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BETTER PRODUCTION:
Value Chain Innovation –
*small scale family farming and
agri-food SME's*

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Challenge in the Agriculture Sector, Suriname

- Main challenge in the agricultural sector is overcoming low productivity and competitiveness.
- The result is a decreasing agricultural trade balance – which further declined due to COVID-19 impacts in 2020 and 2021.

Agric-Food Trade, Suriname (2017-2019)

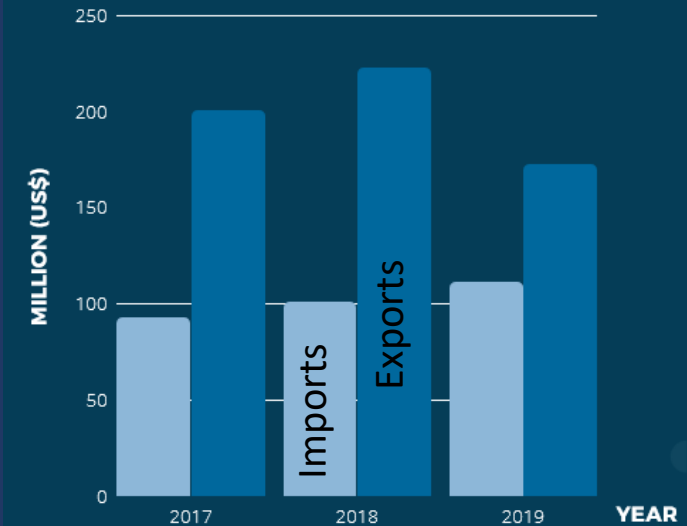


FIGURE 1. Showing the trade value for Suriname (2017 - 2019). Sourced from OEC

Year	Trade Balance
2017	\$107.34
2018	\$121.8
2019	\$60.7

TABLE 1. Showing the trade balance for Suriname (2017 - 2019). Sourced from OEC



Value Chain Challenges – exacerbated by COVID-19

- Disruptions in supply:
 - Reduced access to markets by consumers due to lock downs and travel restrictions
 - Reduced transport and distribution channels for farmers
- Greater loss and waste of agriculture produce due to lack of post-harvest facilities and knowledge to manage quality



Meeting the Challenge – Value Chain Transformation

- The Government of Suriname has set as a national priority:

Assistance to small-scale farmers and family farmers to increase production and productivity using improved technologies and approaches along the value chain.

- The focus on small-scale farming is strategic to enhance productivity and efficiency in selected value chains of family farmers, women, rural groups, and extension officers.

Value Chain Innovations Implemented:

small scale family farming and agri-food SME's

1. Making available plant materials for family farmers – free to low cost
2. Training in compost and plant material propagation techniques, including cassava tissue culture technology
3. Setting up gardens in different districts to ensure access to food given the restrictions in movement due to COVID-19
4. Encouraging agro-processing in order to guarantee the farmers' sales and for export to the region
5. Refrigerated trucks to reduce loss and promote value added products



Other Value Chain Innovations - *Institutional and Technological*

- Matching Grant Facility for farmers
- Establishment of a Multi-stakeholder Value Chain Platform
- Pre and post-harvest technologies
 1. identifying critical loss points and implementing affordable Solutions
 2. Strengthening of National Plant Protection Organization for improved food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary services
 3. Plans for a Packing House facility with cooling and hot-water treatments
 4. Plans for freezing technology to cater to local and foreign markets



Benefits of Value Chain Innovations

1. Over 1 MLN fruit and vegetable plants made available to farmers and households per year
2. Over 200 persons trained in compost and plant propagation techniques
3. Vegetable gardens set up in 4 districts (Marowijne, Commewijne, Wanica and Saramacca) contributing to self sufficiency
4. Matching Grant Facility operationalized and to be expanded - 58 beneficiaries to date with additional 177 pre-approved
5. Multi-Stakeholder Value Chain Platform (VCP) operationalized for cassava – with 20 key stakeholders
6. Agriculture Officers, farmers, exporters and fresh-cut agro-processors trained in pre and post-harvest technologies (over 100)



Limitations/Constraints

- Level of adoption by farmers and other stakeholders of new value chain innovations to ensure sustainability
- Acceptance by farmers of new business models to track supply and demand, and profit and loss
- Ability of farmers to meet international market standards – for example regarding pests controls and GAPs
- Low level of private sector investment
- Marco-economic climate, access to credit and land



Required Support from the FAO

1. Expansion of the Matching Grant Facility to build capacity of farmers to increase production
2. Assistance to develop a fund to assist farmers in accessing capital
3. Technical support to establish Packing House facility
4. Technical assistance on freezing technology
5. Market analysis to identify new markets and suitable value added products
6. Technical assistance in meeting health and safety standards.



Thank You

