



International
Trade
Centre

SheTrades

The Caribbean Development Bank
Presents

**The SheTrades
CARIBBEAN
Grow and Go
Grant Facility**

INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), through the [SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go Grant Facility](#), has launched a US\$500,000 grant initiative to support women entrepreneurs who demonstrate the readiness and capacity to scale and enhance their businesses. The facility is designed to help them access and leverage opportunities in regional and international markets through trade and export.

This initiative will empower Women Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises (WMSMEs) in the Caribbean to grow their businesses and increase exports by addressing technical, operational, and market-entry barriers.

FUNDS, SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE COMPETENCE, MARKETS CAPACITY BUILDING NETWORK AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Under the SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go Grant Facility, CDB will provide funding, in the form of a non-reimbursable grant up to US\$25,000, which can be utilised to cover 85% of the cost of eligible project costs for 20 members of the SheTrades Caribbean Hub to scale their businesses or go to market.

Successful firms will cover 15% of eligible project costs and participate in a 6-month capacity building programme.



RATIONALE

There is strong and sustained demand for grant funding in the MSME sector—both from firms and the institutions that support them. Consultations with members of the SheTrades Caribbean Hub reveal that WMSMEs need financing to upgrade their operations and prepare for entry into regional and international markets. Many are unable to invest in technical and operational improvements without incurring debt.

Business Support Organisations (BSOs) report high volumes of applications for grants, often far beyond their financial capacity to supply.

Direct grant funding has been shown to significantly improve the technical, operational, and financial capacity of MSMEs—helping them grow and compete in areas critical for business expansion, including market access and investment readiness.

While development partners have implemented several initiatives to improve the overall business environment in the region, direct financial support for MSMEs remains limited.





**“TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS WHO DEMONSTRATE
THE READINESS AND CAPACITY TO
SCALE OR IMPROVE THEIR BUSINESSES”**

OBJECTIVES

WMSMEs in the SheTrades Caribbean Hub have identified a critical need for financing to support areas such as Intellectual Property (IP) acquisition and protection, research and development, product and service improvement, and the purchase or installation of capital equipment to boost productivity.

These firms also require financing for activities essential to export readiness, including target market research, the development of e-commerce-ready websites, branding and promotional efforts, shipping and freight costs, and participation in regional and international trade fairs and business missions.

The objective of the SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go Grant facility is to provide funding for women entrepreneurs who demonstrate the readiness and capacity to scale or improve their businesses so that they are better able to take advantage of commercial opportunities in regional and/or global markets through trade and export.

In order to address challenges in exporting to new markets, particular emphasis is required to be placed on improving access to distribution networks, warehousing or storage facilities, contract manufacturing, and customs compliance for cross-border trade.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go Grant Facility will be implemented as a pilot programme for WMSMEs within the SheTrades Caribbean Regional Hub. In addition to the financial support provided by the Caribbean Development Bank, the programme will also deliver tailored capacity-building such as training, coaching, and mentoring to meet the needs of the participating firms, particularly in areas not currently covered by regional programmes.

Over the course of six (6) months, the Hub will offer comprehensive business development services such as logistics management, customs navigation, internationalisation strategies, climate resilience, and business financing. Clinics and workshops will be delivered to address practical challenges and support scaling efforts.

Through an ongoing partnership with DHL Go Trade, eligible participants may also benefit from reduced shipping costs in addition to grant funding.

Throughout the pilot, the Hub will monitor participant progress and outcomes to inform the evolution of the SheTrades Caribbean Regional Hub beyond the current project cycle.



A woman with voluminous curly hair is smiling and looking down at a tablet computer she is holding. The image has a strong red color cast. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**“COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TO THE
SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS IN TRAINING,
COACHING AND MENTORING”**

GROW STREAM

Under the Grow Stream, grant funding will be allocated for women-owned and women-led businesses who are currently offering innovative and competitive products and services in sectors which are best placed to take advantage of opportunities at the regional/international level.

The Grow Stream grant will be provided to help an eligible company to:

- Expand its reach and increase profits.
- Manage a growing workload or potential increase in output in a cost-effective manner.
- Expand operations without sacrificing performance or revenue.
- Create systems or processes to handle larger volumes of business without requiring proportional increases in resources.

Some of the areas in which funding may be provided (list is for guidance only and is not exhaustive):

- a.** Research & Development such as completing business assessments and diagnostics (including in-market research activity and investment readiness, evaluation of business models, development of strategies for internationalisation, etc.);
- b.** Skills training and development for staff which directly supports business growth;
- c.** Purchase/installation of capital items (e.g. equipment) which improve business processes and increase productivity;
- d.** Digital process innovation and implementation of information technology solutions;
- e.** Product and service development; and
- f.** Acquiring, protecting or managing company Intellectual Property (IP).

GO STREAM

Under the Go Stream, grant funding will be allocated for women-owned and women-led companies at different stages of their export journey. Funding will be made available to new exporters and export-ready companies which require a financial or technical catalyst for international expansion.

Funding will also be provided to eligible WMSMEs who are already exporting and seeking to scale up their presence in desired target markets or to diversify the products and services already on offer.

Some areas in which funding may be provided include:

- a.** Market research and competitive analysis;
- b.** Training activities including developing export capability, market intelligence, accessing networks, and marketing for export;
- c.** Participation in regional and international trade fairs and festivals (coverage of trade show exhibitor costs including fees relating to registration and booth space/stands);
- d.** Export promotional campaigns and outreach in target markets
- e.** Creation of marketing materials for international audiences
- f.** Translation and localisation of marketing content (e.g. booklets, websites)
- g.** Development or enhancement of e-commerce platforms
- h.** Business model diagnostics and investment-readiness assessment

CHOOSE WHICH GRANT STREAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

Criteria	Grow Stream (USD200,000)	Go Stream (USD200,000)
Objective	Support WMSMEs offering innovative and competitive products in sectors best positioned to scale and take advantage of opportunities to expand internationally.	Support WMSMEs at different stages of export readiness to expand into new international markets.
Target Applicants	WMSMEs in export sectors seeking to scale operations.	WMSMEs new to exporting, export-ready firms, or those expanding their market presence.
Key Focus	Expansion, scaling, and increasing capacity for trade and export.	Market entry, international expansion, and export capability.
Funding Allocation	Funding to address technical, operational, or financial gaps.	Funding to facilitate international expansion and increase market reach.
Eligibility	Applicants must be women-led/owned, operational for at least 2 years, registered in a CDB Borrowing Member Country (BMC), and able to co-finance 15%.	Applicants must be women-led/owned, operational for at least 2 years, registered in a CDB Borrowing Member Country (BMC), and able to co-finance 15%.
Supported Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D: Business assessments and diagnostics. • Skills training and staff development. • Purchase/install capital equipment. • Digital process innovation & IT solutions. • Product and service development. • IP acquisition, protection, and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market research. • Export capability and marketing training. • Participation in international trade fairs. • Promotional activities for foreign markets. • Development of marketing materials. • Translation for export markets. • Development of e-commerce websites. • Business assessments and diagnostics.
Intended Outcomes	Increase business reach, improve productivity, and facilitate international trade.	Expand into new markets, increase export revenue, and develop sustainable trade pathways.
Application	For more information go to: www.caribank.org/shetrades	For more information go to: www.caribank.org/shetrades



“THE HUB IS PRIORITISING WMSMES WITH THE STRONGEST POTENTIAL TO SCALE THEIR BUSINESSES AND ACCESS NEW MARKETS.”

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Hub is supporting WMSMEs to address operational technical and financial barriers to growth.

Eligible applicants must:

- be a woman-owned/led business legally registered and operating in any of the following countries:– Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- be a registered member of the SheTrades Caribbean Hub.
- be a firm operating for at least two (2) years, who is able to demonstrate its cash flow position via bank or financial statements for the past financial year.
- Own and operate a business bank account.
- be exporting or able to demonstrate their potential to export goods and services (i.e. by highlighting product and market readiness, business leads and/or orders secured).
- commit in writing, with evidentiary support, to financing 15% of the total eligible project costs.
- commit to participating in a six-month capacity building programme if selected.

Grant recipients must co-finance 15% and CDB will contribute up to 85% of the total eligible project cost. All activities must be implemented within period of the grant agreement.

Extensions will not be granted.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go Fund is expected to deliver measurable outcomes that strengthen the capacity of women-led enterprises to access and succeed in both regional and international markets.

Key anticipated outcomes include:

A.

Enhanced competitiveness of women entrepreneurs supported through the Fund

B.

Increased participation of women entrepreneurs in international trade and global value chains

C.

Expanded economic opportunities and improved livelihoods for women-led enterprises

D.

Strengthened institutional capacity of the CDB and its partners to deliver impactful trade and export programmes for women

The pilot will offer insights into how grant funding and tailored capacity-building interventions influence business growth. These findings will help guide CDB's future efforts to enhance its support for WMSMEs across the Caribbean.



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For enquiries and further information,
contact our team at
shetrades@caribank.org

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