



## Brussels Policy Briefing no.37

### Small island economies: from vulnerabilities to opportunities Building resilience of SIDS through agricultural trade and agribusiness development

11 July 2014, Borschette Center, rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels, Room AB1A

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

8h00-8h45 Registration

8h45-9h00 Introduction and Opening of the Briefing: *Isolina Boto, Manager, CTA Brussels Office*

**Introductory remarks:** *Honorable Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, Secretary General, ACP Secretariat; Pedro Henriques, International Relations Officer, DG DEVCO, European Commission; Michael Hailu, Director, CTA*

#### 9h00-10h45 Panel 1: Drivers to enhance trade resilience and agribusiness development in SIDS

Small islands face a greater risk of marginalization due to the combined adverse consequences of their small size, remoteness from large markets and high economic vulnerability to economic and natural shocks beyond domestic control. This panel will give an overview of the main challenges and opportunities for agribusiness development in SIDS.

Chair: *H.E. Dr. Len Ishmael, Ambassador of Eastern Caribbean States (ECS)*

##### Panellists:

- Resilience to economic shocks: Lessons learned across SIDS  
*Lino Briguglio, Economics Professor, Director Islands and Small States Institute (Univ. of Malta)*
- Key implications for ACP SIDS in the context of the Doha Development round  
*Stephen Fevrier, Trade Adviser, Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva*
- Agricultural trade opportunities in the Pacific: from policies to practice  
*Veniana Qalo, Senior Trade Policy Specialist, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat*
- Building resilience through trade and green growth  
*Ambassador Edwin Laurent, Senior Advisor, The Caribbean Green Economy Initiative*
- Support for trade resilience and successes in improving business in Eastern Caribbean States  
*Randolph Cato, Consultant, Eastern Caribbean States*

10h45-11h00 Coffee break

#### 11h00-13h00 Panel 2: Learning from successes in agribusiness in ACP countries

This panel will discuss some best practices in agribusiness in ACP regions and strategies to identify new opportunities especially through innovative partnerships.

Chair: *H.E. Fatumanava Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador of Samoa*

##### Panellists:

- Successes in agribusiness in the Caribbean and lessons learned  
*Escipi3n Oliveira, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Export Development Agency*
- Farm to table: opportunities and connections between farms and the tourism industry  
*Mereia Volavola, CEO, Pacific Island Private Sector Organization (PIPSO)*
- Successes in accessing export markets for root crops and lessons learned  
*Maria Lailai Moi, Director, Ben's Trading Ltd, Fiji*
- Linking small farmers with agribusiness: niche markets and branding strategies  
*Shadel Nyack Compton, Managing Director, Belmont Estate, Grenada*

**Conclusion:** *Michael Hailu, Director of CTA*

Networking Lunch