SEYCHELLES AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ACT, 2026

(Act 15 of 2026)

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SEYCHELLES AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ACT, 2026

(Act 15 of 2026)

I assent

Dr. Patrick Herminie
President

7th October, 2026

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEYCHELLES AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY; FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PRODUCTION; FOR THE SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL MODERNISATION AND INNOVATION; FOR THE OPTIMISATION OF THE USE OF NATIONAL RESOURCES; TO PROVIDE THE FOSTERING OF ECONOMIC GROWTH; FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTALTHERETO.

ENACTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Seychelles Agriculture Development Agency Act, 2026.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

"Agency" means the Seychelles Agriculture Development Agency established under section 3;

"agriculture" means crop production, livestock production, agro-processing and other agricultural activities;

"agricultural enterprises" means persons whose activities are the growing and processing of agricultural and related products, livestock production and the provision of related services;

"agriculture inputs" means the supplies needed for crop production and rearing of livestock leading to the production of agricultural products, and includes fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, animal feed, veterinary medicine, machinery, equipment and irrigation fittings;

"agricultural statistics" means officially compiled data pertaining the agriculture sector, usually aggregated and published for planning and policy purposes;

"applied agricultural research" means practical research undertaken to improve agricultural productivity, sustainability and resilience;

"Chief Executive Officer" means the Chief Executive Officer appointed under section 6;

"Extension Services" means advisory, technical assistance, training, information, and knowledge transfer services provided to farmers and agricultural enterprises to improve agricultural production, productivity, and sustainability;

"farmer" means a person engaged in any agricultural enterprise;

"genetic resources" means plant and animal genetic materials used for food and agriculture including the indigenous crop varieties and livestock breeds;

"integrated pest management system" means an ecosystem based strategy focusing on long-term pest prevention through a combination of biological control, habitat manipulation, cultural practice modification, reduction in use of harmful pesticides, and use of resistant varieties;

"market intelligence" means the systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of information on agricultural markets, including information on prices, demand, supply, market trends, and trade opportunities, to support informed decision-making;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for agriculture;

"ministry" means the ministry responsible for agriculture;

"prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made under this Act; and

"Standard Scale" means the standard scale of fines for offences established under the Criminal Offences (Standard Scale of Fines) Act, 2021.

PART 2 - SEYCHELLES AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Establishment of Agency

3.(1) There is hereby established the Seychelles Agriculture Development Agency.

(2) The Agency shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue or be sued in its corporate name.

Objects of Agency

4. The objectives of the Agency shall be to implement the agrarian policy by —

(a) strengthening national food security through the promotion of sustainable domestic agricultural production;

(b) strengthening the agricultural production systems and agricultural enterprises;

(c) advancing the modernisation, innovation, and long-term development of the agricultural sector;

(d) ensuring the efficient, prudent, and sustainable utilisation of national resources; and

(e) promoting economic growth, resilience, and national prosperity through the sustainable development of agriculture.

Powers of the Agency

5. The powers of the Agency shall be to —

(a) enter into contracts and agreements necessary for the performance of its functions;

(b) acquire, hold, manage, lease and dispose of property, subject to applicable government laws and procedures;

(c) develop, operate and manage agricultural facilities, including farms, agricultural centres, markets, storage facilities, irrigation systems and other infrastructure entrusted to it;

(d) charge fees and other appropriate charges for services, facilities or activities provided by the Agency, subject to regulations or approval requirements;

(e) provide grants, incentives or other forms of support to farmers, where authorised by the Minister or provided for under regulations or an approved program or scheme.

(f) enter into partnerships and joint ventures with public bodies, private-sector entities, farmers' organisations and development partners;

(g) employ staff, consultants and technical experts necessary for the effective performance of its functions;

(h) undertake or commission research, studies, surveys and assessments relevant to agricultural development;

(i) establish and implement programs and schemes within its statutory mandate;

(j) receive grants, donations and other lawful contributions, subject to government financial-management requirements;

(k) borrow or raise funds, only where specifically authorised and subject to the Public Finance Management Act and other applicable legislation;

(l) establish ad hoc committees as it considers necessary to assist in the performance of its functions, and to determine the composition, terms of Reference and duration of such committees;

(m) establish, support, facilitate and implement programs, schemes, projects and other initiatives for the diversification of agricultural production, and to provide technical or other forms of support for the development of new and alternative agricultural enterprises, including apiculture and beekeeping-related activities and the production of high-value, climate-resilient and locally adapted crops; and

(n) issue permits and authorisations in accordance with any written law governing livestock-related activities.

Functions of the Agency

6. The functions of the Agency shall be to —

(a) establish, operate and coordinate a national agricultural extension service to provide technical guidance, training and other extension services, including through practical demonstrations, to farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, cooperatives and agricultural enterprises;

(b) promote, develop and facilitate the adoption of good agricultural practices, climate-smart and resilient farming systems, sustainable soil and land management practices, integrated pest management system, improved agricultural technologies, innovations and value-added production systems;

(c) conduct, support and coordinate applied agricultural research, including breeding, genetic improvement, field trials and demonstration projects relating to crop and livestock development, productivity, resilience and sustainable farming systems, including through collaboration with national, regional and international research institutions;

(d) conserve, maintain and promote the sustainable utilisation of agricultural genetic resources, including indigenous crop varieties, livestock breeds and, germplasm collections;

(e) collect, maintain, analyse and disseminate agricultural statistics, data and market intelligence, including information relating to agricultural production, supply, pricing, land use and market trends;

(f) identify and facilitate domestic, regional and international market opportunities for agricultural products;

(g) promote and facilitate the development of agricultural value chains, product diversification, value addition and linkages between the farmers, processors, distributors and buyers;

(h) provide, in collaboration with relevant authorities and institutions, technical guidance and support to farmers on agricultural land use, land suitability, farm infrastructure, irrigation, drainage systems, agricultural planning and sustainable land utilisation;

(i) facilitate and support access by farmers, agricultural enterprises and cooperatives to agricultural credit, financing mechanisms, agricultural inputs, technical support services and agricultural development programmes;

(j) actively protect land designated for agrarian purposes to ensure the stock of agrarian land is not lost to other competing interest;

(k) establish, keep and maintain an up-to-date register of registered farmers, agricultural entities, and market vendors operating at the Victoria Market, and to provide the information, registration requirements and procedures necessary for the effective administration and management of such registers;

(l) collaborate with public institutions, private sector entities, farmers' organisations and international partners involved in agricultural development; perform such other functions as may be prescribed by this Act or any other written law, or as may be necessary or expedient for the attainment of the objects of the Agency; and

(m) perform such other functions as may be conferred upon it by the Minister.

PART 3 - APPOINTMENTS OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF OF AGENCY

Chief Executive Officer

7.(1) The President shall, in consultation with the Minister appoint, on such terms and condition in accordance with the Government's remuneration policy, a person having experience and expertise in the field of agriculture as Chief Executive Officer of the Agency.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the head of the Agency and subject to the direction of the Minister —

(a) shall be responsible for the implementation of the objects and functions of the Agency;

(b) shall ensure that the Agency performs its functions within Government's policy framework on agriculture;

(c) delegate any functions of his or her to any employee of the Agency; and

(d) perform such other functions as the Minister may, from time to time, assign.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer may sign documents on behalf of the Agency.

(4) The salaries, allowances, benefits and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Executive Officer shall be determined by the Government's remuneration policy.

(5) The Chief Executive Officer shall not, while holding the office of Chief Executive Officer, discharge the duties of any other office of emolument in the Republic.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

8.(1) There shall be a Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Agency who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Minister.

(2) The salaries, allowances, benefits and other terms and conditions of service of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall be determined by the Government's remuneration policy.

(3) (a) The Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall act in the office of the Chief Executive Officer;

(i) during the vacancy in the office of the Chief Executive Officer;

(ii) during any period in which the Chief Executive Officer is absent from duty for any reason or is unable to perform the functions of that office;

(b) The Deputy Chief Executive Officer shall perform such other functions as the Chief Executive Officer may delegate.

Staff of Agency

9. The Agency may employ such persons as are necessary for the Agency to perform its functions on such terms and conditions as it deems fit, taking into account the procedures applicable to employees of public bodies.

Conflict of interest

10. A member of staff of the Agency or an ad-hoc committee constituted pursuant to this Act, who has direct or indirect financial, personal or other interest in any matter which is to be discussed at a meeting of the Agency and which entails or may entail a conflict of interest, shall —

(a) disclose the nature of such interest before or at a meeting of the Agency; and

(b) not take part in any deliberation or decision in respect of that matter or vote thereon.

PART 4 - FUNDS, FINANCES, ACCOUNTS, AUDIT AND REPORT

Funds of Agency

11.(1) The funds of the Agency shall consist of —

(a) such moneys as may be appropriated by the National Assembly under an Appropriation Act for its purposes;

(b) the moneys received by the Agency by way of donations, gifts or grants from any legal source whether domestic or foreign; and

(c) such sums as may accrue to the Agency from the conduct of its business under this Act, including all other sums, which may, in any manner become payable to the Agency in respect of any matter incidental to its functions.

(2) The funds of the Agency may be applied for —

(a) the expenses incurred by the Agency in the performance of its functions and for the administration and other expenses of the Agency; and

(b) the payment of remuneration and allowances of staff of the Agency and other allowances as may be prescribed.

Accounts, Audit and Reports

12.(1) The financial year of the Agency shall be the calendar year.

(2) The Agency shall after the expiration of each financial year and in any event not later than the 31st day of March in any year, submit to the Minister, and the Minister responsible for finance, an annual report dealing generally with the administration and its activities along with audits of accounts during its preceding year and the Minister shall cause the report to be laid before the National Assembly.

(3) The account of the Agency shall be audited by the Auditor-General in accordance with Article 158 of the Constitution.

(4) Where the accounts and the statement of accounts of the Agency in respect of a financial year have been audited, the Agency shall furnish, not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year, to the Minister and the Minister responsible for Finance, a copy of the statement together with a copy of any report by the Auditor-General on the statement of accounts or on the accounts of the Agency.

PART 5 - APPEALS

Appeals

13. A person aggrieved by a decision of the Agency under this Act may lodge an appeal to the Appeals Board established under section 132 of the Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act, 2014.

PART 6 - MISCELLANEOUS

Directions by Minister

14. The Minister may give written directions to the Agency on matters of policy, which the Agency shall implement.

Establishment of ad hoc committees

15. The Agency may, for performing its functions under this Act, establish such ad hoc committees as it deems necessary.

Application of provisions of Penal Code

16. The officers of the Agency or any other person acting under the direction of the Agency shall be deemed to be employed in the public service for the purpose of sections 91 to 96 of the Penal Code.

Register

17. The Agency shall establish and maintain a register of farmers and agricultural land, including other matters as may be expressly assigned to it under this Act or any other written law.

Protection for action taken in good faith

18. No action, prosecution or other proceedings shall be brought against the Agency, an officer or a member of staff thereof , in respect of an act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the proper discharge of functions or duties conferred upon them under this Act.

Confidentiality

19.(1) A person who is or has been a member of staff of the Agency, shall not disclose to any person information or document obtained in the exercise or performance of any function under this Act, except where such disclosure is authorised by the Minister or otherwise authorised under this Act or by any other written law.

(2) Any member of staff of the Agency or member of an ad-hoc committee who contravenes subsection (1), commits an offence and shall, on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 of the Standard Scale.

Regulations

20. The Minister may make regulations for carrying into effect the purpose and provisions of this Act.

Transitional provisions

21.(1) Notwithstanding any law, a person employed with the Ministry in the Department of Agriculture prior to the date of the commencement of this Act shall be deemed transferred to, and shall continue his or her employment with the Agency on terms and conditions not less favourable than those subsisting immediately prior to the date of the commencement of this Act until these are amended, varied or repealed in accordance with the Public Service Orders or any scheme of service applicable to employees of the Government, as the case may be.

(2) The Minister may, upon the enactment of the Act, by order transfer the required properties, assets, rights, interests, privileges, liabilities and obligations of the existing Agriculture Department to the service of the Agency.

(3) Where a question arises as to whether a particular property has been deemed to be transferred to or vested under subsection (2), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the property was or was not transferred or vested.

I certify that this is a correct copy of the Bill which was passed by the National Assembly on Wednesday 30th September, 2026.



Ms. Alexandria Faure
Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly