

March 2012

Study on the identification of Geographical Indicators almost complete

Saint Lucia and other Member States of the OECS received assistance to prepare a strategy on geographical indications. The overriding objective of this project which runs from January to March of this year is to identify potential geographical indications and develop feasible implementation strategies. The Project will also assist in raising awareness and building capacity, analyse laws and regulations affecting geographical indications, identifying lessons for the OECS and advising trade negotiators. The results expected from the project are the identification of five potential GI products with draft specifications and implementation strategies, a country strategy paper for Saint Lucia, proposals for revision of laws and regulations which affect geographical indications. Recommendations on the use of Saint Lucia's approach as a model for other OECS Member States.

The findings of the study will be discussed at a meeting of trade and intellectual property stakeholders to be held in March in Saint Lucia.

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country). The use of a GI may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, is made according to traditional methods, or enjoys a certain reputation, due to its geographical origin e.g. "cheddar cheese" this type of cheese is associated with a particular location in the UK. The GI designation helps to distinguish the product and can be used in advertising campaigns.

Funding to undertake the study was provided by Tradecom which is a facility established by the European Union to assist African Caribbean and Pacific States.

The OECS will continue to engage in the WTO negotiations

It is important to remain engaged in the negotiations at the World Trade Organisation following the Eighth ministerial conference which was held in December 2011. The OECS Technical Mission in Geneva will continue to participate in negotiating and working meetings on various subjects being negotiated in order to secure OECS interests particularly in trade facilitation. In addition. The Mission will also pay attention to matters such as electronic commerce and trade and climate change.

The World Trade Organisation is comprised of over 150 members who seek to establish rules for trade in areas such as manufactured goods, goods, services and agricultural commodities. The rules agreed will impact on farmers, manufacturers and service providers operating in the OECS.

The Trade Policy Unit assist St. Kitts/Nevis assess its implementation of trade agreements

The Trade Policy Unit participated in a two day workshop on the Role of Government Ministries and Institutions in the effective implementation of trade agreements held during 27 - 28 February in St. Kitts/Nevis. The workshop programme included the role of the Ministry of Trade, the importance of consultation, an overview of the agreements to which St. Kitts/Nevis is a party and how the relevant stakeholders can play a more effective role in trade policy implementation. The Trade Policy Unit made a presentation on the operation of the OECS Economic Union.

The next issue of UpDate will treat with regional and international trade issues.

Email contact: [tpu@oecs.org](mailto:tpu@oecs.org) ( <mailto:tpu@oecs.org> )

An Update from the OECS Trade Policy Unit on Trade Matters of Importance to the Sub Region