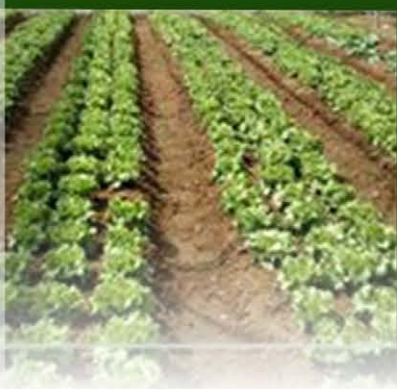


Agri Info

The Quarterly Agriculture Newsletter of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**“AGRICULTURE IS HERE TO STAY”
BUDGET SPEECH 2019**



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Rural Transformation Unit implements Backyard Gardening Project

Fruits and Vegetables are some of the most important foods integral to our daily diet. 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. Borrowing the theme for World Food Day 2018, “A Zero Hunger World is possible by 2020,” the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour has continued its quest to ensure that the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have sustainable food sources.

Statistics show that Vincentians consume less fruits and vegetables than what is recommended in the Food-based dietary guidelines. The Rural Transformation Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture collaborated with the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to implement the “Backyard Gardening Project.” The project is aimed at providing access to nutritious food and to encourage the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

According to Mrs. Currel Thompson-Fergus, Senior Technical Officer, Rural Transformation Unit, this project began in 2016 with ap-



Mrs. Currel Thompson - Fergus, Senior Technical Officer



Fruits and Vegetables on display at World Food Day Exhibition



Fruits and vegetables on display at World Food Day Exhibition



Extension Officer Hooper demonstrates use of organic manure in the background

proximately One hundred and fifty (150) homeowners in Ten (10) different communities. She indicated that persons were appreciative of the fact that they can now embark on their quest to realize healthy eating by growing their own food utilizing biological treatments and methods of pest control with no agrochemical use. Thompson-Fergus added that participants also received training in food handling and preparation.

Mrs. Emril Payne-Richards is a project beneficiary. She encouraged persons to “Dig up the concrete and plant your own food” as opposed to purchasing processed foods with harmful ingredients because it leads to a much healthier lifestyle. She admitted that results are slow-paced but in the end, it would be worth the wait.

Plant Quarantine Export Guidelines

Plant Quarantine is one of the first lines of defense against 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 of the exporting country are met. This is achieved through an export inspection and certification process. For a consignment of produce to meet the required export standard, produce should:

- Be at a well matured stage to promote even ripening as in the case of fruits.
- Be free from soil, pest, and chemical residue
- Be free of visual signs of mechanical and pest injuries, blemishes and bruises as these do not meet the exportation standard and may contribute to spoilage of the consignment.
- Be neatly trimmed and not broken out in the case of stalks, to avoid insect pest from burrowing within the hollowed area from where the stalk was removed.
- Avoid packing produce that show sign of deformities.
- Avoid over-packing:
 1. Packages should be neatly packed at a level that does not allow produce to be easily bruised or crushed during shipment.
 2. Packages should contain one type of agricultural produce to uphold the phytosanitary integrity of the commodity and to avoid any cross infestation in any given situation.
- All packages should be labelled with a distinguishing mark or shippers' number.

To avoid your consignment being confiscated at the port of entry of the importing country, please note that:

- A. An import permit must be presented for Commercial consignment
- B. The consignment for exportation must be inspected by a Quarantine officer to ensure the Phytosanitary integrity.
- C. A Phytosanitary certificate is issued indicating that the consignment meets the stipulated requirements.

For more information, please contact:

Plant Quarantine Unit

Geest Shed

Kingstown

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Telephone Number: 1-784-456-1300

e-mail address: ppq@gov.vc



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

OECS Regional 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



"Agriculture is here to stay"



The preceding headline encapsulates the Hon. Minister's contribution to the 2019 Budget debate at the House of Assembly on Tuesday 5th February, 2019. He drew listeners attention to the fact that despite previous choruses towards a service based economy, there is a clear message that "Agriculture is here to stay." This given the vital role played by the sector in the national economy. He opined that the productive sectors which the Ministry has the mandate to oversee, address poverty alleviation, national economic growth, food security, food safety, food sovereignty and the enhancement of our body politic.

Minister Caesar thanked Almighty God for the achievements of the sector in 2018. He also thanked all stakeholders for their contributions to the various positive achievements realized in 2018. In this regard, the Minister celebrated the efforts of the stakeholders who participated and helped to realize increase export of cattle to Grenada, greater consumption of locally produced food, reduction in the food import bill, increase in fish exports, and the establishment of a modern medicinal cannabis industry recognizing the role played by traditional cannabis growers and farmers.



The Minister juxtaposed the decline and demise of the banana industry albeit the export to the extra regional market against the achievements of 2018 noting that the industry was in decline primarily due to the change in preferential market access for bananas in the EU market. He noted that this will result between 1992-2000 more than 53% of farmers left the industry while earnings fell from 112 million in 1992 to 36 million in 2000. He further highlighted the continued transition in the market place from traditional bananas to fair trade and now to fair trade organic bananas.

To contextualize current and future development in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, Minister Caesar zeroed in on three core factors of production, namely, land, labour and capital. With respect to land, he

addressed land use practices and the limited land space available for agricultural production. He emphasized that between 15-18,000 acres of land was available for production, however much of the land was sloping and was not conducive to the application of modern methods of cultivation. He suggested that significant opportunities for investment and livelihood can be found within our extensive seascape.

In terms of labour, he noted that the labour force is evolving from aging farmers and fisherfolk to a more educated labour force. He suggested that this will help to lay the foundation for the further modernization of the sector.

From the perspective of capital, the Minister posited that the Argyle International Airport has created increased access to markets and attracted more investors, and that there is a greater likelihood for joint venture opportunities between our producers and persons in the marketplace.

Highlighting the success of policy initiatives in 2018, Minister Caesar revealed that the food import bill for the first half of 2018 was EC\$35 million compared to EC\$46 million for the same period in 2017. This, he attributed to a reduction in the return trade by traffickers due to the currency issue in Trinidad & Tobago, the growth of the agricultural cooperatives and sales within the communities.

Addressing the food import bill at the regional level, he noted that an FAO 2013 report showed the food import bill at US\$2.08 billion in 2000, US\$4 billion in 2008 and US\$4.25 billion in 2011 respectively. In light of these figures, there has been a call in the region for the establishment of a consolidated platform for the production and marketing of food not only in the OECS but also in CARICOM. Minister Caesar suggested that St. Vincent and the Grenadines therefore needed to look to the OECS and CARICOM for the marketing of our produce. In this regard, he recommended that under the OECS Regional Agricultural Competitiveness Project to utilize the monies to enhance our marketing opportunities supported by a well-planned and conceived Agri-export strategy.

Shining the spotlight on the capacity of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to produce food, Minister Caesar noted that at a recent Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in Barbados, CARICOM acknowledged that St. Vincent and the Grenadines was the leading exporter of primary produce traded within CARICOM while Trinidad and Tobago was the leading exporter of manufactured food in CARICOM. He added that crop production increased by 3.3% from 75 million lbs. in 2017 to 77 million lbs. in 2018. Banana and Plantain exports to the regional market in 2018 amounted to 1369 tons valued at approximately 2 million dollars. This reflected a 0.8% increase in volume and a 21% increase in value attributable to higher prices in the St. Kitts market.

In other areas of production, there was an increase in hot pepper production from 19,000 kgs for January – September, 2017 to 69,000 kgs during the same period in 2018. The Minister mentioned the role of VincyFresh in the purchasing and processing of hot pepper among 14 different commodities. He added that VincyFresh benefitted from EC\$10 million dollar investment loan from the ALBA Bank. He added that there is the possibility for greater output in 2019 with EC\$500,000 allocated to the Farmers Support Company to support farmers in the production of these and other commodities.

With respect to cocoa and coffee production, he said cocoa exports doubled in 2018 over 2017 from 8 to 16 tons with some 60 farmers contracted with the SVG Cocoa Company to produce and supply cocoa. The Minister added that 14 acres of coffee have been established and approximately 22,000 plants available to be distributed.

Turning to the apiculture industry, the Minister announced that there was growth in honey production which moved from 50 gallons in 2007 to 952 gallons in 2018.

In the area of livestock, there was a 109% increase in the export of cattle in 2018 over 2017. Cattle exports in 2016 -110 heads, 2017 – 145 heads and 2018 – 269 heads. In 2019, emphasis in cattle production would be on the development of artificial insemination and embryo transfer.



Speaking on the modern medicinal cannabis industry, the Minister emphasize the opportunity for the development of a medicinal industry with a focus on cutting-edge science to produce medicines from other commodities such as ginger, turmeric, moringa. He announced that the Medicinal Cannabis Authority should be operational by March 2019.

He also announced that there will be the construction of a new Arrowroot factory in 2019 to be funded by a grant from the Indian Government.

In the Forestry Sector, the Minister praised the staff of the Forestry Department for their work in the protection of the forests which is vital to producing safe water. Additionally, he spoke about the return of two parrots from Germany and the work to be done with the SVG Preservation Fund on the protection and conservation of the Union Island Gecko and the Pink Rhino Iguana.

In terms of the fisheries sector, there was a 104% increase in exports for the period January-September, 2018 compared with 117% for the same period in 2017 over 2016. The Minister revealed that EC\$6.5 million and the employment of 100 persons were realized from the lease of the Bequia, Owia and the Union Island Fisheries Centres towards the end of 2017.

He also spoke of the boost to the sector through the investment of US\$3 million by Rainforest Seafoods to build a processing plant at Calliaqua for the processing of fish, conch and lobster as well interest shown by five other companies willing to invest in the blue economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



***Lettuce being harvested at the Montreal Greenhouse Park**



***Amazona Guildingii**



***Spring Lobster tails**



Amerijet about to transport 36,000 lbs of Lobster, Fish and Conch to Miami



SVG Cocoa company Propagation Facility



Caring for Cocoa Seedlings



Removing hive for honey extraction



Single largest airlift of fish products for SVG to Miami



Coffee Seedlings under Propagation



National Bird of SVG: Amazona Guildingii



Cattle at Kingstown Wharf awaiting shipment to Grenada

Breadfruit Exhibition 2019



Breadfruit is a species of flowering tree in the mulberry and jackfruit family (Moraceae) believed to be a domesticated descendant of *Artocarpus camansi* originating in New Guinea, the Maluku Islands, and the Philippines. Plantation owners brought the breadfruit to the Caribbean to feed slaves, but they did not know that they were giving the slaves one of the most nutritious fruits in the world. Breadfruit is gluten-free and packed with nutrients. It was one of several “super foods” in ancient times. It is high in carbohydrates and a good source of antioxidants, calcium, carotenoids, copper, dietary fiber, energy, iron, magnesium, niacin, omega 3, omega 6, phosphorus, potassium, protein, thiamine, vitamin A and vitamin C.

January 23rd, 2019 marked two hundred and twenty-six (226) years since Captain William Bligh brought five (5) types of breadfruit plants to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and since then the types have increased to over thirty different types. To commemorate this milestone, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labor in collaboration with the Massey Stores Supermarket hosted a mini-exhibition showcasing local products made from breadfruit. This exhibition took place over the period January 23rd – January 25th at all three branches of the Massey Stores.

Mr. Michael Gloster, Agricultural Officer played a central role in the hosting of this event where locally produced products such as Cyrus’s Breadfruit Chips, breadfruit pancake mix, breadfruit punch, breadfruit dishes and breadfruit wood were on display. In addition to this, there were also breadfruit recipe books and hard copy handouts provided to persons who wished to understand the history and health benefits of the breadfruit. The purpose of the mini-exhibition was to create an awareness among persons on the breadfruit plant, to provide ideas to persons who may want to produce their own breadfruit based products

and to provide marketing for persons who produce breadfruit products locally.

Mr. Gloster stated that one of the major challenges faced by persons interested in producing breadfruit products is the height of the trees; which pose difficulties in harvesting the fruit. The productive life span of the tree is ten to fifteen years and most of the breadfruit trees throughout the length and breadth of the country are over twenty (20) years old which means that they have gone past their productive lifespan. He noted that , Hurricane Tomas had caused a significant decrease in the number of Breadfruit trees in the country.

Mr. Gloster sees the breadfruit as a representation of a true Vincentian spirit and wishes that Vincenians would see it in this light as well. By getting involved with the fruit and utilizing it to its fullest capacity, persons can assist with removing the







**PAYMENT
DUE**

Public Service Announcement

The Farmers Support Company Ltd. (FSC would like to remind all farmers who would have received loans from the Company for the production of various commodities and are delinquent in your loan repayments to settle the outstanding balances immediately

Payments can be made at the Farmers Support Company Office at the Ministry of Agriculture's Headquarters, Richmond Hill Kingstown or at the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines at Account No. 201090

Failure to pay the outstanding balances will result in the Company pursuing legal action against you



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**

Marijuana Scientific Research Platform



For many decades, Marijuana has had a negative stigma attached to it, which was fueled by songs sung by dancehall artists and persons who used the drugs incorrectly thus causing statutory laws against the plant to emerge. Though there were many misgivings where the plant was concerned, Scientists decided to do extensive research on the plant, which resulted in them discovering that the plant can be used for not only recreation but also medical use.

Medical Marijuana uses the chemicals in the marijuana plant to treat diseases and medical conditions. This plant contains approximately five hundred (500) different chemicals called cannabinoids. Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) are the main chemicals used in medicine, THC also produces the "high" people feel when they smoke marijuana or eat foods containing it.

Medical Marijuana treats several conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Appetite loss, Cancer, Chron's disease, eating disorders such as anorexia, Epilepsy, Glaucoma and mental conditions such as Schizophrenia and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

As of Recent, St. Vincent and the Grenadines have commenced their journey in establishing a Modern Medicinal Cannabis Industry. On January 25 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour launched a Cannabis Research and Development Scientific Platform under the theme "Medicinal Cannabis begins and ends with science" at the conference room of the Labour Department at Marion House. When the project concludes the ministry hopes to have achieved several objectives:

- To create a body of knowledge regarding cannabis in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- To add to existing knowledge garnered over the years by traditional cultivators.

- To identify varieties of cannabis grown in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with the aim of protecting local strains.
- To establish a seed bank and germplasm for the conservation of local strains of cannabis.
- To create a platform for the exchange of knowledge relating to cannabis and other commodities and medicinal properties.

Hon. Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, explained the ministry's attempts in trying to introduce a new commodity commercially that would be beneficial to the country's economy, therefore, there is critical need to incorporate science into the research of the marijuana plant. In order to export cannabis internationally, it is required of them to satisfy the necessary standards. As a result, an order was granted by the Ministry of Health to allow the University of the West Indies, Ministry of Agriculture and the Bureau of Standards to conduct the necessary research to ensure that these plants fulfilled the necessary standards. He stressed that this study did not affect the cannabis industry and amnesty act, which should be operational by the end of March. He went on to encourage persons to get involved with the research and development of Medical Marijuana. Interested persons can send a research proposal to their respective Universities, once given approval, they can send the letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and the letter is forwarded to the Cannabis and Research Development Unit to be reviewed by Dr. Raphique Bailey.

Mr. Ezra Ledger, Director of the Bureau of Standards stressed the importance of the success of this project to assist in economic development in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He went on to say that, "The theme is rooted in the promise that in order for this medical cannabis industry to be truly successful,

all of its processes and practices from seed to soul must be based on internationally science-based stan-

dards and best practices”. Mr. Ledger noted that very little information on medical cannabis where it concerns cultivation, processing and use is available, even though there is a large amount of traditional knowledge; it is not representative of the medical aspect of marijuana and it is not enough to enter into the modern competitive industry. The Medical Cannabis industry is the fastest growing industry worldwide and in order to enter into the industry, we must ensure that we meet the same standards, quality effectiveness and safety as other prescribed drugs to enter and compete in the international market.

Mr. Rohan McDonald, Supervising Officer of the tissue culture laboratory at Orange Hill, spoke on the role of Tissue Culture in the Cannabis Industry. He stated that germplasm was established to collect many types of local cannabis, introduce and discover elite characters, for example, plants with high THC. The role of the tissue culture would be to ensure that plants are true to type and they consist of three sets:

- Female – produce buds, which would be the most ideal for reproduction
- Male – have a low THC and bears seeds
- Hermaphrodite - formed from females and they underwent environmental stress (exposed to floods)

The germplasm would also assist persons with restoring a plant back to its natural state. They would collect sematic cells, which are non-reproductive seeds. He stressed that persons growing these plants should try to fertilize them with fertilizers that are of low nitrogen content. With this facility, they would have the opportunity to mass-produce. In the past, they would use plant hormones for rapid multiplication, which would cause mutations (not 100% identical to their mother) but he Mr. Mc Donald was glad to report that they were now using brown sugar as a regulator and it is working extremely well.



Handing over of the Compost Facility



Executed over a period of 4 years, the project “Strengthening Farmer’s Organization and improving Fruit and vegetable production Technology” showed a cost that amounted to EC\$7,273,832.00. There were many achievements provided by this project to the Farmers’ Cooperatives of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labor:

- Establishment of eight (8) farmers’ cooperatives producing different agricultural commodities.
- Training of farmers and Extension officers to strengthen their capacity to aid in the improved management of cooperative organizations. Training programmes were conducted locally and in Taiwan.
- Soil sample collection, analysis and fertilizer recommendations.
- Outfitting of Probiotics Laboratory
- Improved Technologies to enhance the production of biofertilizers and biopesticide.
- The development of cultivations models for watermelon, pineapple, sweet pepper, tomatoes and carrot.
- The procurement of equipment and training in the analysis of pesticide residue in local and imported fruits and vegetables.
- The attainment of agricultural equipment such as tillers and sprayers to support agricultural cooperatives.

On 14 January 2019, The Taiwanese embassy handed over the project “Strengthening Farmer’s Organization and improving Fruit and vegetable production Technology” and a Compost Facility constructed at a cost of approximately 1.5 million dollars at the Orange Hill Agriculture Biotechnology Center. The Facility is equipped with three (3) bio-digesters for making compost and a steam-sterilizing machine for sterilization of soil and other inputs used for vegetable seedling production.

Mr. Ashley Caine, Chief Agricultural Officer, expressed gratitude to the Taiwanese for their continuous support in developing the Agricultural sector. He expressed concern for the fact that there are not enough youths getting involved in agriculture.

Ambassador of China (Taiwan), His Excellency, Mr. Calvin Ho expressed how delighted he was to attend another meaningful event at the Orange hill facility. He mentioned other projects that they were involved in where it concerns the sustainable development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Over the period of three (3) years, they were able to accumulate five hundred and fifty-two soil sample tests and thirty-six (36) metric tons of bio-fertilizer. His Excellency expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture for their assistance in executing tasks and stated that the main target was to turn the Ministry of Agriculture into one of the best agricultural sectors in the Caribbean.

Hon. Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, stated that he wished to address the issue of food safety by 2020. He went on to highlight the many efforts that are underway to ensure that the products consumed by the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have little to no chemicals. He expressed gratitude to the Taiwanese for donating several pieces of equipment to test chemical residue on imported and locally made products and they received a plant to assist with producing bio-fertilizer and bio-pesticide. He also mentioned the immediate suspension of the importation of Round-Up, Touchdown and Glyphos and any other chemical containing the active ingredient glyphosate, which is one of the first steps to improving food safety and ensuring

the longevity and health of persons using these products and consumers of produce. The goal for 2019 is to produce a bio-herbicide, which would assist farmers and farmer's cooperatives in marketing produce that is Organic and produce safer foods for Vincentians and export. He commended the Taiwanese ambassador on the excellent partnership and the timely execution of delivery when asked. He also thanked the workers based at the agricultural station and Rohan Mc Donald, team, and encouraged them to continue making strides in the development of the sector.



OECS STANDARDS FOR DASHEEN

Quality Requirements

4.1 Minimum Requirements

Dasheen shall be:

- Of similar varietal characteristics
- Clean
- Mature
- Free from damage
- Free from insects
- Free from diseases
- Properly trimmed
- Firm
- Of the desired size
- In Properly labelled packages
- Of correct packed weight



REQUIREMENTS

Grade Requirements:

The degree of tolerance for the individual grade are meant to account for normal human error in sorting and packing, and for the deterioration in quality that may occur between the point of dispatch and receival and should not be deliberately exploited by the packer.

All grades shall meet the minimum requirements as well as the following additional requirements.



Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Individual Corms		
Blemish free	Blemishes shall not exceed more than 5% of the surface area.	Blemishes shall not exceed more than 10% of the surface area.
Tolerance		
<p>1. Not more than 30% size difference.</p> <p>2. Not more than 5% shall fail to meet the specifications of which not more than 2% shall be due to damage and disease on receipt by the buyer.</p>	<p>1. Not more than 40% size difference.</p> <p>2. Not more than 10% shall fail to meet the specifications of which not more than 2% shall be due to damage and disease on receipt by the buyer.</p>	<p>1. Not more than 50% size difference.</p> <p>2. Not more than 15% shall fail to meet the specifications of which not more than 2% shall be due to damage and disease on receipt by the buyer.</p>
Packaging		
New clean boxes fully protecting the corms and containing no more than 20.5 kg (50lbs)	New clean boxes fully protecting the corms and containing no more than 20.5 kg (50 lbs)	Clean boxes fully protecting the corms and containing no more than 20.5kg (50lbs)

5. Minimum Extra-regional Export Requirement

Grade 2 shall be the minimum grade exported to extra-regional markets.



Windward Island Irrigation Farmers Cooperative benefits from Irrigation Project



Climate change is a global phenomenon that represents a shift in worldwide weather patterns associated with an increase in global average temperatures. Climate change can negatively impact agricultural production and food security. In an effort to build resilience to climate change in the agriculture and other sectors of the economy, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has received funding to support the adoption and implementation of several mitigation measures. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour received Grant funding under the UNDP's Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership to support the following pilot projects:

- Climate Change Adaptation Project for Livestock Production
- Irrigation Capacity Improvement to Improve Climate Resilience among Small Farmers.

The Irrigation Capacity Improvement Project has as its objective to enhance farmers capacity to meet their economic needs through installation of irrigation capacities on and off farm and to improve their climate resilience through the adoption of climate smart technologies.

Under this project, the Ministry and IICA have undertaken work on the following activities:

1. Rehabilitation of the Langley Park Irrigation Scheme;
2. Design and establishment of affordable climate-resilient, community based water harvesting, storage and distribution systems in Langley Park and San Souci;
3. Design and establishment of Individual water harvesting, and irrigation systems to improve farm productivity in Langley Park, Grand Sable, San Souci, Barrouallie, Chateaubelair and Calder;
4. Demonstration of sustainable agriculture (Climate-resilient, agro-pastoral practices and technologies (e.g. water management and soil fertility) in selected target areas;
5. Training of Farmers in Langley Park, Grand Sable, San Souci, Barrouallie, Chateaubelair and

- Calder to reduce disaster-induced losses through the adoption of climate resilience and disaster risk management strategies on-farm;
6. Training of farmers in the use of irrigation pumps powered by photo-voltaic electricity systems in order to reduce costs of operating pumps;
7. Farmers provided with access to disease resistant planting material of vegetables and citrus; and
8. Capacity of nurseries expanded (installation of screen houses and equipment and sourcing of disease and climate resilient germplasm sourced)

The Ministry of Agriculture through its Research & Development and Extension and Advisory Services has completed significant work on project activities in Langley Park. This work included:

- 1.
2. The rehabilitation of the water intake, storage and distribution systems for the upper Langley Park Irrigation scheme.
3. The establishment of a sustainable agriculture demonstration plot with the Langley Park Farmers Group.
4. Training of members of the Farmers Group in the adoption of climate resilience and disaster risk management on their farms.

According to Mr. Conrad Simon, Irrigation Specialist in the Ministry of Agriculture, the project rehabilitated the upper third section of the Langley Park Irrigation scheme which was damaged by the 2013 through system. He added that 8 farmers including the Windward Island Irrigation Farmers Cooperative were selected to demonstrate the use of the system to support the sustainable production of one acre of different types of vegetables. Mr. Simon was elated to see the progress of the Windward Island Irrigation Cooperative hot pepper plot established in December 2018, when compared to similar hot pepper plots in the area grown under rain-fed conditions. He attributed its progress to the use of water from the rehabilitated system.

Senior Agricultural Officer responsible for the Extension and Advisory Services, Mr. Marcus Richards spoke of Extension's support to the farmers

through the provision of technical advice on the production of hot peppers and other vegetables. He added that the plot will help to teach other farmers in the area about the use of irrigation in the attainment of a successful and sustainable farming enterprise.

District Extension Officer, Mrs. Andrea Latchman highlighted the role played by Extension and Advisory Services in the formation of the cooperative and her own role in guiding the farmers through the various husbandry practices required for the success of the crop thus far.

Members of the Cooperative were very pleased with the performance of the plot and observed that the provision of irrigation made a significant difference in this performance.





WARNING!

IMPORTATION OF ITEMS ABOVE REQUIRE:

- **VALID IMPORT PERMIT** FROM THE VETERINARY AUTHORITY ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
- **ORIGINAL EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE** FROM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

ITEMS ARRIVING WITHOUT THESE DOCUMENTS WILL BE
RETURNED TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/CONFISCATED AND DESTROYED
under the authority of the Chief Veterinary Officer by order of the Minister

THE IMPORTATION OF PET BIRDS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

ADVERTENCIA

LA IMPORTACION DE LOS PRODUCTOS SE REQUIERE:

- **PERMISO DE IMPORTACION VALIDO** DE SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS
- **CERTIFICADO DE EXPORTACION DE SALUD ORIGINAL** DEL PAIS DE ORIGEN

LOS ARTÍCULOS QUE LLEGUEN SIN ESTOS DOCUMENTOS
SERÁN DEVUELTOS AL PAÍS DE ORIGEN, CONFISCADOS Y DESTRUIDOS
bajo la autoridad del jefe de la veterinaria por orden del ministro.

LA IMPORTACION DE AVES DE COMPANIA ESTA PROHIBIDO

ATTENTION!

L'IMPORTATION DES PRODUITS ENUMÉRÉS EXIGE:

- **PERMIS D'IMPORTATION VALIDE** DU SAINT VINCENT ET LES GRENADINES
- **CERTIFICAT SANITAIRE D'EXPORTATION ORIGINAL** DU PAYS D'ORIGINE

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L'IMPORTATION D'OISEAUX DE COMPAGNIE EST INTERDITE!



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