

Every farm has a moment.

A moment where the future depends on one investment.

One season. One piece of equipment. One opportunity.

When farmers succeed, our islands become stronger.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS LOCAL FOOD AND FARM COUNCIL



Growing Impact

Investing in Farmers. Strengthening Communities.

Five farmers. One shared future.

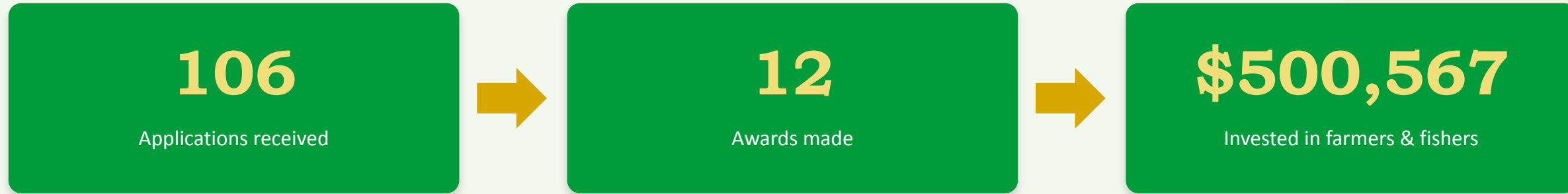




THE FUND

One fund. A territory of opportunity.

The Public–Private Partnership Investment Fund — created through the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan and funded by Act No. 8700.



REPORTED 2025 follow-up visits found 80% of awardees increased production capacity.

So — what happens when we invest in Virgin Islands farmers?

Meet five of the twelve.

Farming since 2020



Eric Ahrens

Mycelium Man · St. Croix

Fresh gourmet mushrooms + organic compost

MEET THE FARMER 1 OF 5

Give the islands a fresh, local, high-protein food — and turn waste into compost for other farmers.

1

THE CHALLENGE

Equipment bottleneck — production capped at 30–40 lbs a week.

2

PPPIF INVESTED

\$25,000 · Tier 1



Processing · cold storage · second grow room · solar power

3

WHAT CHANGED

PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- ↑ 4× targeted weekly production capacity
- ↑ Goal of 150 lbs/week · \$0 power via solar



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Local protein production — more homegrown protein for island tables.



PANEL PROMPT *What changed first once the new equipment arrived?*

FROM THE FARM

What \$25,000 Built

Eric Ahrens · Mycelium Man · St. Croix



STEAMER & AUTOCLAVE

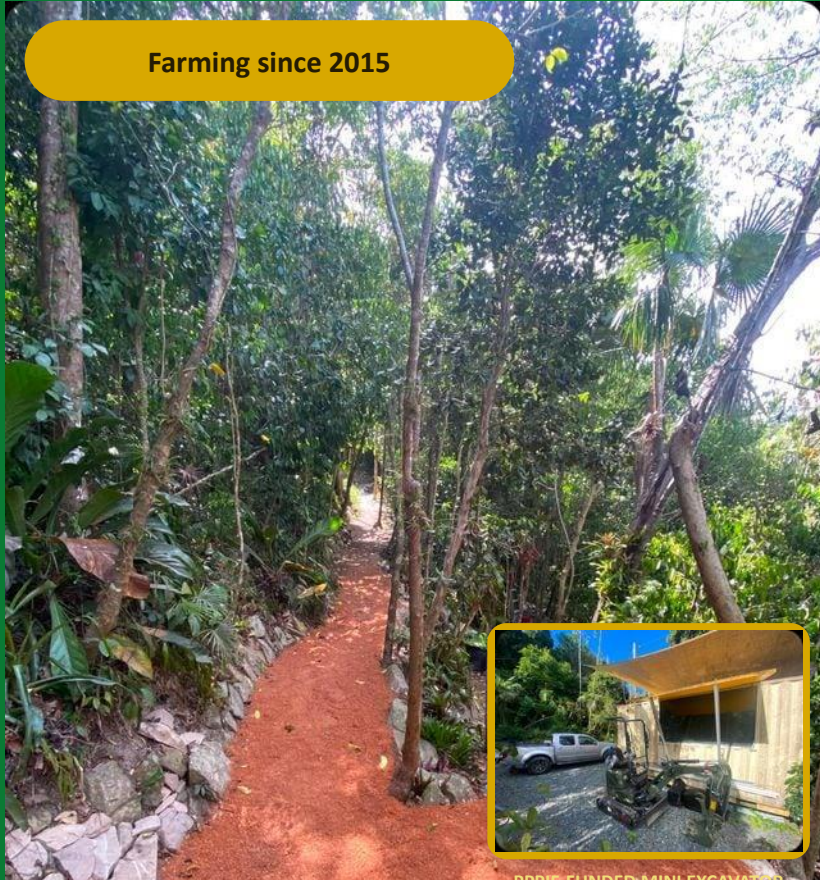


PPPIF-FUNDED SOLAR INVERTER



FRESH OYSTER MUSHROOMS

Farming since 2015



Leonardo Perez

Bordeaux Botanica · St. John

Microgreens, rare fruit, spices, nuts, honey

MEET THE FARMER 2 OF 5

Build a regenerative food forest that teaches the community climate-smart farming.

1

THE CHALLENGE

Water — steep land, heavy runoff and drought vulnerability.

2

PPPIF INVESTED

\$42,500 · Tier 1



Mini excavator · Keyline water earthworks · soil & planting

3

WHAT CHANGED

PROJECTED OUTCOMES



20–30% projected productivity gain



0.5-acre food forest · less hauled-in water



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Climate resilience — farms that endure drought and storms.



PANEL PROMPT How does managing water change what you can grow?

FROM THE FARM

Bordeaux Botanica in Motion

Leonardo Perez · St. John · Footage courtesy of the farm



CLIP 1 0:39



CLIP 2 0:57



CLIP 3 0:22 · SHORTEST

Click a clip to play · audio included

30+ years farming



Derick Hodge

Staff of Life · St. Thomas

Orchard fruit & vegetables

MEET THE FARMER 3 OF 5

Grow healthy food sustainably and open the farm to the community.

1

THE CHALLENGE

Labor — land prep, trenching and drainage all done by hand.

2

PPPIF INVESTED



Mini excavator · attachments · training · soil work

\$50,000 · Tier 2

3

WHAT CHANGED

PROJECTED OUTCOMES

- ↑ 75% projected increase in output
- ↑ 70% less manual labor · room for agritourism



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Healthy soils — land that stays productive for decades.



PANEL PROMPT What can you do now that you couldn't do by hand?

FROM THE FARM

Reshaping the Land

Derick Hodge · Staff of Life · St. Thomas



WATER CATCHMENT



ACCESS TRACK



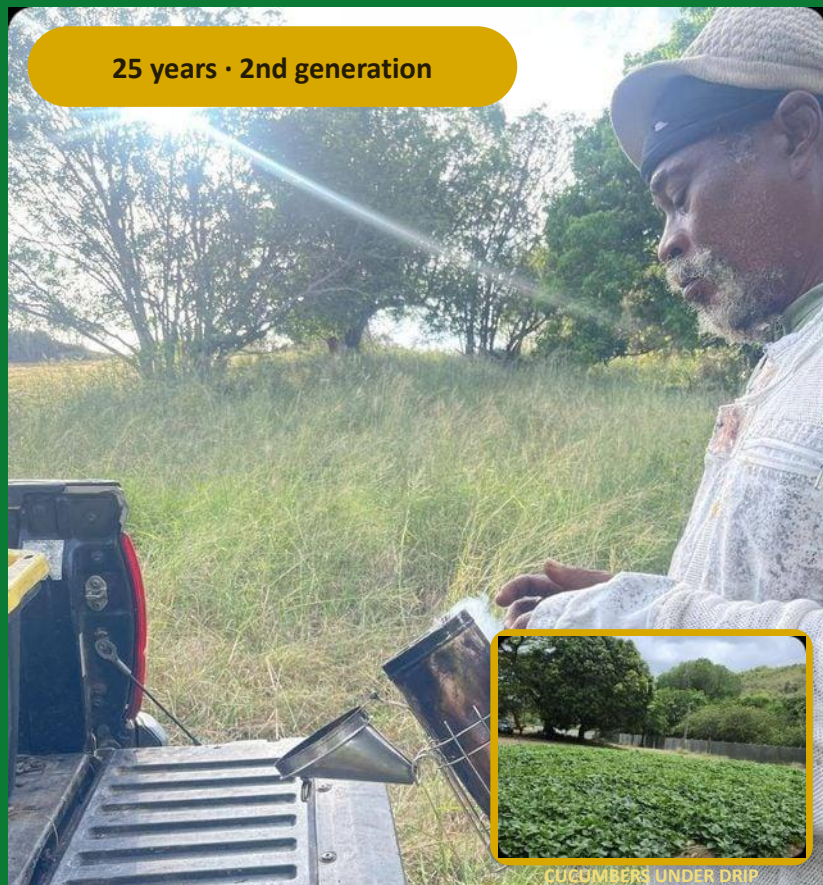
CLEARED GROUND



VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS

Staff of Life · St. Thomas · 30+ years farming

25 years · 2nd generation



Roniel Allembert

VI Honey Man · St. Croix

Honey, plantains, cucumbers, tomatoes · 350 hives

MEET THE FARMER 4 OF 5

Protect the territory's pollinators and grow more local food.

1

THE CHALLENGE

Termites — destroying wooden hives (180 lost) · no tractor.

2

PPPIF INVESTED

\$54,616 · Tier 2



200 termite-proof hives · tractor · computers

3

WHAT CHANGED

PROJECTED OUTCOMES



200 termite-proof hives (~30-yr life)



2 acres cleared · 350 colonies protected



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Pollination — healthy bees pollinate farms across the island.



PANEL PROMPT What do healthy hives mean for other farmers?

FROM THE FARM

VI Honey Man in Motion

Roniel Allembert · St. Croix · Footage & photos courtesy of the farm



PLASTIC BEE BOXES 1:03



WORKING THE HIVES



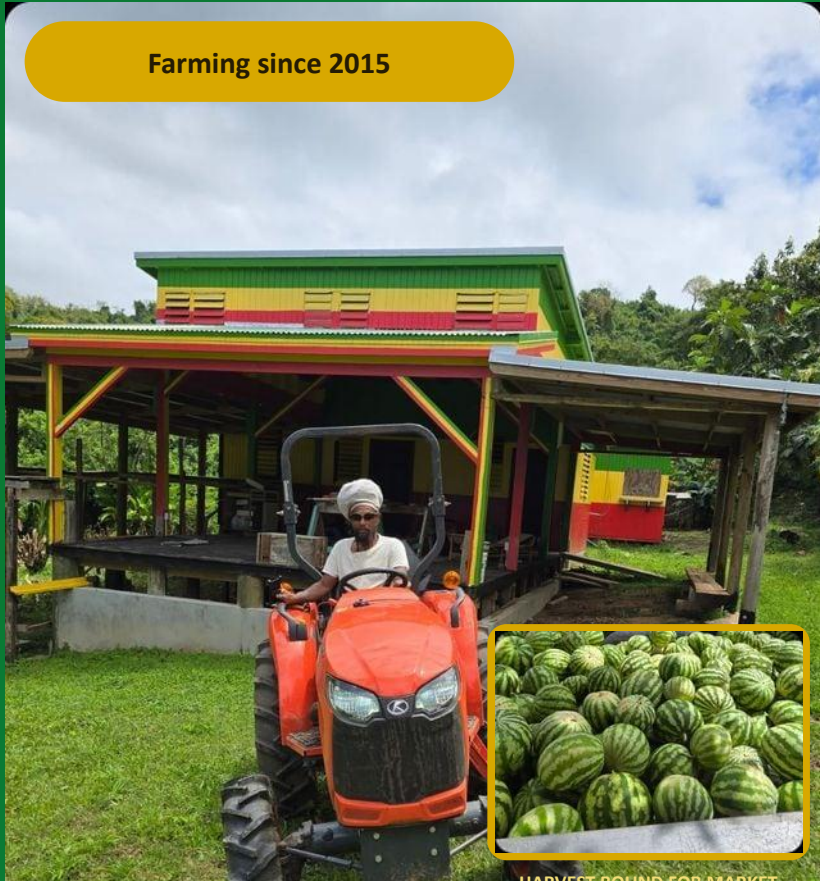
PLANTAIN HARVEST



AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Click the clip to play · audio included

Farming since 2015



Trevor Warner

Pleasant Valley Farm · St. Croix

Bananas, plantains, pineapple, fruit, veg & honey

MEET THE FARMER 5 OF 5

Make locally grown, chemical-free food the community's first choice.

1

THE CHALLENGE

Wildlife & water — crop loss to deer, irrigation gaps, no tractor.

2

PPPIF INVESTED

\$57,000 · Tier 2



Tractor + implements · irrigation · plastic hives · fencing

3

WHAT CHANGED

REPORTED OUTCOMES



Tractor, irrigation & fencing installed



Vegetable & honey production up · hired two workers

Reported in 2025 legislative testimony

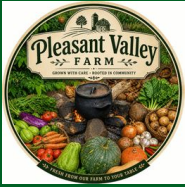


WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Food production — more local food and more local jobs.



PANEL PROMPT You've grown output and hired staff — what's the next investment?



FROM THE FARM

The Harvest

Trevor Warner · Pleasant Valley Farm · St. Croix



IRRIGATED FIELDS



HARVESTED CUCUMBERS



SWEET POTATO HARVEST

ECONOMIC & PRODUCTION IMPACT



What the investment returns

Five farms · five barriers · one fund. Every figure below comes from the farmer's own application or follow-up reporting.

FARMER	INVESTED	PRODUCTION & ECONOMIC IMPACT	STATUS
Eric Ahrens Mycelium Man · St. Croix	\$25,000	4× weekly capacity · \$600 → \$3,000/wk sales goal · ~\$30,000/yr in farm wages	PROJECTED
Leonardo Perez Bordeaux Botanica · St. John	\$42,500	20–30% land productivity · 0.5-acre food forest · 160 hrs paid planting labor	PROJECTED
Derick Hodge Staff of Life · St. Thomas	\$50,000	75% output increase · 70% less manual labor · profit goal doubled in 5 yrs	PROJECTED
Roniel Allembert VI Honey Man · St. Croix	\$54,616	200 hives: ~12 months → ~30 yrs of life · 2 more acres into production	PROJECTED
Trevor Warner Pleasant Valley Farm · St. Croix	\$57,000	Vegetable & honey production up · two workers hired · 85% capacity target	REPORTED

\$229,116 invested in these five farms

\$500,567 invested territory-wide in 2024

80% of awardees increased production capacity

The 80% figure is reported from 2025 follow-up visits across all twelve awardees. Farmer-level figures marked PROJECTED are targets from their applications, not audited results.



Looking Back. Looking Ahead.

A conversation with five Virgin Islands farmers.

1

What changed first after the investment?

2

What surprised you?

3

What would you do differently?

4

What advice would you give another farmer?

5

What should policymakers know?

6

If another investment came tomorrow, what would you prioritize?



Every investment tells a story.

One farmer. One family. One business. One community.

Together, a stronger Virgin Islands food system.

\$500,567

Invested

12

Awardees

106

Applications

3

Islands

1

Shared Future

Invest in a farmer. Strengthen the Virgin Islands.