



## Cultivating Futures: Empowering Youths for a Food Secure Region

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### *Project Summary & Application Guidelines*

#### **EU-CaN – Cultivating Futures: Empowering Youths for a Food Secure Region**

*Implemented by the Zero Hunger Trust Fund under the EU-CaN Programme funded by the European Union*

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

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The **Cultivating Futures: Empowering Youths for a Food Secure Region** project is a regional initiative aimed at strengthening climate-smart school food systems in primary schools across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Grenada and Dominica.

The project seeks to improve nutrition, food security, environmental awareness and youth engagement by supporting schools to establish or strengthen sustainable food production systems linked to school feeding and nutrition education.

Participating schools will receive technical support, training, mentorship and starter support to develop innovative and climate-resilient school food systems tailored to their local context.

#### **The project supports:**

- Ecological school gardens - vertical and container gardens, raised beds and rooftop systems, composting and climate-smart practices
- Nutrition and food education
- Student leadership and entrepreneurship
- Garden-to-Lunch integration
- Environmental stewardship and sustainability
  
- **The project places strong emphasis on:**
- Supporting vulnerable and underserved communities
- Youth empowerment
- Climate resilience
- Community engagement
- Sustainable food systems
- Practical learning experiences

A regional **Garden-to-Lunch Competition** will also be conducted to showcase innovation, student participation, and excellence among participating schools.

#### **WHO CAN APPLY?**

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##### **Applications are invited from:**

- Public schools
- Government-assisted schools
- Faith-based/church schools
- Private schools
- Special education schools

##### **Schools must:**

- Serve primary-level students
- Demonstrate interest in food security, nutrition, environmental education or student wellbeing
- Be willing to actively participate throughout the project period

Schools with limited land space are encouraged to apply. Innovative approaches such as:

- Vertical gardens
- Container systems
- Raised beds
- Rooftop systems
- Courtyard gardens
- Other climate-smart approaches are welcomed

## WHAT SUPPORT WILL SELECTED SCHOOLS RECEIVE?

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Selected schools may benefit from:

- Technical guidance and mentorship
- Climate-smart gardening support
- Starter materials and garden inputs
- Teacher and student training
- Nutrition and food systems education
- Participation in regional learning activities
- Garden-to-Lunch competition participation
- Visibility and communications support

## APPLICATION PERIOD

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Item	Date
Application Opens	18 May 2026
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>5 June 2026</b>
Project Launch	23 June 2026

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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### Step 1: Complete the Application Form

Applicants should complete all sections of the application form as clearly and accurately as possible.

### Step 2: Attach Supporting Documents

#### **Required:**

- Letter of endorsement from the Principal/Head Teacher
- Photos of the proposed area (if available)

#### **Optional:**

- PTA/community support letter
- Site sketch/map
- Additional supporting documents

### Step 3: Submit the Application

Applications should be submitted electronically to: [info@zerohungersvg.com](mailto:info@zerohungersvg.com)

Subject Line: “**Cultivating Futures Application – [Country] – [School Name]**”

## HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

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Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Vulnerability and community need
- School commitment and readiness
- Innovation and feasibility

- Student and community engagement
- Sustainability potential

**Priority will be given to schools that:**

- Serve vulnerable communities
- Demonstrate strong commitment
- Promote inclusive student participation
- Show innovative and sustainable ideas
- Support climate-smart approaches

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

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- Submission of an application does not guarantee selection.
- Selected schools may be contacted for additional clarification or site verification.
- Schools must be willing to participate in project monitoring, visibility, and learning activities.
- The project encourages inclusive participation and innovation rather than large physical space requirements.

## **LEARN MORE**

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**Website:** <https://zerohungersvg.com/eu-cultivatingfutures/>

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***Building Resilient School Food Systems Together.***

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