FOOD SECURITY
BEFORE, DURING & AFTER
COVID-19

Fitzroy J. Henry
College of Health Sciences
University of Technology, Jamaica

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. FOOD SECURITY BEFORE COVID

2. FOOD SECURITY DURING COVID

3. FOOD SECURITY AFTER COVID

4. ANY LESSON TO LEARN?
DEFINITION
(World Food Summit, 1996)

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

• Implies stability of: - Availability, Accessibility & Consumption/Utilization
FOOD SECURITY BEFORE COVID
AVAILABILITY
IS JAMAICA FOOD SECURE?

Trend in Total Food Availability (Energy) vs Population Health
Goal - Jamaica

Kcal/caput/day

Local Imports Goal

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000

ACCESSIBILITY
Jamaica Food Price Index

Consumer Food Price Index (2010=100)

Year: 2000 to 2017

2000: 31.7
2017: 177.2
CAN THE POOR AFFORD A LOW-COST BALANCED DIET?

Low-Cost 2400 Kcal Basket as % of Minimum Wage - Jamaica

- Oct-18: 40.4%
- Apr-19: 42.9%
- Oct-19: 44.5%
CONSUMPTION
HUNGER BEFORE COVID - JAMAICA

- No hunger: 56%
- Mild Hunger: 23%
- Moderate Hunger: 14%
- Severe Hunger: 7%
SUMMARY OF FOOD SECURITY BEFORE COVID

• In 2019, the food import bill in Jamaica was approximately US$326 per person. Tourist consumption was only 6%.

• Imports are dominant in the health-retarding food groups such as sugar, food from animals, and fats and oils.

• Imports are not major contributors to the health-promoting food groups such as vegetables, legumes and fruits.

• The combined supply of fats and oils from imports and local sources was more than double the health goal.

• The sugar supply about 2.7 times in excess of the health goal.

• Food imports from CARICOM was small (rice, sugar).

• The dangerous health-retarding ultra-processed foods contributed 20% of the food import bill.
FOOD SECURITY DURING COVID
Diet Quality during COVID

- Excellent: 2%
- Good: 11%
- Neutral: 31%
- Not so good: 14%
- Poor: 42%
### HUNGER PREVALENCE - JAMAICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunger Level</th>
<th>BEFORE</th>
<th>DURING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Hunger</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>58.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild Hunger</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Hunger</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Hunger</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
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Mean HH Income fell by 26% from US$346 to US$255 per month
Cost of food continued to increase during COVID
40% experienced some form of hunger and 42% of them said it was moderate to severe
In 16%, diet was not good or poor
Severely affected: >>>> intake of fruits, veggies, fish, chicken & meats
FOOD SECURITY AFTER COVID
CARICOM FOOD PLAN - “25% by 25”

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CREDIT FACILITY – REPUBLIC BANK OF TT

- Development of priority crops
- Capital equipment for farming
  - Feeder roads
  - Bulk storage
  - Processing plants
- Shade house farming
MY QUESTION:
DOES A LOWER FOOD IMPORT BILL MEAN
MORE FOOD SECURITY?
MORE ACCESSIBILITY TO LOW
INCOME EARNERS?
MORE NUTRITIOUS FOODS TO
CHOOSE FROM?
GOING FORWARD

CREDIT FACILITY
PRODUCTION & MARKETING
LAND HUSBANDRY
ON-FARM IRRIGATION/WATER MANAGEMENT
POST HARVEST TECHNIQUES
PRAEDIAL LARCENY PROTECTION
AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
SOCIAL SERVICES/HOME ECONOMICS
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION
PLANT HEALTH/FOOD SAFETY
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

TOWARDS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY VIA HEALTHY FOOD POLICY