



2026 EDITION

SEMI-ANNUAL MAGAZINE

Compete Caribbean+

Partnering for a Competitive, Equitable and Climate-Smart Region

"The Caribbean's future competitiveness depends on its ability to innovate, collaborate, and build resilience simultaneously."

CC+ PROGRAMME VISION

INTRODUCTION

Climate Resilience + Innovation = Sustainable Growth

Across the Caribbean, climate resilience and private sector competitiveness are no longer separate conversations. They are increasingly understood as deeply interconnected drivers of sustainable growth.

For small island developing states, climate shocks affect every layer of society, not just economic activity. Yet within these vulnerabilities lies **opportunity**.

Compete Caribbean+ (CC+) was designed around this reality. This magazine reflects on a milestone year in 2025 and outlines the ambitious implementation agenda ahead in 2026.

Jointly funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Government of Canada.

\$4.4M

Committed
in 2025

~100

Proposals
Assessed

14

Projects
Shortlisted

7

TCs
Committed

700+

Webinar
Attendees

PILLAR 1

Competitiveness & Climate Action

- 47 cluster proposals received
- 7 shortlisted and missions held
- 5 clusters selected
- Each project funded up to US\$300,000
- TES Mechanism Draft Design

PILLAR 2

Governance & Enabling Environment

- 48 project proposals received
- 7 TC projects developed
- Each TC funded up to US\$200,000
- Regional Policy Dialogue held

PILLAR 3

Research & Innovation

- 1 Publication
- Economics of Innovation Masterclass
- Creative Industries MOOC
- Dynamic growth sectors research



PILLAR 1

Promoting Competitiveness, Climate Action & Inclusiveness

CC+ builds on a proven track record of supporting business clusters across the Caribbean. Since 2012, cluster development has been a cornerstone of the Compete Caribbean programme.

In December 2024, CC+ launched its first call for cluster proposals, receiving **47 submissions from 11 countries** — demonstrating strong regional demand.

23

Clusters supported historically

1,500+

Firms supported

5,500

Jobs created

23%

Export growth

The 7 Shortlisted Clusters

Selected from 47 proposals across 11 countries

01 Ocean Farming Alliance Jamaica BLUE ECONOMY	02 Edible & Medicinal Mushroom Cluster Jamaica AGRICULTURE	03 Bajan Harvest Hub Barbados AGRIBUSINESS	04 Simply Pure Agro-processing Grenada AGRO-PROCESSING
05 Guyana Rice Alliance Guyana AGRICULTURE	06 Suriname Seafood Suriname BLUE ECONOMY	07 Tobago Small Hotels Trinidad & Tobago TOURISM	

Up to US\$300,000 per cluster project for implementation support



CLUSTER PROFILES

Selected Cluster Projects

JAMAICA

Ocean Farming Alliance

A network of fisherfolk transitioning to sustainable ocean farming — cultivating seaweed and sea moss for export and local value-added products. Builds climate resilience through diversified marine livelihoods.

200+ fisherfolk engaged
Sector: Blue Economy

JAMAICA

Edible & Medicinal Mushroom Cluster

Connecting 15 mushroom farms into a coordinated cluster producing gourmet and medicinal mushroom varieties. Targets health-food export markets with value-added processing capabilities.

15 farms in cluster
Sector: Agriculture

BARBADOS

Bajan Harvest Hub

Uniting 50+ smallholder farmers in Barbados under a shared agro-processing and marketing platform. Focuses on reducing food imports through local production and collective branding.

50+ smallholder farmers
Sector: Agribusiness

CLUSTER PROFILES (CONTINUED)

Selected Cluster Projects

GRENADA

Simply Pure Agro-processing

A women-led agro-processing cluster in Grenada producing organic spices, cocoa, and nutmeg-derived products for export. Combines traditional knowledge with modern food safety standards to access premium international markets.

Sector: Agro-processing | **Focus:** Women-led enterprise

GUYANA

Guyana Rice Alliance

Strengthening Guyana's rice value chain through coordinated milling, quality certification, and export diversification. Targets new markets in the Middle East and Africa while improving climate-resilient farming practices.

Sector: Agriculture | **Focus:** Export diversification



Rice cultivation in the Caribbean

Technology Extension Services (TES)

Redesigned mechanism for SME productivity and digital adoption

69.4%

Cite capital access as barrier

85.1%

Potential digital innovators

40%

More productive with TES support

THE REDESIGNED TES MODEL

01

Diagnose

Comprehensive assessment of firm capabilities, technology gaps, and market positioning. Identifies specific barriers to growth and digital adoption.

02

Plan

Tailored action plan with prioritised interventions, technology roadmap, and capacity-building milestones aligned to business objectives.

03

Implement

Hands-on technical assistance, technology transfer, and mentoring support to execute the plan and achieve measurable productivity gains.

PILLAR 2

Strengthening the Enabling Environment

Pillar 2 supports governments across the Caribbean in creating the policy and institutional conditions for private sector growth. Technical cooperation projects address regulatory barriers, investment climate, and governance capacity.

48

Submissions received

12

Countries represented

\$200K

Max per TC project

7 COUNTRY PROJECTS FUNDED

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Grenada
- Saint Lucia
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Barbados
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- The Bahamas





PILLAR 3

Research, Innovation & Knowledge

Pillar 3 bridges the gap between R&D institutions and the private sector, fostering collaboration that translates research into commercial opportunities and economic growth across the region.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

- 01** Economics of Innovation Masterclass
Capacity-building for policymakers and researchers on innovation economics
- 02** Creative Industries MOOC
Online course supporting creative economy entrepreneurs across the Caribbean
- 03** Dynamic Growth Sectors Research
Identifying high-potential sectors for innovation-led development
- 04** 1 Publication Released
Contributing to the regional knowledge base on competitiveness

Looking Ahead to 2026

Implementation, expansion, and deepening regional impact

01

Cluster Implementation

Full implementation support for selected clusters with technical assistance, market linkages, and capacity building.

02

2 New Cluster Calls

Launching new calls including a dedicated digital economy window to support tech-enabled clusters.

03

OECS Special Windows

Dedicated funding windows for Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States member countries.

04

TES Expansion

Scaling the Technology Extension Services mechanism to reach more SMEs across the region.

05

Caribbean Clustering Toolkit

Partnership with UNIDO to develop a comprehensive toolkit for cluster development practitioners.

06

Pillar 2 & 3 Delivery

Advancing governance reforms and deepening R&D-to-market pathways across all participating countries.



A PLATFORM FOR PARTNERSHIP

"Transforming **resilience** into **opportunity**"

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