

It's not what's next in  
**agro-food,**  
it's **where.**

➞ **Puerto Rico**

**Invest Puerto Rico** is a non-profit organization whose goal is to attract new businesses and facilitate high-value investments in Puerto Rico to promote economic development & market growth.

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## Agriculture

Puerto Rico is undergoing an agricultural renaissance. A new generation of farmers, drawn by food security and environmental considerations, along with local farm-to-table, artisanal, and organic farming movements, have begun to have an impact.

Agriculture in Puerto Rico represents less than one percent of employment. There is emerging interest in hemp and medical cannabis, meaning that the next generation of agriculture has already arrived. Hydroponics, aquaponics, and aquaculture, are taking hold, as well as anaerobic biodigesters and waste-to-energy activities.

Puerto Rico imports over 80% of its food, demonstrating the significant opportunity to produce for the local market. Growth in this area will be supported by island-wide IoT coverage and a business-facing 5G lab, enabling new agricultural applications for cutting edge technologies.

## Food & Beverage

Food & Beverage are major contributors to the local economy, particularly the Island's world-famous rum distilleries. Both multinational companies like Coca-Cola and Goya, and firms like Vaquería Tres Monjitas and Molinos de Puerto Rico employ thousands of workers and contribute millions to GDP. Compañía Cervecería de Puerto Rico, based in Mayagüez, sells \$176M of its ubiquitous Medalla Light beer every year, and rum giants like Bacardí and Serrallés (Don Q), along with smaller craft producers, supply over 70% of US rum supply, over half a billion dollars annually.

## AgBio

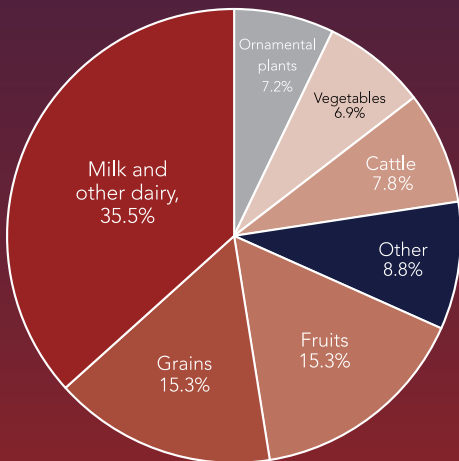
The crops of the future are developed in Puerto Rico with ongoing research with corn, soy, sorghum, sunflower, cotton, among others since 1983. According to the AgBio Industry Association (PRABIA), over 85% of seeds used in AgBio research around the world pass through Puerto Rico. This is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy and Puerto Rico offers many advantages including: year-round stable weather and environmental conditions, skilled and professional labor, soil quality, proximity to the U.S., rapid transportation system, academic research centers and I.P. protection. Pioneer, Bayer, Sygenta, Mycogen Seeds and Dow-Agro are among the companies that have presence in the Island, employing over 2,500 employees, with an estimate operational budget over \$75 million, and ranking #1 in total transgenic crop permits in the U.S. during the last 5 years, according to APHIS.

# Rums of Puerto Rico

Rums of Puerto Rico promotes and ensures that rum brands in Puerto Rico meet the highest standards of quality resulting in award-winning local rum producers like Bacardí and Serrallés (Don Q), along with smaller craft producers.

These account for over 70% of U.S. rum supply, more than half a billion dollars worth annually. Under current law, the excise tax on rum is \$13.50 per proof gallon of rum sold stateside. In return, the federal government reimburses Puerto Rico \$13.25. The industry employs between 700 and 1,000 direct workers.

## Agricultural Products by Percent Market Value



# Operational Advantages

## U.S. Jurisdiction

- Governed by U.S. federal law, FDA regulated, and protected by U.S. legal and intellectual property standards

## Workforce & Talent Development

- 2,500 STEM grads annually
- Wages are 30% lower than the rest of the U.S.
- Bilingual (English & Spanish)

## Organizational Support

- Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (DAPR)
- Hemp Licensing & Inspection Office (OLIC)
- Puerto Rican Farmers Association (PRFA)
- Puerto Rico Agricultural Biotechnology Industry Association (PRABIA)
- Food Marketing, Distribution & Industry Association (MIDA)

## Real Estate

- Island-wide ICT infrastructure, including multiple 5G providers
- Available real estate options for aquaponics, hydroponics, aquaculture, and indoor and outdoor farming
- Landfills that support biodigesters and waste-to-energy operations

# Puerto Rico



Crop Science



CERVECERA  
DE PUERTO RICO



## #1

in total transgenic  
crop permits in the  
U.S.<sup>1</sup>

## 2.8k+

hours of sun  
annually and three  
growing seasons

## 70%

of the U.S. rum  
supply comes from  
Puerto Rico

## 90%

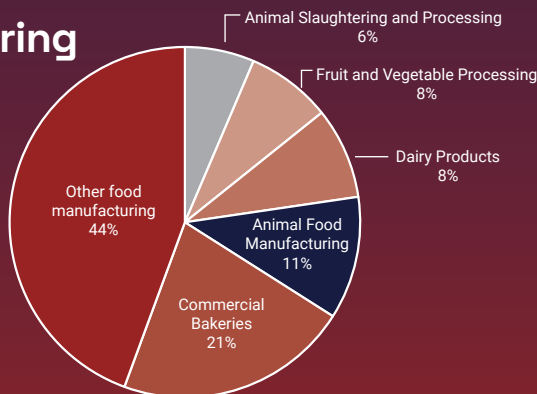
income tax exemption for  
earnings from agricultural or  
agro-industrial enterprises

## 85%

of seeds used in AgBio research  
around the world pass through  
Puerto Rico

1. During the last 5 years, according to the USDA.

## Food Manufacturing by Sector, 2019



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