



Caribbean Region



Dominican Republic

St. Christopher and Nevis

Dominica

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Haiti

Grenada

Nations allied with the ROC in the Caribbean region include Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, St. Christopher and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

A characteristic feature of Caribbean countries is that they are small, mainly island, economies. As such, they tend to be vulnerable to macroeconomic shocks. This heightened exposure has implications for economic policy and for the well being of the people living in the Caribbean.

Each country in the region is facing special developmental challenges due to small economies, dependence on export revenues or tourism as the foundation for growth, vulnerability to natural disasters, and the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS. During 2001, the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States registered decreasing growth (-1.5 percent) at the aggregate level, reflecting declines in the most important sectors of their economies, particularly banana production and tourism.

However, economic reform during the past several years, regional cooperation through the Organization of Caribbean States and the Central Bank of the Caribbean, vigorous tourism development, and attraction of foreign capital have yielded positive economic results and promoted economic integration and social development.

The ICDF executed 34 projects in the Caribbean region during fiscal 2002. Because agriculture remains the predominant economic activity in the region, the ICDF continued to emphasize agricultural productivity and diversity in the majority of its projects. Additionally, in order to promote business and trade development, it dispatched industry service mission and trade personnel to provide consulting for local businesses. Where feasible, it also assisted Taiwanese firms in uncovering potential business investments and developing partnerships in the region.

For many years, most Caribbean countries depended on preferential trade arrangements for key commodity exports such as sugar and bananas. With the removal of trade preferences and as a result of other trends related to globalization, the region faced declining export earnings, which led to severe economic hardships. For example, according to a 2001 World Bank report, Dominica's exports fell by over 30 percent between 1997 and 2000 due to a sharp retrenchment in the banana industry. The Caribbean region continues to confront significant challenges in gearing up to compete effectively in the world economy, due to its inability to meet the standards and requirements of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization.

ICDF technical missions helped farmers in the Caribbean region to diversify their operations in several ways. They promoted the cultivation of new fruits, vegetables and garden plants;



Caribbean Region

provided assistance in processing raw agricultural products to tap wider agribusiness potential; introduced new livestock and aquaculture practices; and helped local farmers to improve sales by developing new distribution channels to tourist hotels, supermarkets and cruise ships.

The diminutive geographic areas of these nations limit their agricultural production. This fact restricts production not only of food products for export, but also of important staple crops for consumption by local populations. One of the ways in which the ICDF is counteracting this is by working to increase rice yields in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

SME Development in the Caribbean

The ICDF is supporting various SMEs in the Caribbean through capacity building ventures with local financial institutions. SMEs have been targeted as the most promising driver for economic and social development in the Caribbean. It is expected that increased attention to this sector will contribute to economic diversification, combat unemployment, and promote the overall economic growth of the region.

In addition to funding the “Microcredit Project in the Eastern Caribbean Region,” the ICDF is implementing small farmholder financing schemes in Dominica, Grenada, and St. Christopher and Nevis. The focus is on providing financial assistance to small farmholders who are participating in technical mission subprojects.

Investing in People and Strengthening the Public Sector

In fiscal 2002, the ICDF helped Caribbean countries reduce poverty by supporting human development, environmental, medical and educational programs. Examples of pan regional programs include the “Scholarship Program in Four Countries of the Eastern Caribbean Region” and the “Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Improvement Project.” Caribbean nations suffer from poor sanitation and water supplies, which can result in dangerous living conditions created by the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, and sicknesses such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery caused by poor water quality. ICDF backed water and natural resources projects in the region include financing of new equipment for wells and a pumping station in the Petion-Ville water supply project, which will improve the water supply and reduce water borne diseases in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; and forestation projects, such as the “Bamboo Planting Project” in Haiti, which is providing assistance in bamboo cultivation to farmers and national park personnel, with the aims of

preventing soil erosion and conserving water resources.

The ICDF is helping Caribbean nations such as the Dominican Republic strengthen their public sector and reform governance systems. The Dominican Republic National Congress and the Office of the Comptroller General are being modernized, in order to strengthen their legislative and administration functions.

Taiwan Overseas Volunteers and the Taiwan Youth Overseas Service are also playing an dynamic role in the Caribbean assisting in numerous agriculture, medical, education and economic based projects.



Dominica



Fast Facts

Capital:

Roseau

Languages:

English, French patois

Population:

73,980

Area:

754 sq km

Religion:

Christianity

Currency:

East Caribbean Dollar

Economic Overview and Outlook

Dominica is one of the four nations (with Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) that make up the Windward Islands. It became independent from Britain in 1978 and is a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

The economy depends on agriculture and is highly vulnerable to climatic conditions, notably tropical storms. Agriculture accounted for 17 percent of the GDP in 2001, and employed close to 31 percent of labor. The primary food crops produced are banana, cocoa, coffee, maize, potato and sugarcane. Total exports in 2001 were US\$45 million, of which bananas accounted for US\$8 million and other agricultural exports for US\$6 million. The government is attempting to develop an offshore financial industry in order to diversify the island's production base.

Development of the tourist industry remains difficult because of the rugged coastline, the scarcity of beaches, and the lack of an international airport. Nevertheless, Dominica's high, rugged mountains, rainforests, freshwater lakes, hot springs, waterfalls and diving spots make it a potentially attractive destination. Cruise ship stopovers have increased since the development of modern docking and waterfront facilities in the capital. Ecotourism also is a growing industry on the island.

According to World Bank statistics, Dominica had an external debt of US\$216 million in 2001 and received US\$20 million in foreign assistance. The Caribbean Development Bank, Japan and the United Kingdom were the biggest donors.

Dominica had a population growth rate of 0.3 percent in 2001. It had a fertility rate of 1.9 percent and a life expectancy of 76 years.



ICDF Operations

There is currently one technical mission in Dominica working on two agriculture and aquaculture projects. Also operating in the country are one technical assistance project providing medical assistance, two investment and lending projects, and an education and training project.

Technical Mission

Agricultural and Horticultural and Crop Extension Project

This project is using demonstration fields to test new crop varieties and to transfer technology to local farmers. It is accelerating propagation of pineapple and a stable papaya seedling for supply to farmers and is planning to extend cultivation of corn, papaya, pineapple and other fruits and vegetables. In 2002, the mission assisted the National Pineapple Growers' Association in expanding pineapple cultivation and ensuring that quality meets export market requirements. It also helped local farmers to increase production of sweet corn production, thereby reducing retail prices of this vegetable and stimulating consumption.

Aquaculture Development Project

The ICDF is helping local authorities in Dominica collect, cultivate and reproduce shrimp seedlings and other abundant marine life for local consumption. The goal of the project is to decrease operating costs and increase productivity. The technical mission set up a nursery, which it subsequently turned over to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment.

Technical Assistance Project

Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Improvement Project

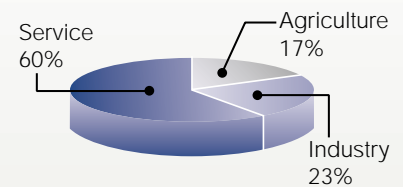
The ICDF provides US\$100,000 annually to each of four Eastern Caribbean countries, including Dominica, to help improve their medical equipment. In 2002, the ICDF donated x-ray and electrocardiogram equipment.

Investment and Lending Projects

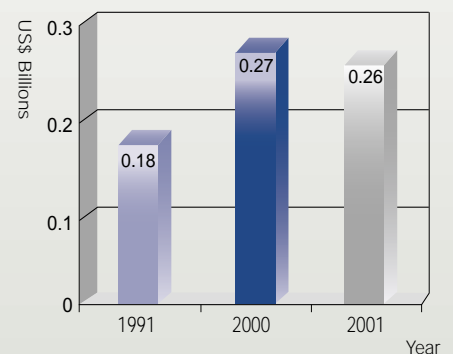
Small Farmholders Financing Scheme

This project, one of several ICDF agricultural assistance programs in the region, has the objective of generating sustainable growth results for

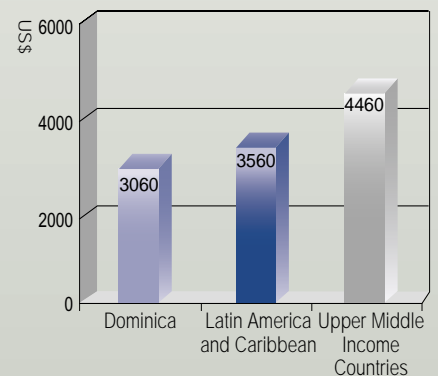
Structure of the Economy 2001 (%GDP)



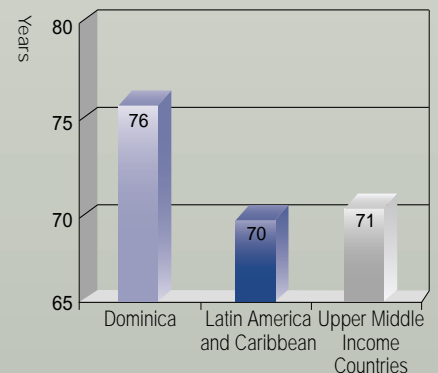
GDP



GNI Per Capita 2001



Life Expectancy 2001



Dominica at a Glance

farmers. The ROC technical mission and Dominica's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment are providing financing to selected farmers who have participated in the mission's vegetable and fruit, horticulture, livestock and fisheries programs.

Microcredit Project

The project lent US\$200,000 to the National Development Foundation of Dominica Ltd. (a nongovernment, community based finance institution), which will in turn oversee small loans made to micro entrepreneurs. It is expected that development will lead to expansion and improved services in micro enterprises, increased employment opportunities, reduced poverty, improved living standards, and accelerated national economic growth.

Education and Training Project

Scholarship Program in Four Countries of the Eastern Caribbean Region

To elevate the national educational standards and to help develop human resources, the ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to train teachers and help students with tuition and textbook purchases. In Dominica, 505 elementary and secondary school students, 38 college students, and 105 government and school board officials benefited from the project.

Taiwan Youth Overseas Service

There are currently two servicemen in Dominica. Both men specialize in agricultural related activities.



Dominican Republic



Fast Facts

Capital:

Santo Domingo

Language:

Spanish

Population:

8.5 million

Area:

48,730 sq km

Religion:

Christianity

Currency:

Dominican Peso



Economic Overview and Outlook

For almost a decade, the Dominican Republic has enjoyed a high economic growth, making it the envy of its Latin American neighbors.

The primary sources of economic growth in the Dominican Republic have been tourism, free trade zones (FTZs) and telecommunications.

The agricultural sector, comprising 11.3 percent of GDP according to World Bank statistics, operates within a framework of strong state intervention and minimal competition. Due to its heavy reliance on primary products for export such as sugar, gold, silver, coffee, cocoa, tobacco and meat, the Dominican Republic is vulnerable to fluctuations in world market prices.

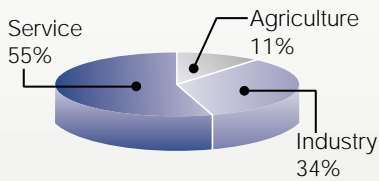
In 2001, the impact of 11 September combined to cool the previous high growth rate, despite government efforts to maintain macroeconomic equilibrium. However, a recovering world economy should create conditions for a possible return to higher growth rates in 2002-2003.

While foreign direct investment fell from US\$1.3 billion in 1999 to US\$950 million in 2000, FTZs expanded and now include 500 companies that employ almost 200,000 people.

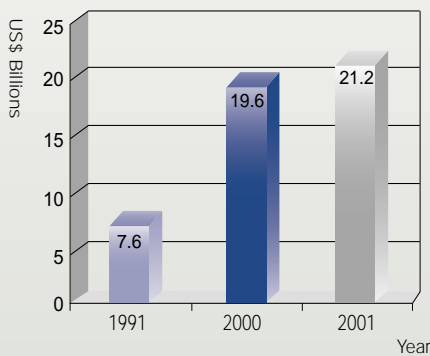
The Dominican Republic's external foreign debt was US\$5.2 billion in 2001. The country received US\$62 million in foreign assistance with the United States, Japan and Spain as the biggest donors. Although growth has led to a reduction in poverty, that condition is still prevalent, especially when compared with other countries that have similar rates of growth.

There are three major areas of health risks in the Dominican Republic: HIV/AIDS prevention and care; child survival; and reproductive health/family planning (RH/FP). The Dominican Republic had a population growth rate of 1.6 percent in 2001 and a fertility rate of 2.7 births per woman. Illiteracy affected 16 percent of the population. Life expectancy is 67 years.

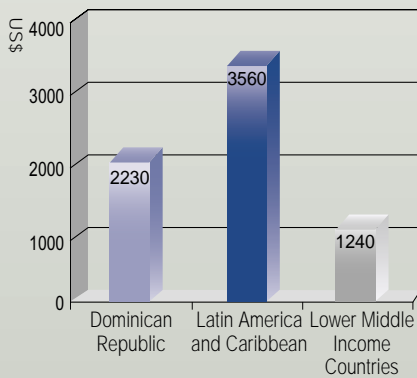
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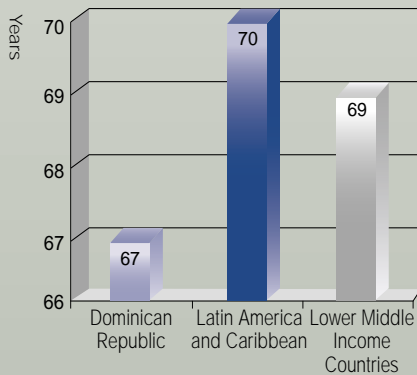
GDP



GNI Per Capita 2001



Life Expectancy 2001



Dominican Republic at a Glance

ICDF Operations

There is currently one technical mission in the Dominican Republic, working on three projects. In addition, there are one investment and lending project and one industry service mission providing industrial consultancy to the country. The capacity building projects are designed to strengthen the agricultural, social, economic, and political sectors.

Technical Mission

Rice Seed Improvement and Yield Enhancement Project

This project will enable the Dominican Republic's Department of Agriculture to introduce hybrid rice varieties and to reproduce seeds in accordance with appropriate breeding procedures. The offices and research projects at the Rice Research Center is being coordinated, in order to facilitate effective planning, human and natural resources support, and collective provision of technical support.

Horticultural Crop Cultivation and Bamboo House Project

The main components of this project are the selection and introduction of heat resistant garlic varieties and garlic cultivation techniques, introduction of new vegetable varieties, production demonstrations, organic vegetable demonstrations, and bamboo cultivation and construction training. In 2002, the mission worked to acquire and cultivate varieties of fruits and vegetables and assisted cooperating farms in producing organic vegetables and fertilizer. It also conducted demonstrations of bamboo house construction, trained teachers, and provided assistance in establishing a bamboo nursery and implementing related water and soil conservation work.

Aquaculture Development Project

The objectives of this project are to develop aquaculture facilities and technology. In 2002, a specialized aquaculture production zone at the Nigua Experiment Center was planned and instituted in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture. The mission helped to establish a basic laboratory and provided training in water quality analysis and fish disease detection. It also provided assistance to fish farming communities in establishing aquaculture cooperatives.

Industry Service Mission

Industrial Technology Cooperation Project

Established in April 2000, the project is providing technical consulting and human resources training to key Dominican Republic industries. The mission is helping manufacturers upgrade technology and improve their competitiveness, and is stimulating overall industrial and economic development. In 2002, the project organized company visits and consulting services, with Taiwanese specialists guiding technology upgrade. Technology conferences and seminars were held, and investment conferences and other promotional activities were conducted by agencies in Taiwan. A database containing information on local trade, investment and the status of local firms was created.

Investment and Lending Project

Program for Modernizing the National Congress and the Office of the Comptroller General

The Dominican Republic National Congress and the Office of the Comptroller General are being modernized, in order to strengthen their legislative and oversight functions. The long term aim is to consolidate democratic governance in the Dominican Republic. The total project cost of US\$28.3 million is being cofinanced by the IDB(US\$22.3 million), the ICDF (US\$4.6 million) and the Government of Dominican Republic (US\$1.42 million).

Taiwan Youth Overseas Service

Three servicemen specializing in agriculture and trade are currently serving in the Dominican Republic.



▲ Specialist instructing farmers in Rice Seed Improvement and Yield Enhancement Project



▲ Horticultural Crop Cultivation Project in the Dominican Republic



▲ Industry Service Mission providing consulting services to the handicraft industry



▲ Technical Mission Bamboo House Project

Grenada



Fast Facts

Capital:

Saint George's

Languages:

English, French patois

Population:

99,000

Area:

344 sq km

Religion:

Christianity

Currency:

East Caribbean Dollar



Economic Overview and Outlook

Grenada is one of the four independent nations that make up the Windward Islands. It has a developing market economy dominated by the tourism and agricultural sectors. The country is a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB).

Since the early 1990s, the government has been following a set of prudent macroeconomic policies aimed at the improvement of the island's investment climate. These efforts include the expansion of the trade liberalization program and the acceleration of the privatization process.

Agriculture provides more than half of Grenada's exports and employs a large proportion of the workforce. The agricultural sector in Grenada contributes 8.2 percent of the GDP and employs an estimated 17 percent of labor. Total exports in 2001 totaled US\$64 million, with cocoa, bananas and manufacturing accounting for US\$34 million. Grenada is known as the "Spice Island" because it is the world leader in the production of nutmeg and mace. However, production of nutmeg cannot sustain the island's economic growth, and there have been setbacks in banana production. Tourism, which is Grenada's major source of foreign exchange, is showing growth, with an increase in cruise arrivals.

According to the World Bank, Grenada had an external debt of US\$230 million in 2001. It received US\$12 million in foreign assistance in 2001, with Japan, the Caribbean Development Bank and the European Union providing most of the funding.

A government assessment commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank found that 32 percent of the population lives in poverty, and in response to this the government announced a National Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2001. Grenada had a population growth rate of one percent in 2001, a fertility rate of 3.2 births per woman, and life expectancy measured at around 72 years. Foreign investment and loans, often at commercial rates, have resulted in a construction boom in Grenada, and this has helped to lower unemployment rates to 15 percent. An offshore financial sector has also been established.

ICDF Operations

Currently, the ICDF has one technical mission helping Grenada to develop its agricultural sector. In addition, there are one technical assistance project, two investment and lending projects for small farmers and micro entrepreneurs and one education and training project.

Technical Mission

Horticulture Project

This project is helping to develop the vegetable industry in Grenada. This includes organizing and assisting flower, fruit and vegetable production marketing teams, and extending cultivation of fruits, flamingo flowers and orchids. In 2002, the mission helped local farmers to cultivate new vegetables and it transferred technology to production marketing teams, in order to help growers respond to market demands.

Agricultural Product Processing Project

The goal of this project is to help Grenada's Department of Agriculture establish a medium sized fruit juice processing plant. Technical mission members are training workers to operate and manage the fruit juice plant, and are overseeing a study relating to the transfer of fruit juice processing technology. In 2002, process design and technology were transferred to the agricultural chemistry office, and technological improvements were instituted in Grenadian agricultural processing firms.

Trade Project

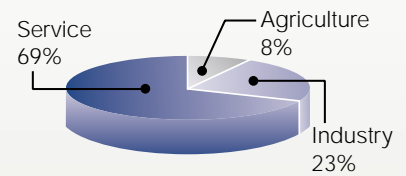
This project is providing trade related information and consulting services to Grenadian firms, as well as to Taiwanese firms and manufacturers operating in the Caribbean region. Taiwanese firms based in Miami have been introduced to investment and trading opportunities in Grenada.

Technical Assistance Project

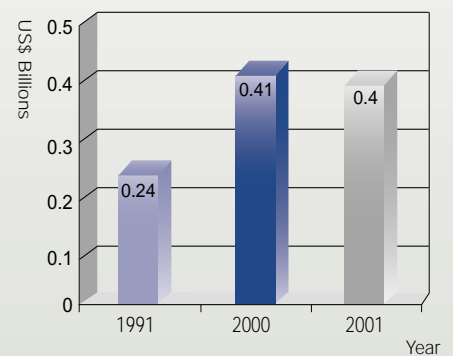
Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Improvement Project

This project is providing US\$100,000 annually to Grenada, as it is to three other Eastern Caribbean countries, to help improve medical equipment. In 2002, the ICDF donated US\$50,000 of medical equipment to St. Georges General Hospital, provided US\$30,000 for a psychiatric surveillance and warning system, and US\$10,000 each to a community centre and a nursery clinic.

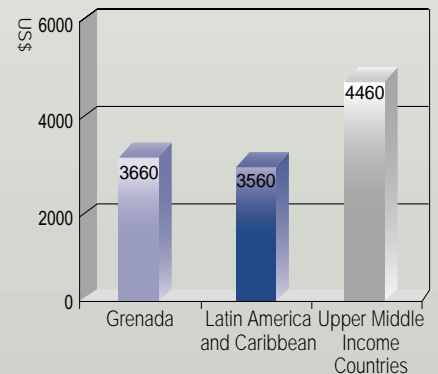
Structure of the Economy 2001 (%GDP)



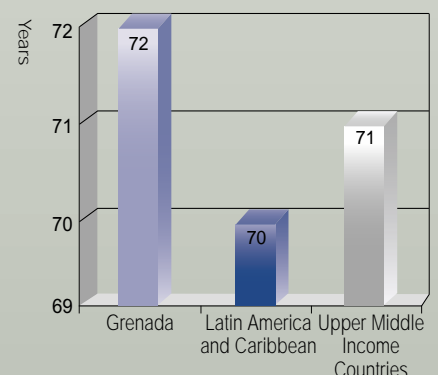
GDP



GNI Per Capita 2001



Life Expectancy 2001



Grenada at a Glance

Investment and Lending Projects

Small Farmholders Financing Scheme

This project accompanies Taiwan's agricultural assistance program in Eastern Caribbean countries, which aims to enable sustainable growth results. Technical missions and the ministries of agriculture in the Eastern Caribbean area are selecting farmers who participated in the mission's vegetable and fruit, horticulture, livestock and fisheries programs in order to provide them with financing.

Microcredit Project

Through this project, the ICDF is lending US\$200,000 to micro entrepreneurs. Development made possible by such loans leads to the expansion of micro enterprises, and contributes to national economic growth.

Education and Training Project

Scholarship Program in Four Countries of the Eastern Caribbean Region

This project is elevating the national education standards and human resources by providing US\$100,000 annually for teacher training and tuition and textbook assistance. In Grenada, 856 elementary and secondary school students, 246 college students, and 145 vocational school students benefited from the project.

Taiwan Youth Overseas Service

In 2002, the ICDF sent a serviceman specializing in computer skills to Grenada.



▲ Ambassador Jiang represents the ICDF in signing a microcredit project with NDFG



▲ A training course held for the Agricultural Product Processing Project



▲ Technical Mission Horticulture Project

Haiti



Fast Facts

Capital:

Port-au-Prince

Languages:

French, Creole

Population:

8.1 million

Area:

27,750 sq km

Religion:

Christianity

Currency:

Gourde



Economic Overview and Outlook

The Republic of Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola which it shares with the Dominican Republic.

Haiti's return to constitutional government was marked by a concerted effort to improve macroeconomic management and to initiate new comprehensive structural reforms.

The majority of the population still resides in rural areas and depends on agriculture for their livelihood. At least 30 percent of the land being farmed is located on slopes that need to be protected from erosion or on land that would be better used as pasture land for tree planting or left fallow.

The agricultural sector in Haiti contributes 30 percent of the GDP and employs an estimated 57 percent of labor. The primary food crops produced are banana, cocoa, coconut, coffee, maize, potato, rice and sugarcane.

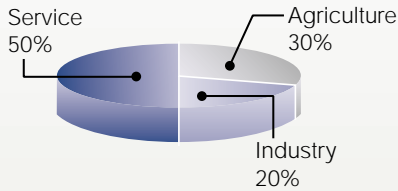
There is some long term potential for the tourism sector in Haiti, for the country offers many beaches and islands that could be developed. The country's culture and history are unique: its paintings, monuments, artisan crafts, Creole cuisine and voodoo religion attract the adventurous tourist. With careful planning and investment, Haiti could eventually become a significant Caribbean tourist destination.

Haiti had a population growth rate of 1.9 percent in 2001 and a fertility rate of 4.4 births per woman. Illiteracy affects almost half of the population.

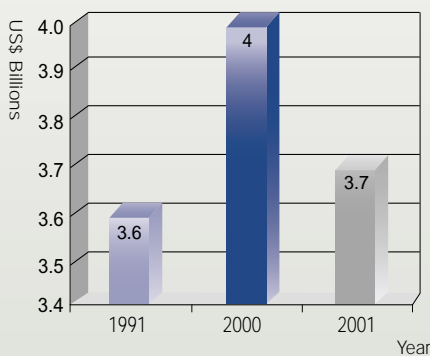
According to the World Bank, Haiti had an external debt of US\$1.25 billion in 2001 and received US\$208 million in foreign assistance, primarily from the United States, the IDB and the EU.



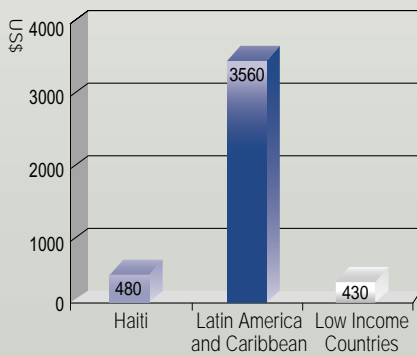
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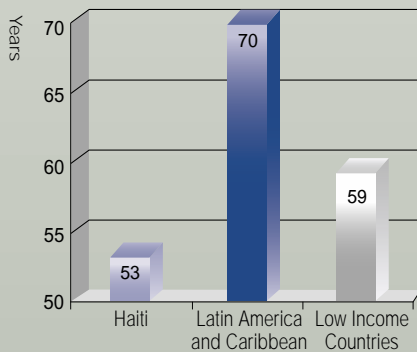
GDP



GNI Per Capita 2001



Life Expectancy 2001



Haiti at a Glance

ICDF Operations

There is currently one technical mission working to improve agriculture in Haiti. In addition, it is managing two investment and lending projects that are contributing to infrastructure development and small business growth.

Technical Mission

Rice Yield Enhancement Demonstration, Extension and Training Project

This project is aiming to improve rice quality as Haiti moves toward self sufficiency in this commodity. The mission has helped to develop high yield, high quality paddy rice varieties that are appropriate for local conditions, and has introduced modern cultivation technology. It has also worked to propagate certified seed rice stock for demonstration and extension purposes, and helped to screen and acquire suitable paddy rice varieties.

Bamboo Cultivation, Processing and Utilization Project

Technical mission members are giving instruction in bamboo cultivation to farmers in selected locations (Marmalade and Makary). The benefits of bamboo cultivation include water conservation and the suppression of soil erosion. As soon as a bamboo plantation is mature, the bamboo can be cut down and utilized for handicrafts and housing construction. In 2002, the technical mission helped to collect and plant many bamboo species. The seedlings were grown for different purposes in different topographical situations, and apprentices were recruited and given handicrafts training.

Investment and Lending Projects

Drinking Water Distribution Project in Petion-Ville - Lot I and II

The project has been divided into four parts known as Lots I to IV. Lots I and II were financed by the ICDF, and the European Investment Bank financed Lots III and IV. The Lot I component comprises the establishment of six new wells. The general design of the new network is aimed at pumping the water from the Pernier wells toward the upper levels in order to ensure equilibrium in the system.

Investment and Lending Project to Micro-Credit National S.A. in Haiti - Phase I

This project created the Micro-Credit National S.A. It offers loans ranging from US\$100 to US\$7,500 to individual borrowers. Five operating points, in addition to the headquarters in the capital of Port-au-Prince, are being established.



St. Christopher and Nevis



Fast Facts

Capital:

Basseterre

Language:

English

Population:

41,800

Area:

261 sq km

Religion:

Christianity

Currency:

East Caribbean Dollar



Economic Overview and Outlook

St. Christopher and Nevis are two of the six Leeward Islands, the others being Anguilla, Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda. The islands are an independent federation with a parliamentary democracy based on the British model.

The economy of this twin island federation is characterized by its dominant sugar and tourism industries. The agricultural sector in St. Christopher and Nevis contributes three percent of the GDP and employs an estimated 5.5 percent of labor. The primary food crops produced are coconut, potato and sugarcane. Sugar was the country's main export crop for well over a century, but increasing production costs, low world market prices and the government's efforts have led to a growing diversification of the agricultural sector.

The prospects for the economy of the federation continue to be good. Economic growth in the islands has been strong for the past five years and inflation has been kept below three percent. However, in recent years, the economy of St. Christopher and Nevis has undergone a major structural reform, due to a decline in the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP combined with a growth in tourism and industry. The development strategy adopted by the government is to support the sustainable economic and social development of the country during its ongoing transition from dependence on traditional preferential markets to an export oriented economy based on tourism, services, manufacturing and non sugar agriculture.

The growth of the tourism sector, the main foreign exchange earner since 1987, accelerated during the second half of the 1990s, following the construction of a new cruise ship pier. Future development plans include a casino, a seaport facility at Long Point on the southwest coast of Nevis, and the development of a historic industrial site into a major tourism complex.

Industrial development, previously directed at sugar refining, is now emphasizing light manufacturing. In particular, expansion in the electronics manufacturing sector has led to St. Christopher and Nevis being dubbed the "Silicon Valley of the Eastern Caribbean." Offshore financial services are also

playing a more significant role in the economy, especially in Nevis.

Despite relatively high levels of investment in certain sectors, there are growing pockets of poverty in St. Christopher and Nevis especially among vulnerable groups such as female headed households, youth, the elderly, and children.

According to the World Bank, St. Christopher and Nevis had an external debt of US\$140 million in 2001 and received US\$11 million in foreign assistance provided mostly by The Caribbean Development Bank, the EU and various Arab countries.

ICDF Operations

There are currently one technical mission, a technical assistance project, an education and training project, as well as two investment and lending projects.

Technical Mission

Fruit and Vegetable Project

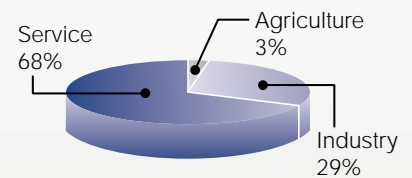
This project is designed to increase the number of extension farmers; improve vegetable production and sales management skills; extend growing areas and promote superior vegetables and fruit trees; and provide job skills and agricultural training to farmers, students and prisoners. In 2002, the mission helped to extend non irrigated vegetables at the demonstration area at Fahies, and vegetables at the demonstration area in Nevis. It helped extension farmers to grow fruit trees and it trained students, as well as prisoners at the national prison, in fruit and vegetable growing skills. Members of the mission taught local farmers how to propagate seedlings, and assisted in the cultivation of a demonstration field and the establishment of a seedling nursery.

Technical Assistance Project

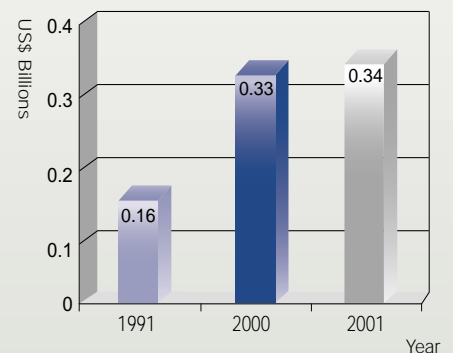
Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Improvement Project

The ICDF provides US\$100,000 annually to improve medical equipment and infrastructure. In 2002, the ICDF helped JNF hospital to buy operating room and internal medicine equipment including operating tables and anesthesia machines.

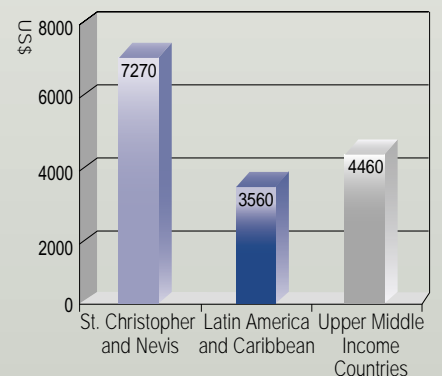
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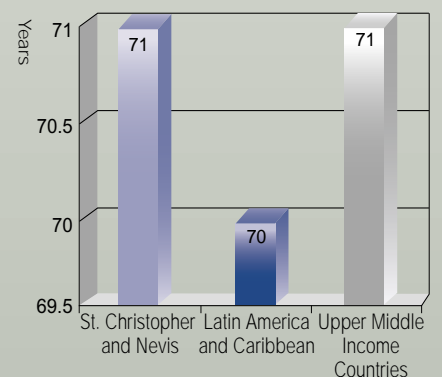
GDP



GNI Per Capita 2001



Life Expectancy 2001



St. Christopher and Nevis at a Glance

Investment and Lending Projects

Small Farmholders Financing Scheme

This project is part of ICDF agricultural assistance program in Eastern Caribbean countries, which is endeavoring to promote sustainable growth in the region. Technical missions and the ministries of agriculture in the Eastern Caribbean area are providing financing to selected farmers who have participated in the mission's vegetable and fruit, horticulture, livestock and fisheries programs.

Microcredit Project

This project has made available US\$200,000 for small loans to micro entrepreneurs. The intention is to expand and improve services in micro enterprises, increase employment opportunities, reduce poverty, improve living standards, and accelerate national economic growth.

Education and Training Project

Scholarship Program in Four Countries of the Eastern Caribbean Region

To improve national education and workforce standards, the ICDF is providing US\$100,000 annually to train new teachers and provide textbook and tuition assistance. In St. Christopher and Nevis, 125 elementary students, 200 secondary school students, and 10 college level students benefited from the project.

Taiwan Overseas Volunteers

There are currently three volunteers on the island. They are helping Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College maintain its computer software, hardware and Internet facilities, and helping to provide medical services to JNF Hospital.

Taiwan Youth Overseas Service

There are two servicemen serving in St. Christopher and Nevis. These young people are contributing to the ICDF technical mission by performing administrative and computer work.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Fast Facts

Capital:

Kingstown

Languages:

English, French patois

Population:

115,900

Area:

389 sq km

Religions:

Christianity, Hinduism

Currency:

East Caribbean Dollar



Economic Overview and Outlook

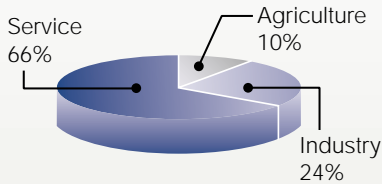
St. Vincent and the Grenadines, one of the four independent nations that make up the Windward Islands, is heavily dependent on agriculture. Banana cultivation alone accounts for more than 60 percent of the work force and 50 percent of merchandise exports. Such reliance on a single crop makes the economy exposed to external factors. St. Vincent's banana grower's benefit from preferential access to the European market but, in view of the EU's announced phase out of this preferred access, economic diversification is a priority.

The banana crop was severely damaged in 1994 and 1995 by tropical storms and in 1979 by the eruption of St. Vincent's volcano. Other agricultural products include coconut, sweet potato, spices, cattle, sheep, pig, goat and fish. Main trading partners are the United States, the United Kingdom, and members of CARICOM, a Caribbean Common Market established with the objective of promoting integration of the economies of its 15 member states.

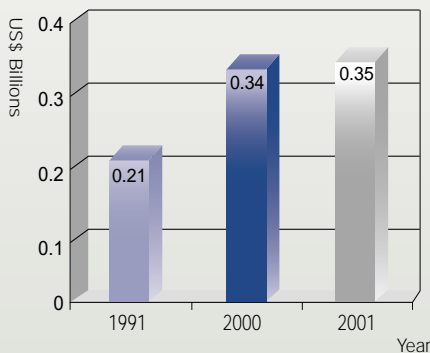
Tourism has become a very important part of the economy, ever since it supplanted banana exports as the chief source of foreign exchange. The increase in tourism revenues is expected to continue. In 1996, new cruise ship and ferry berths came online, sharply increasing the number of passenger arrivals.

According to the World Bank, St. Vincent and the Grenadines had a foreign debt of US\$193 million in 2001 and US\$9 million in foreign assistance. The EU, Japan and the Caribbean Development Bank provided most of the funding.

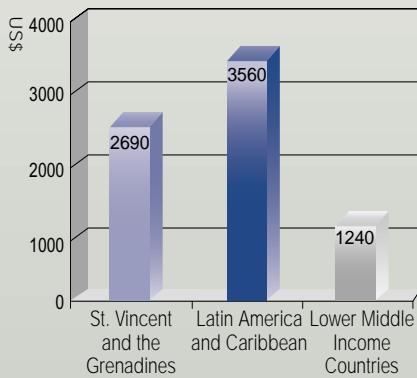
Structure of the Economy 2001 (%GDP)



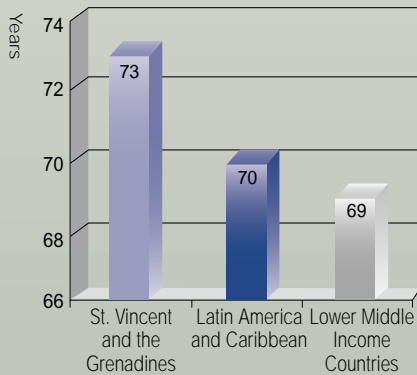
GDP



GNI Per Capita 2001



Life Expectancy 2001



St. Vincent and the Grenadines at a Glance

ICDF Operations

There are one technical mission working to improve agriculture and animal husbandry in the country, two technical assistance projects, an investment and lending project, and an education and training project.

Technical Mission

Horticultural Crop Development Project

Working with the Department of Agriculture, the technical mission is helping to cultivate vegetable and tropical fruit seedlings and extending production of these commodities. In 2002, the mission managed market surveys and research, provided planning services and technical guidance, and helped to establish vegetable production marketing teams.

Livestock Extension Project

Through this project, the technical mission is training Department of Agriculture hog farming assistants, and providing artificial insemination assistance to farmers. It is helping to establish breeder chicken and incubation farms, for which it is acquiring and hatching breeder meat chickens. In 2002, the mission worked to produce purebred hogs and to inseminate sows artificially.

Technical Assistance Project

Eastern Caribbean Medical Equipment Improvement Project

The ICDF provides US\$100,000 annually for the improvement of medical equipment. In 2002, the ICDF provided funding for pediatric equipment including infant warmers, oxygen measuring instruments, cleaning compressors, an electrocardiogram, and a bronchus mirror.

Eastern Caribbean Agribusiness and Plant Disease Seminar

In order to enhance plant protection and disease reduction, the ICDF conducted this seminar in December. The conference included government officials from Taiwan and four Eastern Caribbean nations and specialists from the technical mission.

Investment and Lending Project

Microcredit Project

The project aims to promote development of the private sector and strengthen credit delivery, in order to raise incomes and reduce poverty by generating greater employment. The ICDF provides up to US\$200,000 to an executing agency (the National Development Foundation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines), which will in turn channel the loan proceeds in Eastern Caribbean (EC) dollars to local entrepreneurs in order to finance the activities of micro and small enterprises.

Education and Training Project

Scholarship Program in Four Countries of the Eastern Caribbean Region

To improve national standards in education and teaching, the ICDF provides up to US\$100,000 annually for teacher training and tuition and textbook assistance. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 151 elementary school students, 246 secondary school

students, 69 college level students, and 47 overseas students benefited from the program.

Taiwan Youth Overseas Service

Two servicemen are currently serving in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. They are involved in horticulture and computer maintenance work.



WELCOME TO FIELD DAY
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND FISHERY
AND
THE TECHNICAL MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
23rd MAY, 2002