

- (1) Farmers' and Fishermen's Cooperative: limited operational capacity; potential to grow into producers' organisation with a key role in improving market access;
 - (2) Made In Statia Agriculture Centre Foundation; supported by the Government of Sint Eustatius; promotion of horticulture; production of seedlings, gardening supplies; enthusiasm and entrepreneurial spirit, but focus and capacity constraints;
 - (3) Sint Eustatius Foundation; small enterprise stimulation program; claims capacity for nurturing entrepreneurs from concept to viable business.
 - (4) New Challenges Foundation : capacity for education and training for professional development; youth employment opportunity project operated now defunct hydroponics operation;
 - (5) Sint Eustatius National Parks Foundation: key implementing partner of NEPP; focus on reversing environmental and bio-diversity degradation/re-greening; capacity to contribute to technical and environmental issues and ongoing policy dialogue;
 - (6) Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute: research organisation; capacity to contribute to knowledge management, innovation and to ongoing policy dialogue.
 - (7) Sint Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation: mandated to promote sustainable tourism incl. agro-tourism.
- Final beneficiaries: Small number of registered agricultural farmers (W/M; most also member of the Farmers' and Fishermen's Cooperative). Potential beneficiaries are the numerous households (including women headed households) informally engaged in small-scale food crop production, ranging from purely home consumption purposes to –in the perspective- generating additional income by marketing produce as well as the (registered) owners of free-roaming livestock, some of whom may be interested to move into formal, professional production.

2.3 Additional Areas of Assessment

2.3.1 Public Policy

The Nature and Environment Policy Plan Caribbean Netherlands (NEPP) 2020-2030 is an integrated framework jointly prepared by three Dutch ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations. It was ratified by the Dutch Parliament in March 2020.

The NEPP's implementation is foreseen for a period of 8 years, with a first phase running from 2022-2025. Commitment of funds for the second phase 2026-2030 will be subject to a mid-term evaluation in 2025. The first phase is funded by the Netherlands to the amount of USD 35 million (approx. EUR 32.5 million), of which USD 7 million (approx. EUR 6.5 million) are for Sint Eustatius and USD 10.5 million (approx. EUR 9.75 million) regionally for the Caribbean Netherlands.

The Implementation Agenda of the NEPP in Sint Eustatius is the formal public policy that has been assessed to determine the eligibility to sector budget support. It is a more detailed plan that has been prepared by the Government of Sint Eustatius setting out the necessary activities to achieve the goals set in the NEPP. The Implementation Agenda was approved by the Executive Council on 30 November 2021.

Sint Eustatius' policy approach for agriculture is further detailed in a complementary document, the 'Vision for sustainable agriculture on Sint Eustatius', which was ratified by the Executive Council on 28 February 2022.

Given the island's heavy dependence of food imports, the relevance of pursuing an agricultural policy in order to increase food security through food production is being further highlighted by the serious impact on global food supplies and food prices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Threats to food supply had existed prior to these occurrences - the passage of the 2017 hurricane Irma resulting in an extended food supply interruption, had been a warning - but the latest external threats strongly reinforce the argument to support a sustainable and more secure food system in Sint Eustatius. Special emphasis is given to protection and restoration of biodiversity, including to reverse the impact of erosion on coral reefs and to enhance Sint Eustatius' resilience in the face of climate change.

At the core of the Implementation Agenda is the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the agriculture sector governance. The proposed measures aim to create a conducive environment for entrepreneurial development and private sector investments in sustainable agriculture, whilst improving the island's resilience to the effects of climate change. In particular, the enhancement of water resources management should lead to an increased productivity.