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.

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