

PRESENTED BY:

Director Shanta 'Shay' Roberts

July 15, 2026



SUPPORT PROGRAMS

FOR FARMERS

- Outreach
- Access to Capital
- Business Development
- Technical Assistance

Why Farming Support Matters

in the U.S. Virgin Islands

- **Local Food Production**
Reduces import dependency and strengthens food security for island communities
- **Economic Opportunity**
Creates jobs and supports farmer entrepreneurship across the territory
- **Sustainable Stewardship**
Preserves natural resources and agricultural land for future generations
- **Community Resilience**
Builds stronger, more self-sufficient communities through local food systems



Business Counseling

Tailored guidance for farm & fishery operations and growth strategies

Training & Education

Skill development programs for modern agriculture

Resource Connections

Linking farmers & fishers to funding, markets, and support networks

Farmer & Fisher Advocacy

Representing producer interests at all levels



Our Outreach Model

Meeting Farmers & Fishers Where They Are

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Interactive sessions on business and production topics

FARM VISITS

On-site assessments and personalized guidance

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration with local organizations

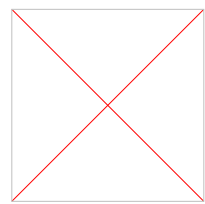
DIGITAL OUTREACH

Online resources and virtual support.



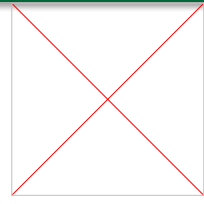
Technical Assistance

One-on-One Support



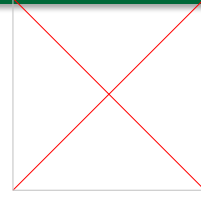
Business Plans

Development &
refinement



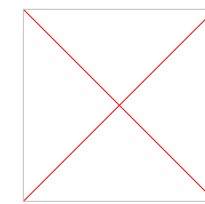
Financial Management

Budgeting
guidance



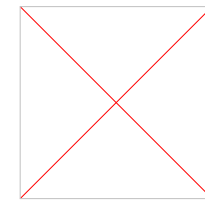
Recordkeeping

Systems & best
practices



Marketing

Reach new
customers



Grant Application

Preparation &
review

Individualized Support

Our team provides personalized guidance to help you navigate the complexities of running an agricultural business. From startup to expansion, we're here to support your journey.

Access to Capital

Preparing Farmers for Financing

1

Loan Package Preparation

We help you prepare comprehensive loan applications that meet lender requirements

2

Financial Readiness

Strengthen your financial position and documentation before approaching lenders

3

Funding Connections

Connect with banks, USDA programs, and alternative financing sources

Market Development

Growing Your Business

- **New Markets**
Identify and access local, regional, and export markets
- **Value-Added Products**
Develop processed products that command premium prices
- **Branding**
Create strong brand identity for your farm products
- **Agritourism**
Explore farm tours, events, and educational experiences



Technology and Innovation

Building Resilient, Productive Farms



— Digital Tools for Farm Management

Leverage mobile apps, farm management software, and online platforms to streamline operations and track performance.

— Climate-Smart Practices

Adopt sustainable techniques like water conservation, cover cropping, and integrated pest management to protect your farm from climate impacts.

— Production Planning & Optimization

Use forecasting and scheduling tools to optimize planting cycles, reduce waste, and meet market demand efficiently.

— Data-Driven Decision Making

Analyze soil tests, weather patterns, and yield data to make informed choices that improve productivity and profitability.

Our Partners

Working Together for Impact

We collaborate with key organizations to maximize our impact:



University of the Virgin Islands (UVI)

- Research & Extension



Government Agencies

- Regulatory Support



USDA Rural Development & Farm Service Agency

- Federal Resources



Producer Organizations

- Farmer Voices



These partnerships ensure farmers have access to the full range of resources and expertise available.

Impact & Success Stories

The true measure of our work is the impact of the clients we serve.



21

NEW SIGN-UPS

21 new clients joined the Agriculture Business Center this year.



190

COUNSELING SESSIONS

190 one-on-one counseling sessions provided to help strengthen farm businesses.



24

TRAINING EVENTS

24 training events held with 291 attendees total.



3

CAPITAL INFUSIONS

3 capital infusions secured totaling **\$177,000** to support farm growth and expansion.



Stronger businesses. Increased opportunities. A more resilient agricultural sector in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Impact & Success Stories

Results That Matter



VI Small Business Development Center

Published by VIsma Biz · March 24, 2025 ·

Agribusiness is evolving! 🚚💡 We're excited to see how local farms are embracing innovation and technology to increase efficiency and sustainability. Here we have Lotus Farm located in Peter's Rest. The VI AgBC and VI SBDC provide resources for farmers looking to modernize their operations. Learn how we can help your farm grow!

Learn how we can help your farm grow! <https://myviabc.org/>

#AgTech #Innovation #FarmingFuture #AgribusinessGrowth #VISBDC #VIAgBC



VI Small Business Development Center

Published by VIsma Biz · March 24, 2025 ·

Taste the difference local makes! 🍅🥕 We're celebrating the hard work of our St. Croix farmers who bring us the freshest, most delicious produce. Visit Millers Farm and experience the bounty of our local agribusiness. The VI AgBC and VI SBDC are here to help farms grow!

Sign up to be a client today! www.myviabc.org

#FreshProduce #FarmToTable #LocalFood #CommunityFarming #SBDC #VISBDC #viagbc



Our Commitment to You

Empowering Farmers & Fishers | Strengthening Agriculture



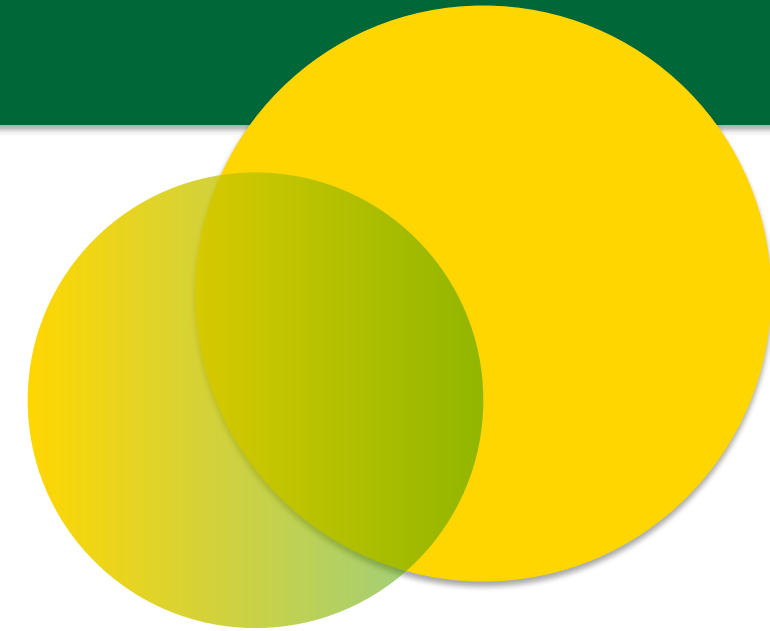
The Agriculture Business Center is committed to strengthening agriculture throughout the Virgin Islands.

We believe in the potential of local farmers & fishers to feed our communities, create jobs, and build a more sustainable food system.

Our team is here to support you every step of the way – from planning to implementation to growth.

Together, we can build a thriving agricultural sector for generations to come.

CONTACT US!



St. Croix – Main Office

6300 Estate Peter's Rest, Ste 4
Christiansted, VI

 340-692-4295

 shanta.roberts@uvi.edu

*Located in the Small Business
Development Center (SBDC)*

St. Thomas & St. John

8666 Lindbergh Bay
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

 340-693-1083

 dcooper@uvi.edu

*Located in the Small Business
Development Center (SBDC)*

How Farmers Can Engage

Start Your Journey Today



- 1 Attend Training Courses**
Join our workshops on business skills, marketing, financial management, and sustainable farming practices
- 2 Request Technical Assistance**
Schedule one-on-one consultations with our experienced business advisors and agricultural specialists

- 3 Engage with Partners**
Connect with our network of agricultural support organizations including UVI, USDA, and local agencies
- 4 Build Your Network**
Meet fellow farmers, share experiences, and grow together through our community events and programs

Impact & Success Stories

Results That Matter



Improved Profitability

Growing farm income through better pricing strategies and cost management



Expanded Markets

Connecting farmers to new customers, restaurants, and export opportunities



Stronger Business Skills

Building expertise in planning, finance, and farm management



Farm Sustainability

Implementing climate-smart practices for long-term success

Impact & Success Stories

Results That Matter



21

New client sign up



24

Training events with 291 attendees



190

Counseling sessions



3

Capital infusion totaling \$177,000