COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK (CPF) #
2012-2015

FOR

THE COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

DECEMBER 2012
Preamble

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT), represented by the Minister of Food Production, (MFP), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), represented by its Representative in Trinidad and Tobago (FAOR), are pleased to jointly endorse the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2012-2015 in the Trinidad and Tobago, as stipulated hereunder.

The priorities in the FAO CPF 2012–2015 reflect Government’s goals and objectives outlined in official documents and the result of consultations held with Government staff and representatives of stakeholder organizations as well as with the relevant technical units of the FAO sub-regional office in Barbados, the regional office in Chile and Headquarters.

This document, co-owned by the GORTT and FAO, indicates the broad commitment of FAO, subject to the availability of required funding, to assist the GORTT in its efforts to achieve national development objectives, described in the Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014, as well as the National Food Production Action Plan and the Millennium Development Goals and other activities of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and development partners. It complements and contributes to the strategic objectives of the UN Country Programme Action Plan 2012-2015.

By endorsing the FAO CPF 2012-2015, the GORTT is committed to providing collaboration, to the fullest possible extent with regard to available capacity and resources, to facilitate the achievement of the objectives and actions proposed in this document.

Implementation of the FAO CPF 2012–2015 will be pursued in partnerships and in alignment with the joint efforts of the GORTT and its external development partners for enhanced coordination and aid effectiveness. The GORTT and FAO look forward to collaboration with, and support from concerned partners, in the successful implementation of the FAO CPF 2012–2015.

For the Ministry of Food Production
Government of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

For the Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Name: Barton A. Clarke

Title: FAO Representative
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Agricultural Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTT</td>
<td>Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>AQuaTT</td>
<td>Aquaculture Association of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<td>BAFT</td>
<td>Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technologies</td>
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<td>CAHFSA</td>
<td>Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency</td>
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<td>CARDI</td>
<td>Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute</td>
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<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<td>CARPHA</td>
<td>Caribbean Public Health Agency</td>
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<td>CCAP</td>
<td>CARICOM Common Agricultural Policy</td>
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<td>CCGA</td>
<td>Cooperative Citrus Growers’ Association</td>
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<td>CCI</td>
<td>Council for Competitiveness and Innovation</td>
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<td>CCIB</td>
<td>Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board</td>
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<td>CFA</td>
<td>Cattle Farmers’ Association</td>
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<td>CFC</td>
<td>Common Fund for Commodities</td>
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<td>CFTDI</td>
<td>Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute</td>
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<td>CPF</td>
<td>Country Programming Framework</td>
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<td>CRFM</td>
<td>Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism</td>
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<td>CSB</td>
<td>Civil Society Board</td>
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<td>CSME</td>
<td>CARICOM Single Market and Economy</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistical Office</td>
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<td>ECIAF</td>
<td>Eastern Caribbean Institute for Agriculture and Forestry</td>
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<td>EDB</td>
<td>Economic Development Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Environmental Management Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMBD</td>
<td>Estate Management and Business Development Company</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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FAO                  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFOS                Fishermen and Friends of the Seas
GAP                  Good Agricultural Practices
GDP                  Gross Domestic Product
GOTT                Government of Trinidad and Tobago
ICT                  Information Communications Technology
IDB                  Inter-American Development Bank
IICA                Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMA                  Institute of Marine Affairs
LLPB                Livestock and Livestock Products Board
M&E                  Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs                Millennium Development Goals
MFP                  Ministry of Food Production
MFPLMA                Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs
MHE                  Ministry of Housing and the Environment
MTPF                Medium Term Policy Framework
NAMDEVCO            National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation
NCDs                Non-Communicable Diseases
NFFA                National Foodcrop Farmers’ Association
NFNSP                National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NFNSAP                National Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan
NFPAP                National Food Production Action Plan
NIHERST            National Institute for Higher Education, Research Science and Technology
PAHO                Pan American Health Organization
RFNSP                Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy
RFNSAP                Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan
RLC                FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SIDC                Seafood Industry Development Company
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPS</td>
<td>Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures</td>
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<td>SRO</td>
<td>FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean</td>
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<td>TBT</td>
<td>Technical Barriers to Trade</td>
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<td>TCF</td>
<td>The Cropper Foundation</td>
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<td>TCP</td>
<td>Technical Cooperation Programme</td>
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<td>THA</td>
<td>Tobago House of Assembly</td>
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<td>TT</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTABA</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Agribusiness Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTCIC</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTMA</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTT</td>
<td>University of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
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<tr>
<td>UWI</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
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<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>YAPA</td>
<td>Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture</td>
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INTRODUCTION

Trinidad and Tobago confronts a complex of external and internal development challenges as it seeks to transition from an energy dependent to a diversified economy. The global economic and financial crises, price volatility of export commodities, and food imports, the impact of climate change and natural disasters all are critical considerations for the social and economic transformation of the country. During 2012, Gross Domestic Product expanded by 1.4 percent and projections point to a strengthening of growth to 2.5 percent in 2013. Within a projected medium term trend of depressed global economic growth, potentially, the most adversely affected sectors are likely to include agriculture and those dependent on land, water and natural resources.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT), which came into office in May 2010, envisages social and economic transformation delivered via strategic reform measures guided by respect for the environment, poverty alleviation and promotion of a healthier nation. Accordingly, the Government formulated a Medium-Term Policy Framework (MTPF), 2011-2014, communicating its perspective and intent on the proposed socio-economic transformation. On the whole, the economic and social transformation imperatives are consistent with achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The MTPF identifies Food and Nutrition Security as a major developmental goal with multi-faceted and multi-sectoral dimensions linked, to health, education, poverty, environment, and trade and macro-economic policy. The MTPF highlights the critical role of a modernized, highly productive and internationally competitive food and agriculture sector. It speaks of a shift to ‘green’ policy planning, access to quality health care, and crucially, the right of citizens to reliable supplies of wholesome, nutritious food. For the Key Result Area (KRA), ‘Food Secure Nation’, the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development established three targets: Ten percent (10%) reduction in the Food Import Bill (FIB) annually; Reduce and sustain food inflation within single digits; Increase agriculture sector contribution to GDP to 3% by 2014.

FAO estimates the value of imported food at 3% of national GDP as at 2008, (Silva, et al., FAO 2011). According to FAOSTATS (FAO 2010), the top five imported raw or semi-processed food products are wheat (67,200 tonnes), maize (51,365 tonnes); sugar –refined (41,091 tones), rice (28,532 tonnes), and animal feed inputs (28,197 tonnes). In addition, the Silva et al (FAO 2011) study which includes analysis of the composition of the FIB flagged Trinidad and Tobago’s imports of milk and cream, and cheese as possible targets for import substitution. Based on UNCOMTRDE and FAOSTATS data (2008/2009), the FIB trends indicate an even distribution of national imports of raw, semi processed and processed food stuff ((Silva, et al., FAO 2011, pg 31)). Unfortunately, currently there is no publicly

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1 Estimates from CEPAL for 2013
3 “Recognition in the law does not, in itself, ensure that food will be available and accessible to all. To ensure that the right to food really means something, governments (in collaboration with civil society) need to develop policies, plans and programmes that are effective in addressing food issues and advancing the right to food.(FAO 2009) Budget Work to Advance the Right to Food
4 Includes imports of beverages (i.e. HS Chapter 22, minus ethanol) in addition to the traditional definitions of “food” (i.e. HS Chapters 1-23, excluding HS 01, 05, 06, 13, 14, and 15.04-15.06)
available, comprehensive national dataset of household consumption surveys, national production, and import and Food Balance Sheet (FBS) data to determine which foodstuffs are consumed by which sectors (i.e. households, food processors, hotels; restaurants, livestock producers). Estimates of domestic food supply indicate production strengths in poultry, pork and vegetables, herbs and spices. Nevertheless the official statistics indicate the Food Import Bill at TT$4 billion (CSO, 2011).

Notwithstanding vulnerability to external shocks, Trinidad and Tobago’s economy and financial system, buoyed by the fortunes of the oil and gas sectors, remain relatively resilient and robust. This is evidenced by the extent to which the national budget is financed by domestic resources. In 2011, donor financing contributed a mere five to six percent of fiscal revenue. However, the country still looks to the international community for technical support in many facets of national development. In the food, agricultural and rural sectors, the EU and the Governments of Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Japan and Mexico are principal bilateral partners; while the main technical support organizations are Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

November 2013 will mark five decades of GORTT and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) cooperation. Over the period, FAO has been a strategic partner supporting the development of the food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural sectors. FAO continues to be a significant source of technical assistance in policy and planning, capacity building, knowledge sharing, advocacy and resource mobilization aimed at promoting sustainable food and agricultural systems, alleviating poverty and enhancing rural livelihoods.

The Country Programming Framework (CPF) articulates an agreement between the GORTT, represented by the Ministry of Food Production (MFP), and FAO, on the thematic areas and national outcomes to which FAO assistance will contribute in the period 2012 to 2015. Prior to implementation, the set of medium-term outputs and intermediate outcome indicators defined for each thematic area will be reviewed to facilitate monitoring of the efficiency and effectiveness of GORTT-FAO partnerships.

The priority areas for FAO assistance have been identified through participation in the then Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs (MFPLMA) stakeholder consultations of 2010 and 2011, and supplemented by smaller FAO focus group meetings, and analysis of the food and agriculture sector. They are also grounded in the national development priorities as articulated in the National Food Production Action Plan (NFPAP) developed by MFPLMA, the national MTPF, as well as internationally and regionally agreed development goals and commitments such as the MDGs, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Jagdeo Initiative, the CARICOM Community Agricultural Policy (CCAP), and the Caribbean Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy. Additionally, discussions were held with Ministry officials and key development partners to enhance coordination and complementarities with ongoing and planned programmes.

The focus areas identified reflect FAO’s comparative advantage. Successful implementation of the CPF will contribute to priorities of the NFPAP and MTPF in the areas of food and nutrition security, economic diversification, job creation and natural resource management, and to the achievement of MDGs 1 and 7 (poverty reduction and environmental sustainability). The overall intent of the CPF is to contribute to the country’s target to “Increase agriculture sector contribution to GDP to 3% by 2014”

The CPF is primarily a strategic framework to focus FAO assistance to Trinidad and Tobago, but in addition, it provides a context for effective partnerships and joint programmes with other organizations.

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6 CARICOM Secretariat, 2011
active in the country, particularly the UN agencies. It is thus, an important input into the One UN process. The CPF is a rolling framework, which will be regularly reviewed and adjusted as necessary. It should not be considered as a plan or programme since no indicative resource allocation is attached. However, it will be used to mobilize both financial and technical resources to achieve the specified priority outcomes effectively and in a timely manner. The CPF process will remain iterative and the framework document amenable to adjustment and updating based on feedback from monitoring and evaluation of its implementation. In this way, it will help maintain continuity and relevance of FAO assistance in a more strategic programmatic manner.

2. SITUATION ANALYSIS

National Context

Trinidad and Tobago has a population of approximately 1.3 million people who inhabit 4,827 square kilometres in Trinidad, and 300 square kilometres in Tobago. The twin-island republic with a total area of 5,128 square kilometres, lies to the south of the Caribbean archipelago. Trinidad is located between 10° 2’ and 11° 12’ North latitude and 60° and 61° West longitude, or 11 kilometres off the northeast coast of Venezuela. Tobago is located 30 kilometres to the northeast of Trinidad. Geologically the islands are an extension of the South American mainland. The islands’ maritime tropical climate is influenced by the northeast trade winds resulting in relatively stable temperatures of 30-32 C in the day and 25 C at night. Average rainfall is 200cm per year, with the highest rainfall predicted for June to December, and dry season from January to May. The country lies just south of the hurricane belt. Changing weather patterns have been evident in higher temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, rising sea levels and greater threat from hurricanes.

Trinidad and Tobago is a country rich in cultural diversity and natural resources. The legacy of the South American ecology is seen in the flora and fauna of Trinidad, in particular. The shared geology is revealed in its oil and gas resources, which have fuelled industrial development. Trinidad’s economy is primarily dependent on the energy and petrochemical sector, while Tobago’s economy is mainly dependent on tourism. The country is regarded as a leading economy in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and seeks to establish itself as a major financial centre in the Caribbean.

The Economy

The economy of Trinidad and Tobago is dominated by the petroleum sector, which accounted for 39.4 percent of GDP in 2008, rising to an estimated 40.2 percent in 2012. Of the other productive sectors, the contribution of manufacturing ranged between 8.2 percent in 2008 and 8.8 percent in 2012; while that of agriculture was less than one percent throughout the five year period 2008 to 2012; and is currently estimated at 0.7 percent. The services sector contributed 51.3 percent and 50.2 percent in 2008 and 2012 respectively. In terms of employment, the petroleum industry is not as significant, accounting for 3 percent of persons employed in the third quarter of 2010, compared with 4.0 percent, 8.9 percent, and 83.8 percent for agriculture, manufacturing and services respectively.
The economic trend of the 2008-2012 period has been mixed, with two years of negative growth in 2009 (-4.4%); and 2011 (-2.6%). This has been largely due to the relatively poor performance of the services sector. The agricultural sector declined by 32.4% in 2009 and an estimated 4.9% in 2012. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago confronts external shocks characterized by major threats to the global economy including increasing commodity prices and supply disruptions, stalled recovery in the advanced economies and negative fallout emanating from the Euro Area sovereign debt crisis, and the impacts of climate change.

The main challenges confronting Trinidad and Tobago in its quest for “Prosperity for All” are: i) diversifying and deepening the productive base of the economy for sustained growth and a high standard of living; ii) improving the competitiveness of the economy and expanding investment; iii) ensuring human security; iv) promoting knowledge accumulation and use, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial activity; and v) reducing socio-economic inequity and promoting poverty alleviation and social inclusion (GORTT/Ministry of Planning and the Economy, 2011). In accordance with the cluster approach, and national target “to increase agriculture sector contribution from GDP contribution of 0.4% (2010) to 3% by 2014”, the areas of priority identified in the CPF address policy, institutional, productivity and profit constraints to the food import substitution and sustainability targets, as outlined in “Building Competitive Advantage”. Foremost, the CPF addresses the crucial issues of policy formulation, knowledge generation, knowledge management, quality standards and core competencies within the food sustainability value chain.

2.2 FOOD SECURITY: SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Food Security Indicators

Food availability is not a problem in Trinidad and Tobago, although there are serious concerns about food prices, and the burgeoning share of food imports (average of 9.8% of total merchandise imports), and the growth of the ready-to-eat and ready to cook imported products. Government’s strategy (2012-2015) is to focus on the development of six commodity groups (staples, vegetables, fruits, aquaculture, selected livestock products, and pulses), and three strategic products (cocoa, honey, Moruga scorpion pepper). The Government promotes a cluster approach to enable the four sub sectors (of Agriculture Production; Fishing & Fish Farming; Food Processing/Manufacturing; and Printing & Packaging) and its stakeholders. Given, terrain, land space, climate, available technology, competitiveness and consumer prices, this demands significant productivity gains across the cluster value chains. Complementarily, concerted action is required to shift food consumption patterns in favour of domestically produced items – for example displacing wheat-based products to products based on roots and tubers; and shifting from imported to local fruit preference.

With a poverty rate of about 17 percent, household access to adequate supplies of wholesome, nutritious food is a problem for vulnerable groups in pockets of the country. Existing transfer programmes of the Ministry of the People and Social Development (MoPSD), and employment programmes (of MoPSJ,

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MFP and Ministry of Local Government) partially address this issue. However, such initiatives need to be complemented with credible, sustained, targeted national programmes focusing on home, community and urban gardening and on teaching vulnerable households how to make more informed food choices based on price and quality.

The key indicators of Food Security, regularly collected in the national data sets, are monthly food prices, and quarterly food production sample surveys. The Living Conditions Survey and Household Budgetary Surveys, commissioned by MoPSJ, and the UNICEF Multi Indicator Cluster surveys are conducted at irregular intervals. Consequently, food security analysis is limited and additional data relies on the availability of administrative reports. The MoPSD is rapidly building household level and community level data collected through its conditional cash transfer. Ministry of Health’s data suggest a worrying increase in nutrition-related Chronic Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) including diabetes and obesity in young children, and increase in hypertension and cardio vascular disease in the adult population, though relatively low levels of malnutrition\textsuperscript{10}. These may be exacerbated by increase in unemployment, particularly in the Tobago economy, which is dependent on a decelerating tourism sector, and increased costs of food.

Agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago is a source of benefits beyond the provision of food and fibre. In the literature, the multi-functional role of agriculture in development is acknowledged for its contribution to sustainable development, protection of the environment, sustained vitality of rural life and poverty alleviation\textsuperscript{11}. In Trinidad and Tobago’s economic accounting system, these aspects of agriculture’s contribution and its linkage to services and manufacturing are un-captured in the socio economic data. Therefore, the current statistical framework provides a limited view of sector activity.

At present, the statistical framework structures the agricultural sector into a traditional export sector comprising cocoa and coffee; a non-traditional export sector comprising fish, fruits and vegetables, and value-added products; and a domestic food crop and livestock sub-sector. Exports from the traditional sector are in decline while non-traditional exports have been growing. Exports of non-traditionals include hot peppers and pumpkin to extra-regional markets and watermelon, pineapple and vegetables to intra-regional markets, primarily Barbados.

Investment in tree crops, including cocoa, coffee, citrus and coconut have been in decline for decades. Vegetables, food crops and fruits production is robust, though highly fragmented with large numbers of small farmers dispersed throughout the country. In the livestock sub-sector, small ruminants, beef and dairy production, characteristically small farm operations, account for less than 10% of domestic demand. In contrast, the poultry industry is highly integrated, with backward and forward linkages to five agro-processing entities. Similarly, there is a high degree of consolidation in pork industry with a few highly integrated operators sharing the domestic market.

Fisheries comprise marine fisheries, aquaculture, inland fisheries and an ornamental fish trade. Marine fisheries predominates and is characterized by approximately 5,100 small artisanal fishermen operating in inshore and coastal waters, accounting for approximately 75-80 percent of fish landings at 98 sites around the coast of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, there is a semi-industrial fleet, about 55 in number, operating in off shore areas in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and an industrial fleet of about 25

\textsuperscript{10} Address by the Honourable Dr. Fuad Khan, Minister of Health, Launch of the U Health and Wellness Exposition, Hyatt Regency Hotel, PoS, Monday 19th March, 2012. He states “More than ½ the population, that is 55.5 per cent, fifteen (15) years and over are overweight or obese; a quarter (25%) of school-aged children, 5 – 18yrs old are overweight or obese”; Accessed at http://www.health.gov.tt/downloads/DownloadItem.aspx?id=268. The published country nutrition profile is outdated year 2003 (FAO 2004).

shrimp trawlers whose operations are regulated in designated areas in the West, North and South coasts. Inland fisheries make negligible contribution to socio-economic development, consisting of few farmers/gardeners capturing wild stocks for auto-consumption and occasional roadside sale of very small surpluses. Aquaculture, currently practised at subsistence and semi-commercial levels, has attracted private sector investment over the last three to five years. The ornamental/aquarium fishery entails the capture and export of wild fresh water ornamental species.

Agro-based value-added activities involve a number of large processors, with operations based on imported raw materials contribute to a robust and expanding intra- and extra-regional trade. Also, there is a significant sub sector of small-scale cottage operations, dependent on domestically produced raw material.

With respect to land resources, a key feature is the dominant land ownership (more than 50%) by the state. A significant constraint on the productivity of existing agricultural land resources is the fact that a mere 2% of potentially irrigable land have access to irrigation and water control infrastructure. FAO estimates indicate that 226,000 hectares or about 44.1% of Trinidad and Tobago are forested, containing 19 million metric tons of carbon in living forest biomass. Forest ecosystems provide critical services including: supply of water for domestic, industrial, agricultural and recreational uses; watershed protection; soil protection and erosion control; landscape beauty; carbon sequestration and climate regulation. The economic value of these ecosystem services remains largely un-quantified. There is understandable concern over the estimated 6.2% loss of forest cover, approximately 15,000 hectares, between 1990 and 2010 due to perennial issues of forest fires and soil erosion associated with agricultural activity on the forested hillsides, particularly in the Northern Range, location of the major watersheds in the country. In addition, the demand for housing has had the domino effect of encroachment on agricultural land with, as a consequence, farming activity moving up the hillsides resulting in deforestation thereby making soil conservation and watershed protection increasingly important. Since 1980, reforestation programmes have been implemented in an attempt to slow down creeping erosion.

**Sector Performance**

The agricultural sector in Trinidad and Tobago contracted by 4.9% in 2012, with the domestic agricultural sub-sector remaining somewhat flat with 0.3% growth and export agriculture declining by 19.6%. Preliminary data show that there were significant increases in output of some roots and tubers, selected vegetables and milk. Declines were observed in copra, poultry, pork and some vegetable crops. Thus, the overall performance was mixed

To illustrate further, Figure 1 indicates the trend lines for production of major salad crops for the period 2002–2011. Tomato production was relatively steady, but the others trended downwards. This is supported by information from TradeMap, which show that imports of edible vegetables and root tubers have increased significantly. Over the period, 2006 to 2011, annual growth in import value of all major items increased even when there were slight annual dips in quantities of specific items imported. With respect to food crops or staples, as shown in Figure 2, cassava production expanded, largely due to the Trinidad and Tobago Agri-Business Association’s (TTABA) product development and promotion work on frozen cassava cubes, logs and fries for the hospitality and convenience food market. The upsurge in sweet potato production in 2010-2011 is significant, and is also due again to contract farming and processing initiatives. Notwithstanding the negative trends that reflect relative low productivity and lack of sectoral competitiveness, the outlook is optimistic given the stated commitments in the NFPAP and

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12 TradeMap (www.Trademap.org) based on ITC/COMTRADE Statistics
MTPF and the catalytic initiatives in more effectively organizing the small-holder producers and other key stakeholders and connecting with the buyers and input suppliers along the value chain.

Figure 3 highlights the steady decline in oranges and grapefruit, the main domestic fruit crops, over the period 2002-2011. Trends in cocoa, coffee and copra production for the same period are indicated in Figure 4. Both data sets reflect the status of low productivity, lack of competitiveness and poor infrastructure characteristic of long-term investments in tree crop production. However, there are positive indications of more concerted and targeted government action aimed at revitalizing the citrus, cocoa and copra industries through a mix of measures all along the value chain.

The issue of the moment is to ensure a sustainable turnaround of the performance of the agriculture sector. The significance lies in the fact that Trinidad and Tobago is a net food importing country with a food import bill which has doubled over the past five years or so from around TT$2 billion in 2006 to the current estimated value of TT$4 billion. This troubling trend is indicative of the country’s high and increasing food import dependence. Foreign food supplies are the main sources of carbohydrates and proteins. Given the foregoing and a poverty rate estimated at about 17 percent, continuing escalation of global food prices and a relatively under-performing domestic agricultural sector have serious implications for income distribution and could undermine achievement of MDG 1.

2.3 POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND PRIORITIES

Currently, a coherent national agricultural sector policy and plan is in the process of formulation. However, on the basis of the 2010/2011 extensive stakeholder consultations and feedback supplemented by a process of continued open dialogue with sectoral interest groups, institutions and individuals, the MFP identified the critical challenges confronting the key subsectors and stakeholders. This facilitated the preparation of a NFPAP, published in 2012, which highlighted an inter-related package of phased, strategic actions for alleviating constraints in the following thematic areas:

- Infrastructure: land management and tenure; access roads; water management;
- Incentives: for promoting sustainable agriculture; agricultural cooperatives; youth in agriculture; agro-processing; and entrepreneurship;
- Value-added and marketing: value chain management;
- Praedial larceny
- Commodity priorities: agricultural crops; amenity horticulture; forestry; livestock; fisheries;
- Policy development and planning;
- Research and Development;
- Education and training;
- Technical support;
- Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness and Management;
- Finance and Capital Investment;
- Labour

The processes informing the development of the NFPAP had value because of the exemplary participatory approach adopted by the Ministry. The Plan, has guided the articulation of the Ministry’s budgetary proposals for fiscal 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Subsequently, in 2011, the Ministry requested FAO assistance in the preparation of an organization Strategic Plan to enable it to deal with the identified challenges of the NFPAP and to satisfy a Cabinet-mandated requirement of all Ministries.
Medium Term Policy Framework

Despite the initiatives indicated above, there is need for a national sectoral policy and plan for moving agriculture forward in Trinidad and Tobago. In recognition of this, the Government with FAO’s assistance is addressing this gap. In the interim, medium-term action priorities for agriculture and food and nutrition security are articulated in the national MTPF 2011-2014, laid in Parliament in October 2011, with the 2011/2012 Budget Statement. The Public Sector Investment Programme (2012-2015) estimates an allocation of TT$1,426,580 Mn for Agriculture and Food Security, most of this for infrastructural projects, and TT$114,450 Mn for the environment. In the Social Sector Investment Programme (2013), the Ministry of Finance budgeted an allocation of TT$ 49 Mn for the Ministry of Food Production’s programmes in Home Gardening, Agriculture Incentive Programme, Graduate Internship, investor facilitation unit for the Large Farms project, flood relief, support to 4 H Young Farmers clubs, Rural Women Producers, and Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA). The objectives underlying sector development include: i) reducing the food import bill by 10% annually; ii) reducing the rate of food inflation and sustaining it within single digits; iii) creating sustainable long-term productive sectoral employment; iv) increasing the sectoral contribution to GDP; and v) creating a food secure nation.

The MTPF strategic framework of nine key initiatives for revitalizing the sector and putting it on a sustainable footing are:

- **Increase agricultural production, distribution and access**: a set of measures for more effective food production support systems – incentives, public-private partnerships; marketing; investment and finance infrastructure (access roads, water management); fisheries development;

- **Water resources management**: integrated approaches to strengthened institutional capacity; improved policy integration and coherence across sectors and agencies;

- **Improved land management and tenure**: improved information systems; accelerated regularization; fast-track arrangements to land ownership;

- **Expand markets for imports**: diversify sources of food imports to ensure security of supply and also access to potentially more competitive prices);

- **Encourage youth participation in the agriculture sector**: continuation of the Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA); the Bioscience, Agriculture and Food Technologies (BAFT) Faculty of the University of Trinidad and Tobago; initiation of a Youth Internship Programme utilizing university graduates trained and mentored by experienced agribusiness entrepreneurs;

- **Encourage higher levels of productivity for locally produced goods**: main aspects of which include water management and encouraging use of by-products from agro-processing; incentives for value-added product development; removing uncertainty and encouraging investments;

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• **Encourage the consumption of healthy, locally produced food**: communications campaign promoting Food Security utilizing sport celebrities; partnering with food outlets; encouraging industrial and commercial operators to incorporate more local content; promoting home gardening; strengthening government procurement through the school feeding programme, institutional buyers and catering for official functions

• **Creating linkages between agriculture and other productive sectors**: fostering a multi-sectoral approach to agricultural development;

• **Effectively monitoring of prices and movement of inflation**: aimed at addressing inequalities of access to nutritious food.

The GORTT commits to a number of international and regional initiatives intended to influence national development in the areas of food and agriculture, *inter alia*: MDGs; CSME; CCAP; Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan (RFNSP and RFNSAP). In addition, the country is collaborating at the regional level in the finalization of a Common Fisheries Policy; an Agribusiness Strategy and a Biotechnology Policy.

In moving forward, agriculture and food systems will need to satisfy three inter-locking elements of development: i) contribute to secure, reliable and resilient food and nutrition security; ii) generate economic activity and incomes that contribute to growth and poverty reduction; and iii) preserve the natural resource base and enhance environmental and biodiversity conservation and protection and build resilience to climate change impacts. These are also essential building blocks of sustainable development.

Action will be required in the forestry sector. In this regard, the revised national forest policy and plan will seek to: i) optimize the contribution of forest resources to livelihoods while ensuring sustainable use of forests (including extraction of timber and wildlife); ii) protect native genetic species and ecosystem diversity; and iii) maintain and enhance the natural productivity of forest ecosystems and ecological processes (watershed functions, etc.) to provide important ecosystems services.

The achievement of food and nutrition security in Trinidad and Tobago will also be supported by complementary action in three other strategic priority areas outlined in the MTPF:

**Health Care**: specifically the promotion of healthy lifestyles through educational campaigns emphasizing the importance of healthy behaviours including healthy dietary choices and physical activity. Intended actions include: i) policy development focusing on sport, nutrition and exercise; ii) developing a National Health Promotion Plan; iii) adopting a healthy public policy across all state agencies and sectors; iv) creating public-private partnerships to catalyse environmental, social and policy changes that promote health;

**Growth, Competitiveness and Innovation**: the critical supportive elements are: i) maintaining macroeconomic stability; ii) diversification to restructure the productive base; iii) promoting ecotourism; iv) wider application of ICT; v) developing new growth centres focusing on geographical and industry diversification; vi) promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through a National Innovation Policy, supported by an Innovation Fund to link research and development to small firms and individuals and a Research and Innovation Fund developed together with the larger firms; vii) revitalizing the traditional sectors and promoting viable clusters; viii) increasing foreign and domestic investment; ix) creating a modern and efficient economic infrastructure base – ICT, physical infrastructure (transport, roads and...
bridges), efficient public utilities; x) significantly improving the business environment; and xi) strategically managing international economic relations by re-orienting foreign policy and foreign affairs;

**Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development**: specific interest relates to: i) restructuring the economy to provide more meaningful income-generating opportunities for the marginalized; ii) empowering the poor and targeting the most vulnerable groups; iii) strengthening social capital at community level; and iv) reforming the education system, *inter alia*, for literacy development, skills enhancement and promoting and instilling positive values and attitudes; addressing skills shortages and building workforce competencies; supporting lifelong learning; adopting a structured approach towards human capital development.

**Public Investments**

Resources totalling some TT$151.2 million were utilized in 2012 on a broad range of development programmes and projects aimed at assisting the drive towards food and nutrition security and reducing the level of food imports. The package included water management and flood control to assist with flood control and drainage improvements; accelerated pond construction to facilitate irrigation of agricultural lands; agricultural access roads rehabilitation targeting identified food baskets; land management; establishment of agricultural settlements focusing on extension/teaching, surveys and subdivision of agricultural land and pest and disease management; fisheries development; research and development; Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture; and reforestation and conservation.

The allocation for agriculture, fisheries and forestry development in fiscal 2013 was TT$185.2 million of which TT$166.1 million fund the agricultural and fisheries development programme of the MFP and TT$19.1 million for the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources in the forestry development programme.15

In addition, a number of pieces of agricultural legislation currently being reviewed and revised are listed at Annex V.

**2.4 SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND STAKEHOLDERS**

**National Institutions**

The institutional arrangements created to sustain strategic focus, coordination and efficient execution of the MTPF include:

- **The Ministerial Council for the Economy**: chaired by the Prime Minister, which will monitor economic developments and progress towards building an innovation driven economy;
- **The Council for Competitiveness and Innovation (CCI)**: mandated to take action to make firms more competitive, expand exports and improve Trinidad and Tobago’s competitive ranking;
- **The Economic Development Board (EDB)**: which will reshape strategies for economic development by facilitating diversification and achieving a diversified economy within the framework of sustainable development;
- **The Civil Society Board (CSB)**: comprising representatives of key NGOs as part of the participatory governance model, which will institutionalize the consultative process for public

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15 Public Sector Investment Programme, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, October 2012
involvement in decision-making in national social, economic and physical planning, bringing the community perspective to national discussions;

- **The High Level Expert Panel on Arts and Culture**: established to promote the advancement of arts and culture as a new strategic industry, will assist in the development of entrepreneurship and innovation and make recommendations on institutions and projects.
- **The Prices Council**, Ministry of Legal Affairs

*The Ministry of Food Production*

The MFP is the premier public sector institution responsible for leading and managing the development and implementation of government policy for agricultural development in Trinidad and Tobago. Key functions include: agricultural policy and planning; research and development; extension, information and training; veterinary services; animal and plant health; fisheries management and a range of production support services including on-farm drainage and irrigation and access roads development.

MFP is supported by a wider public sector institutional framework which supports implementation of agricultural policy:

- **Agricultural Development Bank (ADB)**: agricultural finance and credit;
- **National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO)**: marketing and agribusiness development services;
- **Estate Management and Business Development Company (EMBD)**: land management and agricultural infrastructure;
- **Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPB)**: production and marketing of livestock and livestock products;
- **Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board (CCIB)**: production, marketing and development of the cocoa and coffee industries;
- **Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI)**: maritime and seafood technology training for the maritime and fishing industry.
Alliances

In addition, sectoral development requires functional cooperation and coordinated action between MFP and the following key Ministries:

- **Finance and the Economy** – funding and budgetary matters
- **Planning and Sustainable Development** – coordinated national planning including land use planning; and it’s key institution the Central Statistical Office
- **Works and Infrastructure** – physical infrastructure (access roads, drainage and irrigation);
- **The Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources** executes the policy portfolios of forestry development and water resources
- **Trade, Industry and Investments** – trade and import policy;
- **Health** – agricultural health, food safety, nutrition;
- **Education** – education and training; school feeding;
- **National Security** – praedial larceny;
- **Local Government (and Regional Corporations)** - rural wellbeing, marketing agricultural produce, infrastructure in rural areas;
- **The Ministry of Housing, Land And Marine Affairs** is responsible for land and Marine Affairs;
- **The Tobago House of Assembly (THA)** has responsibility for agricultural development in Tobago except for matters relating to international trade agreements and trans-boundary pests and diseases;
- **The Ministry of the People and Social Development (MoPSD)** – and its Poverty Alleviation Programme and its Regional Human and Social Development Councils;
- **The Ministry of Labour Small and Microenterprises Development (MoLSED)** - Cooperative Division.

Constructive relationships with other important national institutions are also important:

- **Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)** – maritime and fisheries (including aquaculture) training, research and development;
- **Environment Management Authority (EMA)** – environment protection, natural resources management;
- **National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST)** – research, science and technology;
- **University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)** – teaching, research and outreach;
- **Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAF)** – pre- and in-service technician training;
- **Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI)** – agro-processing development;
- **Seafood Industry Development Company (SIDC)** – seafood industry development.

Private Sector and Non Governmental Organizations

In addition, key private sector stakeholder organizations contribute to agriculture sector policy and development. They include:

- **producers** – Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago (ASTT) – a network of farmers’ associations; National Food Crop Farmers’ Association (NFFA) – largely small farmers; Cooperative Citrus Growers’ Association (CCGA) – small and large citrus farmers; Cattle
Farmers’ Association (CFA); Horticultural Society; Poultry Farmers’ Association; Aquaculture Association of Trinidad and Tobago (aQuaTT); Fishermen and Friends of the Seas (FFOS); All Tobago Fisher-folk Association;

- **processors** – Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association (TTMA) – agro-processors;
- **commerce** – Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (TTCIC) – business development and services.

**Regional Institutions**

The Ministry also maintains strategic alliances with a number of regional institutions including:

- **CARICOM Secretariat**: regional agricultural policy and planning;
- **Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)**: agricultural research and development;
- **Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)**: development of regional fisheries and aquatic resources;
- **University of the West Indies (UWI)**: research, education and training
- **Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)**: responsible for agricultural public health and food safety (not yet operational)
- **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)**: (successor agency to the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)) food and nutrition related matters including food safety.

**Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)**

CARDI is a strategic ally in agricultural development, collaborating with and supporting the MFP in developing technology packages for roots and tubers (sweet potato, cassava); small ruminants (sheep and goats) and hot peppers. Its focus is adaptation, technology transfer and agribusiness development. In-country activities also include promoting organic agriculture in Tobago; assisting with strengthening systems to deal with surveillance and prevention of alien invasive species, supporting adaptation to climate change and the development of protective agriculture. FAO and IICA are CARDI’s major strategic partners in these areas.

**Development Cooperation in the Sector**

Agriculture, fisheries and forestry development in Trinidad and Tobago has benefitted from technical assistance and financial support from a number of bilateral and multilateral partners over the past decades. However, the relative buoyancy of the economy has resulted in considerably reduced access to grant and preferential funding for national development in recent times. Nevertheless, the country is still dependent on and able to negotiate technical assistance from a wide range of partners. The European Union (EU) and multi-lateral agencies and hemispheric organizations continue to be significant allies in this regard. In addition, recently there has been an increase in bilateral South-South cooperation arrangements with specific countries.
IICA is the other key sector development partner providing assistance to Trinidad and Tobago in agricultural and rural development. The IICA country programme encompasses the following broad areas:

Policy and planning: this is based on IICA’s strength and a recognized weakness on the part of MFP. Important facets include: building capacity and instituting systems for monitoring and evaluation, impact assessments; ensuring policy linkage and coherence; and conduct of studies. IICA sees FAO as its key strategic partner in this area in which both institutions already collaborate closely.

Competitiveness of selected commodities and stakeholders: the aim is to work with key stakeholders including the Ministry in providing integrated, coordinated support for commodity systems utilizing the Value Chain Approach with a view to enhance competitiveness. This was revealed as another area where IICA and FAO were already collaborating.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety: IICA has been working with CARDI and FAO supporting initiatives to improve the regulatory and institutional frameworks for more effective coordination across the national agencies with specific mandates in this area.

Farmers’, Women and Youth Organizations: this constitutes an integral aspect of the thrust to build social capital and improve sectoral governance systems by strengthening the capacity of these organizations in management, agribusiness, negotiating skills and entrepreneurship. This represents another area of potential collaboration between IICA and FAO.

**Bilateral Cooperation**

Within recent years, the GORTT has been actively negotiating bilateral technical cooperation arrangements with the following Governments to recruit support in a number of technical areas:

- Brazil: pest and disease in coconuts and apiculture development;
- China: agricultural trade and investment;
- Cuba: bio-pesticides;
- India: aquaculture; apiculture; control of Red Palm Mite; cooperatives; fruit production; integrated pest management; seed production; shade house technology; water management;
- Japan: sustainable marine resource fisheries utilization;
- Mexico: bio-fertilizers.

**Multi-Lateral Cooperation**

Trinidad and Tobago is one of five countries participating in a Global Environmental Fund (GEF) Global Project for Ecosystems Services (ProEcoServ), executed by UNEP, aimed at contributing to the use of ecosystem services assessment piloted by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services into poverty reduction and sustainable development planning. This Trinidad and Tobago component of this initiative, led by UWI and The Cropper Foundation (TCF), affords an opportunity to test models and develop tools for valuing ecosystem services, including those provided by agriculture and forestry, allowing for better decision support systems to guide decision-makers on choosing development strategies which ensure sustainable flow of selected bundles of ecosystem services.
3. FAO’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

FAO is the country’s major development partner in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Annex IV highlights the more recent FAO technical assistance package to Trinidad and Tobago from 2000 to 2011. The analysis reveals that over the period, the Organization has provided support through a mix of some 41 regional and national projects under the TCP and TeleFood Programmes valued at about US$18 million (regional – US$16.84 million; national – US$1.17 million). These interventions were intended to be catalytic to the sector’s capacity building and institutional strengthening; policy analysis and planning; improvements to legal frameworks; technical knowledge and information services to support food security, to improved phyto-sanitary measures, pest and disease management, trade facilitation, agro-processing development, smallholder production, marketing information systems, fisheries resources management and forest protection.

More than 50 percent of FAO resources allocated to regional activities targeted food and nutrition security with outcomes including the development of an Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) and programme (RFNSAP), both of which were adopted and approved by CARICOM and now provide the framework for further initiatives at national level. This intervention also facilitated region wide exposure to the Value Chain Approach and its validation as a potentially powerful tool for effecting revitalization and transformation of the agricultural sector. Other critical areas addressed at regional level were the sustainable management of the fisheries and marine ecosystems and emergency assistance for early detection and prevention of avian influenza and for surveillance of H1N1 virus in swine populations in the Caribbean.

Key national project activities included smallholder productivity for food and nutrition security, pest and disease management, support to the agricultural census and inculcating excellence in agricultural extension delivery systems. In addition, ten TeleFood Projects were implemented, targeting the smallholder community. It is emphasized, however, that at the national level FAO’s contribution extends beyond the value of the cooperative projects identified and implemented. The Representation serves as a locus of technical support readily accessible to the GORTT and the MFP and is relied upon for ad hoc advice on technical matters and on global and regional issues and their likely impacts on national and sectoral development.

The main challenges to agriculture and rural development in Trinidad and Tobago are:

- **production and marketing systems**: These inhibit productivity of domestic agriculture limiting output, undermining food and nutrition security and contributing to rural poverty. Low productivity affects particularly smallholder operators, the largest proportion of farmers in the country and the main food producers. Most are constrained by small and fragmented holdings with operations not supported by widespread application of science and technology or access to focused research and extension services; and hampered by water deficits, pest and diseases, uncontrolled use of agro-chemicals and inadequate infrastructure. Improvements will require adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) featuring reduced agro-chemical use, improved soil management and measures to foster enhanced links between agriculture and human health. Moreover, public level services such as support programmes, information systems, enabling polices and legislation are critical needs.
• **environmental resilience**: rainfall variability and unpredictability, natural disasters such as floods, droughts and climate change cause serious damage to land, crops, livestock fisheries, forestry, biodiversity and agro-ecological systems and infrastructure, contribute to water scarcity and have major impacts on agricultural sector performance;

• **competitiveness**: There is an urgent requirement for modernizing and commercializing the sector by enhancing competitiveness of product supply chains in identified commodities; improved productivity; exploring public-private partnerships; utilization of appropriate incentives; attention to agricultural health and food safety concerns and wider application of agribusiness practices and principles facilitated by adoption of the Value Chain Approach to stimulate coordinated and integrated provision of services across all chain actors.

A further challenge relates to the national capacity to provide adequate support services and especially to ensure that they reach the widely dispersed smallholder producers. This will influence the development of governance structures characterized by institutional and policy coherence; functional coordination; clear, efficient and streamlined decision-making processes and adequate accountability mechanisms. The country has a rich knowledge base, a cadre of expertise and a network of research, training and educational institutions. However, the full potential of this rich reservoir needs to be harnessed for food, agricultural and rural development.

The complex challenges outlined offer many opportunities to draw on the competencies, expertise and the comparative advantage of FAO in food production and nutrition security; mainstreaming best practices in disaster preparedness and risk reduction; measures to establish and improve SPS; sustainable development of land, water, biodiversity and other renewable natural resources and climate change adaptation and mitigation. They also allow for capitalizing on the Organization’s strengths in capacity development; advocacy; information generation and knowledge management; forging strategic alliances and attracting investment in the agricultural sector. More recently, FAO, through the CARICOM “Promoting Food Security Project” expanded its knowledge of the problems and options for value chain identification, enhancing market relationships, and upgrading strategies between primary producer organizations, market buyers, and support agencies in the processing and food distribution sectors. Additionally FAO’s access to global best practices, network of relationships with UNCTAD, CIGAR and others, its participation in training and capacity building for small farm development, across the CARICOM and the Pacific regions, its experience in formulation of policies and legislation, across agriculture fisheries and forestry, provide a sound knowledge and competency base for services to the Strategic Priority Areas of this CPF.

**4. PROGRAMMING FOR RESULTS**

Programming under the CPF must reflect coherence between the country’s priorities and FAO’s global and regional priorities, and at the same time fall within the context of the *One UN* country development assistance framework. The CPF which frames the thrust of FAO’s work in Trinidad and Tobago over the medium-term will be informed on the one hand, by the Government’s MTPF and NFPAP and on the other, by FAO’s Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan and its comparative advantage and operational capacities.

These priorities are at the core of the CPF which guides FAO’s contribution in assisting Trinidad and Tobago to achieve its priorities in agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural development. It is also a framework for FAO’s accountability to the member state, and for FAO’s collaboration with other development partners serving the member state. The CPF, therefore, is FAO’s major input to the country
level United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and commitment to the harmonized
development assistance delivery of the One UN.

On the basis of the GORTT/ MTPF strategic priorities identified above, a package of joint GORTT-FAO
activities to be implemented during the period 2012-2015 is herein proposed. The activities reflect
national priorities expressed in the NFPAP and MTPF, and are based on FAO’s comparative advantage
and experience in the country and are summarized in the CPF Results Matrix (see Annex II).

The GORTT and FAO have consulted and are agreed that FAO should concentrate its assistance to
contribute to the following impact areas:

**CPF Priority Area 1: Food and Nutrition Security**

- Outcome 1. By 2015 Enhanced national capacity to formulate and manage policies, national
  agricultural data and information monitoring programmes for Agriculture, and Food Security

**CPF Priority Area 2: Agriculture and Rural Productivity and Business Development**

- Outcome 2. By 2015 enhanced national capacity to reduce productivity gaps of rural micro
  and small enterprises in agriculture and agriculture related sectors with priority given to
  rural businesses owned by women and youth. Contribution to business productivity and
  entrepreneurial development in food, agriculture and rural development

**CPF Priority Area 3: Modernization of Food and Agriculture Sector**

- Outcome 3. By 2015, improved agriculture development service systems, applied research
  and technology adoption in the agriculture, fishery and forestry subsector.

**Structure of the Programming Framework 2012-2015**

**CPF Priority Area 1: Food and Nutrition Security**

FAO has previously supported the GORTT in the area of food and nutrition security through a regional
project which resulted in the RFNSP and the RFNSAP. These documents give guidance for action at
national level in addition to identifying the key issues and providing a holistic framework for integrating
food security concerns from a regional perspective. There are opportunities for FAO to provide technical
assistance in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and IICA. Priority actions for FAO
intervention relevant to the CPF are: assistance in developing a National Food and Nutrition Security
Policy (NFNSP) and a National Food and Security Action Plan (NFNSAP); assistance to strengthen
National Agriculture Data and Information capacity; assistance to the Agriculture Census 2014; assistance
to strengthen the Agricultural Policy and Food and Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation system

**CPF Priority Area 2: Agriculture and Rural Productivity and Business Development**

A dynamic agriculture enhances national competitiveness and diversification of the economy, and these
are key objectives of the national development and transformation agenda. In addition to technical
knowhow, competitiveness requires deep knowledge of enterprise costs and revenues, a social dialogue
with similar enterprises, suppliers and buyers, and knowledge of the consumer product and buyer requirements. In CPF Priority Area 2, the activities include:

- Facilitation service for joint growth strategies between primary producers and market buyers for selected actors;
- Skills development for financial management, and innovative agriculture value chain finance;
- Sensitization to commodity specific Good Agricultural Practices, standards, certification system and operational practices;
- Promoting value addition in the agriculture food chain, including farmer training in the quality and food safety requirements of the market so that farmers can respond to the demand of the market place and be competitive; and
- Telefood projects targeted to women and youth related enterprises.

**CPF Priority Area 3: Modernization of Food and Agriculture Sector**

Modernization of agriculture is a holistic strategic framework for eradicating poverty through multi-sectoral interventions enabling people to improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. It is characterized by: i) adoption of best practices and technologies for improving productivity and supply chain logistics; ii) increasing investment in research, science, technology and innovation; iii) delivering appropriate services to an organized production base; and iv) a knowledge sharing and a knowledge-driven approach.

The identified areas of assistance include:

- Improved management strategies for crop productivity and standard operational practices (SOPs) for selected commodities;
- Enhanced institutional capacity to implement the GlobalGAP standard and the GlobalGAP certification system;
- National animal production and veterinary services strengthened for the prevention control and eradication of animal/zoonotic diseases and enhanced food safety;
- Sustainable management and conservation of fishery resources, aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity promoted and supported; and
- Sustainable management and protection of genetic and natural resource assets essential to agriculture and rural livelihoods.
Issues in Implementation

Implementation of the CPF is a conjoint responsibility of the GORTT and FAO and will involve close consultation and collaboration with the concerned Ministries and national institutions, coordinated by the MFP. The FAO Representative (FAOR) in Trinidad and Tobago will take leadership and responsibility for CPF implementation on behalf of FAO. In this, the FAOR will have full support of the technical officers at the Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean in Barbados, backstopped as required by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Chile and FAO Headquarters divisions in Rome.

The jointly agreed priorities become translated into reality through the operationalization of the CPF which leads to the development actions – programmes and projects – which must be defined, budgeted and funded in order implementation to take place. At the same time, links will be made with relevant FAO global and regional initiatives and relationships established between GORTT and its technical structures and the relevant FAO technical departments and the RLC and SRO entities. Consultative and participatory approaches will be adopted in developing new projects and establishing alliances with key development partners and national stakeholders. These actions will result in the preparation of an annual plan of action which will serve as a practical, flexible and useful tool for consultation between GORTT and FAO.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The results-based nature of the CPF requires the introduction of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism (M&E) as a key dimension of implementation. This facilitates tracking progress towards achievement of intended results in addition to satisfying the objective of mutual accountability – a fundamental principle of the Paris Declaration and Monterrey Consensus to which the Government subscribes. Accordingly, an M&E team will be established comprising representatives from GORTT and FAO.

A draft M&E plan is provided in Annex III. The proposed monitoring activities will be harmonized as much as possible with Government’s annual programme review and budget preparation cycle.

Resource Mobilization

The full implementation of this CPF depends on the availability of financial resources for the activities summarized in Annex II A. The framework constitutes those initiatives that the GORTT itself intends to pursue and for which it is jointly agreed that FAO will provide support. Accordingly, funding will largely be sourced from the GORTT and donors/lenders, with a smaller share from FAO’s own resources, including regular programme resources (TCP and TCP Facility) and donor-supported Trust Funds, and relevant FAO global and regional initiatives. The GORTT will provide counterpart contributions, including human resources, project office accommodation, access to data and information, and import duty exemption on equipment and supplies procured for FAO-executed projects.

Overall, the estimated resource for the CPF is US $17.06 Mn, of which 83% is earmarked for forestry and protected areas management. CPF Priority Area 1 is estimated to require US$0.52 Mn; Priority Area 2 US $0.7 Mn, and Priority Area 3, US$15.79 Mn. The overall funding gap is US$8.0 Mn, 47% of total estimate. This requires an active mobilization effort, for joint exploration by GORTT and FAO, of
national funding modalities such unilateral trust funding arrangements, or external funding options available to GORTT.

**Partnerships and Strategic Alliances**

Coherence and coordination are key determinants of successful implementation of such an array of inter-related actions as envisaged in the CPF. Accordingly, effective partnerships will be encouraged between the relevant Ministries, government agencies, private sector organizations, producer associations and CSOs/NGOs. Mechanisms will be explored not only to support conversations of coherence and influence but equally, to assist in establishing formal arrangements among partners where necessary.

Strategic alliances with other key development partners, including UN agencies, IICA, CARICOM institutions, IDB, WB, EU, will also be critical to ensure aid coordination and effectiveness and facilitate resource mobilization.

**Assumptions and Risks**

The NMTPF/CPF signifies a commitment on the part of the GORTT and FAO to collaborate in undertaking clearly identified initiatives aimed at enhancing agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural development. Successful implementation of the proposed activities require, inter alia:

- Timely and effective mobilization and commitment of resources;
- Commitment to the agreed strategic objectives and initiatives;
- Political and national support for sector development;
- Consultation with and full involvement of producers, processors and all other key actors in the agribusiness community in implementation;
- Effective coordination and collaboration across public sector institutions for policy coherence and implementation.

**CONCLUSION**

The CPF is a strategic programming framework, establishing a high level schema of the proposed country level technical assistance portfolio negotiated between GORTT and FAO, and the indicative performance targets to be monitored and evaluated. It is not an operational programming document. In order to operationalize, the CPF, the identified interventions must be further elaborated into detailed project proposals and agreements. A CPF monitoring and reporting system is envisaged to facilitate management learning and decision-making at the operational level during implementation. In this way, the Framework enhances the mutual accountability of the GORTT and FAO in pursuing common objectives through jointly agreed actions for the benefit of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

The results defined depend not only on the contribution of FAO but also on the contribution of GORTT, other development partners and national stakeholders. This underscores the need for FAO’s forging
strategic alliances with partner agencies with similar mandates to leverage resources (human, financial and knowledge) and for development coordination to ensure effectiveness of its in-country activities. FAO will also seek synergies with partner agencies working in the social sector as it seeks to address and incorporate issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, youth, education, health, nutrition and decent work in delivering technical assistance and advisory services.

The current priorities proposed reflect interventions envisaged at the time of CPF preparation. These activities can be implemented as stand-alone projects but are preferably undertaken as components of a more comprehensive programme. Finally, there is sufficient flexibility inherent in the CPF to facilitate consideration of additional or different proposals from GORTT in response to the dynamics of change which may lead to new requirements.
Figure 1- **Production of Selected Vegetables (2002-2011)**

Source: Central Statistical Office

Figure 2- **Production of Root Crops (2002-2011)**

Source: Central Statistical Office
Figure 3 – Production of Cocoa, Coffee and Copra (2002-2011)
Source: Central Statistical Office
Notes: Data not available for Coffee for the year 2011.

Figure 4 – Production of Citrus (2002-2011)
Source: Central Statistical Office