



# Trinidad and Tobago and FAO

## *Partnering for agricultural development and nutrition security*

A long history of collaboration between Trinidad and Tobago and FAO has served to promote sustainable agricultural systems and contribute to hunger and poverty alleviation in the country. FAO continues to be a significant source of technical assistance in policy and planning, capacity building, knowledge sharing, advocacy and resource mobilization in the country.

### Regional scope – country focus

Trinidad and Tobago is one of the six countries receiving support under the project “Sustainable Management of By-Catch in Latin America and Caribbean Trawl Fisheries”. The main goal of the project is to introduce practices promoting an ecosystem approach to fisheries management with a particular emphasis on the trawling sector and sensitization/education programmes for the affiliated communities. As part of project activities, training was carried out in 2016 on developing standardized data collection and monitoring systems for the biological and socio-economic impacts of trawling and on the use and installation of appropriate by-catch reduction devices (BRDs).

Through Regular Programme financing, FAO supported the update of food safety systems through the development of strategy documents, namely A Food Safety Situational Analysis for Trinidad and Tobago, and an Outline Draft for a National Food Safety Policy as well as a Draft Food Inspection Manual. Training in Communications for Behaviour Impact (COMBI), including strategies for reducing pesticides on vegetables, has been also conducted.

Trinidad and Tobago is also benefiting from the FAO Pesticides Programme being undertaken in partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Coordinating Group for Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC). With activities ongoing since 2009, an FAO/EU-funded project aims to eliminate obsolete pesticide stocks and to build capacity for enhanced management of pesticide life-cycles. A second phase of this project has placed particular emphasis on intensifying resource mobilization. As a result, FAO successfully obtained

### Matching FAO’s expertise to Trinidad and Tobago’s development priorities

FAO assistance in Trinidad and Tobago is shaped by the Trinidad and Tobago Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2016-2019, which sets out four areas for cooperation:

- Food and Nutrition Security
- Food Safety, Quality and Certification Systems
- Sustainable Value Chains
- Natural Resources Management, Disaster Mitigation and Building Resilience

The CPF is interlinked with the FAO Caribbean Subregion’s strategic plan, consisting of four main programme elements, namely Zero Hunger Challenge Initiative, Value Chain (Food and Feed Systems) Initiative and Small Scale/Family Farming, Risk Management, Resilience and Territorial Development and Public Policy and Governance executed through three Regional Initiatives aligned with FAO’s Strategic Objectives. The priority areas of the CPF are well integrated into these frameworks and continue to build on advances achieved by the previous CPF. The priority areas are also consistent with the CARICOM Agriculture Policy, The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Agriculture Policy and Strategic Plan, the Caribbean Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy, the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and Eradication of Hunger 2025, as well as the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The new CPF document is currently under review prior to submission for signature by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries on behalf of the Government.

### CONTACT

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grant funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2015 for executing the four-year project “Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs, Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean” valued at US\$4.37 million. From July to December 2016, 278 tonnes of obsolete pesticides stocks were repackaged, safeguarded and exported from 10 of the 11 participating countries. This project runs parallel to another initiative for non-pesticide persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which is being implemented by the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean, located in Trinidad and Tobago.

## Reducing post-harvest losses along the food value chain

Food security is a very important issue for the countries in the CARICOM region. An FAO project to reduce post-harvest losses has enhanced the capacities of the CARICOM Secretariat, its member states and regional institutions. In Trinidad and Tobago, the project, valued at US\$280 000

*“Addressing post-harvest losses is a necessary step to a hunger-free world and sustainable future.”*

**José Graziano da Silva,  
FAO Director-General**

trained the frontline officers of the Ministry and the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO), farmers, and microprocessors to identify critical control points in the post-harvest management of

cassava and pumpkins and enable them to effectively use post-harvest technology and practices to reduce losses. They drafted a post-harvest reduction strategy for cassava. The strategy's first priority is being implemented in an FAO supported pilot programme evaluating two designs of mechanical harvest implements, one designed by a farmer.

The second design comes from the engineering Department of the University of St. West Indies, St. Augustine. The pilot is evaluating protocols for storage conditions, waxes and plastics to increase the storage life of cassava tubers.

## Improving forest and protected area management

An estimated 60 percent of the land area of Trinidad and Tobago is under forests and other wooded land. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has initiated policy reforms to protect the natural environment to conserve biodiversity and increase the management effectiveness of Protected Areas (Pas). With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (US\$2.79 million), from the European Union (US\$2.1 million) and from the Government of the Trinidad and Tobago (US\$24.9 million), FAO is contributing to the Government's commitments for moving forward with the institutional changes consistent with environment, biodiversity, forest, wildlife and land degradation policies .

Within six pilot protected areas the project supports development of innovative strategies for co-management of protected areas and biodiversity-friendly income generating opportunities and appropriate user-fee systems. The project will achieve forestry and conservation goals by strengthening collaboration between community, NGOs and key institutions for tracking status of threatened and endangered species and monitoring user activity in protected forests or marine areas. These pilots will serve as key nodes for an ecologically viable national PA system and would provide the country with models to replicate across the entire 214,000 ha identified as protected areas.

Strengthening capacities of communities and institutions will contribute to enhance the management effectiveness and public awareness on the value of biodiversity, current threats, and new conservation and sustainable use measures.

