



# USDA INVESTMENTS IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

U.S. Virgin Islands At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we work with thousands of farmers, ranchers and rural communities every day and we know that there is no limit to the economic potential of rural America. Over the past six years, USDA has invested more than **\$535 million** (fiscal year 2009-2014) in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2015, we will continue to build on that investment to support the farmers, ranchers and growers who are driving the rural economy forward, carry out record conservation efforts, facilitate groundbreaking research, promote new markets for rural products, and provide a safe, affordable and nutritious food supply for families in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



## INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FY09-14



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

USDA invested more than **\$78.3 million** to support affordable housing, create jobs and promote economic opportunity for those who live, work and raise their families in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



### FARMING AND RANCHING

Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of America's vibrant agricultural economy. USDA has helped support the ongoing success of farmers and ranchers in the U.S.

Virgin Islands by investing nearly **\$1.8 million** in programs that provide access to credit, support a strong farm safety net, and promote new markets for farm and ranch products.



### CONSERVATION

Proper conservation and land management helps keep land productive while improving the condition of natural resources. USDA invested **\$165 million** in efforts to sustain the

health, diversity, and productivity of forests and grasslands in the U.S. Virgin Islands.



### INFRASTRUCTURE

Robust infrastructure development, including electricity, broadband and telecommunications, water and wastewater, and construction of community facilities like fire stations and libraries, is the foundation for rural viability. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, USDA has invested **\$14 million** in infrastructure development.



### RESEARCH

From adapting to the effects of climate change to ensuring global food security, the challenges facing American agriculture are immense. USDA has invested more than **\$15.6 million** in the U.S. Virgin Islands to support research that will secure and improve our food, agricultural and natural resources systems.

## ABOUT THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

USDA works each day to strengthen agriculture in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Top agricultural products include sugarcane, citrus fruits, tamarinds, mango, sorghum, vegetables, cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and milk.

Agriculture in the U.S. Virgin Islands contributes to a sector that nationwide supports one in 11 jobs, provides American consumers with **more than 80 percent of the food we consume**, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials.

