



In spite of accounting for only 5% of Grenada's GDP, agriculture makes a significant contribution to the livelihoods of most rural people with sweet potato, cassava, yam, maize, cabbage, banana, golden apple and mango amongst the main staple foods. It has been estimated that 37% of the population is living below the poverty line and the level of under-nourishment is in excess of 23%.



Grenada's food import bill was US\$ 400 million in 2018, far in excess of local production; 70% of food consumed is imported. With the rise in imports there has also been a sharp increase in levels of obesity, 21.3% among adults.

There are some 10,000 small scale farmers and 1,500 fishers. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries employs 10% of the work.



## Current Policy Agenda

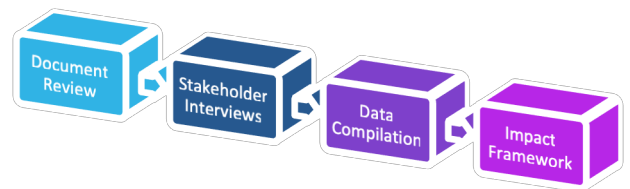
Food and nutritional security have been identified as priorities for national development and to this end a number of policies have been developed. A globally competitive agricultural sector contributes to economic growth, employment and poverty reduction, to be achieved through new agricultural developments and agribusinesses. By investing in

infrastructure the sector can also promote availability and access to nutritious and affordable food to improve the health of the population.



## Methodology

In order to undertake the identification of key issues and ideas, a four step methodology was employed. This consisted of the review of policy documents, political manifestos and reports.



These were used to guide the dialogue engagement with stakeholders and key informants. The outcomes from the textual content analysis and the interviews have been synthesised to identify overarching themes and challenges faced by the agriculture and food production sector of Grenada.

## Policy Themes

Through a process of analysis, dialogue and engagement with stakeholders overarching themes were identified which potentially could inform public policy and define areas of FAO support. These have been group under the following headings.

THEME	KEY POINTS
<b>Food Security and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and integration of climate smart agriculture</li> <li>• Agricultural health and food safety</li> <li>• R &amp; D for pest and diseases and, nutritional analyses</li> <li>• Disaster risk reduction strategies for agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop agro-processing and value adding initiatives</li> <li>• Increase ability to access and use latest agricultural technological advances</li> <li>• Improve marketing and customer services</li> <li>• Governance of cooperatives and Community based organisations</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address high cost of production</li> <li>• Increase access to financial resources</li> <li>• Crop insurance</li> </ul>
<b>Land Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve physical infrastructure</li> <li>• Security of land tenure</li> <li>• Land banking</li> <li>• Address land conversion</li> </ul>
<b>Succession Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth into agriculture</li> <li>• Human resource availability</li> </ul>
<b>Data and Information Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection systems</li> <li>• Access and dissemination of information</li> <li>• Sourcing and procurement information</li> </ul>

## Policy Initiatives

A number of initiatives have been identified. Under Food Security and Nutrition these include support for the establishment of an agriculture land bank, the modernisation of the extension service and the strengthening of agricultural data management and marketing information. Support for urban agriculture and the development of organic certification programme along with the strengthening of the school feeding programme would also contribute to the realisation of a food and nutritionally secure Grenada.

The exposure of the agricultural sector to climate change related impacts ranging from extreme weather events to more prevalent pests and diseases highlighted the need to develop resilience

building measures. These include the development of early warning and threat assessment and, recovery plans, knowledge exchange on use and application of climate smart agricultural technologies and better surveillance systems.



## Outcomes

Agricultural development and food production could play a much more important role in the Grenadian economy and has the potential to contribute to poverty reduction, an emerging imperative if the trend over the last decade is to be reversed. At the same time there is an urgent need to improve access to nutrition and reduce hunger. The situation whereby nearly 25% of the population is undernourished and children go to school hungry has to be a national priority.

Grenada's Zero Hunger Challenge which is supporting the School Feeding Programme by linking local farmers to supply fresh produce to schools in their area has been judged to be a successful model. It is a model which has brought together not just the ministry of agriculture but also ministries of Social Development, Education, Health and the Marketing and National Importing Board. At the same time by providing a market for farmers the scheme not only supports food security and nutrition but also addresses rural employment and poverty reduction.



Food security and sovereignty provides a nexus around which interconnected facets can be linked; nutrition, poverty reduction, zero hunger, employment, export potential and, agri-businesses. Concrete actions such as the certification of organic agriculture and produce, upgrading of the Extension Service, climate smart and resilient agriculture, the development of a national land bank scheme, and expansion of the schools feeding programme have all been proposed as possible policy interventions.

There is a need to expand the factors of production through capacity building and access to expertise and technology which would support the expansion and profitability of the sector. Encouraging the expansion of agriculture and particularly of agro-processing will require innovative financial arrangements and the development of weather related insurance in order to spread risks and encourage innovation and investment.

FAO's own support objectives and its Regional Initiatives help shape the engagement. The Regional Initiatives: Transformation of Food Systems and Reducing Obesity and Overweight; Elimination of rural poverty; Rural Climate Resilience; Rural Governance, all have clear synergies with the emerging dialogue themes identified in the policy dialogue process.

Whilst the policy dialogue process will shape FAOs support to the Government of Grenada, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Land it can also inform the development of policy of the Government.

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