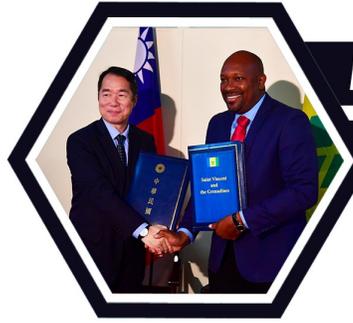
Award Giving Ceremony for Backyard Gardening Project

12

Fisheries Summer Program 2019
“Changing perception through Fishery Education”



What's Inside?



An agreement signed to revitalize the Banana Industry

The Government of the Republic of China on (Taiwan) collaborated with the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to invest in a project geared towards revitalizing the Banana Industry. The project

budgeted at an estimated Four Million, One Hundred and Eighty-five Thousand United States Dollars (US\$4,185,000), will be executed over a period of four (4) years.

The Project aims to address key problems such as low unit output per acre which can be addressed by technical improvement through upgrading farmer's capability of cultivation management and the capacity of extension in the Ministry of Agriculture. The objective of the project is to increase unit output to 25 tons per hectare in banana plantation.

At a signing ceremony held on Tuesday 7th May 2019, Ambassador of China on Taiwan, His Excellency, Mr. Calvin Ho stated that the agriculture industry plays a major role and sets the foundation for the development of any country." He indicated that the project will play a meaningful role in reviving the industry and looks forward to working alongside the necessary personnel to achieve the desired goals of the project.

Hon Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour expressed his pleasure with the numerous developments made within the agricultural sector, such as, increase in cocoa production, exportation of cattle, cultivation of medical cannabis etc. He viewed this project as a step towards getting the agricultural sector back to its previous state as one of the most lucrative industry in St. Vincent and Grenadines.

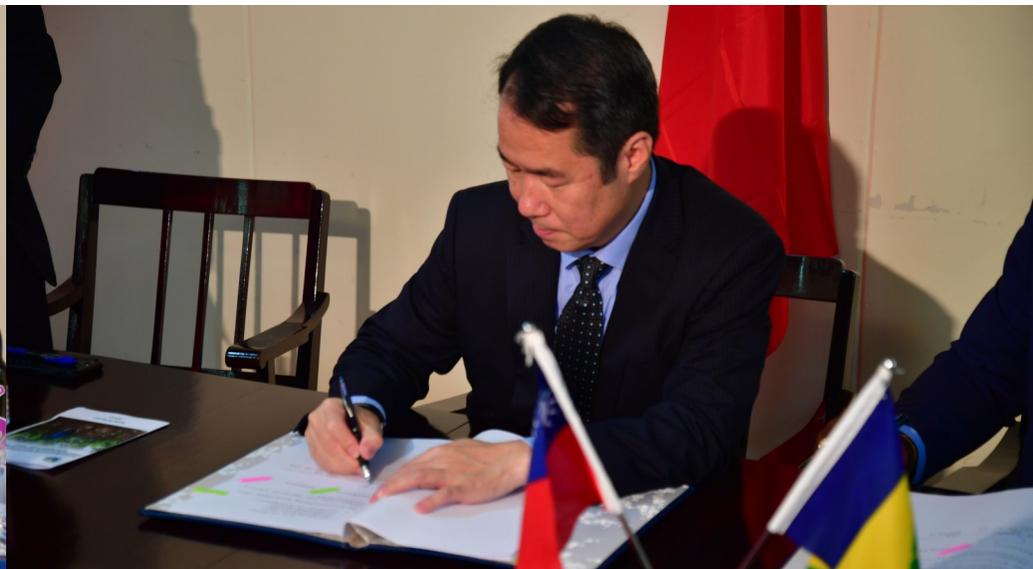
He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Taiwan for deciding to fund the project.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, Mr. Raymond Ryan expressed his optimism for the banana industry in the near future.

Mr. Ashley Cain, Chief Agricultural Officer, dreamt that one day the youths of this land will recognized the landscapes and seascapes which we have here, we have a potential in our country for viable sustainable industry and I would want them to learn the science, the business and other dimensions. He claimed that with support from the Taiwanese, we could rebuild not only the banana industry but also other rural areas.



His Excellency Mr. Calvin Ho and Agriculture Minister Hon. Saboto Caesar exchange agreement documents at the launch of the Banana Revitalization Project.



Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) along with farmers at the signing of the agreement on the Banana Revitalization Project.

DUTY FREE CONCESSION ON MOTOR VEHICLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF ST VINCENT AND GRENADINES

FARMERS INCENTIVE PROGRAMME



Farmers receiving concession under this program, will be exempted from payment of **50%** import duty and consumption tax on pick-ups and small trucks **1.5 tonnes or LESS**.

REQUIREMENT: The farmer must have conducted commercial farming on at **LEAST Three (3) acres** of land for **three (3) consecutive years** prior to granting of concession.



Vehicles imported under this programme **MUST** carry a special registration number

If the vehicle is sold within **five (5) years**. The farmer must pay a duty in accordance with the following schedule, except in the case where the vehicle is sold to another farmer who is granted concession under this program

TIME FROM DATE OF PURCHASE/IMPORTATION	PERCENTAGE (%) OF DUTY PAYABLE
LESS THAN 12 MONTHS	100%
13-24 MONTHS	80%
25-36 MONTHS	60%
37-48 MONTHS	40%
49-60 MONTHS	20%
OVER 60 MONTHS	NIL

All required information submitted on the application form must be **verified** by your **District Extension Officer** and **certified** by the **Chief Agricultural Officer**

All applications are then submitted with supporting documents to the Director General, Ministry of Finance

* Any farmer who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Director General may appeal his decision within **Twenty-One (21) days** to the Cabinet

APPLICATION FORMS
AVAILABLE AT:
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

OECS Agriculture Competitiveness (AGRICOM) Project

Project Objective:

Enhancing Access to Markets and Sales for Competitively Selected Farmers and Fisherfolk

What's on offer:

Matching Grants for Competitively Selected Business Projects for

- **Farmers**
- **Fisherfolk**
- **Aggregators**
- **Agroprocessors**

Benefits from up to:

- **US \$8,000 (80%)** for Farmers and Fishers
- **US \$120,000 (50%)** for Agroprocessors, Aggregators (Marketers, Cooperatives and Lead Farmers or Fishers)

For More Information, Contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Richmond Hill
Kingstown - St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Tel: 456 - 1111 Ext 311 or 321

Email: agricomsvg@mail.gov.vc or agricomsvg@gmail.com



NOTE : The deadline for the call for Business Idea Profile Proposals for the OECS Agriculture Competitiveness (AGRICOM) project has been extended to Friday 1st November 2019.



IICA Supports Resilience Building in Rural Communities

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is continuing to support St. Vincent and the Grenadines' to build resilience to disaster impacts, through its technical cooperation agenda for the country.

In its latest initiative, IICA introduced a new methodology for assessing community resilience. This was taught to eighteen participants drawn from across public sector agencies, at a workshop held July 15-18, 2019 in Kingstown and the rural community of Troumaca in the North West. Dr. Chaney St. Martin, IICA's International Specialist in Soil and Water Management, facilitated the workshop over the course of the four days.

According to IICA's Technical Specialist at the Delegation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Michael Dalton, the use of the methodology allowed for a determination of a community's priority areas of concern in relation to climate-related impacts, and the courses of actions they would wish to see implemented to address those concerns and in the process improve resilience of their community. As an immediate output, participants were able to interact with community stakeholders in the target area - North Leeward - and propose potential courses of actions to address these issues.

Mr. Dalton further indicated that IICA's action were part of a continuous process of support by the Institute to build resilience in the agricultural sector and rural communities. IICA's support in this regard he said entailed :



Michael Dalton, IICA's Technical Specialist give opening remarks at the workshop

- Undertaking studies on climate-related impacts on the environment and farming, designed to inform the actions of technicians, policy makers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector;
- Education and training of technicians and other stakeholders in the area of climate science and natural resource management;
- Short term project activities to provide relief to farming communities immediately after disaster impacts; and
- Implementation of climate smart adaptation measures on farms to demonstrate to farmers, the use of such technologies in their farming practices.

He emphasized that these efforts have all been in support of a wider programme of action by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour and the state as a whole to build resilience to climate change as detailed in goal four of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025) for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

More information:

Michael Dalton, IICA's Technical Specialist at the Delegation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Awarding Giving Ceremony for Backyard Gardening Project



Fruits and vegetables are some of the most important foods. Good quality fruits and vegetables are naturally healthy and consist of vitamins and minerals that play an essential role in the normal functioning of the human body.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour is continuing its quest to ensure that the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have sustainable food sources. Borrowing the theme for World Food Day 2018, “*A Zero Hunger World is possible by 2020,*” And how is this possible?

It’s through the Home Gardening initiative of the Rural Transformation Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation and Information. They hosted an award ceremony for the schools that took part in the 2018 National School Gardening Competition.

At a prize giving ceremony held on 8th March 2019, Mrs. Currel Thompson-Fergus, Senior Technical Officer in the Rural Transformation Unit mentioned that the competition commenced in April 2018, where twenty-six schools registered to participate in three (3) categories which consisted of crops only, livestock only and Mixed (Crops and Livestock). She expressed her admiration for the work done by each school. She sees this competition as a means of accomplishing one of the Ministry’s goals, “Youths in Agriculture”.

Senior Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Joycelyn Blake-Browne congratulated all participating schools and winners. She mentioned that there is an improvement in the School



Mrs. Currel Thompson-Fergus, Senior Technical Officer in the Rural Transformation Unit giving some opening remarks.



Senior Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Joycelyn Blake-Browne giving remarks at the event.

Feeding Program in schools across the country, and encouraged the schools to get involved in the competition as this could complement the School Feeding Program as far as the consumption of vegetables is concerned. She expressed her gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Teachers and parents for their efforts in ensuring that the children got involved in this activity.

The Winners:

Positions	Schools
1 st	Sandy-Bay Gov. School
2 nd	Adelphi Secondary School
3rd	Mustique Gov. School



2nd place winners of the 2018 National School Gardening Competition, Adelphi Secondary School



1st place winners of the 2018 National School Gardening Competition, Sandy-Bay Gov. School



3rd place winners of the 2018 National School Gardening Competition, Mustique Gov. School.



Fisheries Summer Program

Changing perception through Fishery Education

In an effort to reignite an interest in the Fisheries Sector, the Fisheries Division has been exposing the nation's youths to different job opportunities available in the fisheries sector through its annual Fisheries Summer Program.

This year, forty youths participated in the Program which ran from the 15th -24th of July under the theme, ***“Changing perception through Fishery Education.”***

The aim of the programme was to:

- Increase knowledge about the marine environment and fisheries management.
- Encourage appreciation for marine resources
- Provide basic hands-on training in navigation and safety, fishing gear and methods, product development and other aspects of fisheries, and
- Further promote their studies in fisheries related areas.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Kris Isaacs, Senior Fisheries Officer said, “Young people constitute a large part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and it is you, the youths who will have to live longer with the consequences of the current environmental decisions that we as adults make.” He went on to highlight a few environmental issues that we are currently facing, such as climate change, bio-diversity loss and balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship. He stressed the importance of instilling good teaching habits to the students as it relates to how they can utilize natural resources to ensure reduction of wastage and enabling persons to be more responsible for the sustainability and protection of the environment and resources around the country.

Dr. Rowena Kirby-Straker of Wake Forest University, North Carolina, also a past employee of the Fisheries Division and founder of the Fisheries Summer Programme, which started in 2010, encouraged the students to take part in the activities as they were a lot of potential for entrepreneurship and research. Commenting on the summer programme, she exclaimed, “It can be an experience that can change your life!”

The summer program was facilitated by Mr. Ernie Bracken, Senior Fisheries Assistant and constituted of two teams: Orange shirts- Lion Fish and Grey shirts – Coral Reef. Other than being sensitized on the different careers in the fisheries sector, the participants were taught several beach safety tips by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard, involved in a treasure hunt, fishing competition and beach cleanup activities.



Fisheries Summer Program Activities

General Plant Quarantine Import Requirements

Plant Quarantine is one of the first lines of the introduction of unwanted plant pest and diseases into any country. Unwanted pests and diseases could seriously affect agricultural crops of economic importance. The impact of Moko and black sigatoka on bananas, the mango seed weevil on the mango industry and the fruit fly on a number of different fruits are prime examples of what unwanted pests and diseases could do to the agricultural sector.

One of the responsibilities of the Plant Quarantine Unit is to ensure that the Phytosanitary requirements for the import of plant, plant material and produce into St. Vincent and the Grenadines are met. This is achieved through an import certification and inspection process. For a consignment of plant, plant material or produce to meet the required import requirements:

PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO IMPORT THE ABOVE PLANTS/PLANTING MATERIALS AND PLANT PRODUCES ON THE CONDITION THAT:

- (a) The consignment is free from soil, trash, organic matter, pest and diseases;
- (b) The consignment is accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate;
- (c) The consignment will be subject to inspection by a Plant Protection/Quarantine Officer, and released if found to conform with the Phytosanitary

Regulations:

- (d) The consignment must be obtained from pest free area.
- (e) The consignment must have label that is clearly visible and legible
- (f) Meet Specific condition (s) of entry.



Import permits are required for:

1. *Importation of plants, ornamentals plants, plant parts and seeds for cultivation and propagation or for personal use;*
2. *Importation of plants and plant products used for processing or for any other purpose.*
3. *Importation of cereals, pulses, bulbs and other plant materials for consumption;*

Please note the following are only allowed under special Import Requirements:

1. *Importation of live insects, microbial cultures, algae, bio-control agents and mushrooms;*
2. *Importation of soil, peat, organic fertilizers and other growing media of plant origin;*
3. *Impodified Organisms (GMO) for research purpose.*
4. *Sand, stones and aggregates*
5. *Used Tires*
6. *Used Vehicles*
7. *potentially contaminated equipment (such as used agricultural, military and earthmoving equipment)*
8. *packaging materials including dunnage (for example loose wood or matting)*

*The above is not an exhausted list. Please Consult the Plant Quarantine Unit for additional information.

NB: An application for an Import permit shall be made at least seven (7) days to six (6) weeks prior to the importation of the consignment.

WORLD FOOD DAY 2019
October 16 2019

OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE.
HEALTHY DIETS. FOR A #ZEROHUNGER WORLD



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

AGRI
EXPO SVG
2019



REPOSITIONING AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

16TH -19TH OCTOBER 2019
DECOMMISSIONED
ET JOSHUA AIRPORT COMPOUND

ON DISPLAY

- **AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISH PRODUCTS**
- **ARTS & CRAFT**
- **BACKYARD GARDENING MODELS**
- **HORTICULTURE**
- **IRRIGATION SETUP**
- **RAIN WATER HARVESTING**
- **AGRICULTURAL LECTURES**

FOR THE CHILDREN

BOUNCING CASTLE

HORSE AND DONKEY BACK RIDE

AND MUCH MORE!!

ADMISSION IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!!!



UNWANTED Cuban Treefrog

Osteopilus septentrionalis



Why We Need To Get Rid Of Them?

- They prey on native frogs, small lizards, snakes, bird eggs etc.
- Hard to identify because there are several variation of the same frog.
- Their skin secretes a mucus that can irritate eyes and nose and even trigger asthma attacks.
 - Breeding rate is high (4000 plus) especially in water ways.
- They invade toilets and can clog drains; they invade power boxes and cause power outages.
 - Thrive in swampy, wet areas.

If you see the Cuban Tree Frog, call the Forestry Services at telephone 784-457-8594/ 457-8502.

Take photos and email to forestrysvg93@gmail.com

Invasive!!

