

**ST LUCIA**

**NATIONAL MEDIUM TERM PRIORITY FRAMEWORK  
FOR FAO ASSISTANCE**

PREPARED FOR

REGIONAL MEETING ON FRAMEWORKS FOR  
GOVERNMENT/FAO COLLABORATION IN THE  
CARICOM-CARIFORUM COUNTRIES

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	(i)
<b>A. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Background.....	1
The FAO Strategic Intent and Cooperation Areas.....	1
The Preparation of the NMTPF.....	3
The NMTPF Outline.....	4
<b>B. OBJECTIVES, STATUS AND TRENDS IN NATIONAL POLICIES.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>C. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>D. THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>E. COUNTRY PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>F. AREAS FOR FAO INTERVENTION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>G. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>H. FAO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ANNEX</b>	
1. Country Identified Priority Areas Proposed for FAO Intervention, 2006-2010 .....	

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CB	Capacity building
CCA	Common Country Assistance
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
ER	Assistance in Emergency and Rehabilitation contexts
EC	European Community
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAOR	Food and Agriculture Organization Representative
FMG	Frequent Monitoring Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOSL	Government of St Lucia
HQ	Headquarters
LMARF	Line Ministries involved in agriculture, rural development and food security policies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MBOP	Management by Priority Objectives (MBPO)
NMTPF	National Medium Term Priority Framework
PA	Policy Advice
PB	Partnership Building
RM	Resource Mobilization
RO	Regional Office
RP	Regular Programme
SK	Applying and Sharing Knowledge
SRO	Sub-regional Office
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNSA	United Nations Specialised Agencies
WFS	World Food Summit
WHO	World Health Organization
World Bank	WB

**ST LUCIA  
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**A. Introduction**

**Background**

1. Over 60 years of its existence, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is one of the United Nations Specialised Agencies (UNSA) representing 187 member countries and the European Community (EC).

2. FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. The FAO is governed by the Conference of member nations which meets every two years to review and approve programme of work and budget for the next biennium. The Conference elects a General Council of 49 member nations to act as an interim governing body of FAO activities for three-year rotating terms. The Conference also elects the Director General for a renewable six-year term. FAO has, among others, committees on commodity problems, agriculture, and world food security. It is active in land and water development, plant and animal production, forestry and fisheries. Specifically, FAO strives to improve its effectiveness and efficiency and increase production from farms, forests, and primary forest products, fisheries and marine products and food security; improve food distribution, marketing, nutrition, and the living conditions and livelihoods of rural people in member countries.

3. In terms of values, FAO is committed to maintaining high standards of integrity and responsibility. Sharing knowledge and experiences openly within and across stakeholders is of paramount importance. In striving for excellence, FAO has qualified technical staff and focuses resources on performance initiatives that deliver desired results to member countries, St Lucia included.

**The FAO Strategic Intent and Cooperation Areas**

4. FAO's aims, as set out in the preamble to its constitution, are: (i) raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples of member states; (ii) securing improvements in the efficiency of the production of all food and agricultural products; (c) bettering the condition of rural populations; and (d) in this way contributing towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.

5. A core area for FAO is knowledge and information networking. Its main activities include putting information within reach, sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for nations, and bringing knowledge to the field level. In this regard, FAO and its members have identified key areas of cooperation. They include:

- Capacity building (CB);
- Applying and Sharing Knowledge (SK);
- Policy Advice and Advocacy (PA);
- Assistance in Emergency and Rehabilitation contexts (ER);

- Partnership Building (PB);
- Resource Mobilization (RM)...

### **Capacity Building for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:**

6. FAO will contribute to the strengthening of line ministries and its decentralized entities on agriculture, food security, and forestry and fisheries issues. In this regard, it will assist the Government of St Lucia (GOL) in formulation of food security, agriculture, forestry, and fishery policies and assist in their implementation. It will also contribute to strengthen the capacity of the principal line ministries involved in agriculture, rural development and food security policies (LMARF) for aid coordination in the area of agriculture, food security, forestry, and fisheries.

### **Applying and sharing knowledge:**

7. FAO will provide technical advice and assistance, and monitoring and evaluation of projects, and understanding of issues related to food security, agriculture, water, forestry, and fishery in St Lucia. In doing so, FAO will employ techniques such as piloting management methods and approaches through direct missions or projects. In addition, the FAO will continue to provide assistance in global monitoring of the achievements of World Food Summit (WFS) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### **Policy Advice and Advocacy:**

8. FAO will continue to advocate for maintaining food security, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries issues on the national development agenda. It will actively participate in relevant discussion fora and will organize, when appropriate, events, which promote investments in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sub sector, and provide empirical analysis on food security for decision-making. FAO, through its Investment Centre, will continue to support investment through formulation of projects and may provide technical assistance in the context of the interventions of other development partners (such as World Bank and the CDB).

### **Partnership Building:**

9. In assisting the GOSL in pursuing its agriculture, food security, forestry and fishery development objectives, including the MDGs, FAO will seek to expand its strategic alliances, so as to create the greatest possible synergy between its programmes and those of its partners and to ensure national capacity building of national capacities. If resources permit, it will set up technical resource advisory panels for scientific and policy matters with development partners. FAO work with the general guidance provided by the United Nations Development Group and pro-actively support joint assessments and programming (such as CCA, UNDAF). In addition, it will also build a network of partner institutions, which will participate in the implementation of the NMTPF.

10. Together with the World Health Organization (WHO), the FAO administers the *Codex Alimentarius Commission*<sup>1</sup>, intended to promote harmonisation of standards for food and thereby facilitates international trade. In addition, FAO devotes regular

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<sup>1</sup> A programme managed jointly by the FAO and WHO for initiating, preparing publishing and revising international food standards established since 1962.

programme (RP) and Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resources to St Lucia and where possible collaborates with international donor and financial agencies in providing various types of technical assistance to the GOSL.

**Resource mobilization:**

11. The FAOR will build on the Strategic Partnership between FAO and other development partners in the field of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries development. In addition, the FAOR has access to funds under the TCP facility in order to react quickly on specific priority issues at the country level. The FAOR will consult with the GOSL on the use of TCP funds. The FAOR will quickly mobilize either national partners or international FAO-targeted support from HQ /RO/SRO to implement activities.

**Assistance in Emergency and Rehabilitation contexts (ER):**

12. FAO recognises that there are small and vulnerable economies, including countries in post-natural disaster situations, whose vulnerability and lack of resilience to external shocks expose them to a high risk of food insecurity and threatened livelihoods, among others. FAO will provide technical assistance to address the rehabilitation requirements in its areas of technical competency.

**The Preparation of the NMTPF**

13. FAO sets frameworks that enable it to anticipate and respond to challenges brought about by change in a more proactive manner. The five-year FAO NMTPF for the period 2006-2010 is developed with focus on St Lucia's specific requirement in the areas in which FAO's effectiveness and impact will be greatest. This is a departure from the centrally determined, Rome-based plans/ frameworks in terms of formulation, breadth, and depth of coverage. The FAO has resolved to adopt a decentralised and strategic approach in identifying and setting objectives, strategies, benchmarks, and standards for each function. The NMTPF will be designed to be consistent with UN system instruments such as UNDAF and CCA, as well as the national priorities and processes. Therefore, the NMTPF is designed to be a dynamic and living framework, which guides the achievement of FAO objectives and targets.

14. The FAO NMTPF is a rolling framework designed to respond to new realities resulting from national regional and global developments. In this regard, the NMTPF will be revised at the end of the third year and each three years thereafter; as the remaining two years are added to a new period of three years to make a subsequent five-year NMTPF.

15. The joint identification of medium-term priorities by the GOSL and FAO is particularly important to ensure that the GOSL, as "owner" and "leader" of external assistance to its development efforts, gets the best out of FAO's assistance. The identification of such priorities for FAO's assistance is carried out in a way that effectively complements activities of other donor agencies. The NMTPF identifies and agrees with the Government of St Lucia a set of medium-term priorities for FAO's assistance. The intended assistance will address national agricultural, forestry, fisheries, rural development and food security needs, as expressed and jointly prioritized by both the FAO and the Government.

16. Guiding principles for preparation of the NMTPF are:-

- **Driven** by country needs and government's priorities as expressed by the medium term socio-economic framework, poverty eradication programmes, the various policies strategy documents and programmes and projects under implementation by line ministries, departments, agencies and local governments relevant to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, and food security processes;
- **based on** the nationally-owned development agenda and **aligned with** national programming process to the maximum extent possible;
- **agreed upon** with governments to ensure full ownership of development processes, and assistance in agriculture, food security and rural development in general and FAO's assistance in particular;
- **harmonized**, to the maximum extent practical, with the assistance provided by other development partners in general, and that provided by other UN partners in particular;
- **complementary** with the assistance provided by other national and international development partners - rather than competing with development partners FAO seeks to fill critical gaps and build partnerships to stimulate and re-enforce the efforts of partners;
- **focused** on a limited set of priorities where FAO's assistance would have the greatest impact and for which there is funding potential;
- **accompanied** by a short-term action plan (6 to 12 months) in order to ensure effective implementation.

### **The NMTPF Outline**

17. The NMTPF document consists of eight sections. Section one provides background information relating to the FAO Governance and strategic intents, NMTPF preparation and Outline. Section two provides detailed objectives, status, national and agricultural policies and strategies, programmes and projects. Section three discusses challenges and opportunities for agricultural development. Section four focuses on main interventions by financial and donor agencies in the field of agricultural and rural sector development. Section five covers the FAO-Government Priority Framework. Section six refers to the implementation management, monitoring and evaluation of the NMTPF. Section seven provides a list of current FAO assistance. Section seven provides a matrix outline of the draft NMTPF (see appendix 1).

## **B. Objectives, Status and Trends in National Policies**

18. Agriculture continues to be a critical sector of the island's economy and although its contribution to GDP has been steadily declining over the last 10 years it continues to play a significant role in the country's socio-economic development and contributes roughly 5.1% to GDP (2004). The island is a net-food importing country and is categorised as such within the WTO. The past ten years has shown a growing trade deficit in its food bill, corresponding with the decline in the banana industry and the increase in tourism activity (tourism being the major contributor to GDP since 1990). Most locally produced agricultural commodities and their products are consumed domestically with the exception of bananas and to a lesser extent cocoa and coconut products.

19. The agricultural sector is characterised by banana production occupying the largest share of land under cultivation (48%), accounting for 41.4% of agricultural GDP. Coconut, the next major crop, occupies about 42% of agricultural land. Other crops produced include cocoa, vegetables and herbs, other fruit and tree crops and cut flowers. The livestock sector is small and dominated by the poultry and pork sub-sectors.

### **Bananas**

20. The banana industry in all the Windward Islands has seen a significant downward slide over the past 10 years. This has been generally attributable to changes in the traditional market access associated with the new EU trade regime, price fluctuations, privatization and re-structuring of the local industry, and impacts of successive weather-induced phenomenon that include storms, drought and pests and diseases. There was a steady decrease in exports of bananas from about EC\$105 million in 1995 to EC\$42 million in 2004.

### **Cocoa and Coconuts**

21. Cocoa production has steadily fallen, in spite of guaranteed market access and a premium price for cocoa beans offered by World's Finest Chocolates. Erosion of this industry has been attributable to conversion of traditional estates into smaller banana farms and the deterioration of existing plantations on account of age and increased susceptibility to pest and diseases.

22. Copra production has seen similar downward trend over the past ten-years. It must also be noted that the demand for fresh nuts has steadily grown, however this statistic is not currently captured. The majority of coconut plantations have aged and their management has been adversely affected by a much reduced pool of agricultural labour.

### **Non-traditionals**

23. Non-traditionals crops are relatively minor in overall economic contribution to agriculture. The main categories are vegetables, fruit/tree crops, food/root crops, condiments (herbs/spices) and flowers/ornamentals.



24. A wide variety of vegetables is commercially grown mainly for supply to the domestic hotel and retail markets. The greatest production volumes are in tomato, cabbage, lettuce, water melons and hot peppers, the latter of which is also exported. In the fruit/tree crop category, mango, breadfruit, citrus, avocado constitute the highest volumes. Mango and breadfruit rank among the highest volumes exported to regional markets and the UK. Dasheen, yam, and sweet potatoes are the main commodities in the food/root crop category. The predominant condiment crops are thyme, rosemary, parsley and celery. Bananas and plantain (*Musa* varieties) also constitute significant volumes to the retail and hotel markets.

25. The past ten-year period saw a general increase in the value of produce purchased where EC\$3.2 million was bought in 2004 compared to EC\$2.9 million in 1995. However there has been an increasing trend in production of non traditional crops as is reflected in purchases by major supermarkets (including the St. Lucia Marketing Board) and hotels.

### **Poultry - broiler and layers**

26. This sub-sector has seen significant increase in production over the past ten years. The average number of laying stock increased from 48,000 in 1994 to 57,000 hens in 2004. The industry currently meets domestic market demands and in 2004, 886 thousand dozen eggs were produced. Three poultry processing plants are currently in operation. There has been a general increase in the volume of chicken produced locally from 1 million lbs in 2002 to just over 1.5 million lbs in 2005.

### **Pork**

27. The pork sub-sector has also witnessed growth, with estimated production increasing by 5% over the period 2002 -2004 (MAFF), from 185,052 pounds in 2002 to 203,700 pounds in 2004. Hotels and supermarkets are the main markets for fresh pork. There is some value-added in terms of processed hams, bacon and sausages sold by local supermarkets.

### **Fisheries**

28. Fisheries has experienced a general positive growth over the past 10 years with the continued investment in boats, fish landing infrastructure and new methodologies such as long-lining techniques and fish-aggregating devices (FADs). However, there was a gradual reduction in landings from 2002 to 2004. The dominant species targeted include dolphin-fish, tuna, wahoo and snapper. Lobster and conch constitute the major species harvested in the near-shore fishery, along with parrot fish, groupers and squirrel fish which are caught through seine and pot fishing.

### **Aquaculture**

29. Aquaculture production has remained relatively consistent during the recent years with an estimated 1017.3 kilograms of fish and shrimp being produced in 2000, which decreased slightly to 991 kilograms in 2004. Shrimp production accounts for about 15% of total production. As of 2004, 841 farmers had a total of 17 acres (68,394 m<sup>2</sup>), under production.

## **Forestry**

### **Timber and Non-Timber Production**

30. Commercial timber extraction from Government forest reserves and private forests is a very small-scale activity to service the local furniture industry. The dominant exploited species include Honduras mahogany, blue mahoe, teak, white cedar, acajou, and various laurier species. The Forestry Department produces fence posts from thinning operations in plantations. The major types of non-timber forest produce (NTFP) utilized include bamboo, which is used extensively as props in the construction industry, latanyé palm leaves for local broom making, along with a variety of lianas and grass species used in the handicraft (weaving) industry.

### **Biodiversity**

31. St. Lucia's biodiversity, its flora and fauna are uniquely adapted to the environment and several species are endemic; that is, found nowhere else on the planet and a large number are regional endemics. Development in all sectors of the economy (agriculture, tourism, manufacturing) coupled with gradual expansion of settlement has eroded natural habitats along the coastal areas and changed the native species mix, particularly with the introduction of alien invasive species (rats, mongoose in historic times to the recent introduction of the Giant African Snail). The forest reserves in the central part of the island and the relatively uninhabited dry forests along the north-east coastal zone are now important reserves for many rare and endangered species. The down-turn in the banana industry has meant a reduction in the rate of deforestation in the interior areas; however, the coastal zone continues to be under increasing pressure due to infrastructural development to serve settlement and commercial needs associated with the industrial, hospitality and other service sectors.

## **C. Challenges and Opportunities**

32. The agricultural sector in St. Lucia is characterised by several challenges which include:

- The prevalence of small-scale agriculture which is noted for uneconomical and highly fragmented/ individualized production units;
- Low productivity, limited use of improved technologies and the low rate of adoption of advanced technologies;
- The limited value-addition and marketability of both traditional and non-traditional agricultural products;
- The vulnerable situation of food insecurity, rural poverty and displacement;
- The reduction in the income earning capacity and employment in agriculture;
- Poor natural resource management and fragile ecosystems
- Aged and aging producer population, weak producer organizations and limited infrastructural support system and inter-sectoral linkages.

## D. THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

33. In response to the fore-mentioned challenges, prospects and imperatives, policy for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors will seek to achieve the following seven (7) broad objectives:

1. to *increase* the efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture;
2. to *promote* the adoption of improved / appropriate technological packages;
3. to *expand* and *diversify* agricultural, forestry, and fisheries production, value-added agro-processing and the general market base;
4. to *enhance* the national food security status;
5. to *generate* new opportunities for employment and income generation in rural areas;
6. to *conserve* the natural resource base.
7. to *modernize* legislative and policy framework for optimal agricultural production and trade

### **Increase the efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture:**

34. The critical factor in realizing these opportunities is the creation of an entrepreneurial culture in agriculture, forestry and fisheries; particularly among small-scale farmers and fishers.

35. Small-scale farming, which is generally associated with inefficiency and non-commercial viability, is a distinct feature of agriculture in St. Lucia. A major policy challenge to the Government is the transformation of risk averse, resource-deficient, farmers into efficient and competitive entrepreneurs. Policy measures geared towards enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture will seek to exploit economies of scale under current production systems, as well as product differentiation activities that target products to smaller and more selective markets.

36. To increase competitiveness and efficiency of the agricultural sector, particularly non-banana agriculture and expand diversification, the following are the key strategic responses proposed:

- Promote Commercialised Farming
- Facilitate Agricultural Credit Access
- Support Producers' Organisations, facilitating their transformation into cost-effective and profitable business units/outfits.

### Anticipated Impact

37. The anticipated impact of this policy is growth in the financial and economic viability of agricultural production and marketing activities in an increasing competitive and liberalized trading environment.

### **Promote the adoption of improved appropriate technological packages:**

38. The process of globalisation and trade liberalization, and the insertion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries into the new framework, makes it imperative for these sectors to rapidly enhance their capacity to compete in open markets. In this regard, the role of technology is crucial. One of the major technological factors identified as critical and targeted for achieving production systems which are “internationally competitive” is the relatively high unit cost of production and marketing. It is recognized that, if agriculture is to prosper at a sufficiently acceptable rate, efforts aimed at validation/adaptation, transfer and adoption of appropriate technologies must integrate “soft” technologies directed at the transformation of people’s attitude and behaviour in the sector.

#### Key Strategic Responses

- Improve Agricultural Research and Technology Adaptation
- Strengthen Extension Services

#### Anticipated Impact

39. The anticipated impact of this policy objective is the application of technologies appropriate for the lessening of the unit cost of production and marketing of agricultural, fisheries and forestry goods and services.

### **Expand and diversify agricultural, forestry and fisheries production, value-added agro-processing and general market base.**

40. The threat to the country’s principal export – bananas – signals the urgent need to diversify the agricultural production and export base. Declining preferences in the traditional markets coupled with increased competition from an ever-widening array of countries in the major export markets of Europe and the Americas are realities that the agricultural sector cannot escape. The fundamental question arising relates to the country’s capacity to effect the necessary adjustments in time.

41. In order to gain WTO compliance, St. Lucia’s agriculture will have to deal effectively with the implications of tariffication and export subsidies. While it is likely that locally produced commodities could be disadvantaged by cheaper imports, there is also the possibility of prices in the world market increasing because of the phasing out of export subsidies. Another impact is that domestic agricultural trade policy is now influenced by international trade rules. The intention of Government therefore is to adopt a more technologically advanced and outward-looking approach to making the agricultural sector more productive and competitive; as well as creating new market opportunities, consistent with the demands of a liberalised trading platform. Thus within the context of the new model of competitive production of goods and services, the market-led approach is the inevitable strategic direction for agriculture in St. Lucia.

#### Key Strategic Responses

- Expand External Trade
- Reform domestic markets

- Manage marketing information
- Strengthen regulatory services
- Foster product diversification and value-added agro-processing

#### Anticipated Impact

42. The anticipated impact of this policy objective is for St. Lucia to become an active participant in the new global economy and increase market access for the country's agricultural goods and services, with a larger share in both domestic and export markets.

#### **Enhance the national food security status**

43. St. Lucia is heavily dependent on food imports to supply the local population and the expanding tourist population. Without sound food security measures there is the danger that large and growing food import dependence may constitute a major socio-economic problem in the medium to long term. At present the country spends more foreign exchange importing food than it earns from the export of food. A country with an increasing trade balance on food can be characterized as experiencing a level of "food insecurity". In principle, a country's food economy should not become dependent on the other sectors for the earnings needed to recompense food imports. As such, policy measures directed at enhancing the national food security status must encapsulate initiatives directed at output expansion and the promotion of domestic agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well income and employment generation. Government recognizes its responsibility to facilitate the supply of wholesome and nutritious food at reasonable prices. As such, approaches in respect of the domestic production and marketing of wholesome and nutritious foods may need to urge consumers to buy locally produced food-stuffs that are marginally more expensive than the imported substitutes.

#### Key Strategic Responses

44. Government intends to pursue the policy measures in respect of food security through strategic interventions that give impetus to actions in respect of decreased dependence on imported food supplies, including inputs.

- Increase reliance on domestic agriculture and fisheries
- Increase consumption of locally produced foods

#### Anticipated Impact

45. Inevitably, food security is acknowledged as an important policy priority for St. Lucia. In this regard, the anticipated impact of this policy objective is increased reliance on domestic agriculture, forestry and fisheries for the supply of adequate, safe and nutritious food to satisfy the national demand for food.

#### **Generate new opportunities for income and employment in rural areas**

46. Trade liberalization presents new opportunities for profitable enterprises in agriculture, in food manufacture and export activity. The challenge for policy makers who are concerned with access to the food supply is to encourage economic activities that also improve the distribution of income. Mindful of the displacement effect of the

liberalization process, there would be need for appropriate programmes of assistance for the most vulnerable groups.

47. If agriculture, forestry and fisheries are to operate as the true engines of economic growth and social stability, a major challenge is to engage young and appropriately skilled technical and professional labour in the production and marketing of goods and services from these three sectors. This inevitably calls for the strengthening of the capacity for entrepreneurship building and the creation of employment opportunities that are as attractive and rewarding as those in other sectors of the economy. In the drive towards the generation of new opportunities for income and employment in rural areas, targeted initiatives underscore the need to achieve the diversification of the rural income base and the mushrooming of viable agriculture, forestry and fisheries based rural enterprises.

#### Key Strategic Responses

48. Government intends to pursue the policy measures in respect of income and employment through strategic interventions that give impetus to actions in respect of improved rural livelihood systems and increased food security, in particular, household food security. In this regard, related interventions in respect of entrepreneurship building, improved technology, sustainable development, expanded production and marketing, as well as, effective inter-sectoral linkages among others have already been addressed, within the scope of the other policy objectives. The elements of a comprehensive policy directed at socio-economic advancement of the rural milieu are encapsulated in policy measures already enunciated. The pursuit of a media based programme will provide added impetus to efforts in this regard.

#### Anticipated Impact

49. Government and the private sector shall explicitly work together to investigate and enable the creation of rural and agricultural income earning opportunities. Tariff changes, investment assistance and market development activities, to be implemented over a carefully phased time schedule, will undoubtedly provide opportunities for the development of alternative economic activities. Generally speaking, the trade liberalization process is not all doom and gloom. It is anticipated that the transition to a more efficient and competitive sector will yield benefits that foster the emergence of viable rural enterprises.

#### **Conserve the natural resource base**

50. The Government recognises the critical role of natural and environmental resources in the overall development of the country. The more effective management / utilization of the natural resources is indispensable to the process of sustainable development of St. Lucia. This applies not because of the importance of such resources in the productive sectors including agriculture and fisheries, but also because of their important role in enhancing the environment that is central to tourism and ensuring sustainable livelihoods in rural communities. These natural resources include land, water and biological resources.

51. More effective management of natural resources is a long-term process that involves a range of activities, policy incentives and institutional support including legislation, effective monitoring and co-ordination. The Government proposes to implement policies and programmes that will:

- Ensure a broad appreciation of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources which will, in time, lead to increased soil protection, soil fertility and efficient water use and rehabilitation of degraded areas.
- Promote more effective co-ordination and collaboration between relevant stakeholders at governmental, non-governmental, local and district levels to ensure that incentive structures for agriculture do not undermine but instead support sustainable resource use; and integrate production and conservation in farmer support services.

#### Key Strategic Responses

- Land Management
- Water Resources Management
- Bio-diversity Maintenance
- Fisheries Management

#### Anticipated Impact

52. The anticipated impact of a water resource policy measure in agriculture is: the equitable and efficient utilisation of water to increase agricultural productivity and maximise the sector's contribution to reducing income inequalities. Its aim is to:

- Provide an incentive framework to improve the efficiency of irrigation;
- Support training and extension to ensure that farmers have the expertise to use water efficiently, and access appropriate irrigation technology.

#### **Modernise the legislative and policy framework for optimal agricultural production and trade**

53. An enabling environment that promotes the evolution of internationally competitive agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors must be created. This necessitates the reform of legislative and policy instruments and institutional structures to reposition these sectors for integration into a liberalized, competitive, rules-based market system and also to meet obligations within relevant multilateral environmental and trade conventions and agreements. The effective implementation of the previously stated policy measures must be supported by the requisite legal and policy reform. The reform process must focus on the creation of a framework for sustainable agricultural development within the context of national, regional and multilateral requirements.

#### Key Strategic Response

- Legislative Review and Reform
- Policy Review and Reform

### Anticipated Impact

54. The anticipated impact of this policy is the creation of a legislative and policy framework that supports the development of agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors that are sustainable over the long term yet internationally competitive and effective.

## **E. Country Programme Framework**

### **FAO**

The Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO, collaborates with the Government of St. Lucia on the execution of specific normative functions such as SPS, Codex Alimentarius, etc. Technical cooperation is provided in the area of data and information management systems (e.g., agricultural census). Assistance is also provided in diverse areas such as: food security, plant and animal health, agri-business development, natural resource management (water, land, fisheries etc.).

### **IICA**

IICA has provided support in reconstituting the National Agro Tourism Technical Coordinating Committee and drafting and acceptance of the terms of reference for the committee. Additionally, action towards the elaboration of a comprehensive strategy for linking agriculture and tourism in Saint Lucia was initiated. IICA also facilitated the agricultural sector's competitiveness and global trade, through the development of feasibility profiles for two banana based products. Technical assistance was provided in various areas inclusive of, but not limited to, activities of the Banana Pest and Disease Technical Committee, management of pesticides through membership of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Board and support for the Good Agricultural Practices Farmer Certification Scheme through discussions on the procedure with the Marketing unit.

### **CARDI**

CARDI – Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, collaborates with the Government of St. Lucia in research and development, with emphasis on specific commodities (both crops & livestock) and capacity building. Technical Assistance is also offered to complement local capacities.

### **OECS**

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) offers broad co-ordination of policy and strategic initiatives / interventions in sub-regional agricultural development, for e.g., agro-tourism strategy, banana diversification, etc.

### **EU**

The European Union (EU) provides budgetary support in the stabilization of revenue from agricultural exports (STABEX). The Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) is another instrument through which the EU provides developmental funding, in three special areas (agricultural and economic diversification, social recovery). Assistance is also provided through, ongoing EPA discussions and negotiations.

### **IFAD**

IFAD provides donor and technical assistance in support of agrarian reform programmes.



## **F. Areas for FAO Intervention**

55. The Ministry of Agriculture will continue to play the lead role in facilitating the repositioning and transformation of the sector, geared towards the continuous improvement of food security, competitiveness in trade within an enabling environment that supports sustainable use and management of the country's natural resource base.

56. The Government of St. Lucia anticipates that the FAO will partner with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, along with other local, regional and hemispheric partners and stakeholders in the process of transformation as outlined within the policy framework, but with specific emphasis on:

- expanding and diversifying the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries production, value-added agro-processing and the general market base
- enhancing the national food security status
- generating new opportunities for employment and income generation in rural areas
- conserving the natural resource base.

## **G. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation**

57. Following the derivation and formulation of NMTPF implementation management and monitoring and evaluation deserve high priority. The following mechanisms are necessary for the realisation of this NMTPF.

### **Implementation Management**

58. The FAO NMTPF sets an operational framework that facilitates the application of management by priority objectives (MBPO) system in its implementation. Its development follows the key steps of the process that included identification of strategic priorities, formulation of performance indicators and development of action plans. Following adoption of the NMTPF, the next steps include its implementation, periodic monitoring and performance reviews culminating in a formal review after every three years.

59. Through the MBPO process, FAO will be able to relate its performance objectives to those of other stakeholders including donors and GOSL. In this regard, FAO's results oriented staff performance appraisal scheme is designed to facilitate the practical application of MBPO. Further, the participative approach to the formulation of the performance objectives, as built in the MBO process, assists in increasing employees' commitment to implementing their plans and promoting accountability.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

60. The NMTPF puts emphasis on monitoring and evaluation to make the framework relevant at all times - hence its rolling nature. In this regard, the responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the NMTPF has to be vested in the Frequent Monitoring Group (FMG) comprising representatives from FAO, GOSL and the private sector. Accordingly, the FMG with FAOR as secretariat, will monitor and evaluate implementation of the NMTPF by:-

- i. Ensuring strict adherence to participatory planning cycles activities, especially during the periodic reviews;
- ii. Coordinating periodic reviews of the NMTPF and issuing review reports. For instance, the FMG will meet annually to discuss progress report on NMTPF implementation. The progress reports would provide inputs to the NMTPF review report;
- iii. Coordinating timely preparation of future 5 year NMTPF's;
- iiii. Carrying out evaluations of the NMTPF.

61. Further, the Sub-Regional FAOR will carry out periodic performance audits to verify adherence to the NMTPF and its effective co-ordination. Above all, the FAO governing bodies will play a crucial role in overseeing, guiding, and directing implementation of the NMTPF in St Lucia.

### **H. FAO Technical Assistance**

62. FAO's Regular programme budget is funded by its members through contributions set by the FAO Conference. The portfolio of FAO national programmes in St Lucia as at March 2006 was US\$205,341. In addition, St Lucia benefited from the FAO umbrella programme of regional assistance valued at US\$11.9 million.

63. On going projects in St Lucia are:

#### **TCP**

- TCP/STL/3001 – Technical assistance in support of the Regional Special Programme for Food Security (RSPS) at Country Level - US\$62,314
- TCP/STL/3002 - Assistance to develop a national Agricultural Water Resources Information System - US\$143,027

**St Lucia: Country Identified Priority Areas Proposed for FAO Intervention 2006 – 2010**

<b>Identified National Priority Areas for assistance</b>	<b>Key area of support</b>	<b>Type of priority action<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Objective of the assistance</b>	<b>Description of the main activities</b>	<b>Expected results/output</b>	<b>Beneficiaries target group</b>	<b>Type of donor eligibility</b>	<b>Lead FAO Technical Unit</b>
<b>Expanding and diversifying the agricultural, forestry and fisheries production, value-added agro-processing and general market base</b>	Expand external trade	SK, PA, CB	Development of external & Enhancement of domestic markets	Strengthen the capacity of designated trade policy institutions, so as to develop the institutional and technical capacity to effectively implement trade policy	Improved capacity to deal with multi-lateral trading arrangements	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Staff		ESC; TCA
	Manage market information	SK,CB,PB	Establish Information network	Establishment of an agricultural data capture network	Operational agricultural network implemented	MAFF/farmers, Retailers/wholesalers		TCA; AGS
<b>Enhancing national food security</b>	Strengthen regulatory services	PB,CB,RM	To ensure food security and access to	To prevent, detect, manage,	Agricultural Health Surveillance	Farmers, General Population		AGP

<sup>1</sup> Six types of Priority Actions categorized: 1. **SK** = Applying and Sharing Knowledge; 2. **PA** = Policy Advice and Advocacy; 3. **CB** = Capacity Building; 4. **RM** = Resource Mobilization; 5. **PB** = Partnership Building; 6. **ER** = Assistance in Emergency and Rehabilitation

**St Lucia: Country Identified Priority Areas Proposed for FAO Intervention 2006 – 2010**

<b>Identified National Priority Areas for assistance status</b>	<b>Key area of support</b>	<b>Type of priority action<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Objective of the assistance</b>	<b>Description of the main activities</b>	<b>Expected results/output</b>	<b>Beneficiaries target group</b>	<b>Type of donor eligibility</b>	<b>Lead FAO Technical Unit</b>
			foreign markets.	monitor, survey and if possible, eradicate endemic and introduced pests and diseases, to ensure food security and access to foreign markets	improved.			
	Increase consumption of locally produced food	CB,PA	Building of national capacity to meet some of the food requirements	To increase the awareness of products grown locally and the range of methods for preparation of these products	Decrease in food import bill	Farmers, farmer groups, general population		AGN
<b>Generating</b>	Entrepreneurship	RM,SK,CB	Promote	Strengthen	Strengthened	Farmers, Farmer		SDR

**St Lucia: Country Identified Priority Areas Proposed for FAO Intervention 2006 – 2010**

<b>Identified National Priority Areas for assistance</b>	<b>Key area of support</b>	<b>Type of priority action<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Objective of the assistance</b>	<b>Description of the main activities</b>	<b>Expected results/output</b>	<b>Beneficiaries target group</b>	<b>Type of donor eligibility</b>	<b>Lead FAO Technical Unit</b>
<b>new opportunities for employment and income generation in rural areas</b>	building		business-oriented approach to farming	the administrative capacities of rural agricultural organizations to allow them to be better equipped to handle loan funds, projects and allied services	Producer organizations	organizations		
	Fisheries	SK,PB,RM	Create a young cadre of new, improved fishers	To execute focused training programme to attract and equip young educated school leavers to the fisheries sector	Manual with a module-based training system developed	Young & unemployed persons		FII

**St Lucia: Country Identified Priority Areas Proposed for FAO Intervention 2006 – 2010**

<b>Identified National Priority Areas for assistance</b>	<b>Key area of support</b>	<b>Type of priority action<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Objective of the assistance</b>	<b>Description of the main activities</b>	<b>Expected results/output</b>	<b>Beneficiaries target group</b>	<b>Type of donor eligibility</b>	<b>Lead FAO Technical Unit</b>
	Improved marketing technology	SK,CB		Provision of specialized services, including export packaging, pricing, credit insurance and generic publicity	Improved marketing machinery	Farmers, marketing staff		AGS
<b>Conserving the natural resource base</b>	Promote conservation and sustainable exploitation of natural resources	SK,RM	To promote sustainable use of natural resources	Develop a forest management plan to articulate future resource management strategies	Forest management plan developed and implemented	Entire population		FON

1/ Six types of Priority Actions categorized: 1. **SK** = Applying and Sharing Knowledge; 2. **PA** = Policy Advice and Advocacy; 3. **CB** = Capacity Building; 4. **RM** = Resource Mobilization; 5. **PB** = Partnership Building; 6. **ER** = Assistance in Emergency and Rehabilitation

