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CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY

51

Fifty-first Annual Meeting 2015

Paramaribo, Suriname
Volume LI

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

51ST ANNUAL MEETING

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Paramaribo, Suriname

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THE WAY FORWARD TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (FNS) - CARIBBEAN

J. R. Deep Ford, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean

MEETING FNS NEEDS: PAST AND PRESENT

In explaining the past and present of FNS three aspects are considered: 1) Domestic food production; 2) Agricultural exports and 3) Tourism. (National production base lost - for the selected products with the exception of rice and poultry meat the per capita domestic production of these products have declined. Average CARICOM citizen is spending about ten times more on imported fruits and vegetables as they did on 1970. Import value over population graphics show that products we hardly imported before are now imported at a regular basis, see figures 1 and 2.

Per Capita Production in *CARICOM* – *Selected Products*

Domestic Production per capita (Int. $)	1970	1995	2005	2009	2012
Goat meat	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0
Sheep Meat	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Pigmeat	6.5	4.3	5.2	5.0	4.9
Bovine Meat	10.6	10.0	10.5	9.4	9.5
Poultry Meat	6.7	12.0	20.6	20.8	21.1
Rice	13.0	17.7	12.4	15.6	16.8
Fruit + Vegetables	171.2	129.4	105.6	112.0	110.3

Figure 1

Per capita expenditure on imports in CARICOM – Selected Products

COMMODITY ($Int.)	1970	1995	2005	2009	2012
Sheep and Goat Meat	0.3	1.5	2.1	2.7	3.2
Bovine and Pig Meat	4.2	6.7	10.3	11.3	14.7
Corn + Wheat+ Flour	4.7	14.4	13.3	19.9	22.0
Poultry Meat	0.7	5.6	7.8	10.0	16.0
Rice	1.7	9.1	10.4	16.7	19.8
Fruit + Vegetables	3.4	12.4	23.4	27.7	32.9

Figure 2

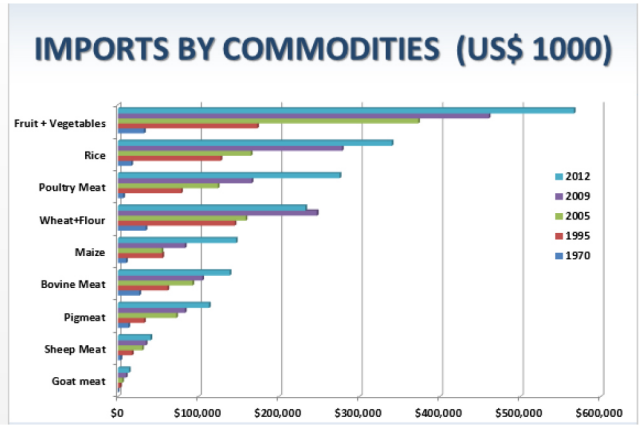


Figure 3

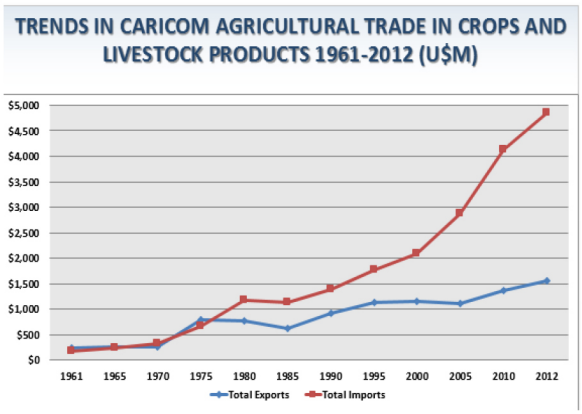


Figure 4

Figures 3 and 4 show strengthening evidence of increase in imports and the outflow of cash for Caribbean comunity

Export pillars of support for access to food have weakened, see figures 5 and 6 a clear decline in some countries for sugar and bananas export. We have recognized this and for decades called for diversification – efforts have been made but few successes, one of the main reasons mentioned by Dr.Ford is the failure to implement public policy in a manner that results in transformational change.

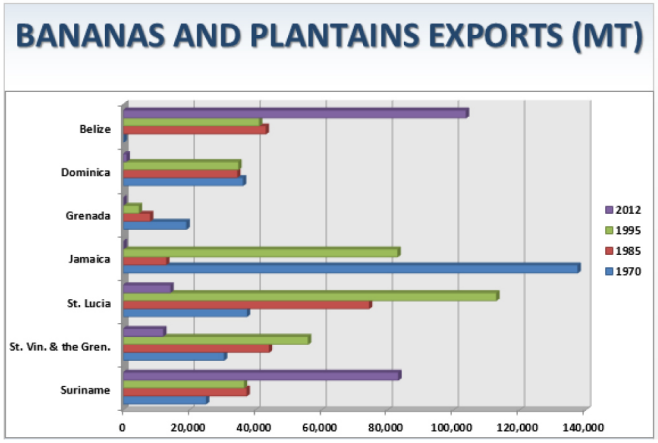


Figure 5

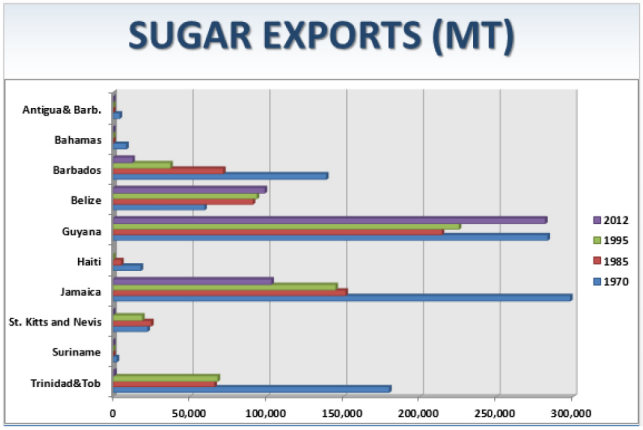


Figure 6

Whilst rice exports decline there is a noticed increase in citrus and bananas, which again highlights the importance of diversification, see table below the increase of citrus and bananas export from 1990 to 2000. Tourism is also an avenue of income, see fig 7. However A clear trend is portrait that the import of goods exceeds the export with also a future projection that this trend will still exist, given the level of crisis playing a major or minor role, see figures 8 and 9.

Belize				
% Contribution Agricultural Value Added				
	1971-1980	**1981-1990**	**1990-2000**	**2000-2012**
Sugar	**89**	**68**	**46**	**27**
Citrus	**7**	**18**	**21**	**24**
Bananas	**3**	**12**	**25**	**23**

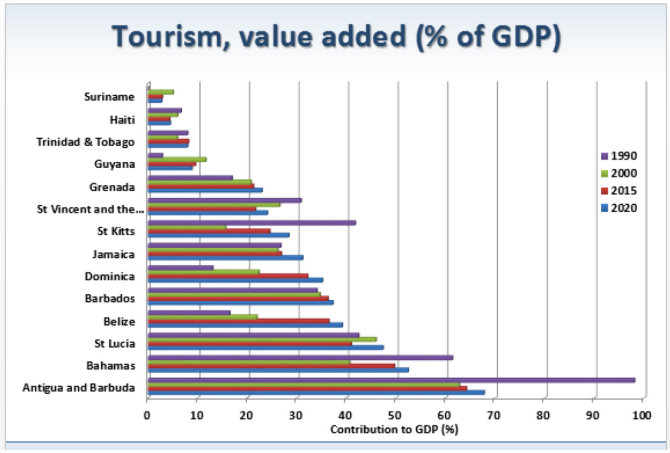


Figure 7

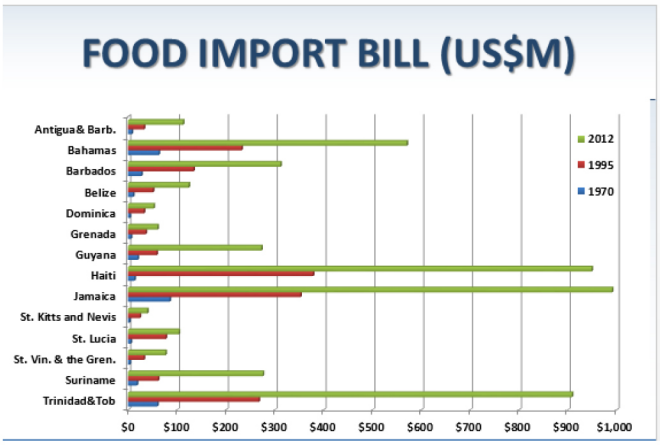


Figure 8

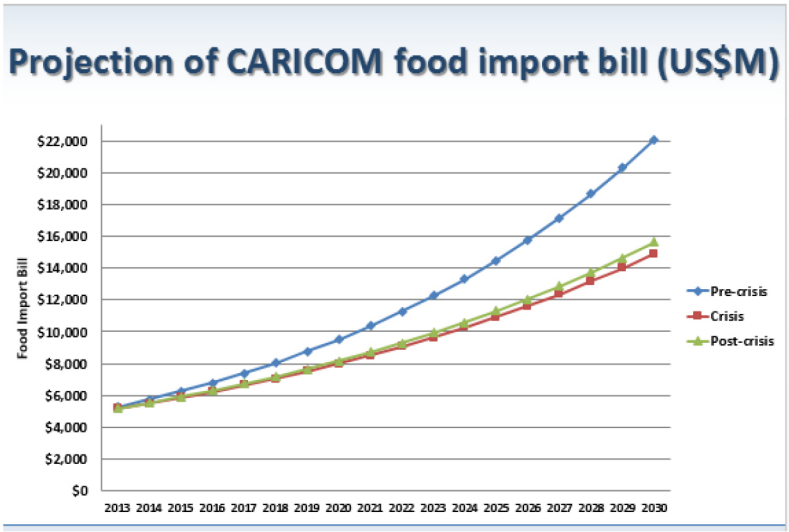


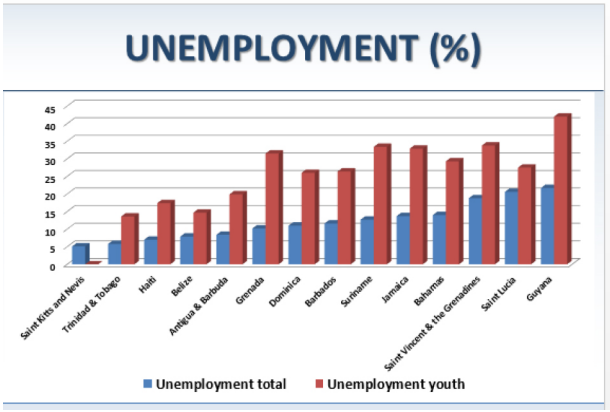
Figure 9

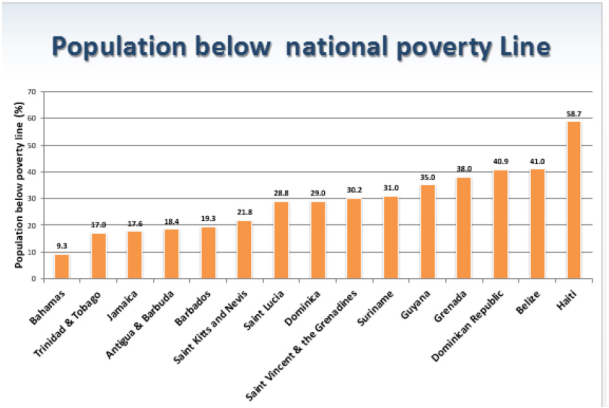
Food Security Challenges – Now and in the Future:

The main focus points in FNS are: Accessibility; Utilization; Availability and Stability.

Accessibility:

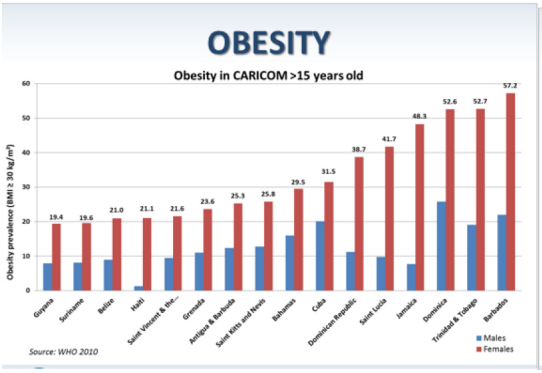
What are the employment rates? We see a very high unemployment ration in youth especially in Guyana. And a high poverty number for Haiti. Unemployment and poverty can damage a population's right to FNS.

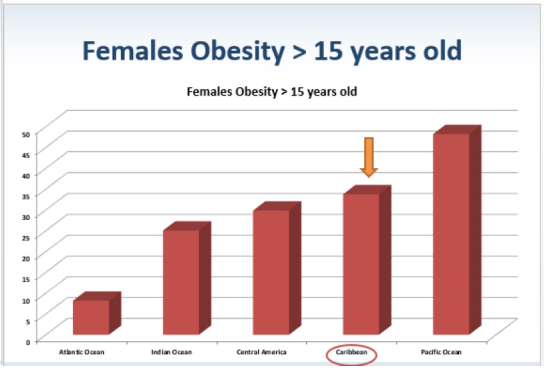




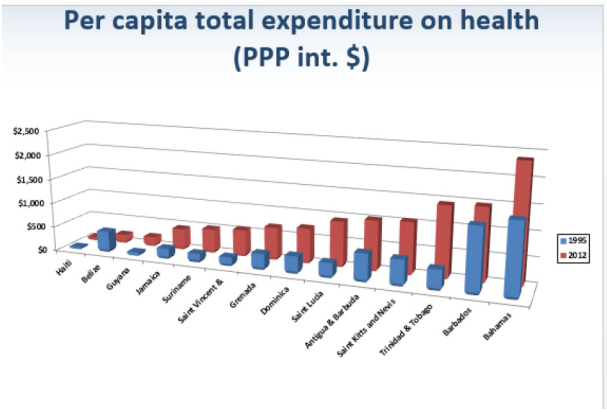
Utilization:

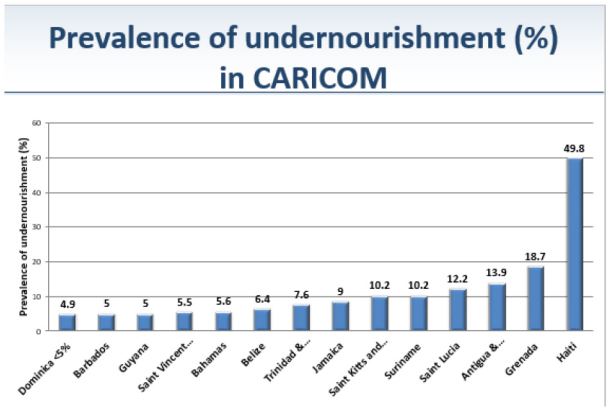
The foods that are imported can cause serious health risks in the population, see figures below, which indicate an increase in obesity level for women from 15 years and above.





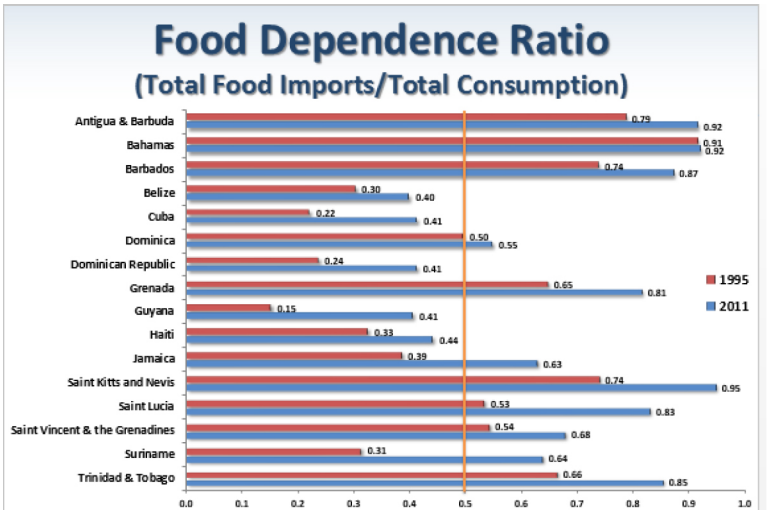
What is the health benefit of imported foods? Figures below the substantial difference through the years and the impact related to low quality FNS.

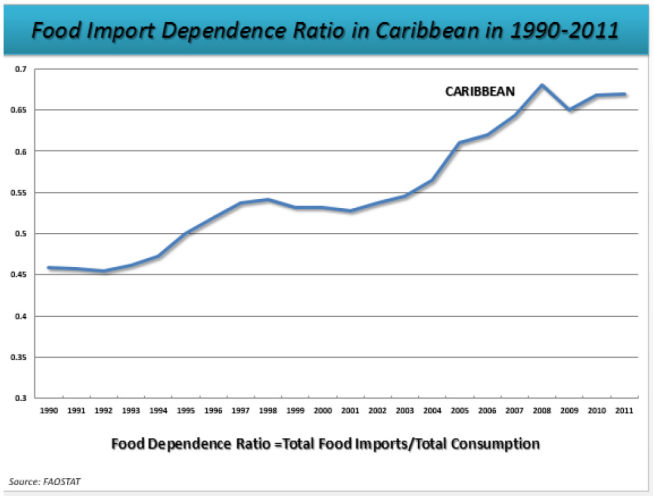




Availability:

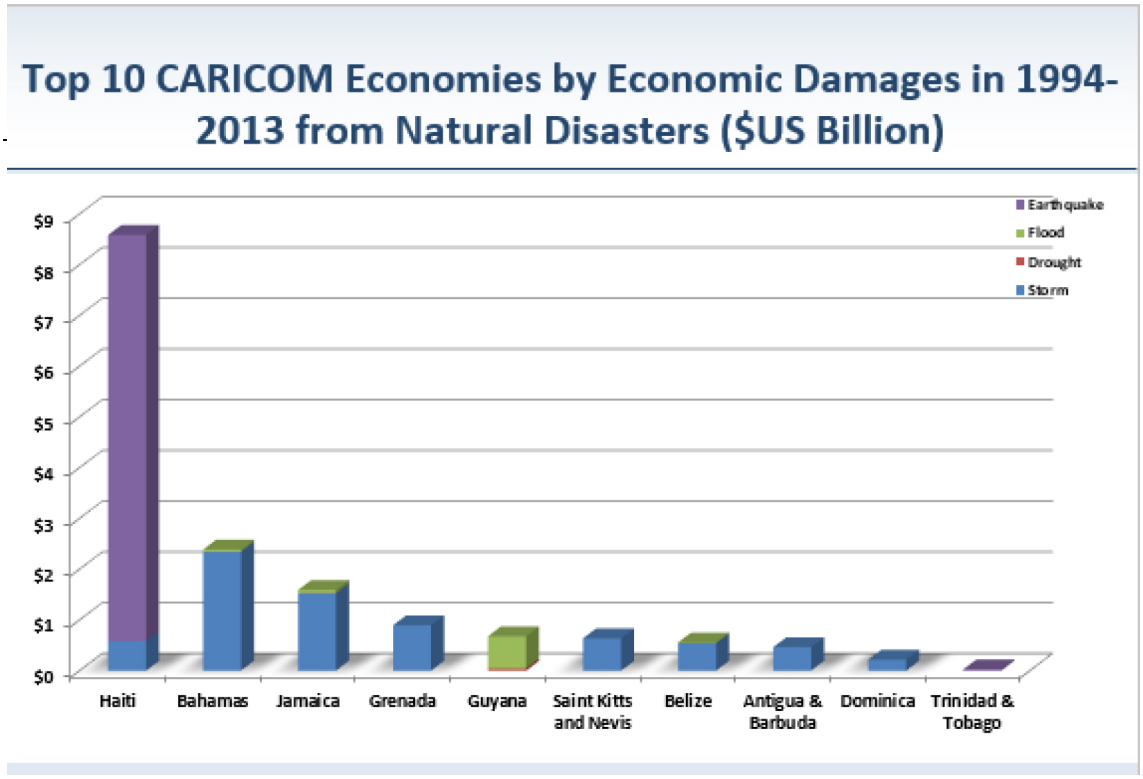
Through a monitored span of ±two decades the Caribbean community dependence on imported food has increased, a clear ration of double increase can be observed for the countries Cuba, Guyana and Suriname.





Stability:

Natural disaster can cause major impact in FNS for the Caricom. When a country does not produce but depends on import, economic damage can lead to impacts in quality and quantity of food. This situation occurs when populations have been effected natural disasters.



Challenges to be addressed in the Caribbean region:

- Food import dependence and agricultural exports
- Unemployment and poverty
- Obesity and NCD's
- Disasters risk and climate change

Key Elements of Public Policy for Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security are:

- Global, Regional and National Mandates
- Translating Mandates/Policies into Practice

Mandates that can support the FNS policy issues:

- Global Public Policy on Food Security
- 1996 – World Food Summit –Food Security Definition, 2015 Goal and Pillars (UNFAO, November 1995, Rome)
- 2000: UN Millenium Declaration Development Goals (8) – Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2012: United Nations Zero Hunger Challenge.
- CARICOM Agricultural Policy – Regional Level

The 4 objectives mentioned and explained earlier of the Caricom Food Security and Nutrition Policy:

- Food availability – production, commercialization, safety and quality.
- Food utilization/ nutritional adequacy – nutrition status and NCDs.
- Food access – vulnerable, affordable.
- Stability of food supply – natural and socioeconomic crises.

5 Pillars of Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy:

1. Food and Nutrition Security.
2. Production (trade) value chains
3. Sustainable development of natural resources.
4. Rural modernization and youth programmes
5. Agricultural knowledge and information system

Strategic Plan for Caribbean Community 2015-2019: Repositioning CARICOM

Agriculture defined as one of the Key Economic Growth Drivers to enable food and nutrition security:

- Establishing a system of regional indicators for Agriculture targeted at reducing the food import bill within specified time frames. Select commodities based on their potential competitiveness.

- Advancing initiatives for exports through attracting investment in small and large scale agrifood initiatives, while encouraging entrepreneurship among youth, women and small farmers (linked to building Social Resilience)
- Developing a fully integrated and harmonized Regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety System

Translating the Mandates/Policies into Practice across diverse CARICOM countries in FNS. The key Food and Nutrition Security Public Policy Action areas are:

1. Food/Agriculture Production and Value added – to address availability and food import bill
2. Consumption, Nutrition and Health Policy - to address food utilization, obesity and NCDs
3. Markets and Trade Policy – to address accessibility and food import bill
4. Land Use, Resilience and Sustainability Policy – to address stability and other risks
5. Governance Policy – to address institutional development and inclusion

Ad.1. Food/Agriculture Production and Value added - incentives to address domestic product availability:

- Ag. Revitalization - Value Chains and Family Farming (cassava, small ruminants, aquaculture)
- Technology Development/Adoption (Productivity Increases, Scaling Up)
- Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development
- Praedial Larceny

Ad.2. Consumption, Nutrition and Health Policy - incentives to address food utilization, obesity and NCDs

- Regional and National Food and Nutrition Strategies – Actions plan implementation
- Zero Hunger Challenge Initiatives –Social Protection
- School Feeding Programs and Food Based Dietary Guidelines
- Cross sectoral networks – Healthy Caribbean Coalition

Ad.3. Markets and Trade Policy – incentives to address accessibility and food import bill

- Public and Private Sector Investment and Trade (Local Food Safety and Standards, intraregional trade)
- Public Purchasing Policy (local product purchases, food losses)
- Linking farmers to markets (organizations and contracts)
- Transportation and cross border issues (shipping and facilitation regulations)

Ad.4.Land Use, Resilience and Sustainability Policy – to address stability and other risks

- Land Management (Zoning, Idle lands, Access)
- Sustainable land and water management (rain water harvesting, efficient water use technologies, land degradation assessments)
- Climate change adaptation and DRM (drought resistant crops, improved damage and needs assessments)

Ad.5. Governance Policy – to address institutional development and inclusion

- National Level FNS Parliamentary Fronts
- National Level FNS TMACs
- National level Public/Private Sector Commodity Groups
- Regional Level Commodity Focused Working Groups

Importance of Governance, reflected in quotes:

"Good Governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development" Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, HDR, 2002

"We are going to create conditions in which all people in our country can eat decently three times a day, every day, without needing gifts from anyone. Brazil cannot continue living with such inequality. We must defeat hunger, poverty and social exclusion." President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Inaugural address, January 1, 2003.

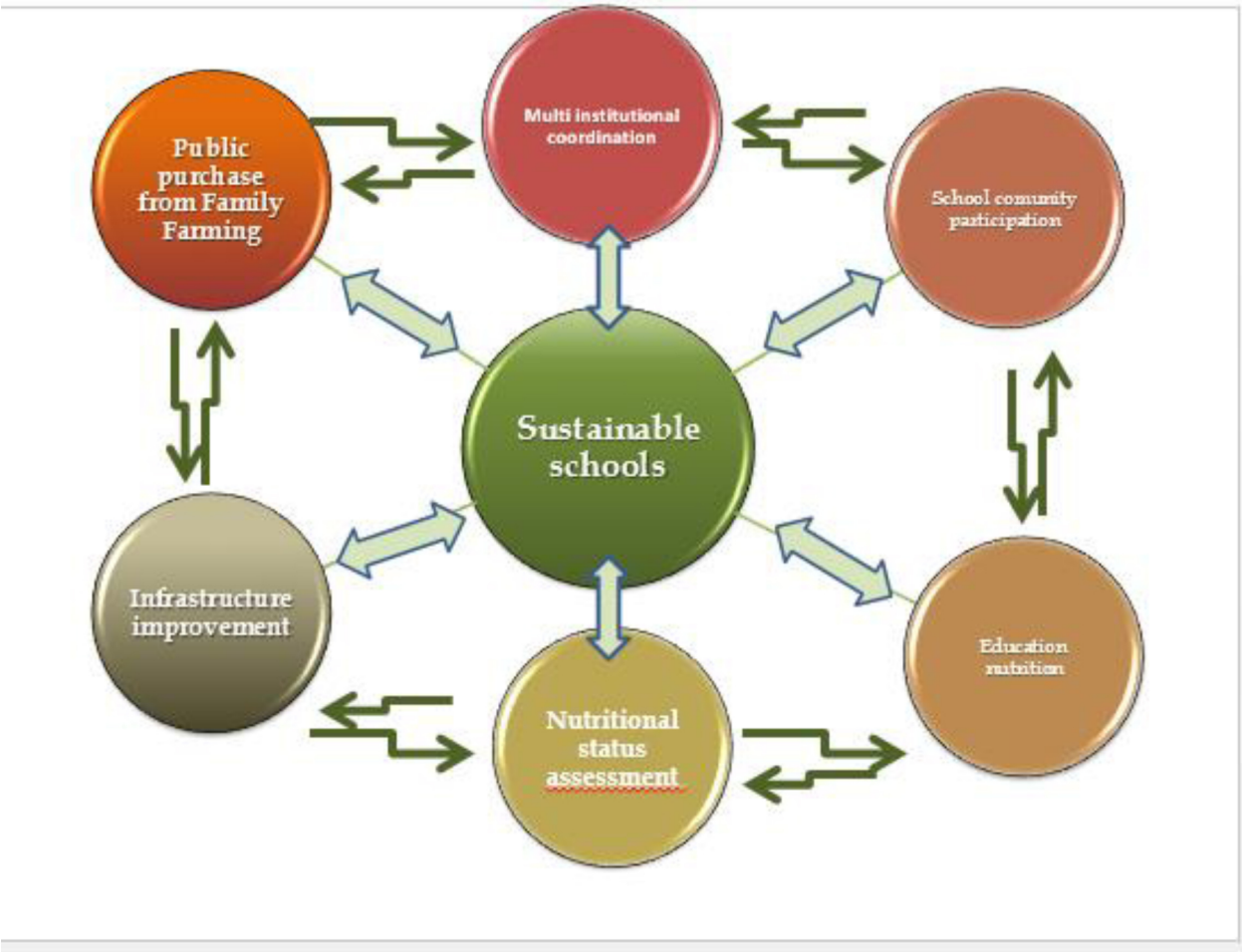
Ensuring our Future Food Security:

We need adequate public policy incentives that:

- Revitalize our food and agricultural sectors
- Promote nutritious and healthy food choices
- Facilitate local and regional market access
- Assist adoption of sustainable resource use practices
- Enable establishment of effective governance systems

% of National Budget to Agriculture

	Bahamas	Jamaica	Guyana	Suriname	St. Lucia	St. Vincent & Grenadines	Trinidad & Tobago
2002	..	..	..	2.26	..	5.8	1.52
2003	..	0.49	..	2.1	8.1	5.9	1.89
2004	1.24	0.65	..	3.3	5.3	5.3	1.82
2005	1.37	0.51	3.5	3.01	4.8	3.8	1.46
2006	0.87	0.71	4.3	2.99	3.6	3.2	1.24
2007	0.91	0.99	5.2	2.05	3.0	3.2	1.46
2008	1.08	1.21	3.4	3.22	4.6	4.2	1.29
2009	1.00	1.35	6.8	1.69	5.3	4	1.52
2010	0.75	1.29	5.7	1.35	4.7	2.7	1.32
2011	0.69	1.12	5.6	1.69	3.9	4	1.33
2012	0.85	1.30	7.3	2.88	2.7	3.5	1.33
2013	**0.87**	**1.13**	**5.3**	**2.83**	**2.7**	**4.3**	**1.09**
Agric. Value added (% of GDP)	**2%**	**7%**	**21%**	**10%**	**3%**	**6%**	**1%**


Multi institutional coordination
Public purchase from Family Farming
School community participation
Sustainable schools
Infrastructure improvement
Education nutrition
Nutritional status assessment