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CARIFORUM Intellectual Property
Rights and Innovation

Protecting GIs in CARIFORUM Group of States

Colloquium on GIs, Tourism & CarIPI Mentorship Programme
Belize City, 18 March 2026
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Funded by
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Why GIs matter

-  Origin
-  Tradition
-  Value
-  Development
-  Tourism

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CF- EU Economic Partnership Agreement

- EPA signed in 2008
- Framework for cooperation on intellectual property
- Article 145: Establishment of a GI protection system
- Article 164(2)(c): Promotion of traditional knowledge and biodiversity through GIs

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Current GI Framework in CARIFORUM

- Some countries have specific GI legislation. Examples: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica
- Others protect GIs through general IP laws
- Others are currently updating their legislation. Examples: Belize, Grenada, Haiti, Suriname

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Role of CarIPI

Caribbean Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights Project

EU-funded technical assistance initiative

Supports:

- Strengthening IP systems in CARIFORUM
- Innovation and competitiveness
- Implementation of **EPA commitments**

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How CarIPI Supports GI Development

 Legal Framework

 Institutional Capacity

 Knowledge Tools

 Judiciary Training

 Producer Support

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Tools developed by CarIPI

 GI Model law and registration forms

 GI Manual

 E-Learning Course

 Case Studies & Videos

Specialised training on GIs for IPO staff

25 June - Protecting non-EU Geographical Indications in the EU

The training objective is to enhance the CARIFORUM IP Offices' technical know-how in relation to the GI examination process and criteria applied in the EU, with a view to facilitate protection in the EU of GIs protected in the CF region.

Watch these videos related with this activity:

Video 1 - Protecting non-EU Geographical Indications

Video 2 - Assessment of non-EU GI applications under bilateral agreements

Video 3 - Experience of Georgia agreement on protection of GIs with the EU



Download presentations and supporting material:

- Presentation 1 - Monika Turek, DG AGRI/COM - Protecting non-EU Geographical Indications [PDF - ENG] [1,1MB]
- Presentation 2 - Ewa Mitzczak, European Commission | Franciska Schönher, EUIPO - Assessment of non-EU GI applications under bilateral agreements [PDF - ENG] [1,5MB]
- Presentation 3 - Sofoho Mujiri - Experience of Georgia agreement on protection of GIs with the EU [PDF - ENG] [1,3MB]
- Q&A - Specialised Training for IPOs on GI Examination [PDF - ENG] [0,2MB]
- Q&A - Specialised Training for IPOs on GI Examination [PDF - ESP] [0,2MB]



Part 1: Positive impact of Geographical Indications - Introduction

It is important to note that implementing an OLP business strategy using Geographical Indications (or other IP tools) will not solve all the problems a producers group may face nor will it open all possible markets. This is primarily because the success of any business is reliant on economic and market forces.

There must be a need identified by the value chain stakeholders: there must also be market demand for the product, consumers must be aware of the OLP and its unique characteristics / quality and reputation and be willing to purchase the product. The reputation the product gains is due to its visibility in the market. There is need therefore for logos and other images representing the GI on packaging, another consideration is the incorporation of social and environmental considerations in production, processing and marketing of ...



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GI Mentorship Programme

Launched in 2021

Supports potential GI products in CARIFORUM countries

Works directly with producer groups

Helps prepare products for GI protection

3 Pillars:

- **1** Product Definition
- **2** Producer Organisation
- **3** Market Strategy



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Achievements

- Examples of supported initiatives:
 - Saint Lucia **Rum GI**
 - Trinidad & Tobago **Steelpan GI**
- Impact:
 - Stronger producer organisations
 - Clearer product specifications
 - Greater awareness of GI potential

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Going forward

- Adoption and use of GI Model Law by CS updating GI legislation
- Expansion of the Mentorship Programme
- Awareness raising on GIs and interlinkages with sustainable growth, tourism
- Development of case studies

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THANK YOU

<https://internationalipcooperation.eu/en/caripi>



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