



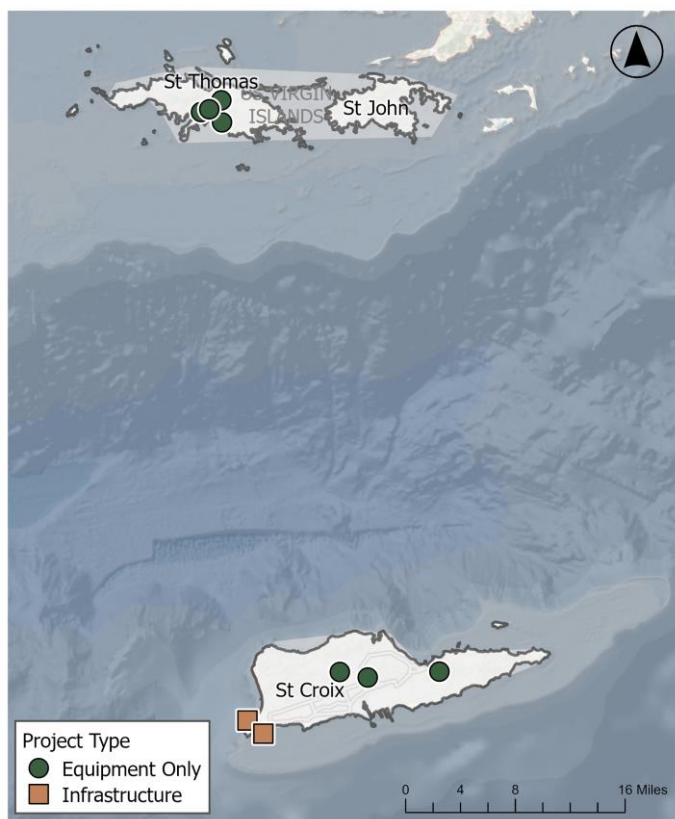
RFSI

Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

U.S. Virgin Islands

State Overview

USDA awarded the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands **\$2 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 nine U.S. Virgin Islands infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Construct an aggregation center and purchase a refrigerated vehicle** to increase market access to restaurants, supermarkets, hospitals and local schools for 30 local farmers.
- **Purchase an aseptic fruit puree processing line** to develop value-added products using imperfect fruits such as mangoes, benefiting 280 farmers.
- **Acquire a walk-in freezer, batch freezer, labeling tool, and distribution vehicle** to expand processing and distribution of non-dairy ice creams, frozen beverages and juices for 20 local farmers and producers.

Anticipated Outcomes*

676

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

141

New Market Outlets
Established

91

New Value-Added
Products Developed

2

New
Facilities
Constructed

14

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

4

Distribution
Vehicles Purchased

26

Processing Equipment
Purchased

8

Jobs Created

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

RFSI was awarded to the 56 States and Territories in May 2023. Each state conducted a competitive grant review and selection process. States identified their funding priorities through extensive outreach with key industry stakeholders, which guided their selection process to ensure a robust state and local food system representation. Selected projects fund locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

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

U.S. Virgin Islands invested more than **\$800,000** across 2 Infrastructure projects benefiting 80 local and regional producers. These projects are:

- Constructing a processing facility with cold storage and a refrigerated delivery vehicle to help 50 local producers process and distribute local fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey; and
- Developing an aggregation center with a cold storage unit and refrigerated vehicle for local fruits, vegetables, and herbs from 30 farmers to increase access to markets across the islands.

Equipment Only Projects: Snapshot

Equipment Only projects are intended to purchase special purpose equipment such as cold/dry storage, distribution vehicles, and processing and packaging equipment.

U.S. Virgin Islands invested more than **\$600,000** across 7 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 34 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated vehicles, walk-in coolers, water filtration systems, labeling machines, and commercial blenders. The territory expects 596 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest loss, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 110 new markets.

Territory Standouts



U.S. Virgin Islands' projects develop 91 new value-added products to increase wholesale market opportunities for local specialty crops such as mangoes, soursop, gooseberries, peppers, kenep, sugarcane, and coffee beans.



Five projects enhance cold chain capabilities by acquiring new coolers, refrigerators, and refrigerated vehicles for local food storage, aggregation, and distribution across the islands.



U.S. Virgin Islands is investing in two storage containers to transport local produce, increasing access to markets such as local and regional hotels, wholesalers, and supermarkets.