



## EUROPEAN UNION – BELIZE PROJECT SHEET

<b>Project Title</b>	European Banana Support Programme – BELIZE
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<b>Sector</b>	Agriculture / Rural development	<b>Budget (Euro)</b>	Total project cost: <b>€27 mio</b> EU contribution : <b>€ 27 mio</b>
<b>Location</b>	Stann Creek and Toledo districts	<b>Budget (BZD equiv.)</b> Xrate = 2.40	Total project cost: <b>BZ\$ 65 mio</b> EU contribution : <b>BZ\$ 65 mio</b>
<b>Start Date (Est.)</b>	2000	<b>End date (Est.)</b>	2014

<b>Implemented by</b>	Ministry of economic Development- Belize
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<b>Objective</b>	The aim of the programme is to assist Belize to come to terms with the increased liberalization of the banana regime and the erosion of the preferential access to the EU market.
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<b>Description</b>
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Its specific purpose is to assist the country to respond to the changing market by a) improve the competitiveness of the banana industry, and b) supporting economic diversification in the banana producing areas .

This is pursued through:

- (i) Improvements within the banana industry to better enable producers to compete in a more liberalized world market;
- (ii) Through the delivery of rural development measures to the living conditions of banana farmers, workers and associated communities Stann Creek and Toledo districts

<b>Results</b>
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i) Competitiveness:  
Over its 8 year lifetime, the Banana Support Programme has equipped Belize's 21 banana farms with the means to better compete in a liberalised market place. This has been done through improvements to on-farm and post harvest productivity, in particular the design and installation of improved irrigation and drainage systems, the renewal of over half the industry's 6000 acres of plantations with superior plant stock, and the industry wide adoption of disease protection measures. In addition, the BSP routinely provides advice on agronomic matters, irrigation and drainage, disease control and new agro-economic practices, thus enhancing capacity among growers, managers and the BGA . Main results include yields increase from an average 400 boxes per acre to 680 (2008) and production levels of 4.359.385 boxes (80.650 tons) on 6300 acres. Exports to Europe have increased by 24% in the period 1999-2008 while most of the other Caribbean countries have experienced an inverse trend.

(ii) Rural development  
This component contributed to giving some 1230 households better access to health care through the health clinics at Bella Vista and San Juan; over 400 students have increased classroom space and sanitary facilities in 5 primary schools; a new water supply system is functional in Garage/Cowpen providing water for 280 households. A technical high school education is improved by increasing classroom and workshop training space for up to 400 beneficiaries, curricula further developed for technical training courses and up to 40 teacher's skills and qualifications will be enhanced. The electrification of villages in the belt provides grid electricity to 1005 households.

<b>Contact Details (incl. email and website), implementing partner</b>
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