

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	JAMAICA/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure for Competitiveness and Green Growth in Jamaica
▪ TC Number:	JA-T1228
▪ Team Leader/Members:	GRANT, KAYLA SHAREE (IFD/CTI) Team Leader; GONZALES CIENFUEGOS, ALESSANDRA MADELAINE (IFD/CTI) Alternate Team Leader; DIAZ GILL VIRGINIA MARIA (LEG/SGO); GALEANO BUITRAGO MARIA ALEJANDRA (IFD/CTI); SAMUELS, ROCHELLE KAYE (CCB/CJA); BENEDETTELLI, VERONICA (VPC/FMP); FORONDA NOGALES, SHIRLEY MABEL (VPC/FMP)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	10 Jul 2024
▪ Beneficiary:	Government of Jamaica
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$120,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/CTI - Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CJA - Country Office Jamaica
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Productivity and innovation ; Institutional capacity and rule of law

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The Technical Cooperation (TC) seeks to support the National Quality Infrastructure's (NQI) capacity to promote the adoption of quality standards, especially green standards, among Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jamaica.
- 2.2 There is an increasing demand for environmentally friendly quality standards in global markets. In response, Jamaica has developed a robust NQI framework that encourages firm level productivity through improved firm level processes. Being cognizant of the role that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CBAs) play in ensuring the stability of Jamaica's exports and the competitiveness of its products and services, Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC) is seeking to: (i) strengthen its internal capacity by having an adequate number of qualified assessors; and (ii) following global trends and demands for environmentally sound products and services, to promote the adoption of green standards and certification practices within exporting firms. The JANAAC is the only internationally recognized accreditation body in the English-speaking Caribbean. In addition, JANAAC is one of four accreditation bodies recognized by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Accredited Third-Party Certification Program (TPP). JANAAC has accredited over fifty CABs that hail from the private and public sector across the Caribbean. Yet there are

competency gaps in JANAAC's team of assessors and external assessors that have been trained but which require practical experience to complete their qualification and therefore contribute further to JANAAC's ability to service the varied needs of clients across the region. This project is linked to Jamaica's Vision 2030 which seeks to create a prosperous economy through the development of internationally competitive industry structures. Policies such as the National Quality Policy (NQP) of Jamaica 2019 supports the achievement the national vision by promoting Jamaica as a quality environment to live, work, raise families and do business. This TC is consistent with the IDB Group Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (GN-3159-12) and is aligned with the objectives to "Bolster Sustainable Growth" by building the capacity of institutions in charge of promoting standards and quality related to encouraging competitiveness and productivity of the private sector including the design of a pilot program to promote the adoption of green innovative technologies and practices within exporting firms in Jamaica. It is also aligned with the operational focus areas of: (i) Institutional Capacity, Rule of Law, and Citizen Security as it relates to institutional strengthening through capacity building of JANAAC and related institutions and entities; and (iii) Productive Development and Innovation through the Private Sector. The program also aligns with the objectives of the IDB Group's 2021-2025 Country Strategy with Jamaica (GN-3138) as it aims to support private sector productivity and growth. The project hopes to strengthen collaboration between partners and the IDB Group (IDB Lab, IDB Invest, and other sectors) which have conducted studies and projects related to promoting green certification amongst firms.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Institutional capacity building of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) for the implementation of standards accreditation programs (US\$70,000.00).** is component will build the institutional capacity of JANAAC and CABs to implement and promote standards accreditation programs. The key outputs will be (i) the implementation of a communications campaign to promote the importance of standards accreditation in exporting firms in Jamaica; and (ii) the implementation of a practical hands-on training for at least twenty persons consisting of JANAAC staff and competitively selected Jamaican assessors that work with CABs.
- 3.2 **Component II: Analysis of the role of the NQI in promoting innovation in the green economy of Jamaica (US\$50,000.00).** This component will support JANAAC in developing a pilot to promote the adoption of green standards and certification practices within exporting firms. The following outputs are expected: (i) a gap analysis of the technological infrastructure required to promote green growth in Jamaica; (ii) a report with recommendations of green innovative technologies and standards and certifications; and (iii) the design of a pilot program for promoting the adoption of green technologies and certifications.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Institutional capacity building of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) for the implementation of standards accreditation programs (US\$70,000.00)	US\$70,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$70,000.00
Analysis of the role of the	US\$50,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$50,000.00

NQI in promoting innovation in the green economy of Jamaica (US\$50,000.00)			
Total	US\$120,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$120,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 This TC will be executed by the Bank through the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI) in coordination with the Country Office of Jamaica. As per OP-619-4, Annex II, C 2.2, the Bank is the proposed EA. This is justified by the limited institutional capacity of JANAAC to procure qualified expertise. CTI will support the identification and supervision of individual consultant to ensure the quality and timeliness of the products, according to section 4.5 of the Bank's Technical Cooperation Guidelines (GN-2470-2). This section requires that for Bank executed technical cooperation: (a) the beneficiary country agrees and (b) the proposed activities are aligned with the strategies and programs of the Bank in the Country. The project team will closely coordinate implementation of the TC with JANAAC and other institutions and/or entities identified as key stakeholders in the project.
- 5.2 The procurement of works, goods, services and consultancy services shall be done in accordance with Bank's policies for the procurement of (i) individual consultants, as established in the document AM-650 - Complementary Workforce; (ii) consulting firms for services of an intellectual nature according to the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Firms in Bank executed Operational Work (GN-2765-4) and its associated operational guides (OP-1155-4); and (iii) logistic services and other services other than consulting, according to the Corporate Procurement Policy (GN-2303-28). The contracting of all relevant services will be carried out in accordance with the Policy GN-2303-33 and its associated Guidelines.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 A major risk is finding qualified technical assessors to provide the required training services to improve the quantity of locally available certified assessors. To address the risk, JANAAC is proposing a twinning arrangement where it will establish an MOU with a more mature accreditation body for training.

VII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 7.1 This TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).