

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Design and Implementation of a Regional Ag-Tech Pilot Project for the Caribbean
▪ TC Number:	RG-T3677
▪ Team Leader/Members:	SOLIS AHUMADA, GALILEO HUMBERTO (IFD/CTI) Team Leader; PILGRIM, VALARIE (IFD/CTI); FRANKLYN, RUSSELL LEVON (IFD/CTI); KELLY CASTILLO, EMILY LETICIA (IFD/CTI); SWIFT, KIERON KERN EDWARD (IFD/CTI)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	01 Apr 2020
▪ Beneficiary:	The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, OECS
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$500,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	500000 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/CTI - Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD - Institutions for Development Sector
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Productivity and innovation

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to improve the capacity of public and private sector actors to collaborate in the design and implementation of commercial Ag-Tech solutions (viable technologies and the associated business models) for contributing to the improvement of agriculture sector productivity in the Caribbean.
- 2.2 The increased design, development and deployment of technologies in the agricultural sector (otherwise known as Ag-Tech), to support advisory services, improved market linkages, supply chain management, financial access and overall macro-sector intelligence, has the potential to address some of the key competitiveness constraints and promote modernization of the sector. In turn, a more competitive agricultural sector would contribute to increased production of fresh and processed products for local consumption, a decreased food import bill for many countries across the region, and increased food security.
- 2.3 Given the small scale of Caribbean countries, economies of scale are harder to reach when it comes to research, extension, training, procurement and distribution of inputs, transportation, marketing and trade. Product specialization and regional co-operation offer some scope for alleviating these problems. Foreign trade is also important for the development of agriculture whether within or beyond the regional boundaries.

- 2.4 A holistic regional approach to Ag-Tech will help to improve the coordinated planning and funding of agricultural development, avoid duplication and the wastage of resources. Systematic effort in planning and setting up a regional Ag-Tech approach would result in the streamlining of public and private sector efforts, ensuring the judicious use of scarce resources and providing a clear direction to the private sector, development agencies, donors and other stakeholders.
- 2.5 This TC is a collaborative effort of the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), governments of the region and the agricultural research and development community.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Regional Ag-Tech Maturity Assessment Study.** This component will finance the conduct of research on the state of Ag-Tech in the Caribbean. The expected output is an ag-tech maturity assessment study of a selection of Caribbean countries.
- 3.2 **Component II: Regional Ag-Tech Challenge.** This component will finance the design and execution of a Regional Ag-Tech Challenge, including a communication strategy, call for proposals, application guidelines and selection criteria, multiple design thinking workshops, and management of the proposal evaluation process.
- 3.3 **Component III: Ag-Tech Pilot Project Implementation.** This component will finance the implementation of three of the pilot projects designed in Component 2, at a maximum budget of USD \$125,000 each. The projects will be selected through a competitive process or “challenge”.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Regional Ag-Tech Maturity Assessment Study	US\$25,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$25,000.00
Regional Ag-Tech Challenge	US\$100,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$100,000.00
Ag-Tech Pilot Project Implementation	US\$375,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$375,000.00
Total	US\$500,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$500,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF), approved under GN-2851, was jointly designed with donors to be a Bank Executed Program, through the CCPF's Facility Coordination Unit (FCU) established in COF Barbados. The execution of this TC will be carried out by the Bank through the Competitiveness and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI) and the FCU. Project output indicators will be monitored following the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework of the CCPF.
- 5.2 The CCPF will liaise with all participant countries. In accordance with GN-2851, OECS territories are eligible beneficiary countries under the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The major risks to achieving the planned objectives are: (i) lack of access to secondary data to do the regional ag-tech maturity assessment in Component 1; (ii)

technical complexity of creating robust pilot designs by stakeholders, without which they will not be successful in accessing funding in Component 3; and (iii) inability to commercialize the tested technologies after the conclusion of the pilot.

- 6.2 The mitigating factors are: (i) engaging expert intermediaries such as IICA, FAO and CARDI to provide data and referrals to relevant data sources; (ii) applying a participatory, inclusive approach such as a design thinking workshop through which a range of knowledgeable actors will be invited and enabled to participate actively in sharing tacit and codified information; and, (iii) involving private sector stakeholders with vested interests in the success of the pilots directly in their implementation so they can develop first-hand experience of the value of Ag-Tech interventions, and so that their experience can positively influence their decision to sustain the investment required to replicate and scale the outcomes of the pilots.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "C".