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Opportunities for improved value chain development

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



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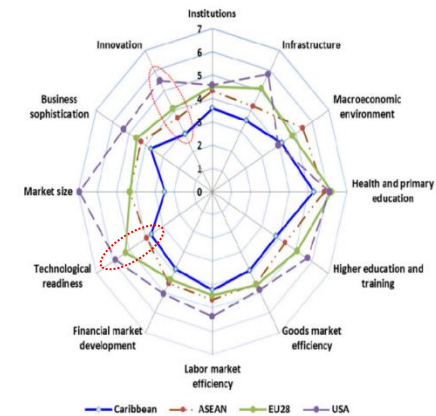
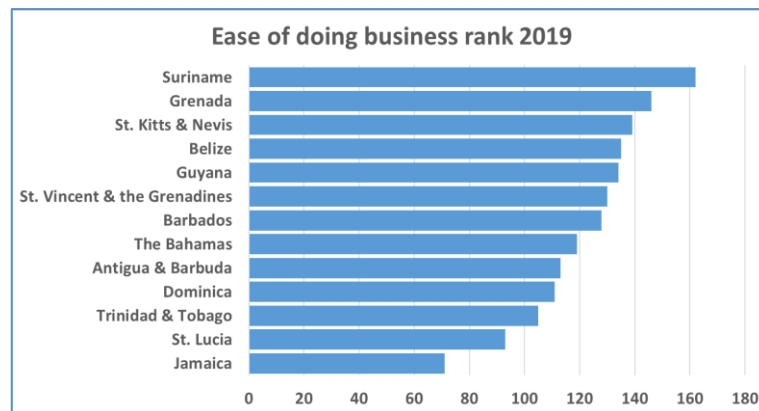
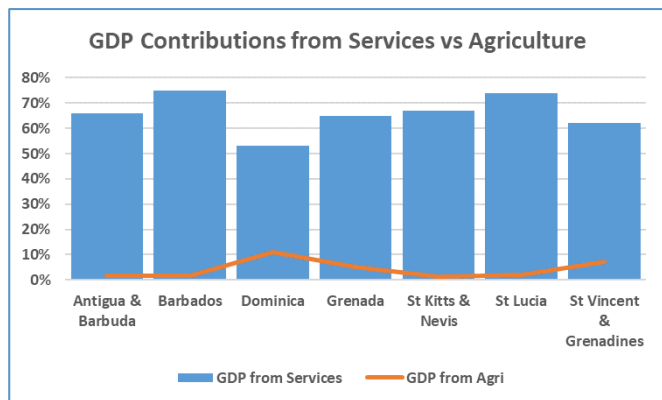
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
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Food Security and Smart Agriculture: *The role of technology and services*

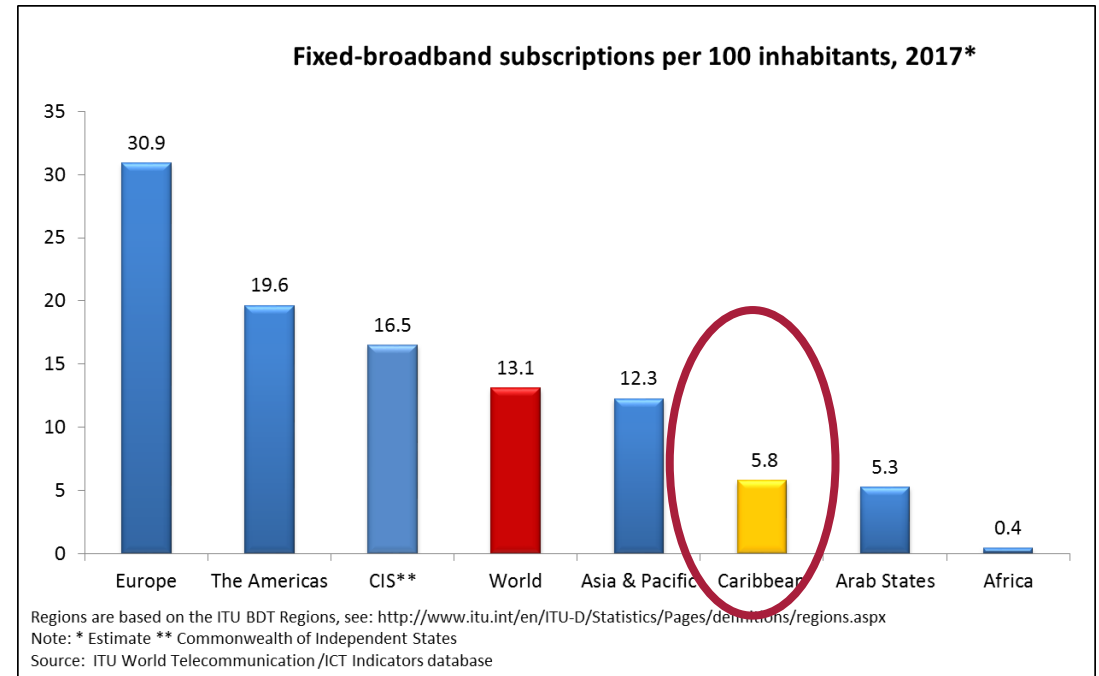
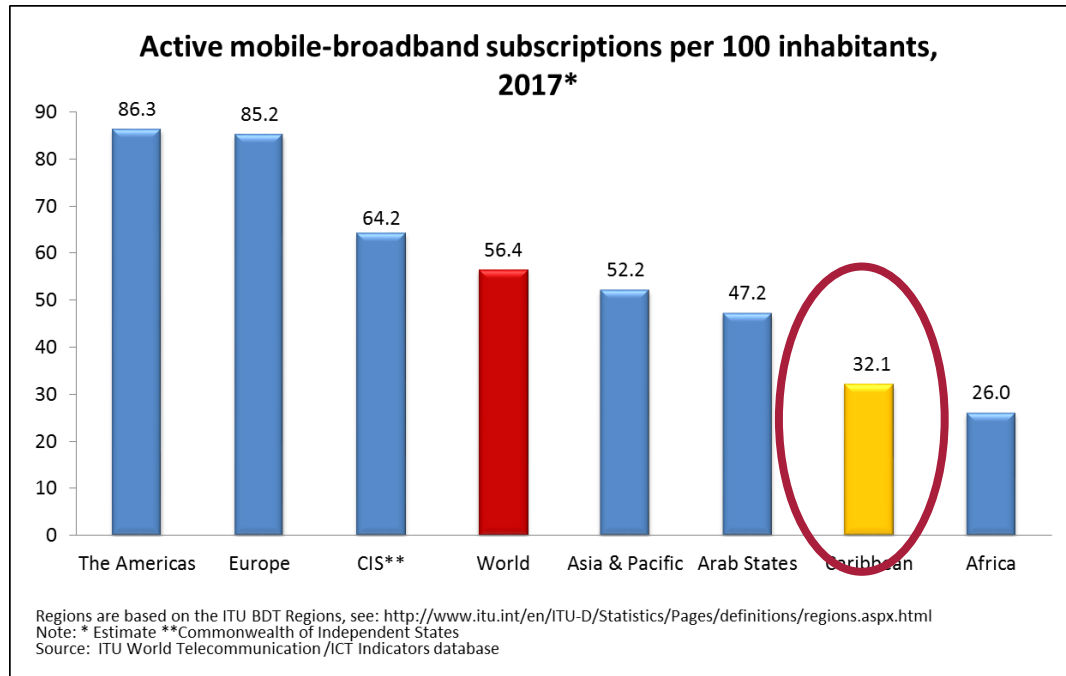
*Opportunities for improved value chain
development*

Ease of doing business & competitiveness

- Weak economic growth and dependency on few sectors: GDP contributions from services (incl. tourism) vs agriculture
- Caribbean economies rank 122 (out of 190) on average in terms of 'Ease of doing business' (global ranking)
 - Main business development constraints: registering properties and getting credit
- Caribbean ranked lowest in all pillars of the Global Competitive Index
 - Innovation and technological readiness level significantly below other regions
 - Innovation is a major source of growth and a necessary condition for competitiveness

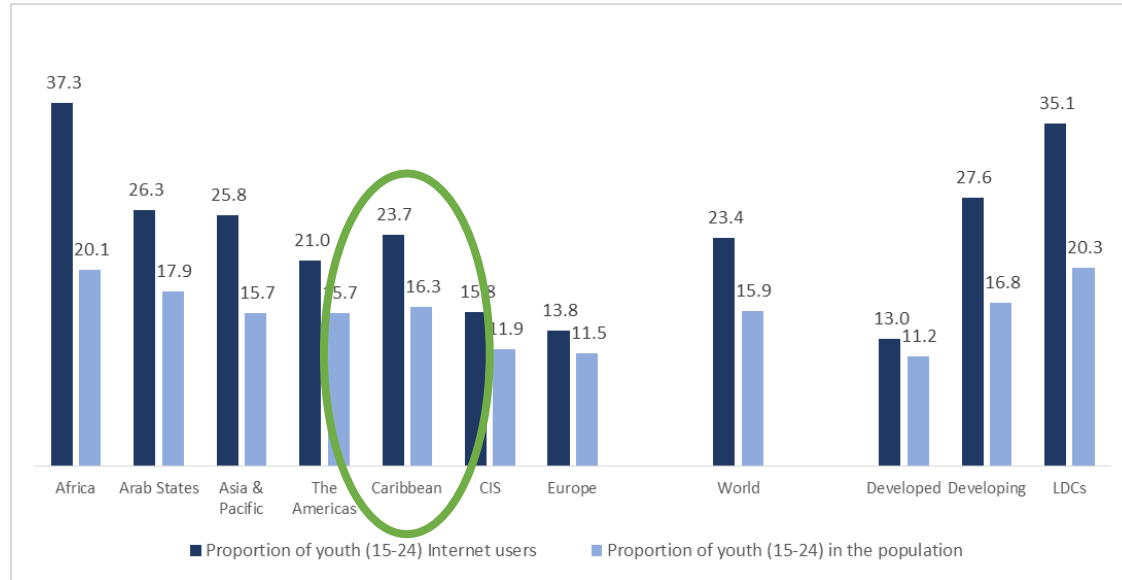


Status of internet coverage in the Caribbean

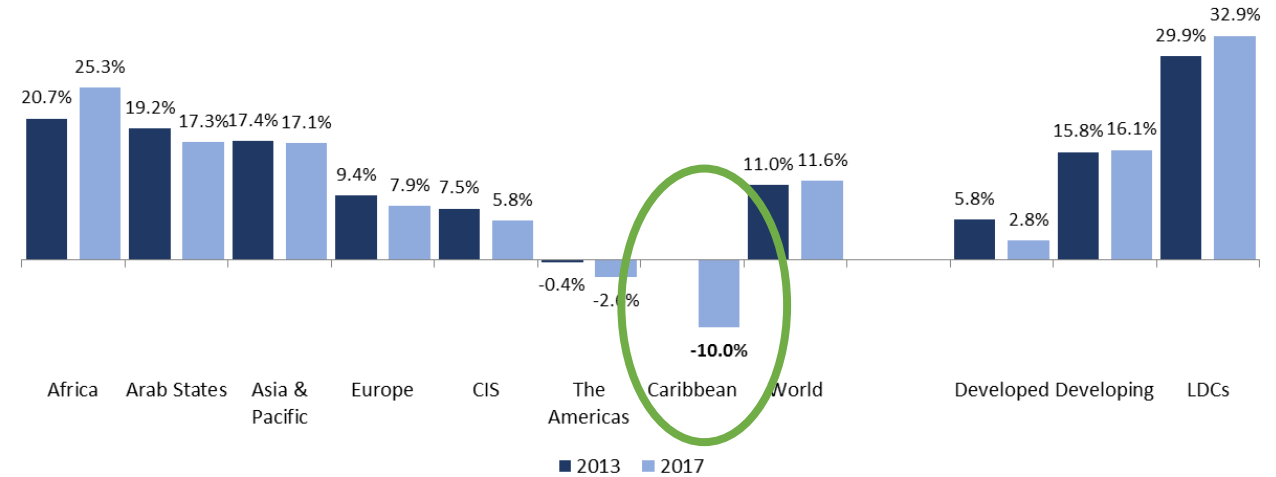


- The Caribbean has increased its internet access across all countries, especially in the area of mobile broadband and fixed broadband subscriptions
 - Significant increases are in mobile broadband subscriptions in countries such as Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis

Youth Usage



Gender Gap



- Youth have increased access and use of the internet
- Women are reportedly accessing the internet more than men

Examples of on-going digital CSA work in the Caribbean

Dominica and Saint Lucia

1. Support to the establishment of a Drone Team within the Ministry
2. Drone fleet operationalization; AgriDrone policy/manual development for safe and lawful use
3. Basic and advanced drone, GIS mapping and DRM trainings; re-tooling of extension officers;

Example: Drone mapping pilot of a highly vulnerable upland community in Dominica (FAO-assisted)

Photos: i) Morne Prosper Village, Dominica. ii) Ministry staff doing pre-flight check (3 September 2020)



Examples of on-going digital CSA work in the Caribbean

St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Resilient Environment and Agricultural Caribbean Habitats (REACH) Project

Partners: CIMH, CDEMA, CIMA Foundation and University of Florence

Integrate **Agriculture sector Risk information**

- Development of crop disease model for Black Sigatoka
- Development of a precision irrigation model
- Linked to web and mobile platforms

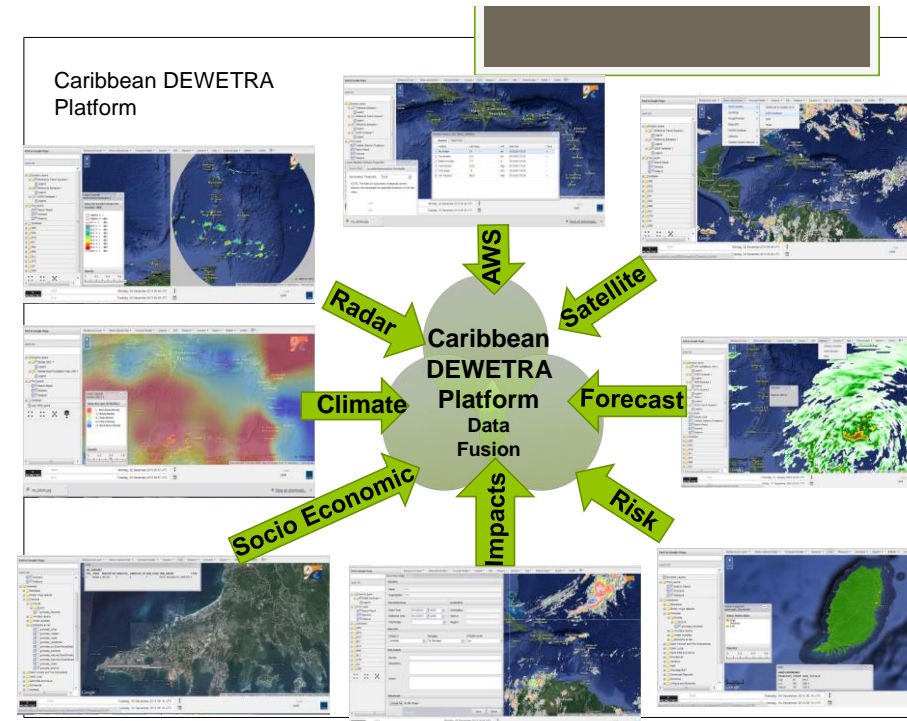


Image taken from UNDP ERC Project Report

Caribbean-wide

- Development of practical guidelines on the use of remote sensing data for agriculture.

Digitalization and Value chain development



Applications along the Value Chain

- Rapid VC Selection
- Rapid VC Analysis
- Animal Identification and Traceability – Suriname and 4 other Caribbean countries
- Traceability systems implemented in fisheries
- Spatial Monitoring and Reporting tool – Fisheries vessels

**Traceability:
Lobster – Belize
Fish - Grenada**



Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool - Belize



Policy level

- E-Agriculture strategy for 5 countries
- Developing a database of best practices of digital solutions
- 1000 villages initiatives – linking farmers/fishers to rural tourism markets
- Establishing E-Agriculture hubs
- SSC with China to develop policy frameworks and support knowledge sharing



“Meeting the challenges facing the agri-food and non-food systems means dealing with complexity and working in an integrated manner so that proposed solutions are fit for both the problem they address and the main objectives being pursued for the system as a whole”



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Thank you

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