

The European Union provides EUR 18 805 000 to boost the development of the sugar industry in Guyana

Today, the European Commission adopted the Guyana's Annual Action Programme (AAP) for Sugar 2010, providing An amount of Euro 18 805 000 will be made available for 2011 under this plan to support the sugar sector in the framework of the Accompanying Measures to the changes in the EU trade regime with Sugar Protocol Countries.

"The sugar sector remains very important in the economy of Guyana and is considered as an important motor for economic growth. It employs around 19 125 persons (16 944 persons full time equivalents), mostly low qualified people. The EU support to the sector is therefore crucial to combat poverty in Guyana." said Geert Heikens, Head of the EU Delegation in Guyana.

The AAP for Sugar 2010 is part of the EU funded Multi-annual Sugar Programme 2007-2010 which supports the Government of Guyana in its efforts to improve the competitiveness and viability of the Guyana Sugar Industry and to promote agricultural diversification. In particular, it will help:

- Increasing sugar production and expanding market shares
- Diversifying the sugar industry and adding value to the final product
- Improving the efficiency and profitability of sugar cane and sugar production
- Reinforcing private cane farming
- Upgrading of factories
- Providing of skills training in phytosanitary and market standards for agricultural students

The assistance will be provided through a direct budget support mechanism and the disbursements will be triggered by the achievement of performance indicators monitoring the implementation of the sector policy on sugar. Funds will also be channelled towards studies, evaluations and audits to ensure effective implementation.

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