The Intra-ACP Agricultural Policy Programme (APP) will contribute to policy incentives for smallholders by increasing production and productivity of selected commercial products using new technologies in communication and in farming in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. This programme will promote exchange of good practices, market strategies and new policy implementation in order to contribute to the development of the Pacific and Caribbean regions by 2020.

As both regions are facing similar issues from a trade, environmental and agricultural perspective, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission have decided to work together to increase the capabilities of agricultural organisations in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

We will foster collaboration in order to exchange best practices (technical, economic and institutional expertise) between policymakers, researchers, producers and various other stakeholders, to build stronger markets and reinforce effective policies.

Through agritourism fairs, post-harvest, capacity-building and training activities, online debates and workshops on its four priorities, the Intra-ACP APP aims to give small island economies wider exposure to international initiatives and programmes.

We believe that agriculture has a central role in economic growth and poverty alleviation. Policymakers and political leaders can contribute to the overall objective and to the enhancement of regional and inter-regional capabilities of agricultural sectors to eradicate poverty.
Producers in the Caribbean and the Pacific are facing similar challenges. Both regions are affected by climate change, natural disasters, high food import bills, small internal markets and reliance on a limited number of export commodities.

The overall objective is to contribute to strengthening food and nutritional security, increase economic growth, reduce poverty and preserve environmental health.

The Intra-ACP APP Programme addresses four key areas:

- policy
- market linkages
- research and development and climate change
- knowledge management and communication

This programme encourages Caribbean and Pacific agricultural researchers, technicians, farmers and decision-makers to take advantage of the immense potential offered by ICTs for exchange of information and knowledge. Exchanges between the two regions address past and recent experiences as well as ongoing processes and emerging issues; they give stakeholder additional insights into issues and practices that enable them to better address challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sphere.

Through this programme, stakeholders (policy analysts and advisors in government ministries, regional bodies, think tanks, policy networks, advocacy groups and farmer’s associations and networks) are first better equipped to analyse policy issues and processes and recommend informed policy options. Second, they are exposed to the lessons and experiences of the other region and can adapt and use them in their own countries and region. Third, they can make their work more relevant and develop sound evidence for use in policymaking. Representatives of small farmers, processors and traders are thus better prepared to influence regional policy agendas and engage in national and regional policy debates and processes.

Women and youth capacities are strengthened to express their views and needs, make policy-related proposals, engage with policy processes and influence the policy agenda.
Among its planned activities, the Intra-ACP APP has developed an online collaborative space that allows sharing of experiences and exchange of knowledge and expertise between experts and the project’s implementing partners.

A resource section is available on its website, which gives access to the following catalogue of outputs:

### Comparative case studies

Synthesis reports have been launched at the beginning of the programme that will cover topics of interest in the two regions e.g. agritourism in the Caribbean and post-harvest training.

### E-debates

E-debates aim to link institutions, networks, individuals with representatives of regional organisations, the public and independent sector actors and stakeholders, and institutional and private experts from a number of countries in order to learn from research on climate change, market strategies and related issues in the two regions.

### Study tours

Through exchanges of experiences and best practices, Caribbean and Pacific technical experts and policymakers will come together and learn about policy, market strategy, research and development, knowledge management; this ensures that both regions can benefit fully from each other and from experiences in other ACP regions, thus shaping new agricultural policies and strategies for the islands.

### Regional events

#### Pacific Agritourism Week

This activity provides an opportunity to learn from regional best practice in agritourism, to exchange views, to network and to bring back concrete facts, material and new ideas.

#### Caribbean/Pacific Week of Agriculture (CWA)

During these regional thematic weeks, farmers, youth and women in agriculture, policymakers, experts in the field of agriculture and other stakeholders from both regions will participate in seminars, workshops, meetings and forums aimed at charting the region’s path in this important sector.
Frequently asked questions

1. What are the expected results of this programme?
This programme expects to strengthen strategies and policies, improve and enhance market linkages, develop agricultural enterprise in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and improve dissemination and adoption of applied research and technology in agriculture.

2. Who are the beneficiaries of this programme?
There are several categories of beneficiaries of this programme: analysts and advisors in ministries, networks, think tanks, farmers associations, senior policymakers and researchers, and women and youth. At grass-root level, there are farmers, traders and media professionals who can relay information support, exert influence and inform their fellow citizens and stakeholders.

3. Can this programme help smallholder farmers from the Caribbean and Pacific to be better integrated into markets?
The Pacific and Caribbean regions have difficulty accessing the international market for various reasons (e.g. distance, insufficient level of production, etc.). This programme is aimed at creating synergies between the two regions to exchange good practices and learn about new technologies in farming as well as communication and marketing. This will help smallholder farmers to be better integrated into markets and develop new strategies in farming, marketing and communications.

4. Why should farmers, researchers, and policymakers contribute to this platform?
What is the added value of this programme vs. others?
This programme is benefiting from the added value generated by the collaboration of the Pacific and Caribbean regions. By exchanging best practices, know-how and market information systems, this programme is a unique opportunity to learn, implement and inform on new possibilities in sustainable agriculture in the two regions.

5. What are the expected concrete outcomes?
Linking mechanisms and tools will be established between the Caribbean and the Pacific regions to share information, knowledge, views and perspectives. Knowledge will be generated and shared via networking activities; there will be quick access to information and wider public awareness.

Researchers, scientists, youth, small farmers and women’s organisations will be able to engage in policy processes and formulation and will receive concrete recommendations. Media engagement with agricultural development issues will be deeper and real information will be generated from stakeholders.