

REGIONAL MARKET BRIEF

# Sweet Peppers



## 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.

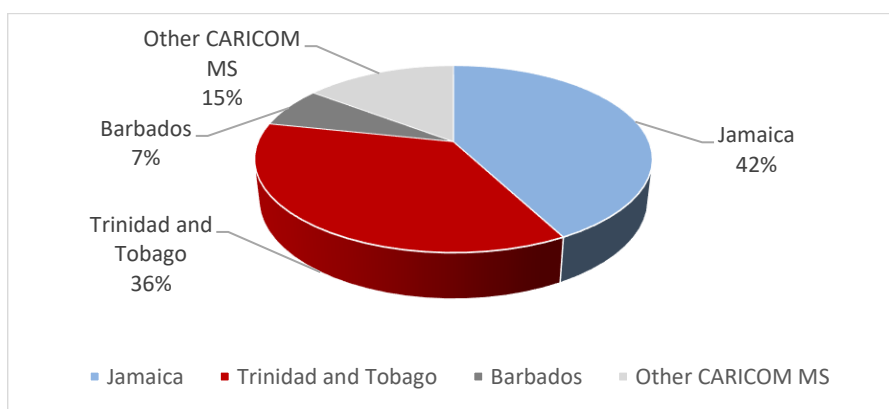
- **Objective 1:** Increase smallholder market-led production of fruits and vegetables.
- **Objective 2:** Improve domestic and regional market linkages for smallholder farmers.
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen public/private sector extension skills, capacity and systems to transfer best practices to smallholder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

**Sweet peppers** (*Capsicum annuum*) are vibrant fixtures in Caribbean cuisine, renowned for their vivid colours, crisp texture, and sweet flavour. These versatile vegetables add zest to dishes and also provide essential nutrients like vitamin C and antioxidants, bolstering overall health. With a commitment to promoting increase productivity and market linkages, IESC is supporting farmers in satisfying the increasing demand for sweet peppers especially for the hospitality sector.

## Import quantities and values

Three CARICOM Member States, Jamaica (42%), Trinidad & Tobago (36%), and Barbados (7%), accounted for approximately 85% of all regional imports between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 1). Details on other CARICOM market opportunities are provided in Table 1.

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



Intra-regional trade for Sweet Peppers remains limited.

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

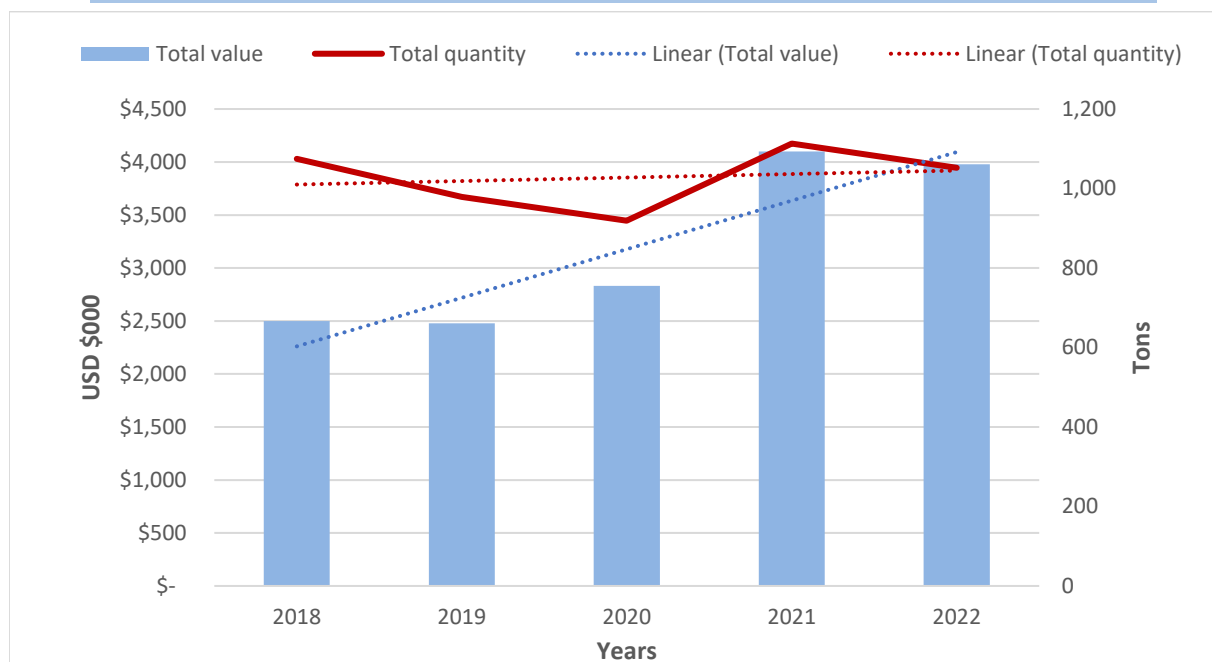


**Table I: Total and Average values and quantities of Sweet pepper imported by CARICOM Member States over the period (2018-2022) in US \$'000 and Tons respectively.**

Sweet Peppers				
Importers	Total Import Value US \$'000	Average Import Value US \$'000	Total Import Quantity (Tons)	Average Import Quantity (Tons)
Jamaica	6,707	1,341	1,736	347
Trinidad and Tobago	5,731	1,146	1,876	375
Barbados	1,111	222	327	65
Guyana	441	88	269	54
Haiti	423	85	440	88
Suriname	296	59	133	27
Bahamas	241	48	31	6
Antigua and Barbuda	235	47	99	20
Belize	156	31	44	9
Dominica	146	29	31	6
Saint Lucia	139	28	22	4
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	129	26	94	19
Grenada	120	24	35	7
Montserrat	6	1	1	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	5	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,886</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>5,138</b>	<b>1,027</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 sweet peppers 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.
- 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 peppers must be firm, intact, clean, fresh, and mature, with the peduncle attached. They should be free from damages, sunburns, pests, external moisture, and any offensive odour. Two classes exist:

**Class I:** Sweet peppers must be of good quality, displaying the characteristics typical of their variety. Each pepper should feature a well-trimmed stalk with the calyx intact, and the total aggregate blemish should not exceed 2% of the fruit's surface area.

**Class II:** Sweet peppers that do not meet the standards of Class I but still satisfy the minimum requirements may exhibit slight defects, damages, and blemishes. However, these imperfections should not compromise the overall quality of the peppers.

**Sizing:** Sweet peppers are sized depending on the variety and market requirement.

**Tolerances:** Up to 10% of sweet peppers can deviate from Class I standards, with 5% allowed for serious damage and 2% for decay affecting calyxes/walls. For Class II, 10% tolerance is allowed, with 5% for sunscald or decay on stems and 2% for decay on calyxes/walls.

**Uniformity:** Each package must contain uniform sweet peppers of the same origin, variety, and quality. However, a mixture of sweet peppers of different colors is allowed.

**Packaging:** Sweet peppers must be packed to ensure their protection, with materials of suitable quality and cleanliness. 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

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