

REGIONAL MARKET BRIEF

Cabbage & Kale



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.

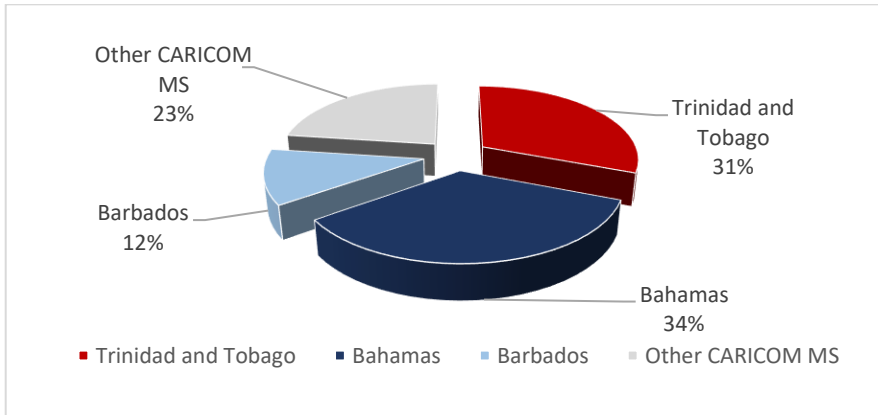
- **Objective 1:** Increase smallholder market-led production of fruits and vegetables.
- **Objective 2:** Improve domestic and regional market linkages for smallholder farmers.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen public/private sector extension skills, capacity and systems to transfer best practices to smallholder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

Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata*) and **Kale** (*Brassica oleracea* var. *acephala*) are two leafy green vegetables known for their nutritional value and versatility in culinary applications. Both members of the Brassica family, **Cabbage** and **Kale** are rich sources of essential nutrients. With the region's growing focus on promoting healthy eating habits, food security and increased consumption of locally grown foods, IESC is supporting farmers' capacity through improve pest and disease management, and better agronomic practices to meet the growing demand for produce like **Cabbage** and **Kale**.

Import quantities and values.

Three CARICOM Member States, Bahamas (34%), Trinidad and Tobago (31%), and Barbados (12%) accounted for approximately 77% of all regional imports between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Imported values of Cabbage and Kale by percentage by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022)



Intra-regional trade for cabbage and kale remains limited.

Explore intricate details on the next page, where import dynamics and trends are uncovered.

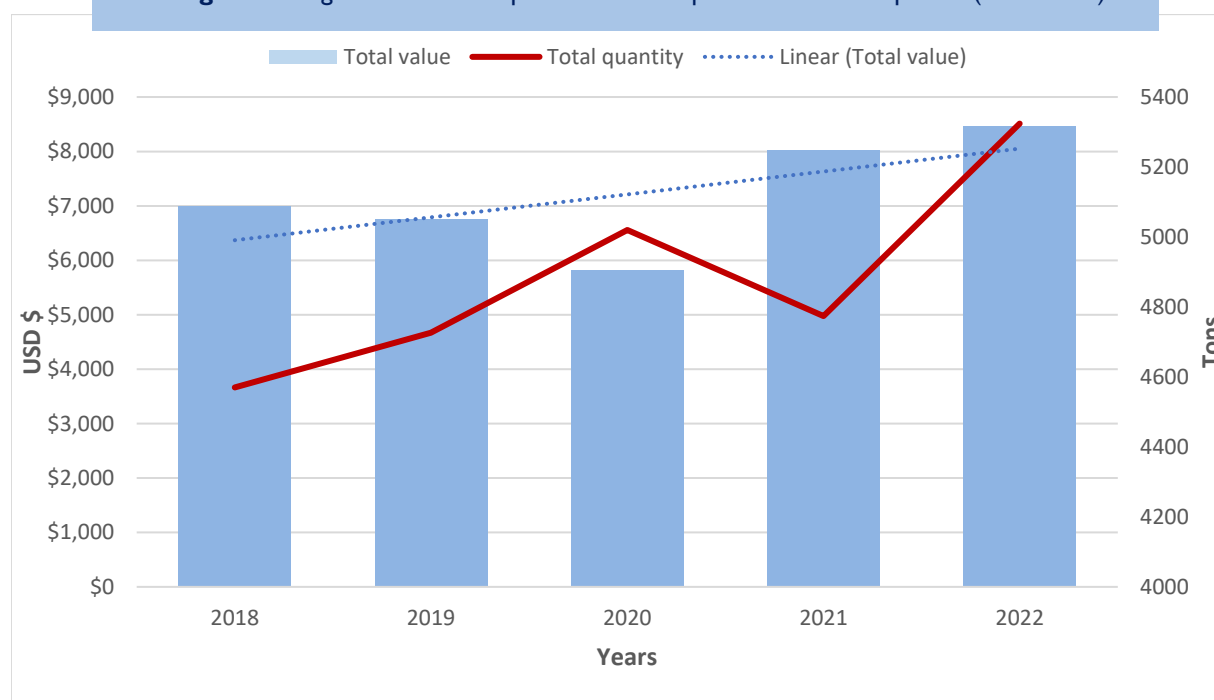


Table I: Total and Average values and quantities of Cabbage and Kale imported by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022) in US \$'000 and Tons respectively.

Importers	Total Import Value US \$'000	Average Import Value US \$'000	Total Import Quantity (Tons)	Average Import Quantity (Tons)
Bahamas	12,445	2,489	4,427	885
Trinidad and Tobago	11,098	2,220	11,523	2,305
Barbados	4,261	852	2,960	592
Antigua and Barbuda	2,496	499	1,222	244
Saint Lucia	1,762	352	1,193	239
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1,104	221	835	167
Guyana	1,049	210	754	151
Jamaica	436	87	348	70
Grenada	337	67	207	41
Haiti	316	63	0	0
Dominica	302	60	126	25
Belize	195	39	498	100
Suriname	158	32	261	52
Montserrat	81	20	60	12
Saint Kitts and Nevis	12	2	0	0
Total	36,052	7,213	24,414	4,883

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

Figure 2: Regional trend in import values and quantities over the period (2018-2022).



Explore the regulatory and market requirements for importing and exporting cabbage and kale 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.
- 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.
- Use of pesticides must conform to the regulations of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and collaborating agencies.
- 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.

Regulatory Regimes/Market Requirements

Quality Requirements:

Cabbages should be well developed, clean, free from pests and diseases, compact, fresh, and exhibit similar varietal characteristics. Three classes exist:

Class I: This class represents cabbages of the highest quality. They must meet all minimum quality requirements and additionally be firm, well-trimmed, and free from damage.

Class II: Cabbages in this class meet the minimum quality requirements but may have slightly less compactness and trimming. They should still be firm and free from damage.

Class III: While conforming to the minimum quality requirements, Class III cabbages may have some defects but should be reasonably firm and free from considerable damage.

Sizing: Cabbages are sized based on their individual head weights, categorized into small, medium, and large sizes. Specific minimum and maximum weight requirements are outlined for each size classification, ensuring consistency in product offerings.

Tolerances: Tolerances are allowed for deviations in quality and size. For instance, Class I cabbages may have up to 5% failing to meet class specifications but meeting those of Class II, with damage limited to 2% at the dispatching stage. Similar tolerance levels are defined for Class II and Class III cabbages.

Uniformity: Uniformity in cabbage packaging is essential, with each package containing cabbages of the same origin, variety, quality, and size. While uniformity in quality is required for mixtures of different colors, size uniformity is not mandatory.

Packaging: Cabbages must be packed carefully to ensure protection during transport and storage. Packaging materials should be clean and free from foreign matter, with proper ventilation to maintain freshness. Packages must be clearly labeled with essential details such as packer/dispatcher information, nature of produce, origin, and commercial specifications.

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