



CARICOM COTED 25% by 2025 Heads of Government Conference Update



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Content

1. Overview of Agriculture Policy
2. Overview of Food and Nutrition Security in the region
3. Vision 25 by 2025
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CARICOM COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY

Community Agricultural Policy (CAP) enshrined in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC Art. 56), signed in 2001, contains the following goals:

To transformation the sector towards sustainable, competitive and market driven production of traditional and non-traditional primary agricultural products;	To increase production, diversification, and the world market share for CARICOM processed agricultural products;
To increase income and employment opportunities, food and nutrition security, and alleviate poverty in the Community;	To efficiently manage the sustainable exploitation of the Region's natural resources, including its forests and the living resources of the exclusive economic zone



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY

- CARICOM countries with the exception of Belize and Guyana, are net food importers.
- At least 7 of these countries import more than 80% of the food they consume which amounts to the Region's annual food import bill of an estimated US\$ 6 billion.
- The Region is highly dependent on imports of basic everyday food items (wheat, fresh produce, dairy meats, animal feeds and a range of processed foods).
- An estimated 4 million people out of 7.1 million (57%) in the English-speaking Caribbean are food insecure.
- Food inflation in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean has risen by 10.2% across 20 countries as of March 2022
- To GUARANTEE FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY an uninterrupted supply chain for key products needs to continue uninterrupted while continuing to seek out opportunities for import substitution.



Challenges & Opportunities Facing Food Security in the CARICOM Region

<u>Challenges</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>
•High trade cost	•Increased Primary Production and processing
•Vulnerability to climate change	•Greater Intra-Regional Trade and Investment
•Environmental and external economic shocks	•Private Sector Involvement and Creative Funding Solutions (Broader Resource Mobilization)
•Weak infrastructure	•Digital Agriculture
•Lack of modern and creative financing mechanisms	•Training and Development for extension Service and of Subject Matter Specialists
•Outdated extension services	•Youth and Women involvement in the Sector
•Barriers to intra-regional trade	•Climate Smart Production
•Limited application of technology	•E-Agriculture Innovation Solutions
•Uptake of research and development (R&D)	•Cross Border Investment
	•Improved food quality standards and best practices
	•Greater Mechanization and Capitalization



“ADVANCING THE CARICOM AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AGENDA: PRIORITISING REGIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY”

1. Vision 25% by 2025 reduction in the Region’s Food Import Bill
2. Establishment of the Special Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production and Food Security (MTF)
3. Development of a clear roadmap
4. Development of Agriculture Disaster Recovery Plan



Vision 25% by 2025 reduction in the Region's Food Import Bill

VISION 25% BY 2025: Implements actions and critical areas of intervention to tackle the Region's mushrooming food import bill.

GOAL: To improve intra-regional trade, create wealth and economic opportunity for the agriculture sector for every CARICOM Member State.

VISION: Recognize some key factors which are effective institutions; improved infrastructure; knowledge management; adequate incentives; stakeholders' initiative; and a conducive environment

The Vision 25% by 2025 is long term social and economic partnership between:

- ✓ Member States
- ✓ The Regional Private Sector (CARICOM Private Sector Organization-CPSO)
- ✓ Regional Organizations
- ✓ Producer Groups
- ✓ Development Partners
- ✓ Civil Society



Special Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production & Food Security (MTF)

Objective:

To provide **guidance on the transformation of the agri-food system**, that is **resilient**, provides **attractive and sustainable** wealth creation opportunities for potential investors, and **guarantees food and nutrition security** for the Member States.

Goals:

- Formulate Policy guidance towards the **full commercialization of the Regional agri-food system**, with a special consideration for target groups such as Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Agricultural Cooperatives, Farm Families, women and youth participation.
- Lead the **development and implementation of a CARICOM Cross Border Agri- Business Investment Strategy** to support the **establishment of Production Corridors**;
- Establishing the agreed agri-food system investment agenda in collaboration with the Private Sector and the Regional Stakeholders;
- Promoting **Regional initiatives** aimed at **eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade** particularly in providing leadership in the **development, establishment and oversight of a CARICOM Agricultural Non-Tariff Barriers Online Complaints Mechanism** as part of the SPS Dispute Resolution process in the Community;
- Provide **leadership in determining the research and development priorities** for the region, with particular emphasis on innovation and the utilization of appropriate technologies;

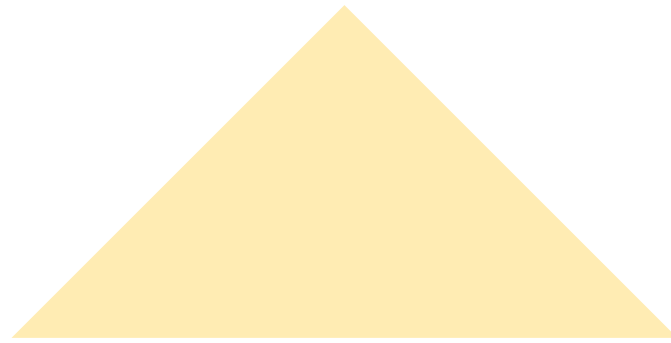


Focus Areas

#	Priority Action	Objective
1	Policy Development and Implementation	Removing the barriers to movement which are being faced by the sector Securing greater private sector participation
2	De-risking of the Agricultural Sector	Provision of alternate financing and insurance for the sector
3	Improve the Transportation and Logistics throughout the region	increase availability of transportation services to MS for the transportation of agri-food products
4	Investment in Production, Research and Development	Greater Cross Border investment, human resource development and climate smart production mechanisms
5	Implementation of an E-Agriculture Strategy	The digitalization of the Region's Agricultural Sector
6	Rules of Origin and CET Regime and Suspensions	Improve trade and private sector involvement in the sector

Positive Developments To date

- ✓ Agreement on Specific Crops and Animal Commodities *(poultry meat, hatching eggs, corn& soybean, rice, beef, pork, mutton, herbs & spices roots and tubers)
- ✓ Agreement with the CPSO on the areas of focus
- ✓ Identification of a possible regional Agricultural Insurance Product
- ✓ Draft Regional E-Agricultural Strategy Developed
- ✓ Approval of the Regional Pesticide Draft Model Bill
- ✓ Development of B2B Agricultural Trade Platform



Positive Developments To date

Approval of four (4) game-changing policy actions and strategies, namely, the:

1. CARICOM Trade Policy for Animals and Animal Products
2. The Regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety Policy;
3. The Alternate Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Dispute Resolution Mechanism; and
4. 19 Special Guidelines for the Trade in Animal and Plant Commodities.

Animal Products Category	5 Commodities
Livestock	beef, sheep and goat meat
	Dairy
Poultry	eggs
Apiculture	honey

Plant Products Category	14 Commodities
Fruits	banana and plantain, melons, watermelon, pineapple
Roots and tubers	eddo, yam, cassava, white potatoes, sweet potatoes,
Vegetables	tomato, pepper, eggplant, cauliflower, cabbage, pak choi] and lettuce, cucurbits cucumber, onions, scallions, broccoli, pumpkin, squash, West Indian gherkin
Legumes	peas and beans
Spices	ginger and turmeric
Grain	corn

Thank You

