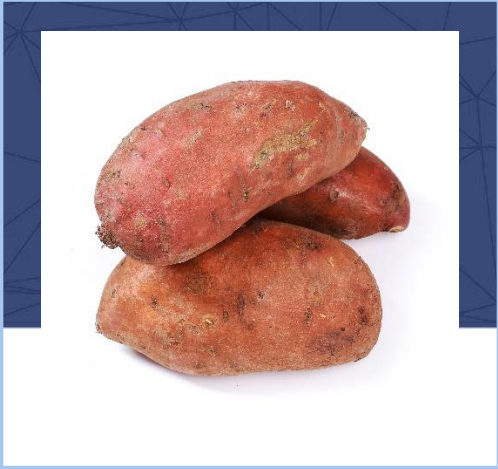


REGIONAL MARKET BRIEF

# Sweet Potato



## 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.

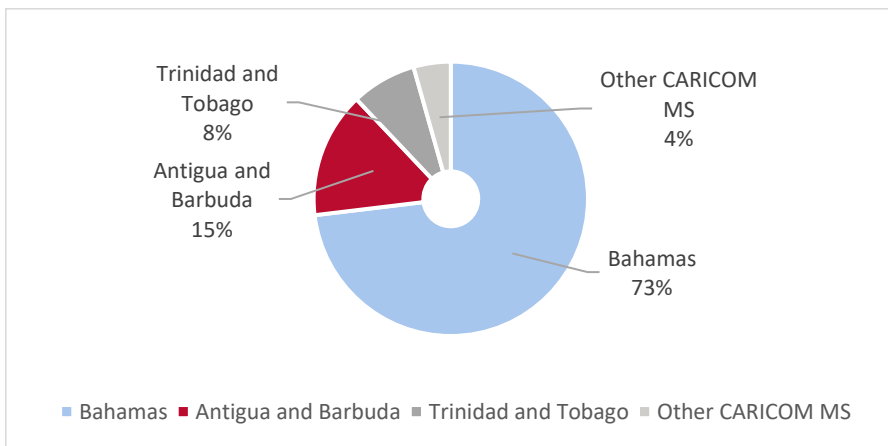
- **Objective 1:** Increase smallholder market-led production of fruits and vegetables.
- **Objective 2:** Improve domestic and regional market linkages for smallholder farmers.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen public/private sector extension skills, capacity and systems to transfer best practices to smallholder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

**Sweet potato** (*Ipomoea batatas*) is a cherished staple in Caribbean cuisine and agriculture, known for its nutrient-rich tuberous roots. Its versatility in traditional dishes and rich nutritional content make it a cornerstone of the region's culinary heritage. Packed with essential nutrients and dietary fiber, **Sweet potatoes** promote overall health and well-being. As the Caribbean emphasizes healthy eating and sustainable farming, organizations like IESC are aiding farmers to meet the rising demand for this wholesome produce.

### Import quantities and values.

Three CARICOM Member States, Bahamas (73%), Antigua & Barbuda (15%), and Trinidad & Tobago (8%), accounted for approximately 96% of all regional imports between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 1).

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



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



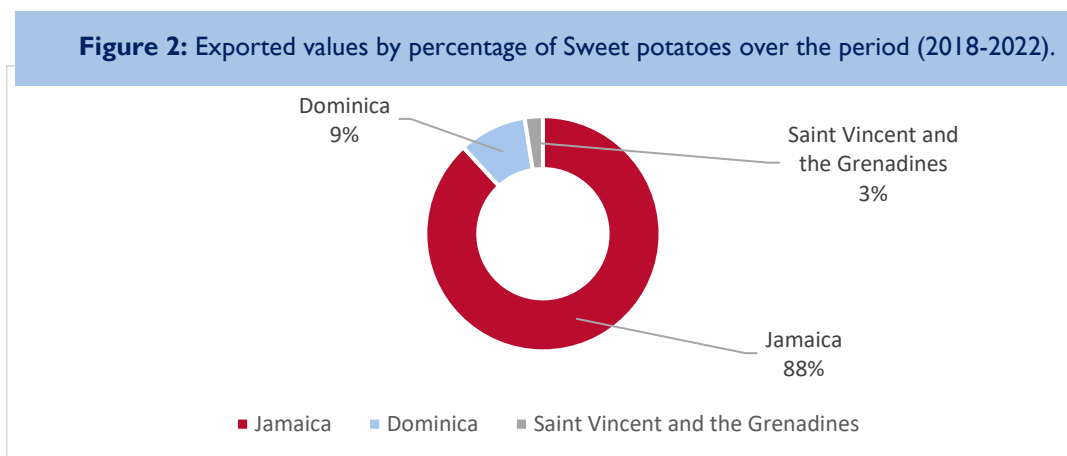
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**Table I: Total and Average values and quantities of Sweet potato imported by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022) in US \$'000 and Tons, respectively.**

Sweet Potato				
Importers	Total Import Value US \$'000	Average Import Value US \$'000	Total Import Quantity (Tons)	Average Import Quantity (Tons)
Bahamas	4,167	833	1,564	313
Antigua and Barbuda	846	169	461	92
Trinidad and Tobago	438	88	660	132
Haiti	78	16	166	33
Montserrat	60	15	65	16
Barbados	35	7	70	14
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25	5	16	3
Belize	18	4	15	3
Grenada	17	3	5	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5	1	2	0
Suriname	4	1	12	2
Guyana	4	1	3	1
Jamaica	4	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,701</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>610</b>
Exporters	Total Export Value US \$'000	Average Export Value US \$'000	Total Export Quantity (Tons)	Average Export Quantity (Tons)
Jamaica	18,425	3,685	7,040	1,408
Dominica	1,951	390	538	108
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	524	105	1,135	227
Saint Lucia	30	8	17	4
Trinidad and Tobago	12	2	6	1
Guyana	8	2	11	2
Antigua and Barbuda	6	1	3	1
Suriname	3	1	6	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,959</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>8,756</b>	<b>1,752</b>

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



Explore the regulatory and market requirements for importing and exporting sweet potato 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. Sweet potatoes must be declared to originate from yam weevil (*Palaeopus costicollis*), sweet potato weevil (*Cylas formicarius*) and West Indian Sweet Potato Weevil (*Euscepes postfasciatus*) 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.
- 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.
- 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:

Sweet Potatoes must be clean, mature, free from disease and of similar varietal characteristic. Three grades exist:

**Grade I:** Sweet potatoes must be firm, have the shape characteristic of the variety, and free of odour.

**Grade II:** Includes sweet potatoes that are firm, free from damage, but, have slight defects in the shape.

**Grade III:** Includes sweet potatoes that do not meet the standards of the higher grades but still satisfy the minimum requirements.

**Sizing:** Size is determined by mass in grams and ranges from small to large.

**Tolerances:** Permit up to 5% for Grade I, 10% for Grade II, and 15% for Grade III of sweet potatoes not meeting specified requirements.

**Packaging:** Sweet Potatoes 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 Tropical 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, Grade, and net weight when applicable.

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