



# Seminar on regional cooperation in the field of Plant Variety Rights

Ignacio de Medrano | Santo Domingo | 19 May 22



CARIFORUM



EU-CARIFORUM Regional project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

[www.caripi-hub.com](http://www.caripi-hub.com)

# ABOUT THE EUIPO

## OVERVIEW



**CARIFORUM**



## THE EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE



One of the largest decentralised agencies of the European Union



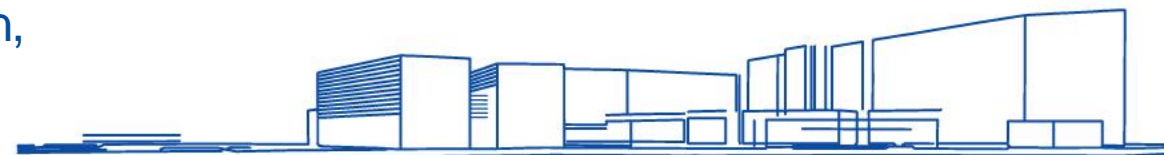
The EUIPO has been headed by **Christian Archambeau**, a Belgian national, since 2018



IP rights protection for businesses and innovators across the EU



Based in Alicante, Spain, since 1994



## EUIPIO IN NUMBERS



**1 600** employees and external collaborators



**5** working languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish



Handles applications in **23** official languages of the EU



**135 000** EU Trade Marks registered annually



**100 000** Community Designs registered annually

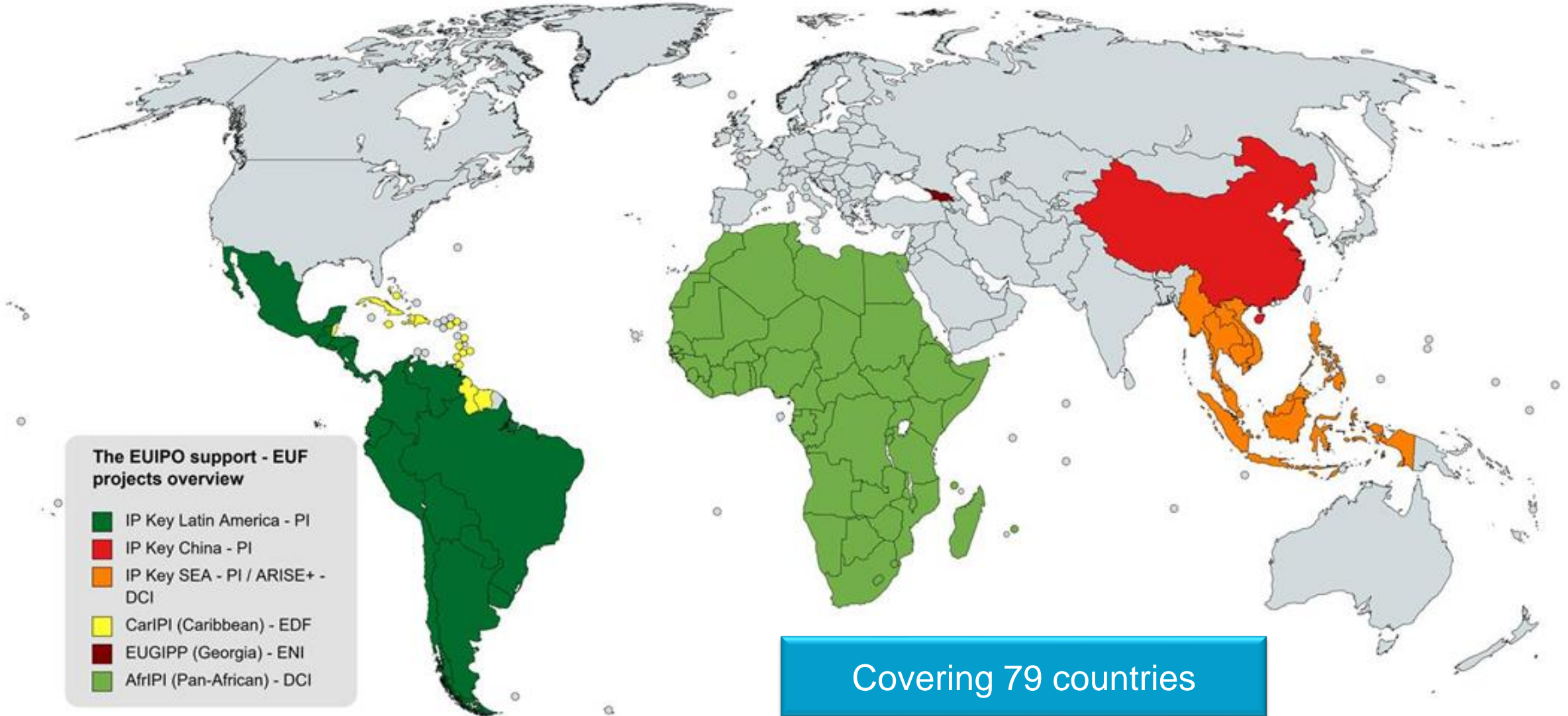
## EUIPO IN EU FUNDED PROJECTS

- **The EUIPO works closely with the European Commission to:**
  - i) Bilateral cooperation (50 MoUs) and multilateral fora (TM5, ID5)
  - ii) EU Funded Projects (external actions) → such as CarIPI
- **The EUIPO implements EU external actions: 11 projects since 2012**
- **The EUIPO co-funds on average 30%**
- **EU policies support (on trade, cooperation, development, neighbourhood, etc...)**
- **All IP Rights are covered with these projects**

Budget 7 active projects:  
44 M EUR  
EUIPO contributes: 11M



## EU FUNDED PROJECTS – GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE – 7 ACTIVE PROJECTS



# CARIFORUM-EU IP AND INNOVATION PROJECT

CarIPI



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# THE PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

Component of the	11 <sup>th</sup> EDF Economic Partnership Support Programme
Covering 16 CARIFORUM countries	Antigua & Barbuda; the Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Lucia; St Vincent and the Grenadines; St Kitts and Nevis; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago; and Cuba
Implementing agency	European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)
Implementation modality	Indirect management - Contribution Agreement EU-EUIPO
Total duration of the implementation period	54 months 01/11/2019 – 31/04/2024
Total Budget	4,000,000 EUR (70% EDF + 30% EUIPO contribution)





# ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Tackles component  
**“Innovation and Intellectual Property”** –  
 Strengthen framework that stimulates innovation and competitiveness of the private sector

CarIPI fits in the *Action designed to support CS in the implementation of the **EU-CARIFORUM EPA commitments*** (helps the two regions invest in and trade with each other)



OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS  
Updated September 2020

Region	Current status	Next step
<a href="#">CARIBBEAN</a>	<p>The CARIFORUM – EU EPA was signed in October 2008 and approved by the European Parliament in March 2009.</p> <p>The EPA joint institutions have met regularly since 2010 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 4<sup>th</sup> Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council (Ministers) held its meeting in Brussels in November 2017.</li> <li>• The 9<sup>th</sup> Trade and Development Committee (senior officials) held its meeting Brussels on 28 and 29 November 2019</li> <li>• The 5<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee representing civil society held its meeting in Brussels on 26 November 2019.</li> <li>• The 6<sup>th</sup> CARIFORUM-EU Special Committee on Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation was held in April 2019.</li> <li>• The 3<sup>rd</sup> CARIFORUM-EU Special Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries was held in January 2019.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The ex-post evaluation study concerning the first 10 years of implementation of the EPA will be finalised in the course of September 2020.</b></p> <p>Negotiations on the agreement to protect geographical indications (GIs) are ongoing. Topics under discussion are: setting up a joint monitoring system, 2020 Review Task Force, Tourism and activation of the Cultural Protocol, setting up of the Services Committee</p> <p>The next fifth Joint Cariforum-EU Council will be scheduled to take place in the Cariforum region at the end of 2020.</p>

### Overall objective

To contribute to the integration of CARIFORUM into the World Economy, through strengthening the enabling framework that stimulates innovation and competitiveness of the private sector.

### Specific objective

To further upgrade and harmonise the systems for **IP creation, protection, administration and enforcement** in line with the CARIFORUM-EU EPA provisions, and to contribute **to regional integration** in IPR.

## ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

EPA Art 139 – 164: comprehensive provisions on Innovation and IPRs protection and enforcement, including cooperation and regional harmonisation. CarIPI supports countries to advance on the implementation, focussing on the following topics and articles of the EPA:

Art. 133 and 141 Regional integration

Art. 144 Trade marks

Art. 145 Geographical Indications

Art. 146 Industrial Designs

**Art. 149 Plant Varieties**


Art. 150 Genetic resources

Art. 151-163 Enforcement

Art. 164 Cooperation



Focus of today's event



Geographical  
Indications and  
Plant Varieties  
Protection → IP  
tools for added  
value in the AGRO  
sector

# Geographical Indications

Brief introduction and actions under the CarIPI project



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# Geographical Indications

- A **geographical indication (GI)** is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, characteristics or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- Using a GI you **identify your product with a region/country** that is esteemed for **quality** and imply that it is made according to the **traditional knowledge** of its inhabitants. This may lead to higher benefit margins for farmers, sustain jobs in rural areas and attract additional tourism.
- CARIFORUM and EU are negotiating a **bilateral GI protection agreement**. This will establish strong protection for GIs in our respective regions.
- CarIPI is supporting CARIFORUM states to strengthen capacities to develop and protect GIs in their territories.





# Café de Valdesia – A Caribbean GI success story



2010 – first registered GI in the Dominican Republic

2016 – first registered ACP GI in the EU (PDO)





2016/2017 - Average export price for Café de Valdesia green coffee was **205% higher than NYSE reference price**



2019 – export FOB price into the EU reached 400€/100kg, compared to 200€/100kg in 2010 (year of registration)

# Café de Valdesia – A Caribbean GI success story



-  Café de Valdesia is produced from the varieties of Typica and Caturra, both of which are Arabica species grown in the highlands of Ocoa, Peravia and San Cristobal provinces within a planting area of 125.000 hectares.
-  Café de Valdesia is harvested throughout the year, but mostly between November and May. It provides jobs, income and a secure livelihood for thousands of families in a mountainous area at an altitude of up to 1.300 meters.
-  Depending on the roasting level, there are three types of Café de Valdesia available on the market: medium, medium-dark and dark, each with different organoleptic properties.
-  Main export markets are the US, Canada and the EU.

# CarIPI GI activities and results

- **Model Law on GIs**, including regulations and forms – based on analysis of all current laws and extensive consultation with stakeholders
- **Manual** for IPOs, control bodies, producers to be released soon (draft is out for consultation)
- **Mentorship Programme**: CarIPI and independent GI experts analyse 10 potential GI products and start working to get some of them ready for national registration
- **Training of all stakeholders**: IP Offices, Bureaux of Standard, existing and potential GI groups – special e-learning course and webinars

# Plant Variety Protection Initiatives

under the CarIPI project



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## Technical Assistance to DO during Q1 of 2020

CarIPI provided the long awaited technical assistance to Dom Rep, resulting in a fully functional and UPOV compliant PV framework and office, with trained staff and DUS examiners.

**The Dominican Republic is now leader in plant protection and innovation in the region**

CarIPI provided support to:

- Set-up procedures,
- Develop examination manual, forms and templates
- Train examiners

15 July 2020 –  
Official Act by the  
DO Minister of  
Agriculture and  
first 13 breeders’  
titles delivered to  
5 companies in DO





## Other CarIPI activities in PVR

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines joined UPOV in 2021. Assistance is being provided to VC to draft regulations, set-up procedures and train staff
- CarIPI shared the experience of Dominican Republic and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in several virtual sessions
- Policy Paper on Regional Cooperation in Plant Variety Protection was prepared with CPVO, UPOV and circulated to CS member states
- A proposal has been put forward by CARICOM and in cooperation with UPOV & CPVO, to the Ministers of Agriculture at their meetings in the framework of the **Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2021**, to endorse Plant Variety Protection in their territories and consider joining UPOV. The COTED officials meeting accepted the proposal and this was **presented at the Ministerial Meeting on 8 Oct 2021**



18, 19-20 May

## Seminar on regional cooperation in the field of Plant Variety Rights

- To increase awareness of the importance of plant variety protection to promote plant breeding activities in the region and the need for efficient systems for granting PVP
- To report on the recently implemented PVR framework in the Dominican Republic
- To share the results of the technical assistance in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with other CF members
- **Discuss cooperation in the field of plant varieties based on the results of the survey on the policy paper shared in December 2021**



# Thank you \* Gracias \* Merci \* Bedankt

**Website**

[www.caripi-hub.com](http://www.caripi-hub.com)

**Email Address**

[caripi@euipo.europa.com](mailto:caripi@euipo.europa.com)



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