Project Summary

Belize’s sugar industry is largely concentrated in the Northern part of the country and plays a crucial role for almost 40% of the rural population. When sugar prices dropped between 2006 and 2010 Belize’s sugar industry lost about US$21.7 million which created serious problems for Belize’s small cane farmers. To counteract this development, the EU supports Belize with a Sector Policy Support Programme financed through Budget Support.

Overall Objective
To improve the social conditions and the long-term sources of income and employment in Northern Belize.

Contract Purpose:
- Upgrading of the 'Sugar Belt' road network and other strategic roads in Belize
- To assist the swift and timely disbursement of donor funding from the EU provided under the AMS
- To advise the project steering committee on project status and activities

Project Results
- Establishment and management of a Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
- Effective and strategic assistance to the EC and Government of Belize through the National Authorising Officer /CEO MAF to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the AMS.
- Capacity building for stakeholders to support implementation
- Coordinated activities with government and donor efforts in the project area

Services provided

Institutional Strengthening
- Establishment and management of an effective Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
- Capacity building for stakeholders
- Training of staff in MAF and other Ministries
- Routine consultations with stakeholders (ministries, associations, research institute, farmers, etc.)

Support to the PIU
- Preparation of Annual Action Plans for future AMS allocations in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).
- Elaboration of adaptation measures into fundable projects/programmes
- Development of technical and administrative provisions
- Management of tenders and calls for proposals
- Assistance in the swift and timely disbursement of donor funding from the EU (EUR 45 millions) provided under Accompanying Measures for Sugar (AMS);
- Advice to the project steering committee on project status and activities

Support to Implementation
- Support measures for their implementation including routine consultations with stakeholders and their representative organisations in the sugar belt.
- Preparation of Project Identification Fiches,
- Promotion of alternative agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises
- Employment creation and income generation measures, including tourism
- Improvements in the macro-economic policy framework and public finance management.
- Environmentally sound efficiency improvements in sugar cane production
- Routine financial, management and technical reports, including those generated by short-term specialists

Belize

Project implementing unit within the accompanying measures for sugar

Client
European Commission

Duration
05.05.2008 - 04.08.2010

Personnel
- 1 Team Leader (465 p/d)
- 1 Finance Manager/ contract specialist (466 p/d)
- Pool of short term experts (628 p/d)