



REGIONAL MARKET BRIEF

# Cherry

## 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.

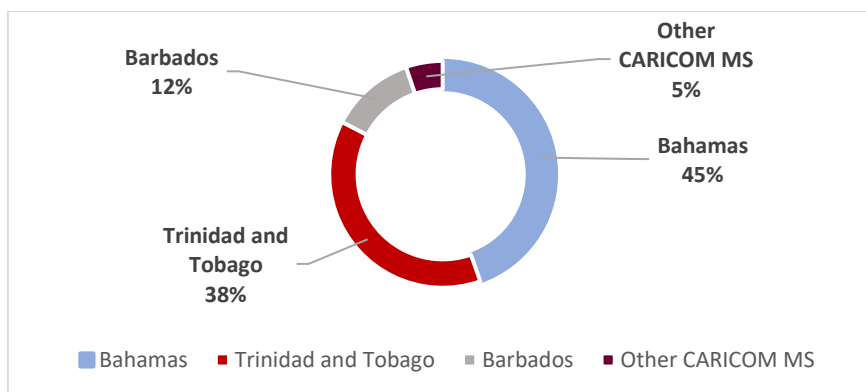
- **Objective 1:** Increase smallholder market-led production of fruits and vegetables.
- **Objective 2:** Improve domestic and regional market linkages for smallholder farmers.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen public/private sector extension skills, capacity and systems to transfer best practices to smallholder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

**Acerola/West Indian Cherry** (*Malpighia puniceifolia*) is revered for its vibrant hues and tangy sweetness, this fruit holds a special place in the region's beverage industry. Bursting with vitamin C and other essential nutrients, **Cherries** play a vital role in promoting health and well-being. As the region increasingly prioritizes the promotion of increased intra-regional trade, IESC is actively assisting farmers in enhancing their capabilities to sustainably integrate into local and regional value chains and to fulfill the rising demand for crops such as **Cherries**.

### Import quantities and values.

Three CARICOM Member States, The Bahamas (45%), Trinidad and Tobago (38%), and Barbados (12%) accounted for approximately 95% of all regional imports between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 1). Guyana and Suriname are two Member States with growing local production.

**Figure 1:** Imported values of Cherry by percentage by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022)



Intra-regional trade for fresh Cherry remains limited.

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

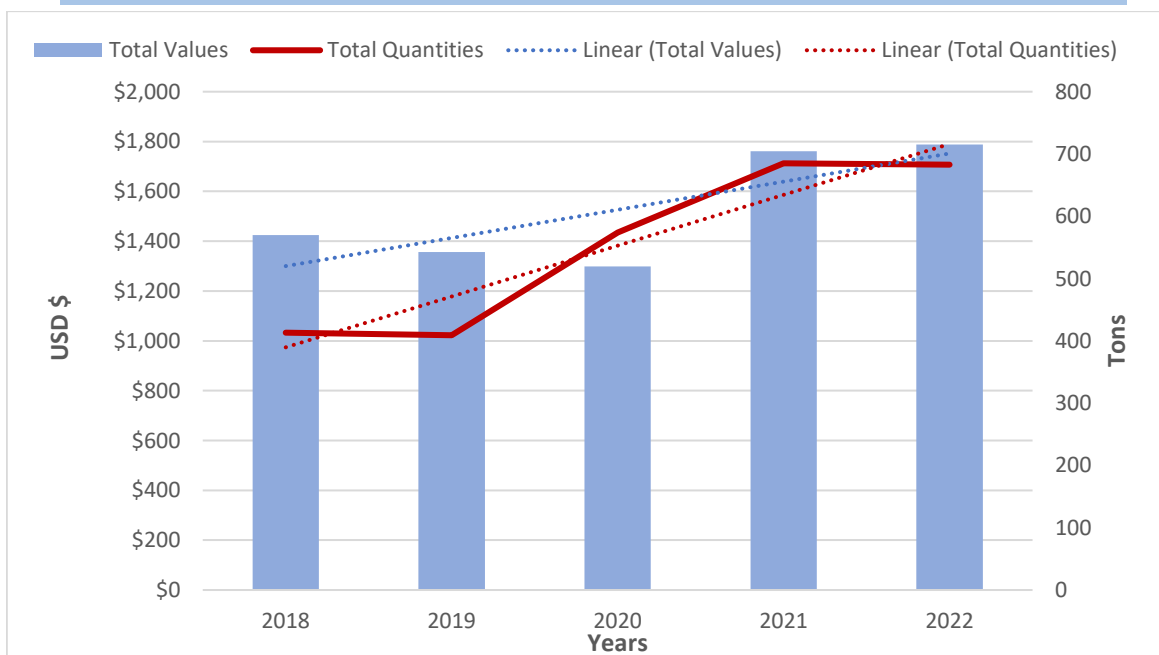


**Table I:** Total and Average values and quantities of Cherry imported by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022) in US \$'000 and Tons respectively.

Importers	Total Import Value US \$'000	Average Import Value US \$'000	Total Import Quantity (Tons)	Average Import Quantity (Tons)
Bahamas	3,198	640	1,105	221
Trinidad and Tobago	2,725	545	1,174	235
Barbados	868	174	195	39
Antigua and Barbuda	162	32	46	9
Guyana	96	19	63	13
Saint Lucia	38	8	6	1
Grenada	17	3	9	2
Suriname	16	3	14	3
Montserrat	16	3	4	1
Haiti	15	3	4	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	10	2	1	0
Dominica	3	1	1	0
Belize	3	1	3	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,167</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>2,626</b>	<b>526</b>

Source: <https://www.trademap.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 cherry 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:

Cherries must be whole, fresh, and free from visible damage, rot, or pests. They should be clean, firm, and vibrant in color, with no abnormal moisture or odors. Three classes of cherries exist:

**Extra Class:** Cherries must exhibit superior quality, with minimal defects. They should be characteristic of their variety and free from any significant imperfections that would affect their appearance, taste, or overall quality.

**Class I:** Cherries are of good quality, with some minor defects allowed as long as they do not significantly impact the overall appearance or taste. They should still be characteristic of their variety and suitable for consumption.

**Class II:** Includes cherries that do not meet the standards for Extra Class or Class I but still meet the minimum requirements for quality. While they may have more pronounced defects, they should still be suitable for consumption and maintain their essential characteristics.

**Sizing:** Berries may be sized in accordance with existing trade practices.

**Tolerances:** 5% for Extra Class, 10% for Class I, and 10% for Class II.

**Uniformity:** Each package must contain uniform berries of the same origin, species, variety, or commercial type.

**Packaging:** Cherries must be packaged to ensure their proper protection, using food-grade materials that are clean and of suitable quality to prevent damage. Packaging for cherries should include the name of the produce, country of origin, and, optionally, the district where grown or national, regional, or local place name. It may also include commercial specifications such as class, variety, weight or size (if sized), net weight (optional), and crop year (optional).

### CAPA Contact Information

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