



**CARICOM  
COTED 25% by 2025  
Updates 2023**



*CARICOM Secretariat  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

# Content

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# Current Regional Food and Nutrition Security Status

- 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.
- The Region's annual food import bill is estimated at 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.



# “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

Outlines actions and critical areas of intervention to tackle the Region’s mushrooming food import bill and improve intra-regional trade, create wealth and economic opportunity for the agriculture sector for every CARICOM Member State.

It 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 and Civil Society

## 2. Establishment of the Special Ministerial Taskforce on Food Production and Food Security (MTF)

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



## Focus Areas

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

# POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE

## Growth of the Sector

- Intensification of Domestic Production and Consumption Programmes across Member States
- Guyana Soybean Production expanded by 1,000 acres
- Self-sufficiency of Onion Production in Jamaica
- Self-sufficiency in the production of White Potatoes in Dominica

## Investment and Infrastructure

- Increased Infrastructure investment and expenditure in Guyana, St. Lucia, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Montserrat
- US\$2M Tuna expansion Project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Increase in Budgetary Allocations for agriculture across Member States
- Improvement of Lab Facilities in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia
- Disbursement of over US\$19M in new agricultural Loans in Trinidad and Tobago
- Introduction of High-Tech Berry Production in Trinidad

## Collaborations:

- Black Belly Sheep Project between Guyana and Barbados
- Trade agreement between Suriname and Barbados to supply 1,000 tons of fresh produce weekly from Suriname
- Export of Soya bean Meal to Trinidad and Tobago from Belize
- Announcement of a Regional Ferry Service and Food Hub.
- Increase in Cross Border Investments, Training and Technical Assistance (Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago)
- Finalization of the EU funded €19M Food Security Project
- Launch of US\$5M USAID funded project: Caribbean Agricultural Productivity Improvement Activity (CAPA)
- Agreement of a New Zealand funded US\$1.6M Greenhouse Project for Women and Youth in Agriculture
- Identification of an Agricultural crop insurance provider which has a product that is ready to be introduced into the Region

# Vision 25 by 2025: Priority areas 2023

## **Agriculture Insurance and Financing**

- Regional Agricultural Insurance Product Implementation
- Establishment of the Regional Sustainable Finance Facility
- Promotion and attraction of cross-border investments in the sector

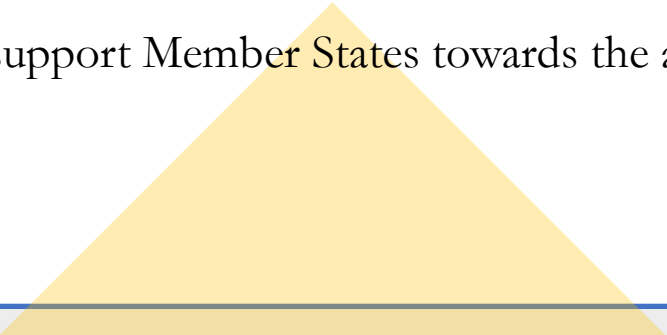
## **Policy Implementation**

- Implementation and operationalization of SPS related policies
- Policy improvements to enhance regional transportation and logistics for the agriculture sector

## **Trade and E-Agriculture**

- Further Elimination of Technical Barriers to trade in Agricultural Produce
- Continued digitalization of the sector through the use of technology.

## **Resource Mobilization and Technical Support**

- Partner support to provide technical assistance and training to the Member States in Crop Production and in the Value Chain
  - Increased Resource Mobilization to support Member States towards the achievement of their 25 by 2025 targets
- 



# Positive Developments To date

## Removal of Non-Tariff Barriers

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.
5. Approval of the Regional Pesticide Draft Model Bill

## Private Sector Collaboration

- CPSO has identified a total of 19 (nineteen) agri-food investment opportunities. With potential import displacement value between US \$850 million and US \$1.2 billion per annum.
- Two Agri-investment Forum: Three hundred and thirty-four (334) total number of registered applications. Fifty-two (52) B2B meetings held.



# 19 Special Guidelines for the Trade in Animal and Plant Commodities

<b>Plant Products Category</b>	<b>14 Commodities</b>
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

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

<b>Criteria Used in Identifying Investment Opportunities</b>	
1	Existence of adequate domestic (regional) demand
2	Access to appropriate technology and technological know-how (learning curve)
3	Ability to meet private sector demand for quality, convenience, just in time delivery, etc)
4	Compatibility with existing operations and management competence
5	Access to raw materials and options at reasonable prices
6	Legal & regulatory framework regarding standards, SPS Rules, measures, labelling and tariff policy
7	Food and Nutrition Security
8	Climate Security
9	Energy Security

**Targeted  
Commodities:  
Agri Investment  
Opportunities**

No.	Priority Action	Target
1	Poultry meat	Increase Regional production by 25% by 2025
2	Hatching Eggs	
3	Corn/ Soya bean	
4	Rice	
5	Meat: (Beef, Pork, Mutton)	
6	Herbs Spice	
7	Roots and Tubers	



**Thank You** 

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