



THE MONTHLY EXPLORER



Blue - Green Digital Innovation Challenge Pitch Workshop
St Georges, Grenada

Photo Credit: Amana Hosten, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean



WHAT WE'RE READING

This month, the Accelerator Lab in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean went on mission to the island of Grenada.

While there, the Accelerator Lab facilitated a workshop which was focused on enhancing the pitching and delivery skills of participants in the Blue-Green Digital Innovation Challenge 2023 — a collaboration between the UNDP Climate-Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management project, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Subregional Office for the Caribbean (SLC) and Office of Innovation (HQ) and the Accelerator Lab in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

During the workshop participants shared key challenges they face as entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector. Key challenges highlighted include praedial larceny (crop theft) and difficulty accessing startup capital.

We are reading up on these key challenges to understand the potential causes which will inform possible interventions.



TOOLS WE'RE EXPLORING

Currently, during our workshops, we are evaluating the use of the fish bone diagram to identify potential key actions, players and partners which could aid and enable digital transformation in the public sector. Additionally, we are also evaluating the Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental and Legal (PESTEL) model to capture opinions on the possible external forces which could hinder the success of digital transformation initiatives in the public sector. It is envisioned that digital action plans can be created using the outputs of these exercises.

WHAT WE'RE INSPIRED BY

During our mission in Grenada, we were introduced to a technique used to stimulate coral reef growth which was implemented in Grenada by the Grenada Coral Reef Foundation (GCRF). This technique, Biorock, uses an electrode to apply low voltage to wire mesh to create a layer of limestone. This technique can increase the speed of coral reef growth.

The GCRF worked with volunteers comprising of youth, fishermen and students in Gouyave, Grenada in building eight (8) Biorock structures to strengthen local capacity and to ensure continuity of future projects.



QUESTIONS WE'RE ASKING

"Which emerging future skills can be used to upskill youth with special education needs (SEN) based on their interests, abilities and support systems that would enable them to become self-employed or become attractive to employers in Saint Lucia?"

The Work Online Dominica (WOD) initiative is a partnership between the Ministry of Public Works and The Digital Economy, IsraAID and UNDP which seeks to provide participants with the digital skills required for online work through the delivery of one-on-one calls and mentorship. *"Can the WOD digital training be adapted and delivered to persons with disabilities (PWDs) enabling them to gain employment online?"*

Tourism plays a significant role in most Caribbean economies. Some tourism offerings are in rural areas since they provide immersive cultural experiences and would therefore require visitors to travel to the location. *"How can the visibility and accessibility of these Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) be increased to ensure their survival in the tourism space?"*