

REGIONAL MARKET BRIEF

Banana & Plantain

Banana (*Musa spp*) and **Plantain** (*Musa paradisiaca*) stand out for their nutritional richness and culinary adaptability. **Bananas**, known for its sweetness and soft texture, contrast with **Plantains**, offering a starchy consistency and savory flavor. Both are abundant in essential nutrients like potassium and dietary fiber. Packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, **Banana** and **Plantain** are an important contributor to food and nutrition security. As the focus on healthy eating habits and sustainable agriculture grows within the region, IESC is committed to empowering farmers to meet the rising demand for these nutritious crops.

Import quantities and values

Three CARICOM Member States, Trinidad and Tobago (36%), Bahamas (29%), and Haiti (16%), accounted for approximately 81% of all regional imports between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 1). Total market opportunity per annum is approximately US \$ 20 million.

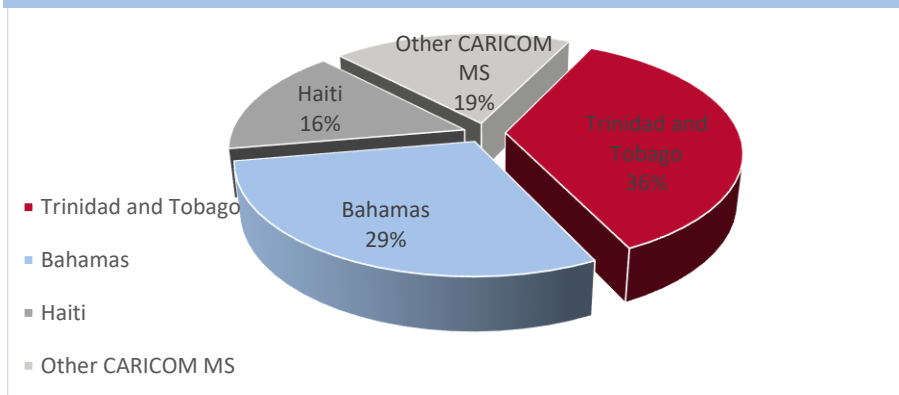
About CAPA

A USAID-funded program, implemented by Improving Economies for Stronger Communities (IESC), focused on enhancing regional food security by increasing fruit and vegetable productivity, building the capacity of buyers and input suppliers, to strengthen relationships with farmers, and improving farm-level extension systems.

CAPA is being implemented in Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

- **Objective 1:** Increase smallholder market-led production of fruits and vegetables.
- **Objective 2:** Improve domestic and regional market linkages for smallholder farmers.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen public/private sector extension skills, capacity and systems to transfer best practices to smallholder farmers.

Figure 1: Imported values of Banana & Plantain by percentage by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022)



Details on other CARICOM market opportunities are provided on the next page.

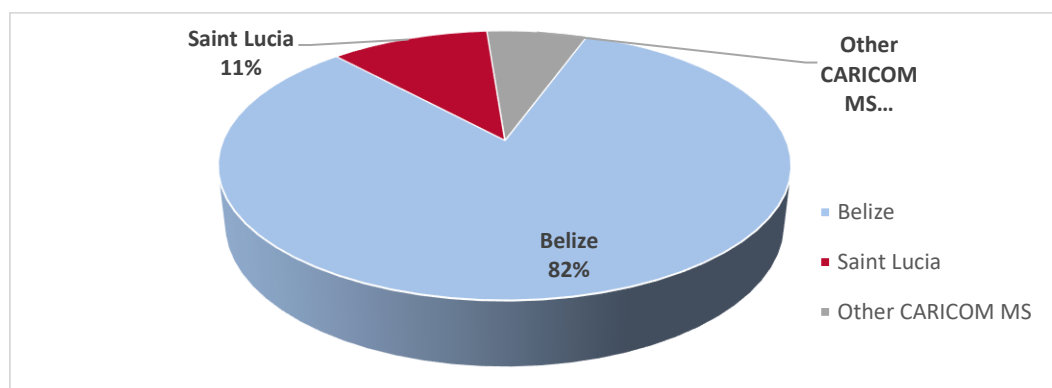


Table I: Total and Average values and quantities of Banana & Plantain imported and exported by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022) in US \$'000 and Tons respectively.

Banana & Plantain (fresh or dried)				
Importers	Total Import Value US \$'000	Average Import Value US \$'000	Total Import Quantity (Tons)	Average Import Quantity (Tons)
Trinidad and Tobago	35,613	7,123	55,941	11,188
Bahamas	29,426	5,885	16,715	3,343
Haiti	15,500	3,100	33,322	6,664
Barbados	9,097	1,819	18,855	3,771
Antigua and Barbuda	8,120	1,624	9,666	1,933
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2,143	429	3,739	748
Saint Lucia	28	6	24	6
Grenada	13	3	2	0
Suriname	9	2	0	0
Guyana	4	1	3	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2	0	2	0
Montserrat	1	0	0	0
Total	99,956	19,992	138,269	27,654
Exporters	Total Export Value US \$'000	Average Export Value US \$'000	Total Export Quantity (Tons)	Average Export Quantity (Tons)
Belize	208,217	41,643	485,915	97,183
Saint Lucia	26,903	5,381	43,373	8,675
Suriname	5,256	1,051	14,107	2,821
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4,673	935	11,183	2,237
Jamaica	4,409	882	3,858	772
Dominica	2,311	462	1,212	242
Guyana	282	56	547	109
Trinidad and Tobago	139	28	43	9
Grenada	4	1	4	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	0	1	0
Total	252,196	50,439	560,243	112,049

Source: <https://www.trademap.org>

Figure 2: Exported values by percentage of Banana & Plantain over the period (2018-2022).



Explore the regulatory and market requirements for importing and exporting banana & plantain on the next page





Import Requirements.

- Phytosanitary Risk Assessment (PRA) required for the first entry.
- Plant Certification (PC) issued after inspection and in accordance with conditions of the importing country. Must state all pest control treatments applied to crop. Bananas and Plantains must be declared to originate from *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Moko disease) free areas.
- Surface disinfection and disinfestation required.
- Import Permit (IP) to be obtained before commodity leaves exporting country, valid for 60 days from the date of issue.
- Valid Import Permit with stipulations must be issued from the importing country to meet entry requirements.
- Certification of freedom from soil and pests of plant quarantine significance.



Export Requirements.

- Phytosanitary Certification (PC) required, issued no more than 72 hours before export.
- Surface disinfection and disinfestation of the commodity by the exporter, overseen by a plant quarantine inspector.
- Traceability of production, processing, and distribution maintained. Notification must be given by existing pack house facilities to the NPPO/Plant Protection Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture to ascertain pack house requirements.
- Use of pesticides must conform to the regulations of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and collaborating agencies.
- Must follow the market guidelines for pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest techniques.

Regulatory Regimes/Market Requirements

Quality Requirements:

Bananas and plantains must be whole, sound, clean, and free of pests, damage, abnormal moisture, foreign smells, and tastes. They should also be firm, bruise-free, with intact stalks and removed pistils. Three classes and grades of bananas and plantains exist:

"Extra" Class / Grade I: Bananas must be of superior quality, free of defects except for very slight superficial ones that do not affect their appearance, quality, or keeping quality. Plantains must be well trimmed, green and free from damage or defects caused by malformation.

Class I / Grade II: Bananas must be of good quality, allowing for slight defects in shape, color, and skin, if they do not affect the overall appearance, quality, or keeping quality of the fruit. Plantains must be fairly well trimmed and free from defects that affect the flesh of the fruit.

Class II / Grade III: Includes bananas and plantains that do not meet the standards of the higher classes/ grades but still satisfy the minimum requirements.

Sizing: Bananas are sized based on the length and grade of the fingers. The length is measured along the outside curve from the blossom end to the base of the pedicel, and the diameter is defined as the thickness of a transverse section between the lateral faces. Plantains are sized by weight in grams and length in centimeters of individual plantains.

Tolerances: Include 5% for Extra Class, 10% for Class I, and 10% for Class II. Size tolerances permit up to 10% of bananas not meeting specified size criteria.

Uniformity: Each package must contain uniform bananas and plantains of the same origin, variety, and quality.

Packaging: Bananas and Plantains must be packed to ensure their protection, with materials of suitable quality and cleanliness. Packaging should adhere to the Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Labelling on consumer packages should include the nature of the produce, variety (if applicable), and country of origin. Non-retail containers must bear identification details of the exporter, packer, and origin of the produce, class, and net weight when applicable.

CAPA Contact Information

IESC Home Office
2000 M Street NW
Suite 250
Washington, DC 20036

Chris Addison
Senior Program Manager
caddison@iesc.org

Guyana Office
112 New Market Street
North Cummingsburg
Georgetown, Guyana

Sandiford Edwards
CAPA Program Director
sedwards@iesc.org

St. Vincent Office
Jaxon Inc, Building
Calliaqua, Kingstown
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines