



Caribbean Unity in Health
LOVE THAT BODY

Update on new IDRC funded project
**Improving Household Nutrition Security
and Public Health in CARICOM (FaN)**

**Alafia Samuels on behalf of the FaN Research
Collaboration**

HCC Caribbean NCD Forum Supporting National Advocacy in
Lead up to the 2018 High Level Meeting on NCDs

April 23-25, 2018, Kingston, Jamaica

PROJECT OVERVIEW

FIRST ACTIVITIES

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Principal Investigator

Goal

- Promote the sustainable production, processing, distribution, preparation, sale and consumption of safe, affordable, nutritious, high-quality Caribbean food

Follow up from 2 previous IDRC-funded projects

- Evaluation of the CARICOM Heads of Government POS Declaration 2014-2017
- Farm to Fork: 2011-2014
 - Project website:
<https://www.mcgill.ca/globalfoodsecurity/research-initiatives/caricom-project>
 - piloted in four countries (Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts & Nevis)

Farm to Fork Approach - Core elements



Technology & Training

- Drip Irrigation/green house prod'n.
- Post harvest quality & food safety
- Forage conservation
- Environmental quality



Food Delivery Systems

- Produce procurement
- School Feeding program
 - Kitchen infrastructure & HACCP
 - Menu design , diet quality & meal acceptance
 - Personnel training



Gov't & Community Support

- Agriculture; Education; Health
- Community engagement (workshops and media)
- Regional partnerships

Objective
Improved
child
nutrition
and health



Agricultural technologies for diet diversity and quality



Drip irrigation



Drip + mulching



Protected agriculture



**Measuring & improving Post-harvest losses
(Penetrometer)**



**Forage (Mulato grass)
conservation for small
ruminants**

School Feeding Interventions and Outcomes



Lunch Menu Change

Menu	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cook-up” (Rice, Chicken, Carrots, Onions) • Sugary drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaghetti and Turkey • Sugary drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cook-up” • Sugary drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Soup • Sugary drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bread & Cheese • Sugary drink
Test Menu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curried Mutton • Steamed White Rice • Steamed Carrots & String Beans • Mixed Fresh fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oven Fried Chicken • Seasoned Sweet Potatoes • Tossed Salad (Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber) • Papaya / Banana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewed Turkey Wings • Rice and Pink Beans • Carrot & Raisin Salad • Watermelon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minced Meat in Tomato Sauce • Spaghetti w Mixed Vegetables • Lemonade/ Tamarind Drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetable Pizza • (sweet pepper, tomato, carrots, corn, onions) • Carrot- milk Drink

FaN Overall goal

1. Build a shared understanding amongst stakeholders of the complex adaptive systems driving local food production and consumption in English-speaking CARICOM states;
2. Implement coordinated packages of interventions within national food systems
 - that promote sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable groups, including rural populations and women, and combat obesity and diet-related NCDs.

Research question

- What are the most effective, gender-sensitive ways to improve food sovereignty, household food security, and nutrition in CARICOM states?

Aim

- To improve the quality and diversity of the diet
 - In 3 study countries (**Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and St Kitts and Nevis**)
- by engaging with stakeholders
 - in designing, implementing, and evaluating integrated packages of interventions that
- address key “leverage points” within their food systems
- disseminate the lessons learnt throughout CARICOM.

Specific Objectives

- A. Objectives for information collation to identify intervention components**
- B. Objectives to design and assess the intervention packages**

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A. Objectives for information collation to identify intervention components

Objective 1:

To describe, by gender, age and socio-economic group, the current nutritional NCD risks in children, women and men, and to investigate what factors influence their food sources and dietary patterns.

Objective 2:

To engage with stakeholders, undertake critical appraisals of available evidence and data, in order to understand how local food systems currently determine the dietary patterns of populations in the three study countries.

B. Objectives to design and assess the intervention packages

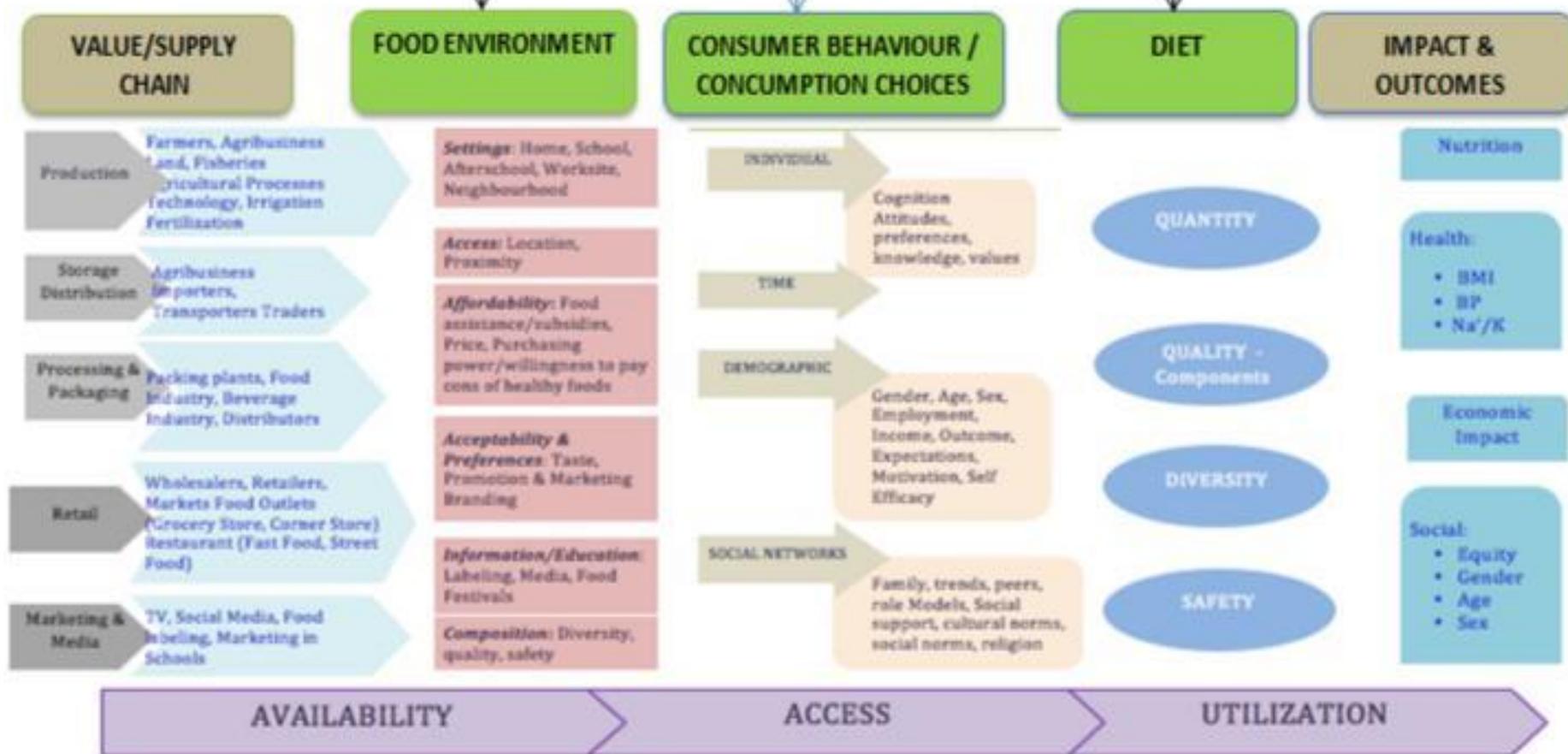
Objective 3:

Develop, implement and assess an integrated, adaptable and gender sensitive package of interventions that leverage local food systems to increase healthy eating and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Objective 4:

Work with public, private and civil society partners to expand project impact across the CARICOM region through innovative knowledge sharing, communications and policy action platforms.

Drivers



Inception Workshop



Decisions

- Governance:
 - Project Advisory Committee: high level oversight
 - SWAG: Steering and Working Group
 - Researchers and Collaborators
 - Country Teams (1 rep each)
 - Country Teams
 - Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture
 - Suggested membership and TORs to be recommended by the first SWAG meeting
 - Help with Ethics approval

First Activity

- Stakeholders interviews in July in the 3 countries
- To find out
 - How the food system works
 - Possible leverage points to improve healthy eating
- To be identified: names, contact information

Government: Chief Technical officers or nominees from Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Trade, Finance, Tourism

Civil Society: Consumers Association, Farmers Associations, Women's associations, Health associations

Private Sector: Farmers, Manufacturers Association, Food importers, Wholesalers, Distributors, Retailers, Bottling companies, Fast food – local chains, Supermarket chains, Small shopkeepers, Street vendors,

Second Activity

- 2 Stakeholders workshop
- SVG and SKN: 20th – 21st Nov 2018
- JAM
 - Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture
 - Stakeholders in the food system
 - Producers – farmers, importers, distributors, restaurateurs, shop-keepers, consumers, others
 - To review the food system
 - To recommend interventions to improve healthy eating

Research Partners and Collaborators

- UWI
 - George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre / Caribbean Institute for Health Research
 - Public Health Group, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill
 - Institute of Gender and Development Studies, Mona
 - HEU, Centre for Health Economics, St. Augustine
- University of Technology, Jamaica
- McGill University, Canada
- Cambridge University, UK
- Canadian International Development Research Centre
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation of UN
- IICA – Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- CARDI – Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute
- CARPHA - Caribbean Public Health Agency
- CARICOM Health Desk
- CARICOM Agriculture Desk
- Healthy Caribbean Coalition
- Pan American Health Organization
- Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture SKN, SVG, JAM

Community Food and Health: Project Overview

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University of Cambridge



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ORIENS EX OCCIDENTE LUX



The University of the
South Pacific



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



WITS
UNIVERSITY



Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (28 States)



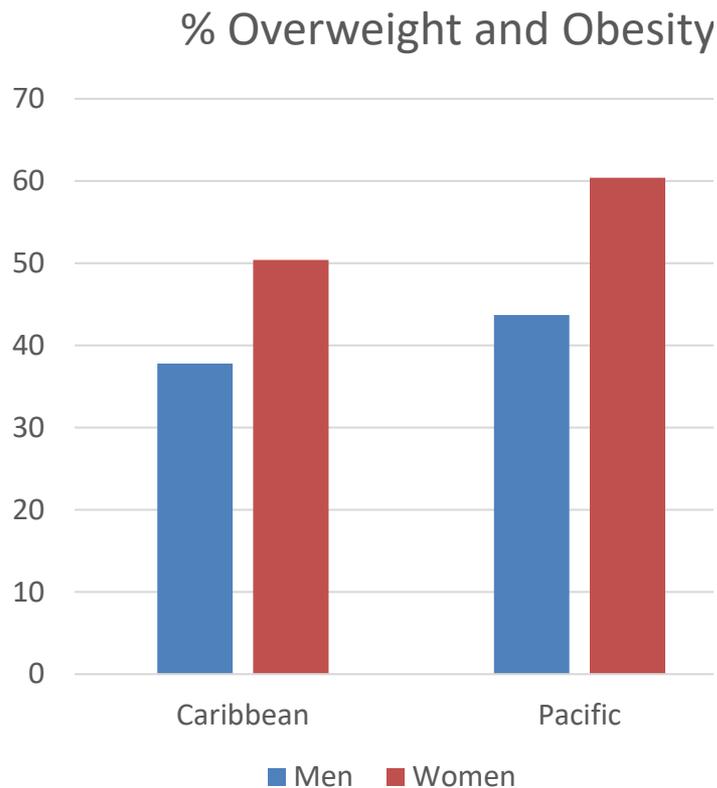
NON-UN MEMBERS/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS (20)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| American Samoa | Anguilla | Aruba |
| Bermuda | British Virgin Islands | Cayman Islands |
| Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands | Cook Islands | Curacao |
| Guam | French Polynesia | Guadeloupe |
| New Caledonia | Martinique | Montserrat |
| Sint Maarten | Niue | Puerto Rico |
| | Turks and Caicos Islands | U.S. Virgin Islands |

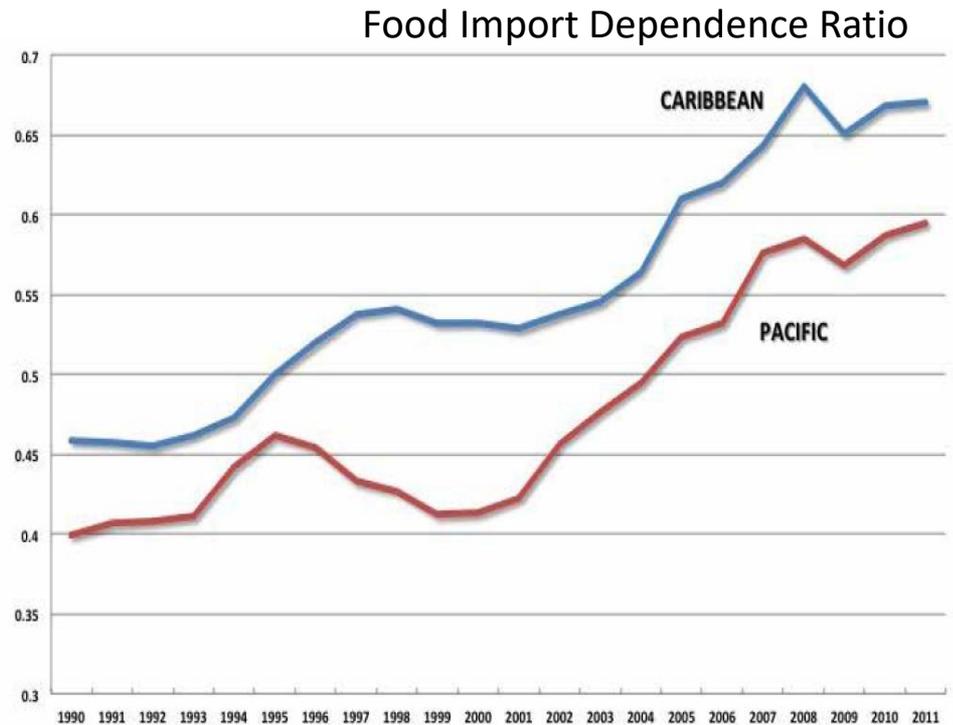
SIDS share similar vulnerabilities:

- Highly vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards
- Economically vulnerable, high reliance on tourism
- Nutritionally vulnerable, high levels of nutritionally related diseases

Link between food systems and high burden of NCDs in SIDS



Source: Global Burden of Disease Study 2014



Source: FAO 2016

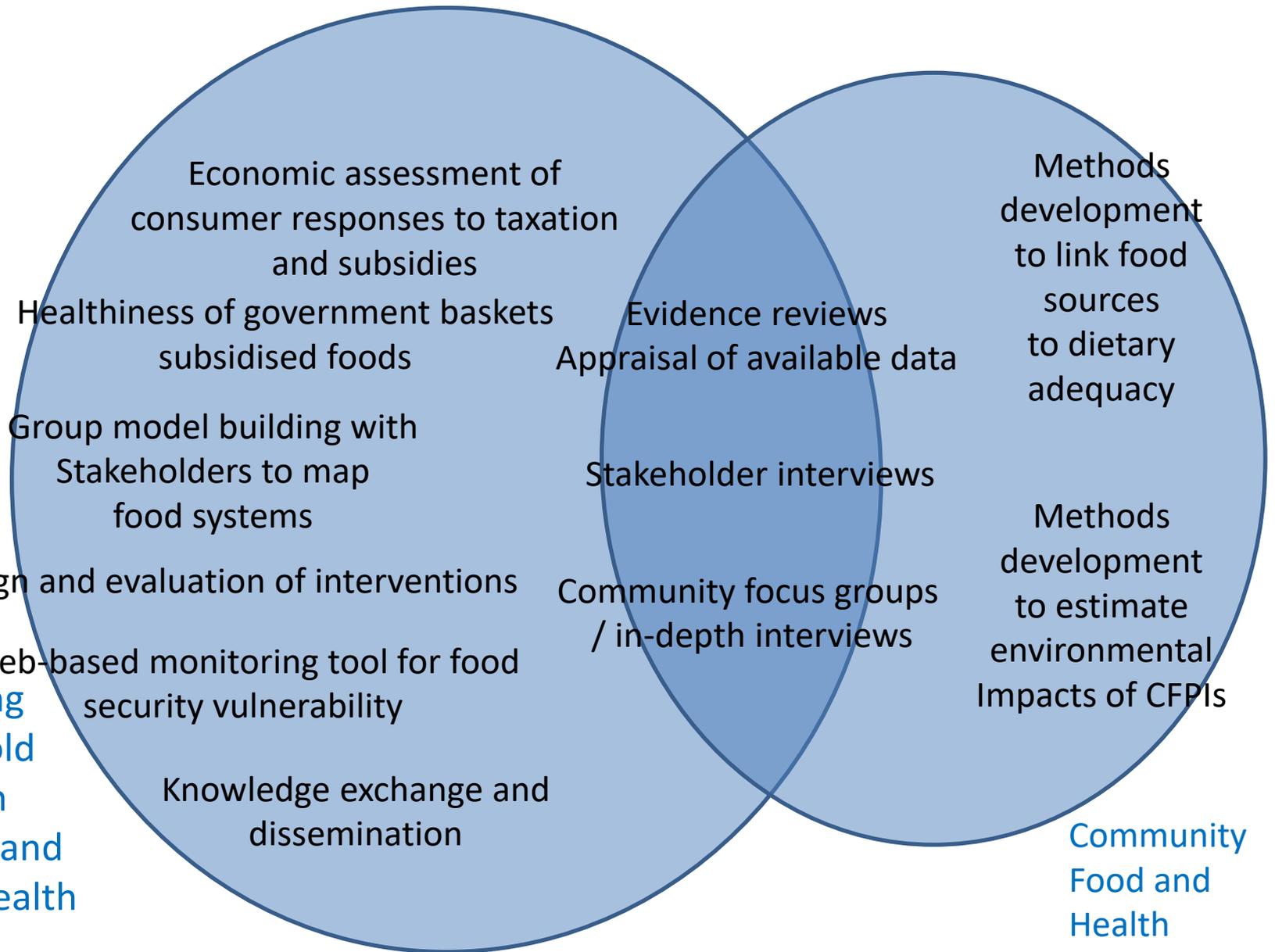
Project objectives (1)

- 1. To update and expand existing ***systematic evidence appraisals***
- 2. In **SVG and Fiji ...to develop and test methods** designed to answer:
 - What is the current nutritional adequacy of local diets, and the contribution of community-based food production initiatives (CFPIs)?
 - Who is involved in CFPIs.....and what economic and social benefits do they receive?
 - What are the environmental impacts of CFPIs?
- 3. ***To determine the major challenges and successes*** in establishing and sustaining one or more selected CFPIs

Project objectives (2)

- 4. To ***collate and integrate the findings*** from meeting objectives 1-3 in order to derive an evaluation framework and refine methods
- 5. To ***design a programme of work*** to robustly evaluate and compare CFPIs in the Caribbean, Pacific and Africa

Improving
Household
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in the
CARICOM



Thankyou

