

Step 1: Secure Funding or a Grant

Objective

Obtain financial support to cover startup costs such as equipment, packaging, branding, and initial production.

A. Identify the Right Funding Options

1. Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ)

- **Program:** IGNITE (Innovation Grant from New Ideas to Entrepreneurship)
- **Amount:** Up to J\$4M for startups
- **How to Apply:**
 - Go to <https://www.dbjank.com>
 - Find the **IGNITE** tab under “Entrepreneurship”
 - Complete application with business plan + budget

2. FAO or UNDP Grants (Agribusiness)

- Focus on food security, agriculture, or climate resilience
- Monitor calls for proposals on:
 - <https://www.fao.org/jamaica>
 - <https://www.jm.undp.org>

3. JAMPRO Support

- Offers help with business development and export planning
- They may link you with:
 - Export Max program
 - Technical Assistance Grants
 - Business mentorship
 - Contact: info@jamprocorp.com | <https://dobusinessjamaica.com>

4. Sagicor/SIDCO/MICAF Agribusiness Loans

- For small farmers and agro-processors

- Sagicor has startup loans for businesses under J\$3M
 - SIDCO offers financing via MICAF (Ministry of Industry)
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B. Prepare Your Application Package

Here's what to include in most funding applications:

1. **Business Plan** (you already have this)
 2. **Startup Budget** (breakdown of costs)
 3. **Product Mockups** or Labels (from earlier images)
 4. **Samples** (or descriptions of planned formulas)
 5. **Farmer Partnerships** (MOU or sourcing plans)
 6. **Target Market & Sales Strategy**
 7. **Sustainability Angle** – highlight local, natural, eco-safe benefits
 8. **Proof of Business Registration** (you'll need to register first)
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C. Timeline and Tips

Week Task

- 1 Register the business name and open a bank account
- 2 Finalize financials and production estimates
- 3 Complete DBJ or grant application
- 4-6 Submit and follow up (they may request a pitch)

Tips:

- Reach out to **RADA** or **SRC** early—they help with tech and validation.
- DBJ and JAMPRO value **clarity + social impact** (e.g., helping farmers).
- Keep digital and printed versions of all materials ready.