

Press Release

Puerto Rico moves to strengthen the local agri-food sector.

Services Available from Regional Food Business Center

[December 4, 2024 Orocovis, Puerto Rico] - Puerto Rico has a Regional Food Business Center subsidized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Regional Food Business Center (RFBC) is part of the program's [Islands and Remote Areas region](#), explained Miguel Marxuach Lausell, director of the Alliance for Agriculture, the organization designated to lead the program's work in Puerto Rico.

This project, achieved through a competitive process, focuses on providing services to farmers, ranchers and other food businesses that have historically faced systemic and structural disadvantages. The Center provides services for the intermediate stages of the food chain to help sector actors develop their business, access new markets and connect with government and private support through two main programs:

- Technical Assistance and Coordination: **Available immediately.**
- Business Grants: **Calls in February 2025 and February 2026.**

To qualify, projects must be involved in the intermediate stages of the food chain, which include the processing, distribution and marketing of agrifood products. This program seeks to promote the growth and sustainability of small and medium-sized operations. The goal is to foster food autonomy in Puerto Rico and strengthen equitable agri-food systems.

“This is a great opportunity for Puerto Rico to revalue its agricultural production and transform food production and distribution systems, focused on growing the local agri-food economic sector with environmentally friendly practices that are resilient to climate change. This effort will benefit the local economy, as well as the health of our people and our environment,” said Marxuach Lausell.

To learn more about the Center's services visit our website (www.allianceforagriculture.org)