



How Compete Caribbean is Transforming the Caribbean Cocoa Industry

Celebrating the rich heritage and bright future of Caribbean chocolate through innovative development projects



Introduction & Overview

The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility

As we celebrate World Chocolate Day, there's no better time to spotlight the remarkable work being done to revitalize and transform the Caribbean's cocoa industry.

Compete Caribbean is a multi-donor facility whose objective is to support the Caribbean region in increasing productivity and Caribbean firms' contribution to economic growth, by providing technical assistance for business climate reforms, clustering initiatives, and stimulating innovation in the Caribbean region.

Jointly funded by: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and Government of Canada, supporting projects in 13 Caribbean countries.

The program is investing in projects that are:

- ✓ Preserving the region's rich cocoa heritage
- ✓ Positioning Caribbean chocolate on the global stage
- ✓ Creating sustainable value chains for small-scale farmers



The Caribbean: Birthplace of Fine Chocolate

A Special Place in the World of Chocolate

The Caribbean region holds a special place in the world of chocolate, with islands like **Dominica** working to reclaim their position as premium cocoa producers.

The region's unique combination of climate, soil, and traditional knowledge creates ideal conditions for producing some of the world's finest cocoa.

- 🌿 Unique terroir and climate conditions create distinctive flavor profiles
- 🕒 Rich heritage of traditional cultivation and processing methods
- 🌐 Strategic positioning for global fine flavor cocoa markets
- 👥 Strong community-based farming traditions and knowledge sharing

Through strategic investments and innovative cluster development approaches, Compete Caribbean is helping these nations write new chapters in their cocoa stories.



Dominica's Cocoa Renaissance

The DEXIA Partnership Project

One of Compete Caribbean's most significant cocoa initiatives has been the partnership with the Dominica Export Import Agency (DEXIA) to develop a comprehensive cocoa cluster in Dominica.

This transformative project represents a significant investment in the future of Dominican cocoa.

Key Achievements

-  Comprehensive financial model for the cocoa sector
-  Collaborative networks between stakeholders
-  Quality improvement programs
-  Market linkages to international buyers

As of 2024, the project continues to show promising results, with ongoing supervision missions to assess progress and sustainability.



Trinidad & Tobago: Reviving the Original Trinitario Legacy

Trinidad and Tobago is home to the legendary Trinitario cocoa variety, considered one of the finest in the world.

Comprehensive Support Program

A significant \$300,000 investment from 2019-2022 in partnership with ExporTT and 20 private sector entities.

This project has been instrumental in enhancing the productivity, quality, and market access of Trinidad and Tobago's organic fine cocoa and chocolate products.



Infrastructure Development: Nurseries, clonal gardens, and storage facilities



Capacity Building: Training for over 100 participants in organic production

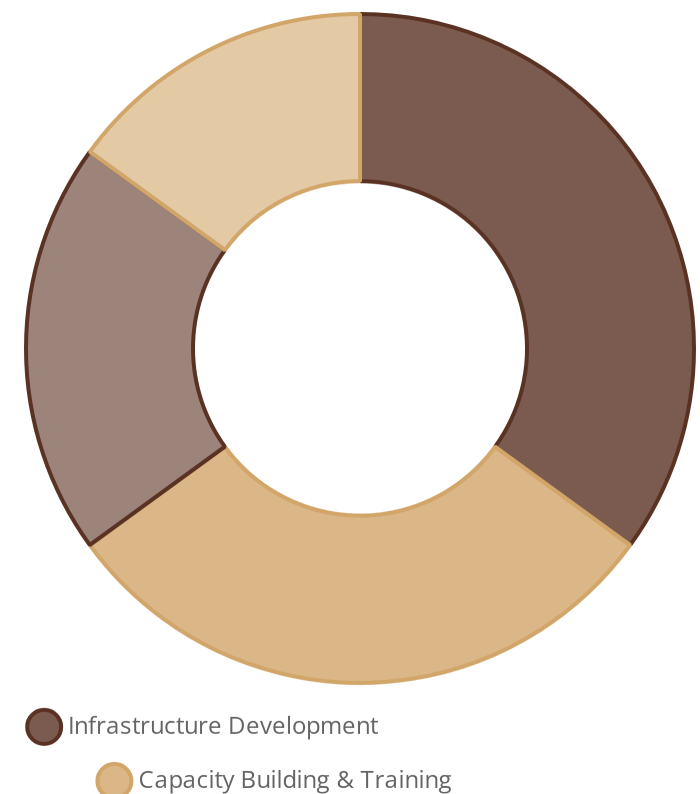


Female Leadership: Supporting chocolatiers like Cocobel, showcasing women's innovation in the industry



Market Development: International trade fair participation and branding

Project Investment Distribution



The Original Trinitario Cocoa and Chocolate Foundation

A Crown Jewel of the Trinidad and Tobago Project

The Original Trinitario Cocoa and Chocolate Foundation (OTC) is a not-for-profit organization that serves as a resource hub for farmers and industry stakeholders.

- 📖 Maintains both public and private resource sections
- 👥 Helps sustain collective initiatives for the cocoa cluster
- 🎓 Houses courses and resources developed through the project
- 🔄 Ensures knowledge transfer and continuous learning

This innovative approach to knowledge management has become a model for other Caribbean nations looking to develop their cocoa sectors.

🔗 Visit: www.otcctt.org



Research Excellence: The project supported the University of the West Indies' Cocoa Research Centre in pursuing ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

Spotlight: Brasso Seco - The Valley of Life

A Community of Cocoa Innovators

Deep in the northeastern mountains of Trinidad lies Brasso Seco, appropriately called the "Valley of Life" - a biodiverse community of roughly 300 inhabitants.

This community has become a shining example of how traditional cocoa farming can thrive alongside modern sustainable practices.

Featured Farmers from the Organic Fine Cocoa and Chocolate Cluster (OFC):

Lawrence James

James Estate

Specializes in culinary ingenuity and ecotourism experiences.

Dr. Stephanie

Omardeen

Tinamou Estate

Enhances harmonious permacultural systems in cocoa farming.

Javed Omardeen

Little Hermit Estate

Markets Omarbeans chocolate products from his sanctuary farm.



Belize: Honoring the Cradle of Chocolate

The Corridgeree Innovation

Belize holds a special place in chocolate history, with some experts considering it the "**Cradle of Chocolate**" where cacao was first used by the ancient Maya thousands of years ago.

Compete Caribbean provided crucial technical assistance to Corridgeree Belize Ltd. to develop a groundbreaking standardized solution for bean-to-bar chocolate manufacturers.

-  **Bean Base System:** A sophisticated Android-based application that transforms cocoa bean processing through comprehensive tracking
-  **Complete Traceability:** Tracks every step from procurement through post-harvest processing to export
-  **Data-Driven Insights:** Provides chocolate manufacturers with detailed reports on current purchases and comparisons to previous batches
-  **Market Success:** Enabled Corridgeree to begin exporting to the United States



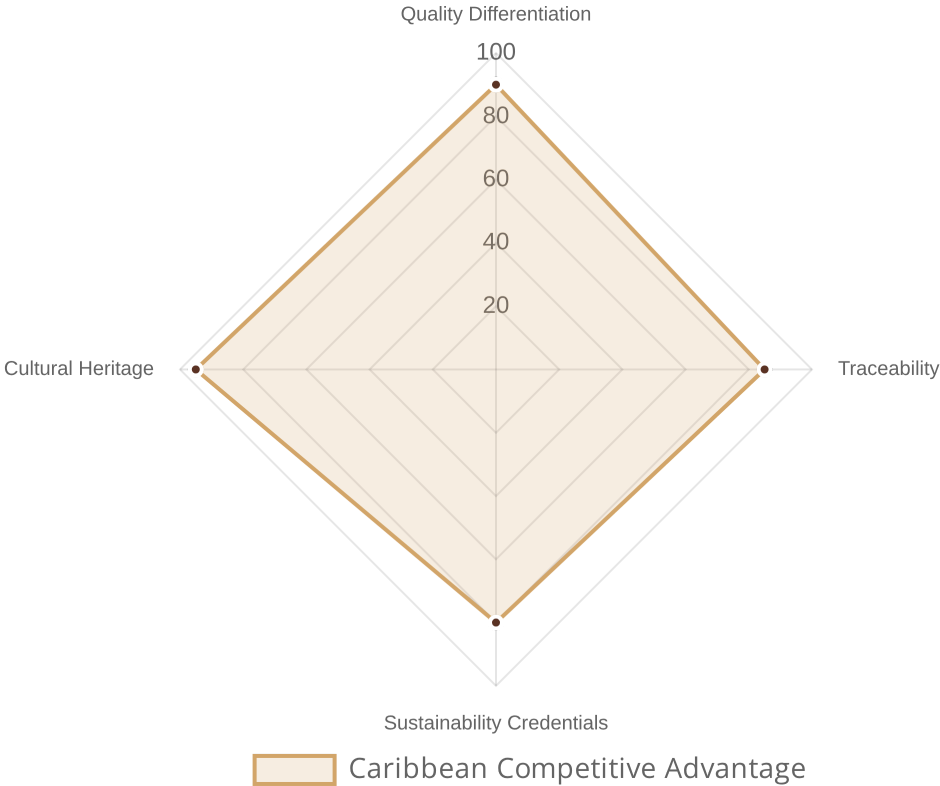
Regional Impact & Innovation

Technology and Sustainability Focus

Compete Caribbean's approach to cocoa development goes beyond traditional agricultural support, emphasizing innovation and sustainability.

-  **Digital Innovation:** Blockchain-based traceability systems, digital platforms for farmer education, and precision agriculture techniques
-  **Environmental Sustainability:** Organic farming practices, renewable energy solutions, and climate-smart agriculture techniques
-  **Gender Inclusivity:** Support for women-owned agro-processing firms and leadership development opportunities for female entrepreneurs

Building competitive advantages that position Caribbean cocoa as premium products in global markets.



Looking Forward: The Future of Caribbean Chocolate

Upcoming Opportunities

As we celebrate World Chocolate Day 2025, the investments made by Compete Caribbean are already showing remarkable returns.

Regional Integration

Cross-island knowledge sharing and joint marketing initiatives

Value Addition

Development of local chocolate manufacturing capabilities

Tourism Integration

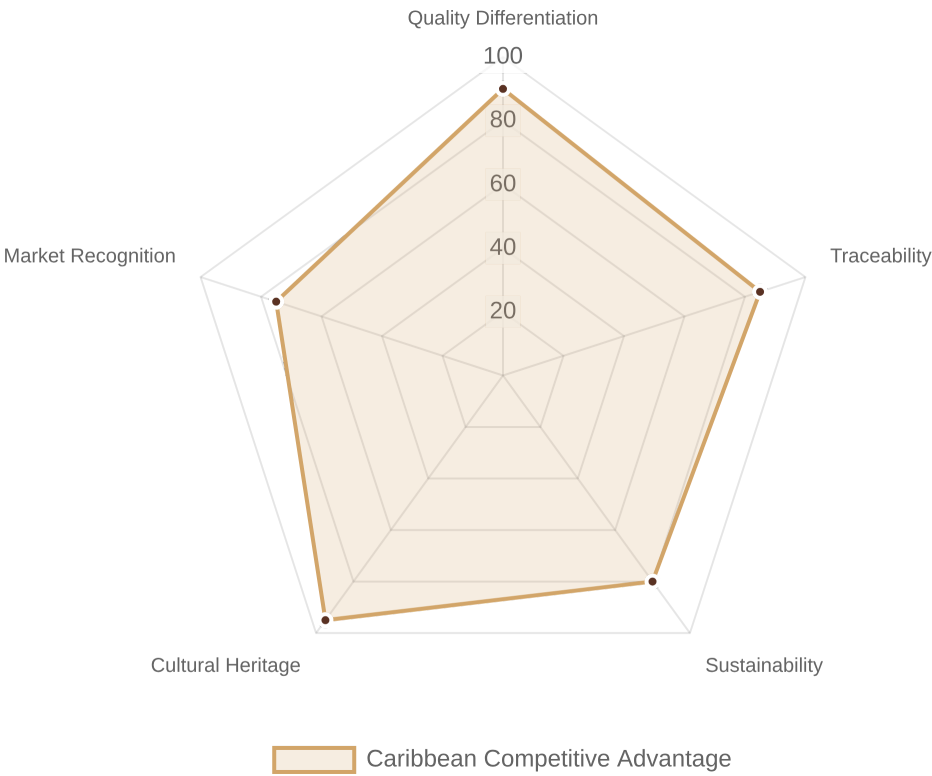
Agritourism opportunities that showcase the bean-to-bar process

Research Expansion

Continued investment in cocoa research and development

How You Can Support Caribbean Chocolate

-  Seek out Caribbean chocolate brands when shopping for premium chocolate products
-  Visit cocoa farms during your Caribbean travels to support agritourism initiatives



The transformation of the Caribbean cocoa industry demonstrates how targeted development programs can revitalize traditional industries while building competitive advantages for the future.



Compete Caribbean+

Partnering for a Competitive, Equitable, and Climate-Smart Caribbean Region

Compete Caribbean+ stimulates economic growth, productivity, and innovation in 13 Caribbean countries. A partnership of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Government of Canada, the program fosters sustainable, inclusive private-sector development.

Visit: www.competecaribbean.org