

GRENADA FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY 2013

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AERP	Agricultural Emergency Rehabilitation Project
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CNCDs	Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CXC	Caribbean Examination Council
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EPA	European Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
GFNC	Grenada Food and Nutrition Council
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HTLV	Human T cell Lymphotropic Virus,
MAREP	Market Access and Rural Enterprise Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOH	Ministry of Health
NAWASA	National Water and Sewage Authority
NCDs	Non-Communicable disease
ODTC	OECS Distribution and Transportation Company
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PLHIV	Persons living with HIV
RFNSP	Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy
SFP	School Feeding Programme
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAT	Value Added Tax
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the years, respective governments have been taking measures to address food and nutrition security. With the onset of the global food crisis nations around the world Grenada began taking a new look at its food and nutrition security situation.

At the national level, the Government of Grenada articulated Food and Nutrition Security as a national priority in its pronouncement on the building of a New Economy. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with Ministry of Social Development and civil society inclusive of the private sector, have also been working together to build social agreement to achieve '*MDG1: Eradication of extreme hunger and poverty*'.

The approval of CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy on 14th October, 2011 at the 34th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED - Agriculture) in St. George's, Grenada and the Action Plan in 2011 elevated the concern for food and nutrition among its members. This endorsement implied that every member country of the CARICOM would undertake to develop a national policy on food and nutrition security. This commitment was reached against the backdrop of rising food prices, a high regional food import bill estimated at US\$3.5 billion in 2008 and the continuing upward trend of same and a notable increasing trend of poverty ratios and the incidences of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

It was recognized that a holistic and a long term strategic approach was required relative to food and nutrition security and as such technical assistance was sought from the FAO in order to develop a comprehensive and coherent national policy and action plan for improving the nation's food and nutrition security. In that regard, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries launched this initiative on July 3, 2012 to develop Grenada's Food and Nutrition Security and Action Plan.

The Policy and Action plan used the 1996 World Food Summit definition of Food security which states that:

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

From this definition four pillars were distilled: Availability; Accessibility; Utilization/Nutrition and Stability. In addition to the four pillars it was recognized that a fifth area, the creation of an enabling environment for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Policy and Action Plan was necessary.

Each of the pillars was then analysed using the following structure:

- ✓ Situational analysis
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ Review of existing policies and programmes
- ✓ Policy gaps
- ✓ Policy statements
- ✓ Policy goals and objectives
- ✓ Strategic areas of action

Availability

At the national level it was found that Grenada produces enough calories/caput/day. However, significant transitory food and nutrition insecurity exist at the household level and among vulnerable groups. The main sources of calories are cereals, sugars and sweeteners. An analysis of the products available within the various food groups showed a heavy reliance on non-nutritious and poor quality imported products such as low grade chicken meat, margarine, biscuits and refined sugars most of which are imported.

The analysis also revealed that Grenada's balance of trade in agricultural products has worsened over the years and from the 1970's the country has been experiencing a growing net agricultural trade deficit.

The main challenges identified are:

- Securing & maintaining regular supply of good quality planting materials;
- Achieving economies of scale
- Stimulating & Financing investment in R&D
- Declining land resource

Food Access

The level of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity within the context of existing social protection/safety net programmes was used to ascertain the accessibility of food to all Grenadians. Using the Poverty Assessment Report (2008) data and other sources a list of vulnerable population was identified. According to the Country Poverty Assessment Report, children and female-headed households are among the poorest and most vulnerable groups for food and nutrition insecurity in Grenada.

Although, the vulnerable population can be found throughout Grenada, the highest level of poverty is predominantly in the rural communities with the parish of St. Patrick having a poverty level of 35%. When depth of poverty is taken into consideration, some selected communities in the parishes of St Marks and St Andrews were the most vulnerable.

Challenges to food access are identified at three levels: -Household; Community and National.

Utilization/Nutrition

The analysis of food utilization and nutritional adequacy points to a shift in consumption patterns of Grenadians, from foods that are locally produced to imported foods that are generally high in salts, sugars and saturated fats. This, coupled with the change to a sedentary lifestyle is being purported as the cause of increase in nutritional related non-communicable diseases that is now impacting negatively not only the health of the population but also on the financial resources of the nation.

There are several challenges with respect to food utilization. Among these are:

- Inadequate knowledge of nutritional requirements
- Lack of or insufficient food in the household
- Mass media advertising of processed foods
- Poor intake of micro nutrients; and
- High cost of local foods

Stability

Stability is analyzed in the context of availability and accessibility of food at the national and household levels. Natural hazards, in particular hurricanes, and climate change are identified as the main threat to availability and accessibility of food supplies. There are also other man made and natural hazards, which have the potential to negatively affect the stability of food and nutrition security in Grenada. They include the global economic crisis, the La Nina and El Nino phenomena and problem of praedial larceny. However, the changes in the global climate system have the greatest potential to affect stability of food and nutrition security in Grenada.

The challenges facing stability of food and nutrition in Grenada were identified as:

- The overuse and misuse of agricultural chemicals and pesticides
- Climate change with its characterized unseasoned rains and prolonged droughts
- Inadequate research, which is necessary to determine which local varieties of food crops are resilient to climate variability and change and connected to that is the absence of a germplasm/seed bank to conserve and maintain plant diversity.
- The availability of land for food production

Policies regarding stability of food supplies and potential negative impact of climate change and natural and man made events on food stability were reviewed and the gaps identified. One noticeable gap was the non recognition of the impact climate system may also have to potential for positive impacts for food production.

Creating an Enabling Environment

The analysis for creating an enabling environment examined the existing institutional mandates, policies and protocols, processes of shaping decision-making, level of compliance with legal and other international reporting requirements; and identified the constraints or gaps that need to be addressed to promote organizational efficiency and performance.

The enabling factors that would allow the institutions involved in food and nutrition security matters to contribute in achieving food and nutrition security in Grenada are stated and the assessment of the relevant enabling factors presented in a matrix.

The stakeholder analysis was also conducted that sought to establish all institutions with a 'stake' or a declared (or conceivable) interest in the policy under consideration.

Several challenges were identified, these include:

- Isolated development and implementation of policies/programmes
- Absence of a legal mandate or restricted legal mandate of institutions to address emerging matters
- Ineffective inter-sectoral dialogue mechanism
- *No existing Monitoring* and evaluation mechanism at the national level for the
- No formal evaluation of past programmes and policies and limited disaggregated data by sex
- Absence of national legislation on food and nutrition security

For each of the pillars relevant policies were reviewed which enabled the identification of policy gaps.

Three policy instruments were used for the elaboration of the policy document: – policy statements; policy goals and objectives and the identification of strategic areas of action.

The development of the Food and Nutrition Policy was guided by the Ministry's of Agriculture Mission Statement: **"To facilitate national food security and the increase in economic returns from the agricultural sector through the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of quality services and products"** and the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy: **to promote sustainable and permanent food availability, food accessibility, food utilization/nutrition adequacy, and stability food supply for all Grenadians through integrated and well-coordinated multi-sectoral measures/initiatives at all levels of the Government and through the active involvement of civil society and the private sector.**

The following policy statements were elaborated for the four pillars of food and nutrition security and the institutional framework.

Availability

The Government of Grenada will create an enabling environment for the establishment of a system that is capable of providing sufficient nutritious foods at affordable prices to all persons in Grenada at all times

Food Access

The Government of Grenada will create appropriate mechanisms that guarantee food and nutrition security for all Grenadians, especially vulnerable population, so that they would effectively enjoy their right to food at all times.

Utilization/Nutrition

The Government of Grenada will promote the use of good quality food in adequate amounts that is affordable to meet nutritional requirements throughout the life cycle of all Grenadians

Stability

The Government of Grenada will strengthened food production systems to build resilience to the threats of natural and manmade hazards events and climate change

Creation of an Enabling Environment

The Government of Grenada will establishment legislative framework that is applicable to all primary and secondary stakeholders which provides clear mandates and institutional responsibilities relevant to food and nutrition security

For each of the above policy statements, policy goals and objectives were identified with their associated strategic area of focus. The areas of focus were used to identify priority areas which provided the basis for the development of the action plan.

PREAMBLE

The Government of Grenada has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which recognizes in Article 11 *'the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger'* and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which recognizes in Article 25 that *'everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food'*. The Government has also accepted the shared responsibility to achieve The Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration which has Reducing Hunger and Poverty as one of its goals.

The 'Right to Food' is not expressly stated in Grenada's Constitution. However, the Constitution in its preamble and Chapter 1, Section 1 supports *inter alia* the principles and beliefs in the rights of every person in Grenada to all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the right to life, and freedom from want. It also subscribes to the ideal that these can be best achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his or her economic, social and political, civil and cultural rights.

Heads of State and Government, including Grenada, at the World Food Summit, in 1996, reaffirmed "the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger." The Summit in 2002 also mandated the FAO Council to develop a set of Voluntary Guidelines¹ to support Member States' efforts to achieve the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. These Voluntary Guidelines were adopted by the FAO Council in November 2004 and represent an important step towards integrating human rights with food and agriculture initiatives.

Despite its small size, Grenada is endowed with significant physical resources (land and marine) for the production of food (crops, forestry products, livestock, fish and other marine products). These resources are largely under-utilized and less than 50% of the available arable land is currently cultivated. According to the Ministry of Agriculture there are over 4,000 farmers and 1,500 fisher folks in Grenada most of whom are located in rural communities. About 15% of domestic agricultural production is for export. Notwithstanding this, Grenada remains dependent on imports for most of its food needs. This situation is largely a product of policies that focused mainly on production for exports during the plantation era, the production of food crops to meet the needs of plantation workers, and import of food to feed the rest of the population. Despite significant changes in structure of agricultural production, policies continue to favor export agriculture, distribution of inputs for food crop and livestock production and dietary preference for imported foods continue to be supported by domestic and international trade policies that encourage cheap imports reinforced by aggressive promotion of these products to consumers.

Considering the significance of taking full account in achieving national and individual food and nutrition security of all fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the Right to Food, the Government re-affirms its commitment to the protection and realization of the Right to Food

¹ Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security; FAO; Rome; 2005

and will give it the highest consideration in the current Constitutional review process. Explicit and strong support will be provided to the application of the right to food principles in the implementation of all relevant policies, guided by the Right to Food Guidelines. This includes the implementation of this Policy through the accompanying Plan of Action 2013 – 2018.

The achievement of sustainable food and nutrition security is essential for the enjoyment of the right to adequate food. The right to adequate food is interdependently linked to other economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to education and the right to health. The implementation of policies and programmes using a rights-based approach strengthens the quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of the food and nutrition security interventions.

The Government is fully supportive of initiatives to address the issue of hunger and poverty. Global events may have contributed to the upsurge of interest in food and nutrition. Nonetheless, actions were taken in 2008 to form the national food security committee and the food security strategic plan in 2009. Further, the endorsement of the Regional Food and Security Policy in 2010 and Action Plan in 2011 motivated the Government of Grenada to seek assistance from FAO for the development of its own Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan. FAO's support is also visible in other Government initiatives, such as The Grenada Market Access and Rural Enterprise Development Programme (MAREP) 2011-2017; Grenada National Strategic Development Plan 2012-2017; Grenada Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2015; Direct links between these initiatives and this Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan will be vitally important.

The Government of Grenada would like to express its appreciation to all those who have contributed to the finalization of this document. Special thanks go out to the individuals contacted during the study in the Ministries of Agriculture, of Health and of Social Development and to the National Disaster Management Agency. To the stakeholders who participated in the validation workshop for this Policy and Plan of Action we say thank you and, finally, to FAO for providing financial and technical support to the formulation process of this Policy and the Plan of Action to Implement the Policy.

Government of Grenada

Date:

1. INTRODUCTION

Grenada's is a net importer of food, although agriculture is one of its most important economic activities. Over the years, respective governments have been taking measures to address food and nutrition security. With the onset of the global food crisis, Grenada began taking a new look at its food and nutrition security situation.

At the national level, the Government of Grenada has articulated Food and Nutrition Security as a national priority in its pronouncement of building a New Economy. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and civil society inclusive of the private sector, have also been working together to build social agreement to achieve '*MDG1: Eradication of extreme hunger and poverty*'.

The approval of CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy on 14th October, 2010 at the 34th Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED - Agriculture) in St. George's, Grenada and the Action Plan in 2011 elevated the concern for food and nutrition security among CARICOM Member States. This endorsement implies that every member country of the CARICOM will undertake to develop a national policy on food and nutrition security. This commitment was reached against the backdrop of rising food prices, a high regional food import bill estimated at US\$3.5 billion in 2008 and the continuing upward trend of same and a notably increasing trend of poverty ratios and the incidences of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

It was recognized that a holistic and a long term strategic approach was required relative to food and nutrition security and as such technical assistance was sought from the FAO in order to develop a comprehensive and coherent national policy and plan of action to improve the nation's food and nutrition security. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries launched this initiative on July 3, 2012.

The Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action have been formulated in response to the present global food crisis, guided by the CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan. The Policy and Action Plans use the 1996 World Food Summit definition of Food Security which states that:

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

This definition requires that four dimensions with respect to food and nutrition be addressed:

- Food availability - sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality food must be available within the country. This food can be from a mix of domestic production and imports;

- Food access - Households/individuals must have access to adequate resources (including entitlements) to acquire appropriate and safe food for a nutritious and culturally acceptable daily diet;
- Food utilization and nutritional adequacy – Biological utilization of food which is determined by ingested foods, and the individual's health status which in part is determined by access to safe water, sanitation and health care. The aim is to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all needs for growth, development and activity are met;
- Stability in Food Supplies and Access - There should not be risks to households' and individuals' access to adequate food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events that lead to transitory and seasonal food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Policy is presented in seven chapters. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the study and lays the groundwork for the development of the other chapters. Chapter 2 synthesises the main challenges for food and nutrition security in Grenada. Chapter 3 explains the current policy environment under which food security and nutrition operates and identifies policy gaps. Chapter 4 explains the relevant institutional and stakeholder environment. Chapter 5 focuses on the policy intent in support of the main dimensions of food and nutrition security and the enabling environment. Chapter 6 presents the enabling environment. Chapter 7 deals with monitoring and evaluation of the Policy and the Plan of Action to Implement the Policy. The formulation of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action heavily relies on the findings of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE POLICY

2.1 SYNTHESIS OF THE MAIN CHALLENGES FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

A situational analysis was conducted on the food and nutrition security situation in Grenada, to provide the basis for the formulation of the Policy². Particularly the analysis was conducted to identify appropriate policy measures and areas of focus that are most likely to achieve food and nutrition security for Grenada. From these analyses challenges affecting food and nutrition security were distilled and these challenges are summarized here.

2.1.1 Food Availability

Food and nutrition security policy is critical to national development. Historically, most Grenadian consumers have relied heavily on imports to satisfy their food requirement. Grenadian farmers, other food producers and the nation, meanwhile, have relied on agricultural exports to generate foreign exchange and revenue to purchase imported food. Limited attention was given to strengthening the domestic production and marketing capacity, developing the resources, and putting in place the infrastructure to meet the nation's requirement for a secure consistent and sufficient supply of safe, nutritious and affordable foods.

Global developments are demonstrating that policies in support of systems that foster dependence on imports for food availability are no longer tenable or sustainable. In the wake of the 2007 global food crisis food prices escalated generating imported inflation in net food importing countries such as Grenada, and in some cases exports of basic food commodities such as cereals were banned by net exporting countries restricting access by even those countries that can afford to buy. Trade liberalization measures with the CSME, the WTO agreement, the EPA and other regional and international trading agreements have resulted in: the loss of preferential access to international markets such as bananas to the UK and Europe; the imposition of increasingly stringent non-tariff barriers (sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions, food health and safety regulations and standards, etc.); and reduced Government revenue from imports with the progressive reductions in the tariffs and other duties applied on imported foods from partner countries with which we have bilateral or multilateral agreements. Moreover, increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases such as obesity, kidney diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases etc. which are directly linked to the poor nutrition and dietary choices from the excessive consumption of fats, oils, sugars, salt, and refined foods obtained mainly from imports and which threaten to further increase health care costs and reduce productivity and quality of life for the population has brought into sharp focus the need to influence dietary choices to more healthy nutrient dense foods such as fruits and vegetables that are more readily available from domestic production.

² See Government of Grenada, Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012, 2013

Considering the above, the challenges to food availability in Grenada are outlined in the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis under the following broad headings: macroeconomic considerations; resource management; trade related actions; actions in favour of producers; actions in favor of producers; and cross cutting measures that favor producers and consumers. A summary is presented below.

- Improving domestic self-sufficiency and reducing dependence on imports to meet food requirement;
 - Increasing domestic production of salad fruits, vegetables and root crops in particular;
 - Improved post-harvest handling of local produce
 - Alignment of production with markets using the value chain approach
- Encouraging changes in dietary habits
 - Aggressive promotion of the health and nutritional benefits of healthy diet
 - Investment in value added convenience products
- Improving the balance of trade situation by increasing exports of traditional and non-traditional crops particularly to the CARICOM and OECS Communities;
 - Removal of impediments to regional trade (transparent phytosanitary regulations; uniform port and customs charges; supporting infrastructure)
- Strengthening the production and marketing capacity and infrastructure for non-traditional fruits, vegetables and root crops, livestock (poultry, pigs, and small ruminants).
 - Support for initiatives to improve transportation and distribution services such as the ODTC
- Influence the trade and regulatory policies to support increased use of more nutritious and healthy foods.
- Investment in innovation and research and development
- Financing the agricultural development process.
- Development of an information platform to drive the process

2.1.2 Food Access

The challenges relating to accessibility to food and nutrition security among vulnerable groups are reflected at the household, community and the national levels. Refer to the box below for definition of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity:

For purposes of this Policy, households that will be considered vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity are those which fall below the poverty line as defined by per capita income. Typically those households are female headed and/or have unemployed members or members who work under precarious conditions and /or elderly members and/or members with disabilities or poor health conditions.

In addition households are also considered vulnerable when at risk to the consequences of natural disasters while having low capacity to recover from those consequences.

If the two vulnerability categories are superimposed, households that fall below the poverty line and are exposed to natural disasters are the most vulnerable.

Household Level

The households that are identified as vulnerable are due to the following challenges:

- High dependency on receiving 'food baskets'
- Inadequate employment opportunities
- Inadequate entrepreneurship skills
- Unstable income earning sources (easy to lose jobs, layoffs)
- Delayed follow up after initial assessment by Ministry of Social Development
- Competing social problems affecting the priority of food security such as lack of water and electricity and leaking homes. Access to food is not consistent and sometimes the children, especially the children in secondary schools 'have to go to school hungry sometimes'
- Limited home garden initiatives
- Local produce too expensive especially for vulnerable groups

Community Level

The capacity to increase access to food and nutrition security at the community level was due to the following challenges:

- Limited comprehensive community participation in increasing access to food
- Limited knowledge of the social protection/social safety net programmes in relation to food and nutrition security are known by civil society

National Level

Further challenges that contributed the problems of accessibility to food and nutrition security among vulnerable groups were also identified at the national level namely:

- Lack of coherence in programmes relating to food and nutrition security that are developed by the government
- Lack of data on intra-household distribution patterns in terms of ability to fulfill the nutrition needs of all the members of the household, at all times
- Incomplete information on households leading to less than full coverage of those in need
- Limited analysis of social data for informed decision-making
- Insufficient resources to influence and change opinions and culture relating to the promotion of indigenous food culture that is nutritionally adequate
- Insufficient education to make informed purchase and consumption decisions especially among vulnerable groups

2.1.3 Food Utilization and Nutritional Adequacy

The analysis of food utilization and nutritional adequacy points to a shift in consumption patterns of Grenadians, from foods that are locally produced to imported foods that are generally high in salts, sugars and saturated fats. This, coupled with the change to a sedentary lifestyle has been purported as the cause of increase in nutritional related non-communicable diseases that is now impacting negatively not only the health of the population but also on the financial resources of the nation.

Grenada faces several challenges to sound food utilization by its people:

- Inadequate knowledge of nutritional requirements
- Lack of or insufficient food in the house
- Poor food preparation techniques
- Changes in consumption pattern
- Status of locally produced food
- Mass media advertising of processed foods
- Lack of a school nutrition policy
- Poor intake of micro nutrients
- High cost of local foods
- Poor meal planning
- Low energy expenditure due to sedentary lifestyles

2.1.4 Stability in Food Supplies and Access

The overuse and misuse of agricultural chemicals and pesticides which will affect both the quality of food production and the environment is a threat to food availability in the long term. The Ministry of Agriculture has a programme of subsidized fertilizer sales and supply of some planting material. The challenge will be to rationalize the use of pesticides and fertilizers to avoid ecosystem damage and jeopardizing efforts to undertake organic agriculture while at the same time increasing food production.

Climate change may pose a threat to rain fed agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture already has an irrigation programme and a National Water Information System and Grenada participates in the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network. The challenge is the capacity to utilize information for advanced planning for food production.

Another challenge is the inadequate research, which is necessary to determine which local varieties of food crops are resilient to climate variability and change and connected to that is the absence of a germplasm/seed bank to conserve and maintain plant diversity.

The availability of land for food production is another challenge. The Ministry of Agriculture recently implemented a Sustainable Land Management Project and a Land Degradation Project. However, the Non-State Actors have cited the absence of a Land Policy as one of the main challenges because of the severe competition from housing and tourism.

3. THE CURRENT POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

3.1 Policy Environment: Food Availability

Growth in domestic food production during the post hurricane period is in response to a number of factors. These include: increased demand for local produce in response to increased awareness of the value of local produce after the shortages immediately following the hurricanes in 2004 and 2005; improved export prices for the traditional export crops, nutmegs and cocoa in the wake of global commodity price increases; and the positive impact of Government policies and programs to stimulate increased production.

The policies and programmes include the following:

- Support provided to the agriculture sector through the Marketing & National Importing Board under the USAID/CARANA Grenada Business & Agriculture Revitalization Program. Components of this project included : Improvement of Post-Harvest Handling of Fruits; Development of the Pine apple Industry in Grenada; Restoration of the Yam Sub-Sector; Developing the Fruit Industry in Grenada; Rehabilitation of the Agriculture Industry in Grenada; Developing the Fruit Industry in Grenada;
- Agricultural Enterprise Development Programme
- Agricultural Emergency Rehabilitation Project (AERP) with the aim of revitalizing economic activity in the sector and to enhance farmers' capacity to rapidly improve the status of local food production including food crops and meats. The country was depending primarily on food aid at the time. A total of three thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven (3,777) farmers and thirteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight (13,858) workers benefited from this project. Five thousand four hundred and twenty three (5,423) acres of land were cleared with bananas being the crop most cultivated because of its short time span to bring in revenue and as a shade crop. This Agricultural Emergency Rehabilitation Project (AERP) implementation was expedited in an effort to provide almost immediate relief to the farmers and workers whose main source of livelihood (the farm and farm labour) was destroyed.
- The World Bank Small Farmer Vulnerability Project
- The Market Access & Rural Enterprise Development Project
- The National Export Strategy
- Exemption from VAT for Agricultural Produce

In addition, the following relevant policies were reviewed and brief descriptions can be found in Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012:

- Grenada Agricultural Policy (draft)-(2006)
- The Food and Nutrition Policy and Plan of Action for Grenada (draft)- (2007)
- Interim Food Security Strategic Plan (2009)
- Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2011)
- Social Safety Net Policy Framework (draft)- (2011)
- Fisheries Policy-Grenada (2012)
- Alternative Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy-2012

3.1.1 Policy Gaps

1. Policies related to food availability through enhanced domestic production focus more on quantity (amount) with little attention to nutritional quality, health and food safety issues, and current and desired per capita consumption. Targets are vague;
2. Weak linkages between domestic production policies and food and agricultural trade policies particularly for food imports, taxation and price control regimes;
3. Disproportional attention to producers in the food value chain with limited attention to food preferences and consumption habits of domestic consumers; involvement of chain facilitators such as input suppliers, wholesale and retail markets, market information and research, etc. Chain facilitators looked at as adversaries rather than enhancers;
4. Limited use of empirical data to guide policy formulation and evaluate impact of activities and actions;
5. Policies are insular and lack regional and international focus;
6. More focus on welfare oriented interventions rather than integrating and aligning farmers with markets;
7. Limited focus on marketing and promotion of local products compared to the level of promotion of imported food products. No branding of local products. Importance of more investment in marketing to encouraging increased use of local products not properly recognized;
8. Insufficient attention to promoting value added products that preserve the nutritional value of our natural products. Rather focus on processed products that are adulterated with inputs that reduce rather than enhance the nutritional and health benefits of the natural products;
9. Importance of technology and innovation that can enhance small holder stakeholder productivity and competitiveness given insufficient attention. More focus required on production costs and managing those costs, farm business planning for better alignment with markets, use of improved varieties, soil fertility management, pest management practices that minimize damage to the environment and ecosystem;
10. Insufficient attention given to governance of the production system to ensure the sustainability of interventions and projects.

3.2 Policy Environment: Food Access

The following policies have been reviewed but because of their crosscutting nature.

- Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2011)
- Social Safety Net Policy Framework (draft)- (2011)
- Alternative Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy-2012

3.2.1 Policy Gaps

- Limited disaggregation of data by gender or age to define population groups vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity
- No systematic compilation of documents for monitoring purposes on vulnerability and food and nutrition security
- Lack of coherence with regards to the composition and location of vulnerable groups in the documents that are addressing food and nutrition security in Grenada and between the Grenada documents and the RFNSP on who comprise the vulnerable population
- Absence of programmes for some of the vulnerable population mentioned in the Social Safety Net Assessment (2009) i.e absence of programmes specifically identified for PLHIV and orphans
- Inadequate income opportunities for the vulnerable population
- Lack of capacity building for saving schemes for vulnerable groups (fisherman and farmers, in times of personal (sickness and death benefits) and national crises (loss of income due to national disaster)
- Lack of equity in resource allocation
- Limited participation in decision making processes
- Limited evidence of empowerment of the vulnerable population
- Lack of adequate redress mechanism
- Absence of monitoring and evaluation framework with identified indicators in relation to vulnerability and food and nutrition security
- No structured programme for the elderly, working poor, persons with mental illness, and forced returnees in terms of increasing food and nutrition security
- Limited focus on the completion of secondary school, especially the males, without basic competencies/functional literacy required for the workplace (5 or more CXC passes including English and Mathematics)
- No gender analysis for social safety net programme i.e. specialized focus on the unemployed youth, unemployed female with children, mentally ill persons in relation to food and nutrition security
- Weak linkages with other social sectors
- Institutional capacity challenged
- Lack of incentives to achieve economic independence, especially among the working poor

3.3 Policy Environment: Food Utilization and Nutritional Adequacy

A comprehensive document highlighting the current policies and programmes impinging on the food, nutrition and health situation has been in preparation; but, at the time of preparation of this document, has not reached the level of government approval. The review of existing policies and programs is gleaned from statements and reports by Ministers of Government and technical staff in the various ministries dealing with issues relating to food, nutrition and health. Especially important in this regard are statements and budgetary allocations in the annual

Budget Speeches. The following are programmes under ministries that address food, nutrition and health. A brief description of these programmes can be found in Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012.

3.3.1 Policy Gaps

- No comprehensive government approved School Nutrition Policy document
- Inadequate day to day supervision of SFP staff
- Inadequate and inconsistent funding for SFP
- Insufficient funding for Food For Families program
- Inadequate referral for HIV and HTLV-1 positive mothers
- Inconsistent supply of HemoCue System
- Medical examinations for food handlers do not assess for conditions that can pose a health problem for the nation.
- Non-functioning National Health and Food Safety Committee
- Inadequate NAWASA testing of water supply

3.4 Policy Environment: Stability in Food Supplies and Access

Some of the relevant policy documents have recognized the issue of stability of food supplies and potential negative impact of climate change and natural and manmade events on food stability but it does not recognize that changes in the climate system may also have to potential for positive impacts for food production. Despite the recognition these issue have been given prominence at the goal or objectives level in the policy.

The Draft Social Safety Net Policy Framework identifies natural hazards among the macro risks and vulnerabilities but the issue of stability was not specifically addressed.

3.4.1 Policy Gaps

- The Agricultural Policy does not mention the potential impact of climate change on food production although the damage to the livestock, fresh fruit and fishing industries from Hurricanes Ivan and Emily is well documented. The policy goal includes the sustainable use of natural resources but it is not one of the objectives.
- Stability of food supplies is not addressed in The Grenada Climate Change Policy and Action Plan 2007 -2011 and neither is it addressed in any of the existing policy document of the National Disaster Management Agency. The National Disaster Management Agency has prepared the Grenada Integrated Relief Plan which addressed food directly but does not address storage. It recommends the elaboration a food distribution plan which should indicate where food is needed, in what quantities; the priorities for distribution and the means of transportation.

- While the Draft interim Food Security Strategic Plan addresses the issue of stability it recognizes hurricanes as the main shock to food and nutrition stability and it does not acknowledge the risks posed by climate variability and change.
- Sustainability of the fisheries sector is one of the themes in the Fisheries Policy but it does not recognize the potential impact of climate change and or natural hazard events on the stability of industry.
- The potential of climate change to contribute to volatility in the international food markets and the high exposure of the Caribbean to natural hazards were among the factors cited for the development of the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action but they were not reflected in the specific objectives of the policy.

4. THE INSTITUTIONAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Institutional and Stakeholders Analysis Relative to Food and Nutrition Security in Grenada

Generally, the institutional analysis was conducted to analyze the existing institutional mandates, policies and protocols, processes of shaping decision-making, level of compliance with legal and other international reporting requirements and to identify the constraints or gaps that need to be addressed to promote organizational efficiency and performance as well as enabling factors that will allow the institutions involved in food and nutrition security matters to contribute to achieving food and nutrition security in Grenada. The findings of institutional assessment are included in the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012.

Stakeholder analysis

The stakeholder analysis seeks to establish all institutions with a 'stake' or a declared (or conceivable) interest in this Policy and its implementation and impacts. It must be noted that there are primary and secondary stakeholders with distinct stake in the policy. A description of the different stakeholders and their respective mandates can be found in the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012.

4.2 Institutional Challenges for Policy Development

The challenges discussed in this section are general challenges for policy development and implementation in Grenada. They are also relevant for the implementation of this Policy. The Policy design attempts to address some of these challenges. Anticipating these challenges also should facilitate policy implementation.

● **Fragmented development and implementation of FNS policies/programmes.** Many of the FNS-related policies and programmes implemented by different stakeholders are implemented in isolation and do not yield optimal results nor create sustainable linkages between sectors and institutions. Thus, policy coherence and intersectoral coordination are critical

●**Absence of targets at the national level.** There is no national agreement on allocating a specific percentage of the national budget to food and nutrition security actions, while there are no established targets of what is to be achieved in a period of time.

●**Insufficient human resources, inadequate support structure and limited training opportunities.** The institutional staff capacity is limited, and few opportunities are offered to increase knowledge and address skill gaps of officers.

●**Ineffective inter-sectoral dialogue mechanism.** The National Food & Nutrition Security Steering Committee has not been reconstituted.

●**No existing monitoring and evaluation mechanism at the national level for the monitoring of regional policy commitments and linkages with national policies.** With such a mechanism in place, follow up on matters agreed at the level of Heads of Government will be more consistent to ensure that actions at national level take place at the agreed to time.

●**Inadequate financial resources to implement programmes and delays in disbursements of allocated funds.** Funding for food and nutrition security programmes is heavily dependent on local revenue. Shortfalls in local revenues have a direct adverse impact on programme implementation.

●**Underutilization of existing databases with land use information for national planning and the absence of Land Use Policy.** The Land Use Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries developed a National Geographical Spatial Data Infrastructure but lacks human and financial resources and institutional commitment to optimize its use. The data bases of the Grenada Land Information System and the Land Resources Information System have useful information on type of soil, land use patterns, etc. but the database is only updated every ten years due to staffing constraints. There is need to improve the Automated Land Evaluation System.

●**No formal evaluation of past programmes and policies.** Consequently, lessons learned are not identified and thus do not inform new initiatives.

●**Limited access to credit from private financial institutions.** Agricultural financing is viewed as a high risk transaction by private financial institutions due to the fact that production is susceptible to inconsistent weather patterns. Financing depends on public revenues.

●**Absence of national legislation on food and nutrition security.** There is need for the drafting of a Food and Nutrition Security bill to set the legal parameters for implementation of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Plan of Action, to formalize the institutional framework proposed here, and to link the food and nutrition security planning to the budgeting process.

4.3 Review of Existing Policies, Programmes and Treaties Associated With Food Security

The review of policies involves the assessing of the scope of the policy and the period of implementation and strategic areas of focus of the various Treaties. The following policies; programmes; and treaties associated to food and nutrition security are mentioned below and a brief description is given of each in Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012.

- Regional Food and Nutrition Plan, 1973
- The Food and Nutrition Policy and Plan of Action for Grenada, December 2007
- Food Security Strategic Plan for Grenada 2009
- Grenada Food Security Enhancement Programme 2010
- Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 14 October 2010
- The Grenada Market Access and Rural Enterprise Development Programme (MAREP) 2011-2017
- Grenada National Strategic Development Plan 2012-2017
- Grenada Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2012-2015 9 (Draft May 27, 2011)
- An Alternative Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy for Grenada 2012
- Grenada Investment Promotion Strategy 2012
- Treaties associated with Food Security

Grenada has ratified the following five Treaties:

- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ratified 22nd December, 1980
- International Plant Protection Convention (Accession in 1985)
- Cartagena Protocol on Bio safety (Ratified 5th May, 2004)
- Food and Agriculture Organization; and
- Codex Alimentarius

In addition Grenada has ratified several international human rights covenants and agreements that have relevance for the protection and realization of the right to food. These are:-

- International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Convention of Civil and Political Rights
- American Convention of Human Rights

Grenada is presently not a signatory Party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It is recommended that Grenada becomes party to this Treaty since the country is already a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity provides a framework for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources, but does not address the particular problems associated with Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture was negotiated in order to address the special problems associated with PGRFA. It was adopted by the FAO Conference in November 2001 and came into force on 29th June, 2004. The Treaty provides, in particular, for the establishment of a Multilateral System - as opposed to the implementation through bilateral negotiations - of access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources of the major crops of most importance for food security and on which countries are most interdependent.

4.3.1 Policy Gaps and Areas of Intervention

The Government of Grenada made a pronouncement of the building of a ***New Economy*** with the following key elements:-

- Fiscal sustainability
- Debt sustainability – which will require debt restructuring;
- Smaller government
- Private sector - with a strategic role
- Technical and vocational education and training
- Life-long learning and high wage employment
- Innovation and knowledge
- Information and Communication Technology – applied to all aspects of development
- World class service industry especially in tourism
- Green business industries and lifestyles
- Sustainable development
- Developing Agriculture along the value chain
- Efficient light manufacturing sector
- Dynamic Export sectors
- Oil, gas and renewable energy sectors

Based on the above, there are seven strategic sectors, namely ICT, Tourism, Agriculture, Education, Trade, Manufacturing and Oil, Gas and Renewable Energy.

The identification of these seven sectors as strategic components of the ***New Economy*** for the development agenda of Grenada is an important step as this will inform the initiatives to realize the main outcomes of the New Economy, i.e. **economic growth, competitiveness and job creation.**

The economic challenges are little or no economic growth, high unemployment, high debt and the debt overhang is a binding constraint on growth. To ensure the achievement of the strategic outcomes of the ***New Economy***, intervention is required in the following areas:-

- Development of a strategic policy framework for all strategic sectors, especially Agriculture;
- Compilation of data regarding the level of contribution of the sectors to the national economy to facilitate economic planning and forecasting;
- Accountability mechanisms for Managers in the Public Service to report on results/outputs and outcomes of the implementation of programmes;
- Effective inter-agency collaboration with the aim to realize policy coherence and implementation and as such realize savings;
- Capacity building of human resource; and
- Integrated management information system to support programmes relative to food and nutrition.

5. THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY OF GRENADA 2013

5.1 Policy Vision and Mission

The Government of Grenada has traditionally vested in the Ministry of Agriculture the responsibility for food security. This is evidenced in the Ministry's Mission Statement \: **"To facilitate national food security and the increase in economic returns from the agricultural sector through the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and the provision of quality services and products"**.

The **vision of Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy** is to fully recognize the Right to Food and to ensure that all Grenadians, at all times, have physical, economic, and social access to safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable, and affordable food in sufficient quantities to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

The **mission of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy** is to promote sustainable and permanent food availability, food accessibility, food utilization/nutrition adequacy, and stability food supply for all Grenadians through integrated and well-coordinated multi-sectoral measures/initiatives at all levels of the Government and through the active involvement of civil society and the private sector.

5.2 Policy Statements, Goals and Objectives

The policy statements, goals and objectives for the four dimensions of food and nutrition security take into consideration a fully holistic approach to achieving food and nutrition security in Grenada. Areas of priority actions have been identified to promote the achievement of each policy objective. These priority areas are taken up again in the Plan of Action to Implement the Policy. The time frame for the implementation of priority areas of action are presented as **short term** (2013 - 2015); **medium term** (2016 - 2018) and **long term**, beyond 2018 in line with Government's budgetary cycle.

5.2.1 Food Availability

Policy Statement: The Government of Grenada in conjunction with the farming and fishing communities will create the enabling environment to facilitate the provision of sufficient nutritious foods at affordable prices to all persons in Grenada at all times

Policy Goal 1: Conserve the natural resources and meet the challenges of a changing climate.

Objective 1: Increase the sustainable use of domestic production resources for food production (land, marine resources, water, forests)

Strategic Areas of Action

- Develop, implement and enforce sustainable agricultural land protection and development, plant genetic, marine & coastal resources, and forestry conservation and management policies
- Provide support for the Grenada National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan
- Provide support for the implementation of the Grenada Bio-safety framework
- Provide support for the commercial and sustainable development of the Government Estates to produce agricultural products for the domestic market, agro-processing and export;
- Establish a land bank of agricultural lands that are currently uncultivated or under-utilized
- Introduce a system of taxation of underutilized agricultural lands and tax credits for cultivated lands
- Research, develop, and facilitate adoption of sustainable crop production and protection systems, including the enhanced application of integrated pest management, efficient use of soil amendments, soil and water conservation measures, increased use of irrigation, and new stress-resistant and pest-resistant crop varieties.
- Research, develop, and facilitate adoption of sustainable fisheries systems

Policy Goal 2: Position our domestic agriculture to be innovative, competitive and value added driven to contribute to food and nutrition security in Grenada

Objective 2: Increase the contribution of domestic agriculture to national food and nutrition security.

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Develop a strategy to increase youth participation in agricultural production
- Facilitate the introduction and adoption of technologies that protect the resource base, increase productivity and enhance competitiveness;
- Prioritize and promote key products for domestic and export markets
- Promote and facilitate investment in product development and marketing
- Adopt a value chain approach to the development of agricultural and agri-food enterprises for food security;

-Promote actions to mitigate and reduce the incidence of praedial larceny

Objective 3: Develop greater entrepreneurship and economies of scale among small scale producers

Strategic Areas of Action

- Do and regularly update cost of production estimates for key agricultural and agri-food products to assist producers in identifying opportunities for cost reduction and improving profitability
- Encourage small scale producers to organize themselves into cooperatives, or producer organizations to facilitate consolidation of offer, procurement of inputs, more effective marketing, access to support services, etc.
- Build capacity in the area of agri-business management

Objective 4: Increase the production, productivity and competitiveness of domestic agribusiness enterprises

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Provide support for farmers and fishers to enhance the use of improved technology in their production practices
- Develop crop, livestock and fish production systems using sustainable technologies

Policy Goal 3: Ensure that available food is safe and of good quality at all times.

Objective 5: Establish mechanisms to encourage and facilitate safe and nutritious foods along the food chain

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Engage the state, producers, the private sector, civil society and international donor agencies in discussions to review the relationship between trade, trade agreements and food and nutrition security in Grenada;
- Harmonize domestic and international food inspection and safety standards in a manner that maintain public health protection and facilitate fair trade practices;
- Establish the National Agriculture, Health and Food Safety Authority

-Enforce and strengthen food safety regulations

Policy Goal 4: Strengthen the national capacity to consistently secure an adequate supply of food

Objective 6: Strengthen regional collaboration for improved food trade

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Collaborate with regional stakeholders in the implementation of the actions recommended in the Regional FNS Policy particularly those related to regional marketing and transportation.
- Review CARICOM protocols and assess to what extent local businesses meet the stipulated requirements for trade incentive packages
- Strengthen the national capacity to benefit from the opportunities available under the WTO Aid-for-Trade and the EU EPA facilities

Objective 7: Establish strong inter-sectoral coordination between national trade policies and food and nutrition security interventions

Strategic Areas of Action

- Support for the implementation for the National Export Strategy, Grenada Nutmeg Strategy and Grenada Fisheries Policy and Action Plan
- Strengthen marketing, production and trade information gathering and exchange

Policy Goal 5: Increase domestic and export demand for local agricultural produce and products.

Objective 8: Strengthen domestic marketing capability through more effective marketing and efficient marketing systems

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Provide increased state support for market research and analysis, market intelligence, market information, marketing infrastructure,
- Provide support for product development
- Promote domestic and export marketing activities with stakeholders

5.2.2 Food Access

Policy Statement: The Government of Grenada will create appropriate mechanisms that guarantee food and nutrition security for all, especially the vulnerable population, so that they will effectively enjoy their right to food at all times.

Policy Goal 1: Ensure adequate access to safe, nutritious, culturally acceptable, and affordable food for all, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups.

Objective 1: Increase the access to food among food insecure and vulnerable groups as identified in the GFNS Policy, in order to achieve their right to food

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Develop a comprehensive approach on the right to food and its applicability to all persons, including vulnerable groups
- Establish mechanisms to cushion inflation of food prices on basic food items;
- Strengthen the mechanism that will more readily identify the vulnerable groups who are at risk for food and nutrition insecurity
- Strengthen employment opportunities, especially groups at high risk for unemployment' and 'underemployment' to reduce vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity
- Increase entrepreneurial skills among vulnerable groups that will improve their food and nutrition security
- Strengthen the targeting efficiency of food access programmes and other related initiatives among vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen the linkages between health, water and sanitation services and food and nutrition interventions especially for vulnerable groups.

Objective 2: Improve the capacity of food insecure and vulnerable groups at the community level to address their food and nutrition security needs by focusing on initiatives that promote participation and empowerment

Strategic Areas of Action

- Establish mechanisms to empower communities to participate effectively in food and nutrition security initiatives
- Increase the collaboration with the implementers of the Social Safety Net Protection Policy Framework

5.2.3 Food Utilization and Nutritional Adequacy

Policy Statement: The Government of Grenada will promote the consumption of good quality and affordable food in adequate amounts to meet nutritional requirements throughout the life cycle of all

Policy Goal 1: Improve the nutritional status of all, with emphasis on those suffering from malnutrition.

Objective 1: Achieve widespread adherence to World Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) guidelines for infant and young child feeding

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Promote Breast feeding and complementary foods that are nutrient dense and iron rich
- Re-establish Baby-friendly initiative in all hospitals

Objective2: Achieve widespread adherence to WHO/PAHO guidelines on feeding for young children and teens (3-18 years)

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Develop and implement National School Healthy Lifestyle Policy using the WHO school policy Framework
- Build capacity at institutions, schools and day care centres
- Intensify awareness and public education programmes for parents and food vendors

Objective 3: Reduce the prevalence of obesity and the associated health consequences

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Promote healthy food choices and appropriate methods of preparation to preserve nutrients
- Promote the benefits of locally produced foods
- Promote the food base dietary guidelines

- Encourage and support physical activity in line with the National Policy on Sports and Physical Activity

Objective 4: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of nutrition interventions through better targeting

Strategic Area of Action:

- Institute a coordination mechanism for data collection and analysis
- Implement procedures for collation of surveillance data between Grenada Food and Nutrition Council (GFNC) and Ministry of Health (MOH) to identify those at risk for nutrition related diseases and monitor the nutritional status of the population.

Objective 5: Policy makers act based on knowledge and understanding of the detrimental effects of nutritional related diseases and the benefits for society and the population of appropriate interventions

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Create knowledge base for transmission to policy makers
- Create a platform for continuous dialogue with policy makers

Objective 6: Change food consumption patterns and align them with national population dietary goals

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Develop National dietary goals
- Conduct public education on the importance of the National Dietary Goals emphasizing education of school aged children (3-18 years old)

5.2.4 Stability in Food Supplies and Access

Policy Statement: The Government of Grenada will strengthen food production systems to build resilience to the threats of natural and manmade hazard events and climate change

Policy Goal 1: Resilient food production systems

Objective 1: Build resilience in domestic food production systems to man-made and natural risks to food security including climate change

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Promote Rain water harvesting and storage and effective drainage measures
- Adopt appropriate cropping systems
- Promote capacity building in climate change adaptation
- Monitoring and mapping of changes in rainfall patterns and distribution
- Develop an Early Warning System to inform farmers of changes in rainfall patterns and adjustments in planting seasons

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of farm enterprises that have adapted to climate variability and change

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Conduct research on crop varieties and planting methods resilient to flood, high winds, drought and high temperatures
- Make research findings available to farmers through government extension service

Policy Goal 2: Adoption of sustainable management practices in food production systems

Objective 3: Promote sustainability of the use and management of the land and marine resources

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Promote soil and water conservation
- Implement sustainable fisheries management practices
- Implement sustainable forestry management practices
- Implement sustainable agricultural management practices

Objective 4: Promote sustainable traditional cultural practices and use of natural products

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Implement environmentally friendly pest and disease control programmes

- Increase the use of composting and manure
- Increase the availability of indigenous chicken

Policy Goal 3: Effectively mitigate against risks caused by natural disasters and economic shocks

Objective 5: Mitigate against livelihood losses of food insecure and vulnerable households

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Promote the revival of traditional food preservation measures at the household level
- Build capacity in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures
- Establish mechanisms for continuous dialogue on food and nutrition security, agricultural and fishing development and climate variability changes.
- Mainstream climate change and DRM issues in national, sectoral and community based planning processes
- Introduce risk transfer instruments such as insurance to include small and micro farming and fisheries enterprises
- Strengthen the resilience of vulnerable households to mitigate against livelihood losses

5.2.5 Institutional Framework

***Policy Statement:* The Government of Grenada will establish and implement legislative frameworks which provide clear mandates and institutional responsibilities relevant to food and nutrition security**

Policy Goal 1: Institutions have the capacity (material, human, technical) to enforce the regulations and statutory orders relative to food and nutrition security

Objective 1: Have in place an effective institutional framework for multi-sectoral policy implementation

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Enactment of a Food and Nutrition Security Bill
- Establish the Food and Nutrition Security Commission and Secretariat
- Ensure the effective operation of the Commission
- Accede and/or ratify any future Treaties associated with Food and Nutrition Security
- Amend existing food and nutrition security regulations in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Nutrition Security Act.
- Research on existing Treaties and Conventions associated with food and nutrition security and the right to food
- Create cabinet and/or parliamentary sub-committees to synchronize actions on food and nutrition security

Policy Goal 2: Resources adequately mobilized to facilitate the implementation of projects and programmes relative to Food and Nutrition Security

Objective 2: Have in place a resource mobilization plan for the short, medium and long term

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Conduct research on sources of financing and respective conditionalities (if any);
- Design a Management plan including the management of risks for existing resources (land, capital, technical, human resources, financial, energy, database);
- Mainstream food and nutrition security goals, objectives, and strategies into national development plans and sector plans
- Build capacity in areas related to the project cycle
- Develop and implement innovative financial instruments for the Commission and stakeholders

Policy Goal 3: Have mechanisms of social dialogue in place to effectively communicate and discuss strategic information relevant to all stakeholders, including public at large.

Objective 3: Increase public participation in the policy making process

Strategic Areas of Action:

- Optimize the use of the broadcast schedule and the print media to feature public education messages relative to food and nutrition security
- Develop and conduct public education programmes
- Optimise the use of social networks to communicate information

6. CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Guiding Principles for Policy Implementation

The cross sectoral and multi-dimensional nature of Food and Nutrition Security is recognized. The financial constraint of the Government is also recognized. Given those two considerations the preferred option for providing leadership to the implementation process is vested in a Commission and its Secretariat as defined earlier.

The following principles will guide the implementation process of this Policy:

1. Every person has the right to adequate food and good nutrition and to a standard of living conducive to an active and healthy lifestyle
2. Interventions are based on situational analysis that is consistent with the priority areas that target the vulnerable households, especially the resource poor
3. Implementation of measures designed to attain the overall goals and objectives of the Policy are further defined by the Commission and its Secretariat
4. Implementation of the Policy will be in full coordination with all relevant sectors, policies and strategies focusing on measures not adequately covered in those policies in order to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability and malnutrition particularly among the most affected population group
5. While the Commission and its Secretariat are charged with the implementation of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan, special efforts should be made to strengthen public-private partnership to achieve common goals and to strengthen the capacity of civil society and the private commercial sector to contribute to food and nutrition security for all Grenadians, in ways that fully respect all human rights

6. Implementation measures will be consistent with pro-poor strategies and should focus on providing social protection for vulnerable population groups through food and non-food safety net programmes; and finally
7. Policy implementation will be guided by human rights principles that include:-
 - a. Full respect for human dignity and the rule of law
 - b. Accountability by all public institutions for performance and use of public resources
 - c. Complete absence of discrimination on any grounds
 - d. Transparency in decision making and public resource allocation
 - e. Due concern for equity in resource allocations and for equitable outcomes of policy measures giving the highest priority to the food and nutrition security problems faced by the vulnerable population groups as identified in the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Situation Analysis 2012
 - f. Effective and equal participation in decision making processes and empowerment of the identified vulnerable groups
 - g. All actions implemented under this policy will be free from child labour, recognize the principle of fair compensation and be gender sensitive

6.2 Policy Coordination and Coherence

Policy coordination and coherence in this context means that all relevant line Ministries and Departments and other stakeholders will align their policies and action plans with the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Plan of Action to Implement the Policy and ensure that actions at the operational level as well as at the management and strategic level support effective implementation of the proposed Food and Nutrition Security Act 2013.

In addition, all stakeholders will establish protocols, processes and monitoring and evaluation arrangements so as to avoid or minimize duplication, overlapping and inconsistency of government policies, while promoting a comprehensive and coherent sector wide or whole of government perspective.

It is envisaged that to realize policy coordination and coherence a bottom-up approach in the policy making process will be encouraged. This means that common policy papers by inter-ministerial working groups should inform the policy making process at the management and strategic level and cross-sectoral programmes/projects be implemented. As such, synergy between the horizontal and the vertical policy actions will be realized.

6.3 Institutional Framework for Food and Nutrition Security

The Government of Grenada has previously recognized that to achieve long term food and nutrition security requires a holistic approach. The challenge of food security being multi sectoral and multi-dimensional was acknowledged by the Cabinet of Ministers, as an area for strategic focus because food and nutrition security is critical for sustainable social and economic development. In that connection, Cabinet gave approval for the establishment of a National Food Security Committee on 18th August, 2008 with membership of representatives of the following institutions and organizations:

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Youth Empowerment and Sports
- Ministry of Social Development
- Marketing and National Importing Board
- Grenada Food and Nutrition Council
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Farmers Association
- Private Sector; and
- Food Security Programme Manager, Ministry of Agriculture

The responsibilities of the National Food Security Committee were defined as follows:-

- Develop a comprehensive, coherent national plan for improving the Nation's food security;
- Monitor the progress of the plan;
- Ensure co-ordination, collaboration and coherence of activities; and
- Set targets for purposes of monitoring and evaluating the performance of the plan, it's implementing components and personnel.

The Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan 2012-2026 recommends that a "***national institution be vested with statutory powers to direct action effectively across sectors***". At a stakeholders meeting held on November 22, 2012, a consensus was reached that the establishment of a Food and Nutrition Security Commission with a Secretariat will be a feasible option for Grenada.

6.4 Food and Nutrition Security Commission

The proposed mandate for the Food and Nutrition Security Commission in Grenada will be as is proposed in the CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2012-2026, i.e. "***to ensure that the sectors responsible for food production, importation, distribution and trade and food crisis management fulfill their tasks that contribute to food and nutrition security***".

The Commission will prepare annually the State of Food and Nutrition Security Report to be laid in the Houses of Parliament. The proposed terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:

- a) Monitor and evaluate the impacts and implementation of the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Plan of Action to Implement the Policy.
- b) Monitor the progressive realization of the right to food in Grenada, guided by the provisions of the proposed Food and Nutrition Security Act;
- c) Inquire into complaints;
- d) Recommend interventions to improve the implementation of the policy and action plan;
- e) Issue guidelines for training and capacity building and performance management relative to the policy and action plan;
- f) Prepare annual progress reports to be laid before the Houses of Parliament

6.5 Food and Nutrition Security Secretariat of the Commission

The roles and responsibilities that are envisaged for the Secretariat to the Commission are as follows:

- a) Oversee and coordinate the implementation of the decisions of the Commission;
- b) Recommend and offer advice on the actions to be taken by the Commission;
- c) Make arrangements for periodical evaluations of the Policy and Action Plan;
- d) On behalf of the Commission, establish and maintain relationships with international and national institutions that have responsibility for addressing food and nutrition security matters; and
- e) Do such other things as may be necessary for the carrying out of the functions of the Commission;
- f) Coordinate activities towards the implementation of food and nutrition security interventions and policies through various Ministries and organizations;
- g) Ensure mainstreaming of food and nutrition security matters in the budget plans of all key Ministries in line with the Plan of Action to Implement the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy;
- h) Compile and review food and nutrition security work plans and budget proposals;
- i) Monitor the food and nutrition security situation and evaluate progress and report to the Commission on a quarterly basis;
- j) Initiate, undertake and participate in the collection, preparation, production and dissemination of data and information on food and nutrition security;
- k) Facilitate capacity building activities at various levels of implementation to promote understanding and adherence to right to food principles;
- l) Perform any other duties as the Commission may direct.

The proposed composition of the staff of the Secretariat is as follows:

- One Coordinator or Head of Division (with background in Administration, Strategic Planning and Policy Formulation) - Grade J
- One Technical Officer with a background in Public Health (Health and Nutrition) – Grade I
- One Technical Officer with a background in Agriculture - Grade I
- One Technical Officer with a background in M&E/Statistics - Grade I
- One Communication Officer – Grade I
- Support staff

Staffing of the Commission’s Secretariat will be considered through secondments from regional/international organizations and transfers from existing Ministries/Departments.

6.6 Stakeholder Participation

There will be stakeholder participation at all phases of action planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Secretariat of the Commission will be charged with facilitation of stakeholder participation and with keeping all stakeholders fully informed about the implementation of the Policy and the Plan of Action to Implement the Policy.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE POLICY

Monitoring and evaluation activities will be designed and implemented to measure the impacts of the Policy in line with the stated goals and policy objectives. Achievement of targets and of the implementation process as defined in the Plan of Action to Implement the Grenada Food and Nutrition Security Policy will also be monitored. The design and implementation of M&E activities are to be guided by the same implementation principles as identified in the Policy and Action Plan. Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework and action plan will be the responsibility of the Secretariat to the Food and Nutrition Security Commission. The M&E framework will be consistent with the policy indicators and targets as set forth in the Plan of Action. It is considered highly useful to establish, wherever appropriate, intermediate benchmarks in relation to the specified targets, especially when it concerns medium to longer term targets. The M&E action plan should include a Food and Nutrition Security Information System for monitoring and evaluation and for early warning of shocks to food and nutrition security. The food and nutrition security information system will include information on trends, particularly with respect to the food and nutrition security status of food insecure and malnourished population groups as identified in the Policy.

Line ministries should measure the programmes and projects that are part of their mandates as established by the Policy. In this regard, the Food and Nutrition Security Commission will receive periodic reports from line ministries, in a format that previously will be agreed upon. It

is highly recommended that the Commission prepare an updated State of Food and Nutrition Security report by November of each year to be tabled in the first session of Parliament the following year. This report will be widely disseminated to all stakeholders.

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