



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

of Ministry of Economic Development, Commerce, Industry & Consumer Protection, Belize

1. Basic act and Financing source

Accompanying Measures for Sugar (AMS) 2008- Belize Budget Line: 21.06.03

2. Objectives of the programme, priorities for 2010 and expected results

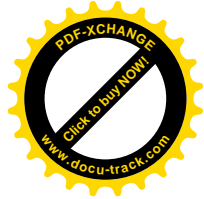
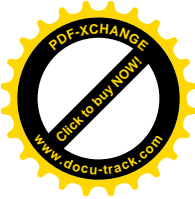
The objective of the programme is to support an enabling environment for rural recovery and economic diversification in sugar dependant areas of Belize.

The expected result of the programme is for alternative agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises, income generation opportunities and sources of employment promoted, including tourism.

- ✓ An eligible activity under this programme is to promote diversification of Belize's export base through compliance with the requirements established by Mexico for the export of live cattle and beef products, under the formal agreement between both countries. This activity will generate income, employment, food security, food safety and reduce poverty for cattle producers of the six districts of Belize but primarily for the population of the Northern Sugar Belt as nearly half of the national herd is located in the Orange Walk and Corozal districts.

The specific objectives are to:

- Determine the present sanitary status in Belize with respect to Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis
 - Implement a livestock farm registry and animal identification system with movement control
 - Establish equivalency and mutual recognition in the official animal health services of Belize and Mexico.
- ✓ Another activity include a general grant scheme that will contribute to creating income and employment opportunities by promoting new, economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities for sugar cane farmers and workers or expand existing enterprises which have been proven to be sustainable and viable. It will help strengthen existing market linkages and facilitate the creation of new ones by building alliances with the private sector to facilitate marketing contacts and address issues of produce quality and certification, including sanitary and phyto-sanitary quality control. Training in marketing, business and management skills, agronomic and marketing practices to groups of targeted beneficiaries will be required, as well as investments in small rural infrastructure such as irrigation, drainage, storage and processing facilities. The global objective is to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of the rural population in Northern Belize through support to the sugar industry and the vulnerable groups negatively affected by changes associated with the sugar price reform. The specific objective of this grant call is to promote economic diversification in



the "sugar belt".

The second objective of the programme is to strengthen the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the Belize sugar industry.

Under the financing agreement the qualifying activities for this objective includes a review of the institutional and regulatory framework, institutional capacity building, strengthening the R&D and extension services, improving access to rural finance, cane replanting and rehabilitation programme.

- ✓ An eligible activity under this programme is the institutional strengthening of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute. This activity will strengthen the institutional structure of SIRDI specifically in its administrative functions, financial management, human resources and procurement procedures. It will also initiate the establishment of two primary nurseries to ensure availability of 150 acres of planting material to the farmers of the Sugar Belt in order to commence cane rehabilitation and replanting.

3. Eligibility conditions

Conditions are set according to Article 6.2.3 set out in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. **Direct Agreement Award Grant** procedure will be used for the **Livestock Grant** and the **Institutional Strengthening of SIRDI**, while an **Open call for proposal** will be used for the **Economic Diversification Grant**.

4. Selection and award criteria

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions

5. Maximum rate of European Union financing

EURO 1, 500,000 as allocated in the Financing Agreement for this purpose

6. Schedule of calls for proposals

Economic Diversification Grant- Open CFP	Tentative Dates
Publication of Guidelines	June 7, 2010
Deadline for proposal	Sept 6, 2010
Preliminary verification	Sept 7, 2010
Evaluation of proposals	Sept 8, 2010
Award	Oct. 4, 2010

7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals

Livestock Grant- EURO 750,000

Economic Diversification Grant- EURO 250,000

Institutional Strengthening of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute Grant-
EURO 500,000