



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

BARBADOS AND FAO

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SAFETY

Since 1978, FAO has been an important partner in Barbados' drive to achieve its agricultural and marine development priorities, including natural resource management and climate change adaptation. During this time, FAO has provided critical technical assistance and mobilized international and regional partners in the process. FAO's support has focused on capacity building, assistance in the formulation of policies and management programmes, planning and the development of legislation related to the agriculture sector.

Modernizing agricultural health and food control systems

With tourist arrivals exceeding one million people annually, food safety is a major concern for the Government. To address the situation, Barbados has modernized its food control system using international standards and risk-based guidelines in compliance with the Codex Alimentarius. A roadmap covering plant, animal health and food safety was designed to strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary legislation in the country.

The project aimed at developing evidence-based methods for prioritization and decision-making while actively developing preventive measures for food safety. A risk-based Inspection Manual (domestic), a risk-based Inspection Manual (imports), a sampling and analysis policy and an Annual Sampling Plan were prepared for use by decision makers for hands-on implementation training. These tools have enabled Barbados to strengthen its food control system, protecting consumers and improving food security.

Seven policies and regulatory instruments were reviewed and updated to strengthen institutional capacities.

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Matching FAO's expertise to Barbados' development priorities

FAO assistance in Barbados is shaped by the **2016-2019 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)**, which is centred on four priority areas:

- ➔ **Agricultural health and food safety and quality**, improving food safety systems by strengthening legislative framework for food traceability – particularly for meat, milk and eggs – and promoting the inclusion of women in decision-making for legislation development. The implementation of a fish inspection system, which can facilitate increased trade in fish products, and strengthening of the animal disease surveillance and response system are also important.
- ➔ **Food production and productivity**, covering a broad range of initiatives that will improve the overall management and governance of the agriculture sector, including ministerial data management processes and strengthening of farmers' organizations and value chains.
- ➔ **Youth development**, by generating employment opportunities and promoting innovation in the agriculture sector.
- ➔ **Building resilience against disasters and adapting to climate change**, strengthening disaster risk management systems for agriculture, including the implementation of an Early Warning System for Food Security.

Jointly developed with the Government and key agriculture sector stakeholders, the CPF responds to targeted policies and strategies identified by Barbados to facilitate the growth and development of its agriculture sector. The CPF supports FAO's corporate objectives and regional priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean.

A new CPF for Dominica will be formulated in 2019 in consultation with the Government and in-country stakeholders.

Building National Institutional Capacities

Barbados has hosted multiple engagements with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), where issues such as regional management of oceans and legal instruments have been discussed. FAO provides technical assistance and facilitation in these areas. National institutions and stakeholder organizations, including from civil society, have contributed to the deliberations at these meetings. Capacity has been developed on data collection, analysis and presentation within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals through these consultations.

“Food security and adequate nutrition for all is where sustainable development starts.”

FAO Director-General

Photo: Fisheries are an integral part of the blue economy. Different parts of the fish can generate revenue for fisherfolk.



Sustainable Food Systems

The efficient use of by-products from the fisheries sector in Barbados is reducing waste and creating employment opportunities. FAO provided technical assistance to demonstrate the use of fish (Mahi-Mahi) skins to create handicraft items and footwear. The products can then be sold to generate additional income for fisherfolk, rather than discarding the skins as waste. These actions are promoting sustainability within the industry.

In September 2018, FAO launched the “Developing Organizational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish)” Project, aimed at implementing the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem plus Strategic Action Programme in Barbados and six other countries. The initiative seeks to empower fisherfolk throughout the fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods, with strengthened institutional support at all levels.

Roots and tubers are among climate-smart crops being promoted in the Caribbean. FAO’s support for a public-private partnership in the roots and tubers value chain development in Barbados has continued to serve as a model for other countries in the region. Policy makers and technical experts from Belize, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago have participated in “learning journey” tours to understand the structure and stakeholder engagement that has enabled the success of the experience.

Photo: Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation showcases cassava-infused products that were created through the public-private partnership.



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