

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA FOOD
SECURITY STATISTICS
PRESENTATION TO THE FAO-
OEA/CIE-IICA WORKING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURAL AND
LIVESTOCK STATISTICS FOR LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Twenty-sixth Session

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Introduction

- Presentation provides background information on Antigua and Barbuda experience regarding food and nutrition security (FNS)
- Approaches used to address related problems
- Provides some data(directly and indirectly related to FNS) with a view to further highlight the local context, while exposing weaknesses in the statistical data management system
- Presents some suggestions for the way forward

Background

- During 1980s Antigua and Barbuda began experiencing nutritional and epidemiological transitions
- Reflected in shift away from traditional diet and life style
- Reduction in under-nutrition and rates of infections diseases and increase in obesity
- Increase in NCDs

Background continued...

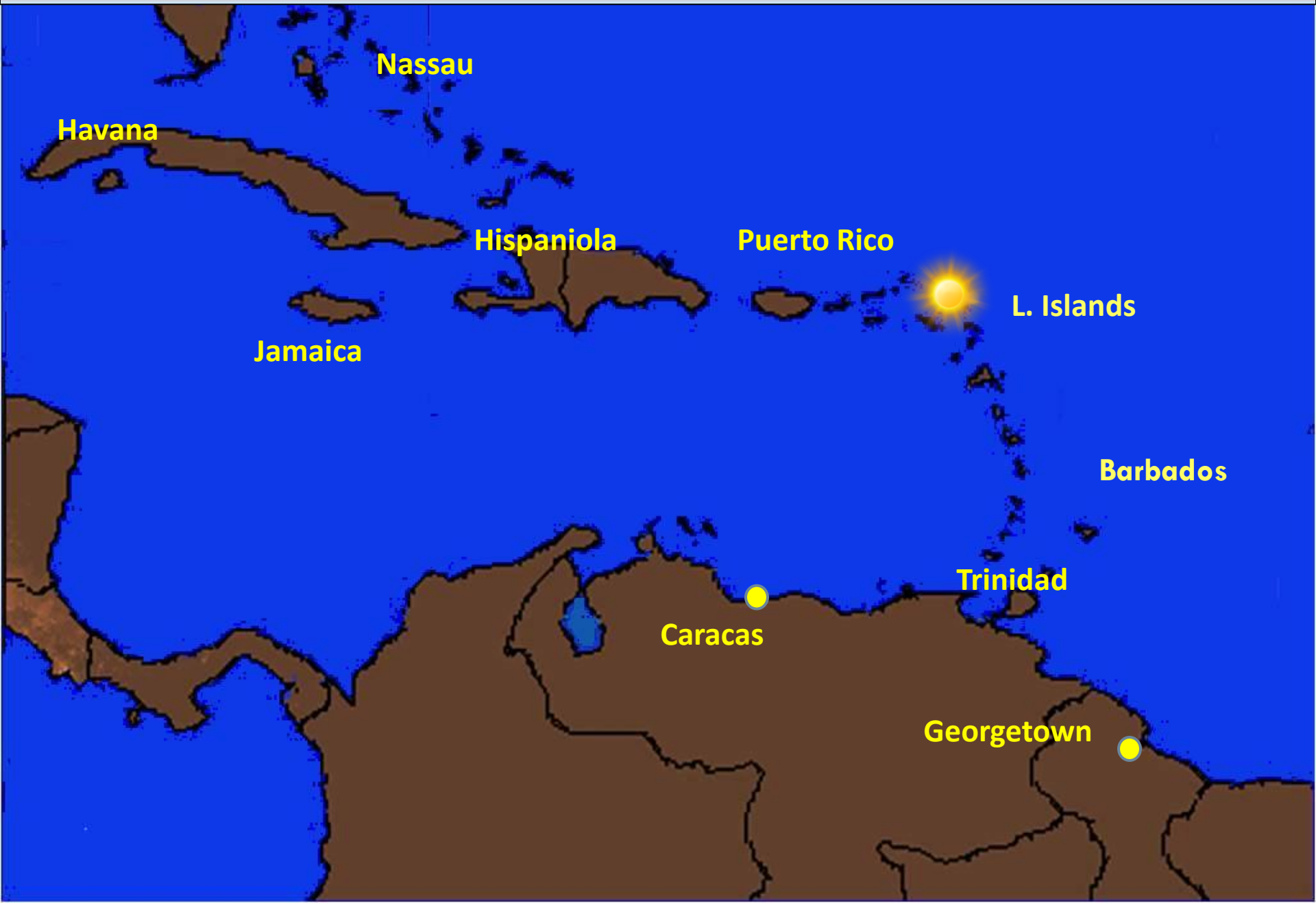
Severity of the problem recognised at several high level fora including:

- ▣ 1996 Bahamas Declaration
- ▣ 2007 Heads of Government Declaration , Trinidad
- ▣ However, there is a significant gap in data collection in AB from the 1980s to 2006 regarding FNS
- ▣ First attempt at National FNS policy in 2006 emanated from CARICOM(RFNSP)

Geographical Data

- AB is located approx. 17° North Latitude and 62° West Longitude
- Antigua, the largest island is approx. 108 square miles (280 square kilometres)
- Occupies 64% of the landmass with 98% of the population
- Barbuda is situated at 28 miles to the North-East of Antigua

Caribbean Countries



Nassau

Havana

Hispaniola

Puerto Rico

Jamaica

L. Islands

Barbados

Trinidad

Caracas

Georgetown

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS



Climatic information

- Average daily temperatures range from 70°F to 88°F (24°C to 31°C)
- The average annual rainfall is 45 inches (1,143 millimetres)
- All commercial vegetable production has to be irrigated
- Over the past two decades increase in rainfall during the hurricane season has led to flooding which has led to severe losses

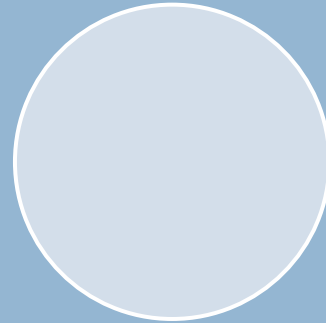
Biographical Data



Enumerated pop. according to 2011 preliminary census report is 83,278



40,007 males and 43,271 representing a male-to-female ratio of 1:1.08



Persons under 15 years accounted for about 28% of the population while those 65 years and over constitute about 7%



The last literacy rate (defined as population 15 years and over completing five or more years of school) was estimated at 86% in 2003.



Local Definition of FNS

The current FNS policy framework seeks to address these problems on four main pillars:

- ❑ Availability
- ❑ Access
- ❑ Consumption/Utilization
- ❑ Stability of supply

Availability

- Data revealed that while total food energy is available to meet population food energy goals, the country faces an under supply of staples, vegetables and legumes and an over-supply of energy from foods from animals, oils/fats, and sweeteners
- Food imports in 2011 were EC\$ 240.64 million compared to EC\$130.65 million in 2001, an increase of 84.2% over eleven (11) years

A significant portion of foreign exchange gained from the tourism sector is utilised for this purpose

Availability continued...

- Constraints include:
 - low productivity
 - short-term land tenures
 - inadequate water supply
 - difficulty in accessing credit, loss of arable lands to housing construction
 - lack of storage
 - high labour and energy costs
 - persistent praedial larceny
 - over-exploitation of marine food sources

Access

- High food prices and unacceptable levels of poverty constrain the access of households to foods
- Poverty data from the 2007 Survey of Living Conditions indicate that 13.5% of households fall into the category of 'absolute poverty', 4.4% are food poor, and 20.7% are vulnerable to poverty
- Recent price increases suggests the need for upward adjustments of the minimum wage
- Only 18 of the 32 government primary schools currently have feeding programs

Consumption/Utilization

- Culture shift pertaining to nutrition and epidemiology highlighted as the main risk factor to obesity and by extension NCDs
- Persistence of iron deficiency/anaemia especially in the 1 - 4 year age group and in pregnant and lactating women is also a grave concern

Stability of food supply

AB as a small twin island State is extremely vulnerable to shocks from:

- External economic forces
- Natural forces(hurricanes, droughts)
- Biological (invasive species)

The country is a net importer of all food items except for eggs

The way forward

- There is urgent need to upgrade the national agriculture statistical data base management system
- The Ministry of Agriculture, lands, Housing and Environment(MALHE) requires institutional strengthening in this regard in an effort to build its capacity
- Currently there is no one on staff who is trained in Agricultural Statistics, that is also the case at the NSO
- There is urgent need to establish minimum data set to be collected on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION