

Capacity-Building Workshop on Standards, Certification and Market Access for Barbadian Agri-Food Producers

Agenda

Dates	Tuesday 3 to Thursday 5 November 2026
Venue	Ministry of Agriculture conference room, Bridgetown, Barbados
Participants	Approximately 35, of whom at least half producers, producer organizations and small food processors
Format	Two days of workshop sessions and a third day of field visits. Hybrid: development partners and participants unable to travel join online
Language	English
Speakers	All speakers listed in this agenda are indicative
Register	The audience is mainly micro and small producers. Speakers are asked to present in plain language, to keep technical vocabulary to a minimum, and to take questions throughout their session

DAY 1 Tuesday 3 November | Market requirements, certification and available support

Time	Session	Speaker
08:30	<i>Registration and coffee</i>	
09:00	Welcoming remarks 30 minutes. Five minutes per speaker.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security FAO <i>UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean</i> ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean <i>Ms. Miosotis Rivas-Peña</i> <i>fao</i> Mr Santiago Fernández de Córdoba, UNCTAD <i>Senior Economist UN Trade and Development</i> To be confirmed
09:30	Introduction to the workshop: objectives and expected outcomes <i>10 minutes.</i> - Objectives of the workshop and expected outcomes - How the three days are organized, and practical arrangements	Ms Ashley Gaskin <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade</i> To be confirmed

Time	Session	Speaker
	• Introduction of the participants and of the institutions present • ...	
09:45	Session 1. Sustainability standards and market access: the global landscape and the Barbadian context <i>20 minutes.</i> • Why buyers and regulators increasingly require sustainability credentials • The convergence of public regulation and private buyer requirements • Work under way on interoperability, so that one certification can serve more than one market • The position of Barbados: import dependence, land under cultivation and intra-CARICOM sourcing • Products for which export potential has been identified • ... Q&A, 10 minutes at the end of the session	UNCTAD Barbados National Standards Institution To be confirmed
10:15	Ice breaker: participant consultation <i>15 minutes.</i> • Six short questions answered live by all participants, in the room and online • Profile of the room: what participants produce and which markets they supply • Participant estimates of the cost of certification, revisited at the close of the day • ...	Ms Lyne Kazan <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade</i> To be confirmed
10:30	<i>Coffee break, 30 minutes</i>	
11:00	Session 2. National priorities and the trade barriers facing Barbadian agri-food products <i>45 minutes.</i> • Ministry priorities for agricultural production and market readiness • Requirements that differ by destination market: pesticide residue limits, labelling, phytosanitary and veterinary certificates, import permits • Where each requirement is consulted, and which authority issues each document in Barbados • The export permit process, step by step • The same requirements applied to food entering Barbados • ... Q&A, 45 minutes: the export permit process walked through step by step, with questions from the floor taken throughout	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security To be confirmed Mr Ian Griffith, Officer-in-Charge, Plant Quarantine Unit, or an officer of the unit Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
12:30	<i>Lunch, 1 hour 15 minutes</i>	

Time	Session	Speaker
13:45	Session 3. Existing standards, compliance costs and benefits for agri-food enterprises <i>45 minutes.</i> • The common core required by almost every buyer: food safety management, traceability, good agricultural or manufacturing practice, and the documentation that supports them • The distinction between a legal requirement and a buyer requirement • What the certification process involves in practice, and what a producer has to pay for • Why certification costs more on a small island, and what can be shared between producers • Who certifies what in Barbados and in CARICOM • The business case: investment required, time to certification, expected price differential or additional volume, and the point at which the investment is recovered • ... Q&A, 30 minutes: questions from the floor, with one business case worked through with the participants	CROSQ Contact person Mara Abraham To be confirmed
15:00	<i>Coffee break, 15 minutes</i>	
15:15	Session 4. Market requirements from the perspective of a commercial buyer <i>30 minutes.</i> • What the buyer purchases, in what volume and how often • The documents and certificates required of a supplier • Products currently imported that could be sourced locally • The reasons for which local offers are declined • Questions from producers to the speaker during the second half of the session • ... Q&A, 15 minutes at the end of the session	One buyer <i>In order of preference: supermarket, regional distributor, or tourism and hospitality</i> To be confirmed Supermarket option for fresh produce – Commercial buyer Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry
16:00	Interactive session: review of the first day <i>30 minutes.</i> • Six questions closing the first day • The cost question from the morning, repeated, so that participants see how their own estimate has changed • Constraints identified by participants over the course of the day • ...	Chair. Ashley Gaskin To be confirmed
16:30	<i>End of day 1</i>	

Discussant across all day 1 sessions: Dr Lystra Fletcher-Paul comments at the end of each session and moderates the questions from the floor.

DAY 2 Wednesday 4 November | From requirements to action

Time	Session	Speaker
08:45	<i>Coffee and informal exchange</i>	
09:00	Session 5. Experiences of Barbadian producers in meeting standards and certification requirements 30 minutes. • Two short accounts from producers or processors who already export or already work to a standard, at least one of them certified • What the buyer required • What the process cost, and how it was financed • What had to change on the farm or in the plant • What went wrong, and what they would do differently • ... Q&A, 15 minutes at the end of the session	Two Barbadian producers or processors <i>At least one already certified and exporting</i> To be confirmed Royalty Wild Crafted Sea Moss or Ulu foods or Breadfruit exporter
09:45	Session 6. Institutional procurement as a pathway to market scale for small-scale producers 30 minutes. • School feeding and other public procurement as a first large and regular buyer • Requirements placed on suppliers by an institutional buyer, and how producers organize to meet them • The work of WFP in Barbados and the Caribbean: linking local agricultural production to institutional markets • Campaigns to raise demand for locally produced food • Work with social assistance beneficiaries as both suppliers and consumers of local production • The Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub and Centre of Excellence in Barbados • ... Q&A, 15 minutes at the end of the session:	Mr Brian Bogart <i>Country Director, WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office</i> To be confirmed
10:30	<i>Coffee break, 15 minutes</i>	
10:45	Session 7. National support services for producers 30 minutes. • Services offered by BADMC, and the terms on which they are available • Eligibility, coverage, application procedure and processing times • Aggregation and marketing services • The FEED programme • How a small producer reaches a larger buyer through these services • ...	BADMC <i>Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation</i> To be confirmed
11:15	Session 8. Export promotion and market intelligence for agri-food producers 30 minutes.	Export Barbados To be confirmed

Time	Session	Speaker
	• What Export Barbados offers a producer, and the terms on which it is available • Who to contact, and how a producer asks the agency for advice • Support towards meeting the standards and certification a buyer requires • Market information available to a producer considering export • How the agency works with producers already supplying the local market • ...	
11:45	Session 9. Regional market integration and intra-CARICOM agri-food trade <i>20 minutes.</i> • Where regional demand sits, and how a Barbadian producer reaches it • The non-tariff obstacles that keep intra-CARICOM sourcing at around 11.5 per cent of regional agri-food imports • The 25 by 2030 food import reduction agenda • Regional work on supplying the tourism sector from Caribbean agriculture • ... Q&A, 15 minutes at the end of the session	CARICOM Secretariat <i>Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Development Programme</i> To be confirmed
12:30	<i>Lunch, 1 hour 15 minutes</i>	
13:45	Evaluation of the workshop (survey) <i>15 minutes.</i> • Written evaluation completed in the room, on paper and online, before participants disperse • Relevance of the topics, quality of the sessions and of the materials, and adequacy of the organization • Open comments from participants • ...	Ministry, with UNCTAD support To be confirmed
14:00	Moving Forward: participant commitments, institutional responses and closing remarks <i>50 minutes: 40 minutes of working discussion, then 10 minutes of closing remarks.</i> • Each participant says what they intend to do next, and by when • Which institution each participant will contact first, and what they need from it • The institutions present answer from the floor, in the room, to what has been asked of them • Undertakings given by each institution present • The follow-up list written in the room and sent afterwards to every participant • Contacts exchanged, so that each participant leaves with the name of a person to approach • The UNCTAD e-learning course, and how participants enrol	Moderator: Ms Ashley Gaskin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade <i>Closing remarks: Mr Kenroy Roach, Head of the Resident Coordinator Office</i> To be confirmed

Time	Session	Speaker
	- The follow-up mechanism and next steps under the project ... Closing remarks, 10 minutes.	
15:00	<i>End of day 2</i>	

DAY 3 Thursday 5 November | Field visits

One or two visits, each chosen to illustrate a point made during the workshop rather than as a general tour. Some alternatives are:

The final choice will be made from the preferences expressed by the participants themselves, through the registration form, out of the shortlist below.

Attendance on day 3 is expected to be limited. Participants are running their own businesses and will already have given two days. Transport will be arranged once the number of participants is known.

Candidate site	What it shows	Status
Indoor vertical farming container, Green Hall, on Ministry of Agriculture land	A small container unit growing vegetables year round, at low investment, on Ministry of Agriculture land. Relevant to land scarcity and water stress	8:30 am – 10:00am
Ulu Foods	A Barbadian raw material turned into a packaged product and exported to the United States. The business is working towards organic certification	11:00 am- 12:30pm
International Food Science Centre	Shared-use manufacturing to international standards; how a small processor scales without building a plant	1:30 pm – 3:00pm

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