

Terms of Reference

Value chains mapping analysis

Background

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization for trade-related technical cooperation in developing countries.

The Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (OLAC), as geographical section of the Division of Country Programmes (DCP), is responsible for defining the ITC strategy and coordinating all interventions in the region, either for individual countries or at the sub-regional and regional levels.

The Green & Inclusive Value Chains section (GIVC) within the Division for Sustainable and Inclusive Trade (DSIT) is responsible for sector-wide transformation, improving market linkages and private sector competitiveness linked to responsible production and consumption, climate resilience, food security, sustainable standards, and market systems. The section utilizes the Alliances for Action (A4A) methodologies to implement projects in its Inclusive and Sustainable Agribusiness value chains areas of work.

The A4A is a participatory partnership model that focuses on increasing the competitiveness of MSMEs, smallholder farmers and value chain actors while ensuring respect of environmental, economic, and social requirements. A4A seeks to develop responsible, inclusive and sustainable trade by aligning investment and coordination across the full ecosystem of VC actors and by building competitiveness especially in agribusiness. The establishment of partnerships and networks is an essential underlying element of the A4A approach as it contributes to mobilise collaboration, expertise and investment into the alliances along with sustainability of the approach over time.

The European Union (EU) funded project “Strengthening nutritious and sustainable value chains in the Caribbean through Alliances” aims to support agri-MSMEs, cooperatives and producers (smallholder farmers and fishers) to become more competitive and resilient through value addition, diversification, and new market development at the regional level.

The project is aligned with various EU and CARICOM strategies, including the CARICOM strategy related to “Regional Food Production and Productivity Towards a Sustainable Import Replacement Programme: 25% by 2025 Reduction in the Regional Food Bill”, which has developed a comprehensive import-replacement programme with accompanying targets for selected commodities, geared towards achieving the overall 25% by 2025 objective.

The purpose of this assignment is to provide qualitative information essential for sector selection in up to four (4) countries in the framework of the EU funded project “Strengthening nutritious and sustainable value chains in the Caribbean through Alliances”. The analysis will focus on production capacities, smallholder inclusion, upgrading opportunities, and dietary aspects. The expert will complement this analysis with an assessment of trade and market intelligence, considering import substitution potential, tariffs, and non-tariff measures. The main objective of this assignment is to select or recommend product combinations ensuring a balanced diet and value addition potential. Specific products will be selected from the following categories: cereals, fruits and vegetables, roots and tubers (e.g. cassava) as well as sea resources (algae, fish, fish flour, molluscs).

Description of Duties/Responsibilities

The Consultant will work under the overall guidance and supervision of the Head of the Agribusiness team and the Senior Trade Promotion Officer and will:

- Evaluate the production capacities of countries in the Caribbean region of relevant sub-sectors including roots & tubers (e.g. cassava), fruit and vegetables, cereals, and fisheries, and by including the perspective of potential regional buyers.
- Provide inputs to the ITC analysis on trade dynamics and market intelligence to identify import substitution potential and assessment of existing tariffs and non-tariff measures that may impact the selected sectors.
- Examine the dietary patterns in the Caribbean region, highlighting key food security considerations and recommend priority crops according to healthy diets.
- With info compiled above, map key actors (Corporates, Farmer organizations, food processors, importers, exporters) in the target markets and origin countries for imports.
- Identify opportunities for upgrading, technology adoption, and value chain enhancements.

Expected Outputs and Timelines

The consultant will provide the following outputs:

- Output 1: Production Capacities Assessment Report; by 29 February 2024
- Output 2: Inputs to the Trade and Market Intelligence Report; by 31 March 2024
- Output 3: Dietary Aspects Analysis Report; by 15 April 2024.
- Output 4: Mapping of key actors; by 30 April 2024
- Output 5: Written report with upgrading, value addition potential in the region; by 15 May 2024.

Travel

Possible travel to the Caribbean

Skills

Ability to produce documents for official circulation among institutions and international stakeholders (memos, reports, business proposals).

Ability to design, develop, monitor and coordinate work plans.

Good understanding and direct knowledge of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean.

Good understanding of the agri-business sector.

Ability to respect deadlines and to work in a team.

Availability to travel for short periods to rural areas in the Caribbean.

Education

Post-graduate degree (BA/BSC or other)

Experience

At least 5 years of relevant professional experience

Experience working with ITC in different projects will be an asset.

Language

Advanced knowledge of English.