

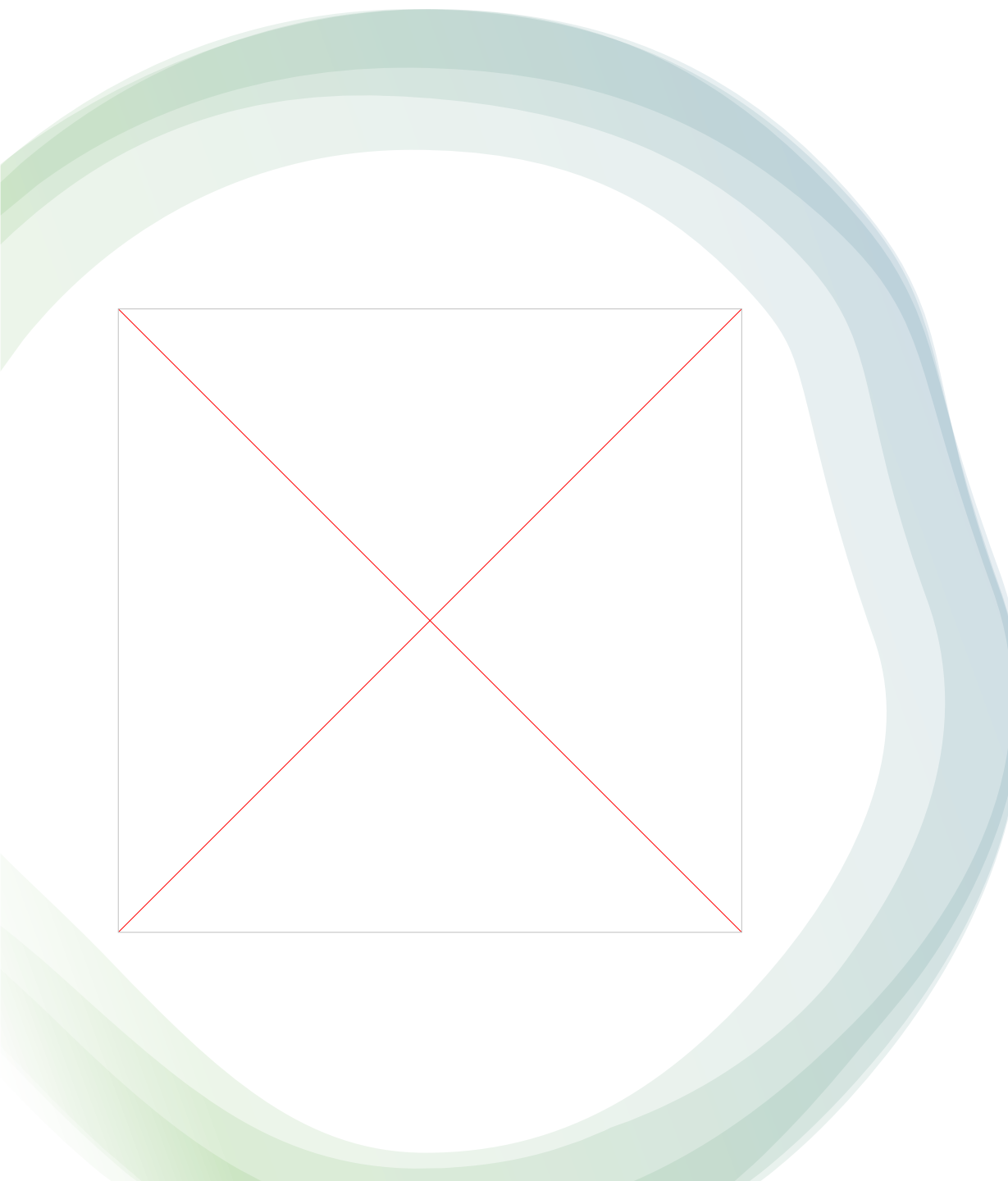
The Use of the Cooperative Business Model as a Tool for Increasing Production and Marketing in the USVI

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Project Overview

- Pilot Project funded by the 2025 Specialty Crop Block Grant
- Developed in response to farmers' feedback requesting cooperative education
- Supports the provisions of the Territorial Agriculture Plan
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Increase farm productivity by enabling farmers to share resources, knowledge, and expertise.



Objective

Provide training and technical assistance to 15 farmers, teaching them to farm as a cooperative, and then applying the collaborative approach to growing local crops, while collectively managing production, marketing, and distribution.

Why This Project Matters

Address	Address high dependence on imported food
Improve	Improve consistency in crop production
Reduce	Reduce production costs
Learn and adopt	Learn and adopt the Cooperative Model to achieve consistent crop production, marketing, and distribution of locally grown produce, while, on the whole, sharing the cost of production inputs.

Program Task

- Fifteen participants will undergo 16 weeks of instruction (both in-person and virtual).
- Topics:
 - The Cooperative Business Model.
 - Effective Governance.
 - How to Start a Cooperative.
 - Cooperative Financing
- Three Cohorts – Five participants per cohort
- Assigned to produce, manage, market, and distribute two main crops consistently for 24 months.

Expected Outcome & Long-Term Impact



Increased crop
production
consistency



Lower production
costs through
shared resources



Increased local
food security



Reduced reliance
on imports



Greater farmer
profitability



Enhanced
agricultural
sustainability

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Questions