



## THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

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### **STUDENTS ACROSS ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES TO BENEFIT FROM CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME**

A new climate resilience initiative is being rolled out in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to equip students with practical environmental skills while strengthening community sustainability and climate adaptation efforts.

The Agenda SMART Facility Project, being implemented by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF), will support 12 secondary schools across the country with projects focused on environmental stewardship, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience.

Project Officer and Lead Audwin Andrews said the initiative is funded by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Global Affairs Canada, the French Agency for Development, and the German Development Bank, and is being implemented in nine other Caribbean countries.

Under the programme, eight schools on mainland St. Vincent and four in the Grenadines will undertake a range of activities, including rainwater harvesting, backyard gardening, reforestation, environmental clubs, beach clean-ups, disaster preparedness exercises, and capacity-building programmes.

“We are not reinventing the wheel,” Andrews said. “This project is designed to build on existing initiatives already taking place in schools and communities, while helping others to develop and expand their programmes.”

Approximately US\$300,000 has been allocated to support the initiative, with implementation expected to continue through December 2026. Speaking at the project’s launch, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Innovation, Digital Transformation and Information, Hon. Lavern King, underscored the urgency of climate action in St. Vincent and the

Grenadines. “As a Small Island Developing State, climate change is not an abstract concept for us. It is our lived reality,” King said, pointing to the impacts of Hurricane Beryl, volcanic eruptions, drought, flooding, and declining rainfall.

The Minister noted that rainfall levels have declined by approximately 50 percent, contributing to significant water shortages across the country. Against this backdrop, King stressed the importance of moving environmental education beyond the classroom and providing students with hands-on experiences that foster leadership, innovation, and problem-solving skills.

Through the programme, students will participate in environmental clubs, community clean-up campaigns, tree-planting activities, water conservation projects, and food security initiatives designed to build both awareness and practical expertise.

King also highlighted the project’s emphasis on inclusion and future workforce development, noting that climate literacy and sustainability are becoming increasingly valuable skills. “The jobs of the future will increasingly require knowledge of sustainability, renewable energy, environmental management, disaster resilience, and green innovation,” the Minister said. She encouraged students to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the initiative and to become advocates for environmental responsibility within their schools and communities.

By combining education, community engagement, and climate action, the Agenda SMART Facility Project is expected to strengthen environmental awareness and resilience while contributing to a more sustainable future for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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