

Tobago Priority Sectors: Where the Commission Sees Investment Momentum

A concise, up-to-date snapshot of the sectors the Tobago House of Assembly and the Commission are prioritising: tourism, agriculture and agro-processing, the creative orange economy, ICT and digital services, green energy, and niche healthcare. Includes indicative investment sizes and touchpoints for co-ordination.

Key Points

- Tourism, the THA has significantly increased its tourism allocation; focus on airlift, high-end room stock, marinas, cruise infrastructure.
- Agriculture, high-yield crops, nurseries, aquaculture, agro-processing for export.
- Creative / Orange Economy, music, animation, film, fashion; export-oriented.
- ICT and Digital Services, software development, digital exports, cloud services.
- Green Energy, solar PV + storage, recycling, climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Niche Healthcare, eco-wellness, sport & medical tourism.
- Foreign investors in priority sectors may qualify for concessions of up to 10 years (Fiscal Incentives / SEZ).
- Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited (VCEFL) offers equity investments of TT\$500K–TT\$5M in priority sectors.

1. Tourism

The Tobago House of Assembly has significantly increased its tourism allocation, targeting a 20% increase in the sector's contribution to GDP. The Assembly is investing in new regional and international airlift, destination branding, and heritage tourism packages. Investor opportunities cluster around:

- Additional high-end room stock in the 4-5 star bracket.
- Marine infrastructure, cruise ship terminal, super-yacht marina, dive-tourism assets.
- Eco-tourism lodges in the Main Ridge Forest Reserve buffer zones.
- Wellness and retreat properties.
- Airlift-linked hospitality packages targeting the North American and Caribbean feeder markets.

2. Agriculture and agro-processing

Tobago's agricultural priorities focus on high-value, export-oriented output rather than commodity crops. Priority areas include:

- High-yield fruit and vegetable production (protected agriculture, drip irrigation).
- Cocoa, Tobago is part of the trinitario fine-cocoa belt; export-grade fermentation and processing plants are actively sought.
- Aquaculture, tilapia, cascadura, and marine species with export potential.
- Poultry hatcheries and processing.
- Agro-processing, value-added lines that reduce food imports and generate export surplus.

3. Creative / Orange Economy

The creative sector, music, animation, film production, fashion, is being actively developed. Tobago's landscapes have hosted regional and international film shoots, and the island's music heritage supports a growing festivals calendar. Investment opportunities:

- Sound stages and production infrastructure.
- Post-production and animation studios.
- Fashion incubators and design ateliers targeting the diaspora market.
- Cultural venues, theatres, galleries, event spaces linked to hospitality assets.

4. ICT and digital services

Digital services are a rising priority as the THA leans into digitisation and human capital development. Areas of interest:

- Software development houses targeting North American and European clients.
- Business process outsourcing with English-native and creole-fluent workforce.
- Data centres, Buccoo has been studied as a landing-station opportunity for subsea cables.
- Fintech and payments, leveraging the island's stable regulatory environment.
- AI-adjacent services, annotation, model training data, applied AI consulting.

5. Green energy and climate-resilient infrastructure

Tobago's grid presents opportunities for utility-scale solar plus storage, distributed solar with net-metering, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The 60MW Lowlands solar-plus-storage project in the FDI pipeline is illustrative of the scale that is bankable, and there is appetite for a second utility-scale project. Adjacent opportunities:

- Waste-to-energy and recycling.
- Green hydrogen R&D at the Cove Eco-Industrial Estate.
- Coastal resilience infrastructure, sea walls, mangrove restoration, and coral reef protection with monetisable carbon credit potential.

6. Niche healthcare and medical tourism

The Mt. Irvine wellness campus in the pipeline is illustrative of the medical-tourism thesis: Tobago has direct-flight access to Florida and New York, English-speaking clinicians, and cost-competitive land. Opportunities span:

- Multi-specialty ambulatory surgical centres.
- Wellness retreats combining conventional and complementary medicine.
- Sports medicine and rehabilitation clinics linked to the island's marine and outdoor assets.
- Diagnostic imaging referral centres.

7. Financing partners, Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited

The Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited (VCEFL) provides equity investments of TT\$500,000 to TT\$5,000,000 in start-ups and growth-stage businesses in priority sectors. Investors with a matched-equity requirement or a local partner need can approach VCEFL directly at <https://tobagoventurecapital.com>. Excluded sectors: retail, financial services, and pure land improvement projects.

8. How the Commission co-ordinates

The Tobago FDIC works alongside the Tobago Division of the T&T Chamber of Industry & Commerce, the THA Divisions of Finance, Tourism, Infrastructure, and Health, and the relevant central ministries. For any investor exploring a priority-sector opportunity, the Commission's role is to:

- Provide sector intelligence and site references.
- Evaluate the project against the Commission's mandate (Evaluate, Facilitate, Monitor & Advise).
- Sequence the required approvals, FIL, Fiscal Incentives, planning, environmental, sector-specific licences.

- Convene the necessary counter-parties.

Investors are encouraged to reach out early, the Commission's Facilitation function is most valuable at the pre-application stage.

Sources

- Newsday, Priorities and Prospects Driving Tobago's Economic Development (Nov 2025)
- THA, Annual Budget Presentation
- Venture Capital Equity Fund Limited (tobagoventurecapital.com)
- Caribbean Council, Business Investment Seminar Tobago

This guide is an informational summary prepared by the Tobago Foreign Direct Investment Commission for the benefit of prospective investors. It does not constitute legal, tax, or financial advice. Legislation and administrative practice change from time to time, always consult a qualified attorney-at-law admitted in Trinidad & Tobago before acting on any of this material. Where a discrepancy exists between this guide and the underlying statute, the statute prevails.