

BELIZE: CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTER



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Project title

Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sugarcane Farmers in Northern Belize

Result areas

[Adaptation]

Sector

Public/Private

Total financing, USD

20,278,250

GCF financing, USD

9,994,250

Financial instrument

Grant/Loan /Guarantee/Equity

Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it

Agriculture continues to be amongst the sectors **most affected** by climate change. This presents a significant **risk** to Belize's low-carbon development efforts as agriculture contributes 10 % of the country GDP. However, the sustainability of these industries is at risk due to the; **Increasing drought and flood incidences** have led to **decreasing yields** due to crop loss, **decreasing soil fertility**, and **increases in crop weeds, pests and diseases**. In particular, the farmers of the **sugarcane belt** in Northern Belize continues to experience significant decline in crop yields due to extended periods **of below average rainfall coupled with other periods of heavy rainfall** over a short period of time. This increases **crop pest (frohopper)** and associated diseases and **evapotranspiration rates** reducing soil moisture eventually leading to reduced productivity and crop loss.

Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged

The Government of Belize considers **agriculture a vital asset in achieving sustainable economic development**. To this end, sugar production is seen as an effective means of **job creation, poverty alleviation and economic recovery** in addition to **combating climate variability and change**. The project is rooted in **several key national policies, strategies and action plan** and is consistent with the government efforts to safeguard agricultural livelihoods. This is evidenced by the project implementation structure which sees the participation of all the leading entities in sugarcane production such as the Ministry of Agriculture's Sugar Industry Research and development Institute and the Belize Sugar Industry Limited supported by the three main cane farmer's associations.

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| Project title: | Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sugarcane Farmers in Northern Belize |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving crop diversity and farming practices to reduce climate risk and strengthen adaptive capacity. Scaling up the production of available varieties to diversify the sugar cane varieties of 5200 small scale farmers; by strategically setting up 20, 5 acre nucleolus sites, 20, 10 acre primary nurseries and 20, 100 acre secondary nurseries to supply for 15,000 acres of sugar cane lands.• Climate proofing of 17,000 acres (seed nurseries and replanted lands) based on the most appropriate Climate Smart Agriculture practices in the respective agro-ecological zones.• Implement Sustainable water and land management techniques to build farmer resilience to Climate Change.• Capacity building and improving learning mechanism for long term adaptation to climate threats and impacts. |
| Expected outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2000 acres of seed cane nurseries across the sugar cane of small farmers with at least 5 different climate resilient varieties.• 15,000 acres of small farmers' sugar cane lands with climate resilient sugar cane varieties• Increased capacity of 5200 sugar cane farmers to react to climate stresses• Reduction of carbon emissions, Reduce the use of conventional fuel• Increased productivity and Enhanced farmer financial security• Improved soil fertility and conservation• Transformational change from traditional to climate resilient farming system |
| Paradigm shift potential | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased climate resilience and improved food and water security• Reduced GHG emissions and increased carbon sequestration in watershed |