



“Exploring barriers and opportunities for greater policy coherence in support of achieving the 25*25 targets and Sustainable Development Goals.”

“The Role of Agriculture in the Regional Focus on the Reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases.”

Presented at the HCC Caribbean NCD Forum
Supporting National Advocacy in the Lead up to the 2018 High Level Meeting
on Non-Communicable Diseases.

25th April, 2018

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Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Health

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The WHO has endorsed **9 voluntary targets** aimed at reducing premature death by NCDs by **25% by 2025**.

There must be a commitment to:

- High-level Political Commitment
- Unified Cross-Sector Government Action
- Active Stakeholder Engagement

Unhealthy Diets are identified as a one of four major risk factors of NCDs.

Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Health are inextricably linked.

The Caribbean Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy - ensure all aspects of the region's food chain, food safety and agricultural public health system remains capable of providing safe, adequate, nutritious and affordable food for the people of the region.



The policy advocates for a **sustainable nutrition-sensitive agriculture system**

Barriers to Greater Policy Coherence In Agriculture



Limited Supply in Domestic Agricultural Markets

- Low capacity of local food production systems in the region
- Uncoordinated and low integration of stakeholders along the value chain

High Cost of Production in Agricultural Industry

- Low economies of scale
- High factor inputs costs
- Lack of incentives targeted at promoting and sustaining production of specified commodities

Policy Encouraging Imports

- International Trade Policies which are disadvantages to the region, such as those which skewed to encourage trade liberalization and the importation of cheap processed foods.

Consumption Patterns and Preferences

- Nutrition is a cultural problem in the region due to the social dimension of consumption.
- Consumption patterns tend towards foreign sourced highly processed foods.

Inadequate Research and Data

- Limited research and data
- Weak information flows
- Poor inter-sectoral linkages

Opportunities for Greater Policy Coherence

Climate Resilient Agriculture

- There is an opportunity to incorporate health and nutrition in the regional effort to rebuild food production systems in the aftermath of natural disasters

Policy and Advocacy

- The use of evidence-based policy within the agricultural sector to address issues of health developing mutual metrics and cross-sector progress indicators
- Protect local industries, which serve to stimulate local supply and compel demand
- The active engagement of the Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster in advocating for a unified regional stance on health and agricultural issues

Legal Frameworks

- The use of 'Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger in LAC' as a mechanism to engage high-level government discourse against hunger and overnutrition.
- Develop legislation to support local inputs in food production.

Domestic Agricultural Opportunities

- Value chain approach incorporating innovative platforms
- The National School Feeding Programmes provides an opportunity for farmers to provide domestic foods for meal preparation.
- School and Backyard gardens promote healthy diets, and good agricultural practices.
- Create cross-sectoral linkages between the Agricultural and the Tourism Industries, as there exists a possible niche for local culinary experiences



Conclusion

- CARDI is committed to conducting research and development that seeks to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the regional agricultural sector.
- CARDI recognising the pivotal role of agriculture will continue to partner with the stakeholders and partners in addressing the control and prevention of NCDs.





Thank You and God Bless



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