

Geographical Indications Project Jamaica – Switzerland (GIJA)



Donor agency

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI)

Implementing agencies

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) and Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO)

Main project partners

Ministry of Industry, Technology, Energy & Commerce (MITEC) and various Jamaican stakeholders

Project duration

Three years (1 July 2008 – 30 June 2011)

Project development goals

- Contributing to a better positioning of Jamaican quality products on national and international markets by using distinctive signs.
- Establishing a functional and effective system of protection for geographical indications (GIs).

Project specific objectives

- Supporting the establishment of an effective legal framework for GI protection at national and international level.
- Providing capacity-building for officials of the public sector who have responsibilities concerning GIs.
- Providing capacity-building for producers of GI-products.
- Raising public awareness of GIs.

The main outcomes:

- In August 2009, the “Protection of Geographical Indications Regulations” was published in the official Gazette. Since then, a revised GI Act as well as amendments to the 2009 Regulations have been drafted by the JIPO and adopted by Parliament.
- Public sector officers were trained in order to be able to assume their functions, particularly for GI registration and control.
- Three producer groups have a draft code of practice. Two producer groups launched the procedure to register their GI products.
- GI awareness among producers and the officers of concerned ministries increased considerably. New producer groups in Jamaica are also interested in GI protection. JIPO permanently maintains a website with information on GIs for producers.
- A tool for monitoring the socio-economic impacts of GI protection was developed.

Contact

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