**CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)**

The CROSQ manages several projects related to regional standards and quality, including projects funded through EU 10th EDF[[1]](#footnote-1) and German Development Cooperation executed by the German National Metrology Institute (PTB).

Identified Complementarities with Regional and National Initiatives:

* A Regional Quality Policy draft will be finalized in November of this year and sent to COTED for approval in April of next year. The Guyana national quality policy being designed under Component 1 will build on and be streamlined with this regional framework.
* The chemistry food and drug lab, which indicated they have land available for building a facility, is being provided technical support from CROSQ to achieve accreditation [1705 Standard for Accreditation (Food Chemistry, Excise Chemistry, Microbiology], ideally by the end of this year. Under Component 2, there is potential to provide much needed equipment and facility.
* The Guyana Bureau of Standards also requires a physical facility to assist them with metrology and calibration services, including perhaps a testing lab for concrete and textiles. There is potential to assess the ability of the project, under Component 2, to provide support in this area.
* The CROSQ, in partnership with PTB, have executed the CALIDENA methodology for quality infrastructure value chains. Guyana has not yet benefited from this project but the organization is willing to provide the methodology for implementation in Guyana utilizing the loan’s funding.
* Under the SPS project, a legislative framework on SPS is slated to be finalized in July and sent to COTED for approval. Guyana’s national quality infrastructure policy can build on that regional framework.

Complementarity with GY-L1059:

* Under Component 1, provide support to the GNBS in also designing a new strategic plan for its organization that aligns with both the regional and national policy framework. As of now, the country has a hybrid document that combines both the GNBS’s strategic plan for its organization and the national quality policy which should arguably be two separate document, the latter comprehensively including the whole network of players that contribute to the quality infrastructure.
* The wording “quality infrastructure value chains” will be used in lieu of “mapping of value chains” to differentiate and explicitly bolster the focus on quality within value chains.
* Labelling standards that meet international requirements and a national brand strategy is crucial to Component’s 3 focus on export and investment strategy and should be emphasized in the project document.
* Two very important ministries in the quality infrastructure are the Ministry of Agriculture (focuses on SPS) and the Ministry of Health (which has the chemistry food and drug department).

Main Project Summaries:

**Title:** “Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of the Commitments Undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures”

**Budget:** 11.7 million Euros

**Background:** The 42-month project is slated for completion in March 2017. The project objective is to

to increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment by creating and/or strengthening the regional and national SPS systems. The project is comprised of three Components: Legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the rea of AHFS and fisheries for national and regional SPS regimes (i.e. model food safety legislation, model fisheries SPS and related legislation, and plant protection and animal health legislation); National and Regional SPS Coordination mechanism in the support of the SPS regime (data collection , management, M&E, and reporting systems established for national regulatory agencies, establishing information sharing and management technology systems and platform for the re regional agencies); and Capacity Building to meet SPS requirements of international trade (training programs for animal health, plant health, and food safety; strengthening and enhancing laboratory systems and networks, training for value chain for industry stakeholders). IICA is the designated implementing Agency for the Project. Guyana can take part in this SPS regional network being established under this project.

**Title:** The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) component of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) – Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (EDF-CRIP)

**Budget:** 7.8 million Euros

**Duration**: 57 months

**Background:** This project is being executed in support by the German Development Cooperation executed by the German National Metrology Institute, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB). The overall objective of the EPA-TBT component is to facilitate intra- and inter-regional trade as well as international competitiveness and sustainable production of goods and services within the CARIFORUM states for the enhancement of social and economic development. The project initiatives being undertaken aim to strengthen the capacity of the National Standards Bureaus (NSBs) in the areas of metrology, standardisation, accreditation and conformity assessment as well as the efforts being made to promote a quality culture in CARIFORUM countries. The private sector plays a strong role in the development of the Regional Quality Infrastructure.

The project will achieve its objectives through six components, namely:

* Strengthening of the metrology infrastructure within the region;
* Strengthening and harmonisation of the standardization infrastructure;
* Operationalization of regional schemes for accreditation, certification and conformity assessment; and
* Develop and operationalise a regional scheme for certification and conformity assessment;
* Build awareness, strengthen the information and communication infrastructure and develop a coordinated knowledge management system;
* Strengthen the institutions CROSQ Secretariat, INDOCAL and the NSBs from an organizational level, as well as to develop a regional framework for market surveillance.

**Title**: The Development of a Demand Oriented and Regionally Harmonised Quality Infrastructure (QI) in the Caribbean (RQI 4 Project)

**Budget:**

**Background**: This project is sponsored by The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and administered by the International Technical Co-operation Section of the German National Metrology Institute - Physikalisch- Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB). The RQI 4 Project is implemented by CROSQ. The project uses the CALIDENA[[2]](#footnote-2) methodological approach to value chain development which focuses on identifying and addressing issues related to quality in a selected value chain. Value chain development is underway Antigua and Barbuda (jams and jellies) and Dominica (hot pepper sauce), Grenada (nutmeg oil), Trinidad & Tobago (poultry), and Belize (shrimp). The value chains represent practical applications for advancing the competitiveness of Caribbean products built on a stronger quality infrastructure. CALIDENA is a demand driven approach which assesses and diagnoses quality infrastructure issues at each level in a value chain, with the aim of increasing competitiveness in the chain. Value chains must satisfy set criterion such as real opportunities for export, experience and advances in chaining, diverse quality services, participation of SMEs in the chain, conscious need to improve the chain and motivation of stakeholders to dedicate time and resources. The process is conducted in three stages – a feasibility stage which assesses eligibility of the value chain to participate in the process; diagnostic stage which takes the form of a workshop and involves identifying and promoting concrete actions that would improve quality services in a value chain; and finally an implementation stage where the actions identified in the diagnostic stage are implemented.

1. Support to the Caribbean Forum of the ACP States in the implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement", is funded through a Financial Agreement between the European Union and CARIFORUM [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CALIDENA combines the Spanish words for quality (calidad) and value chains (cadenas). It is a methodology designed by PTB for a participatory assessment and the promotion of quality infrastructures services in export value chains. More information at [www.calidena.org](http://www.calidena.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)