



RFSI

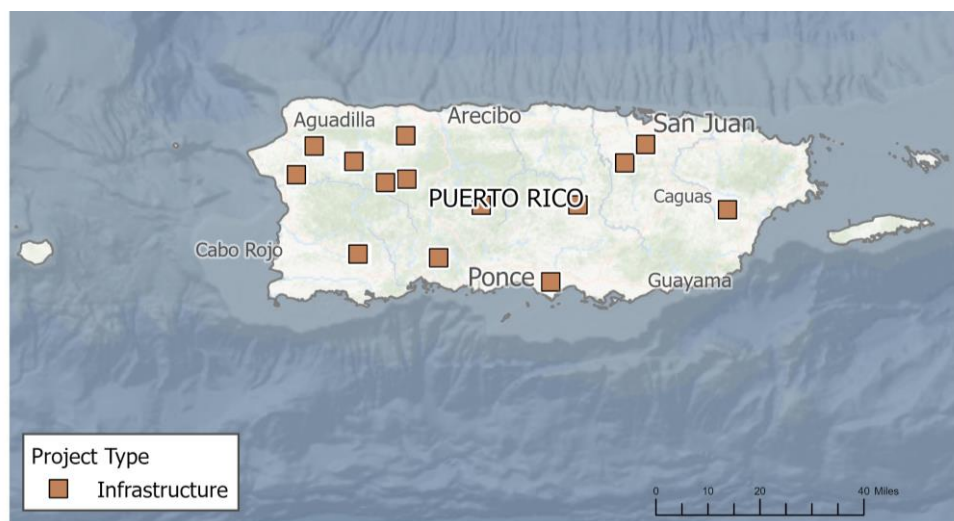
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Puerto Rico



State Overview

USDA awarded the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture **\$4.1 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 16 Puerto Rico infrastructure projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Anticipated Outcomes*

258

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

379

New Market Outlets
Established

131

Jobs
Created

54

New Value-Added
Products Developed

6

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

86

Processing
Equipment
Purchased

16

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

2

New Facilities
Constructed

**These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.*

Project Highlights

- **Construct and equip a food hub to increase processing of bananas, plantains, avocados, and other regionally grown crops** to improve shelf-life, develop 3 value-added products, and expand market access to local retailers for over 120 producers in Puerto Rico.
- **Expand a cacao processing facility with a pulping mill, dryer, and roaster** to develop value-added products, such as cocoa toast and cocoa nibs, to improve access to supermarkets, restaurants, and local food events in the central mountain region of Puerto Rico.
- **Upgrade and expand a dairy processing facility with a pasteurizer, yogurt processing machine, and other specialized equipment** to create new value-added products such as yogurt, kefir, and soft cheese benefiting five local dairy farmers.

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.

Puerto Rico has invested more than **\$3.4 million** across 16 projects to support infrastructure needs. The Territory's infrastructure grant recipients are collectively building resilience within the middle of the food supply chain by constructing 2 new facilities, modernizing 11 existing facilities, and purchasing and installing more than 102 pieces of equipment to expand processing, packaging, labeling, and related capacity. The territory expects projects will train 166 employees on specialized equipment and worker safety, providing workforce development benefits.

Of the sixteen projects:

- More than 90 percent purchase and install specialized equipment, such as a plantain peeler, oil steam boiler, and cacao roaster, to create more than 35 unique value-added products such as chocolate, sofrito, and cold brew coffee;
- More than 65 percent increase packaging and labeling capabilities with semi-automatic equipment and co-packing lines for local vegetables and fruits to meet product merchandizing requirements and establish new market access for local and regional producers;
- Eleven projects expand cold storage upgrades such as walk-in freezers and coolers to preserve product quality, meet food safety standards, and increase aggregation capacity for local or regional producers;
- Thirteen expand plantain processing capacity with equipment such as slicing machines and industrial grinders to develop 52 value-added products for 144 new wholesale and retail market outlets; and
- Five modernize or expand facilities to increase processing capacity and create controlled environments for produce and dairy products, aiming to benefit at least 51 producers with increased access to 16 new market outlets.

Territory Standouts



A quarter of Puerto Rico's projects improve infrastructure to process, aggregate, and distribute plantain and banana products to local supermarkets, restaurants, and wholesalers.



Puerto Rico is investing more than \$1 million in specialty crops such as cacao, coffee, herbs, lettuce, tomatoes, onion, garlic, pumpkins, and passionfruit.



Two of Puerto Rico's projects purchase specialized cheese processing equipment, improving market access for at least 15 local dairy producers.



Puerto Rico is investing \$270,000 in the storage, processing, and distribution of perishable products such as avocados, sweet peppers, and pineapples.