TRADE FACILITATION
IN
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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1. SVG in context of OECS
2. Trade Facilitation in OECS
3. Trade Facilitation in SVG
4. Challenges
5. Benefits
2. SVG in Context of OECS

- 9 member states: seven (7) full members and two (2) associates. (SVG - a full member).
- Six (6) member states in WTO.
- Goal: enhancing regional cooperation and harmonization.
Role of Trade Facilitation Task Force

- Provide policy guidance on:
  - Trade Facilitation Reform
  - Support the implementation of operational solutions
  - Formulate strategies in line with the national development strategy and international obligations.
5. TRADE FACILITATION IN SVG

Best Practice
❖ Expedited Customs Clearance – The Gold Card Program (2013)

The Benefits

1. The Card Holder is recognised as a compliant client/stakeholder thus afforded the opportunity to have expressed clearance
2. Priority treatment of consignment if selected for examination.

The Benefits Cont’d

3. Favorably consideration to place of examination of commodity:
4. Establish a prepayment account to facilitate the timely and convenient payment of consignments.
8. CHALLENGES

- Weak legislative framework.
- Weak systems to facilitate electronic trade.
- High levels of physical and documentary examinations.
- Insufficient levels of coordination across agencies.
- Lack of full Task Force members in TFTF meetings.
- Lack of financial and technical resources to implement measures.
BENEFITS

- Bottom-up approach
- Identification of and support to complementary agencies
- A more holistic approach that:
  - Includes service linkages
  - Is more about facilitation than compliance
- Is more transnational in integrative processes
Thank You!!!

ANY QUESTIONS?