

**23–24 June 2026**

8:00 am. – 4:15 pm. (AST)

Hyatt Regency Trinidad

Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago

Strengthening resilient agri-food supply chains, food security and intra-regional trade

Capacity-building Workshop on Sustainable Standards, Certification and Food Supply Chains: Trinidad and Tobago

Background

Trinidad and Tobago, like other Caribbean small island developing states (SIDS), faces persistent challenges related to food import dependence, vulnerability to external shocks, and limited intra-regional trade in agri-food products. Recent crises have reinforced the need to strengthen domestic production, improve sustainable food supply chain resilience, and enhance the capacity of national producers and institutions to respond more effectively to disruptions. In this context, the proposed workshop is organized under the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Development Account project [*“Harnessing Trade Policy and Transport and Logistics to Build Sustainable and Resilient Food Supply Chains in the Caribbean and the Arab Region.”*](#)

The workshop builds on the national assessment, the December 2025 [*National Validation Workshop*](#), and follow-up consultations held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2026. These discussions confirmed strong interest in a practical capacity-building activity focused on standards, certification, traceability, export readiness and related institutional support.

This workshop will contribute directly to the trade policy and sustainable agri-food supply chains component of the project, implemented by UNCTAD's Division on International Trade and Commodities. It will combine policy advisory, technical awareness-raising, applied training and stakeholder dialogue, with a strong emphasis on practical application, institutional coordination and follow-up opportunities for selected producers, agro-processors and support institutions. In line with stakeholder feedback, the workshop will focus on helping participants better understand pathways to compliance and certification, market requirements, and the support available from relevant national and regional institutions.





Objective

The workshop aims to strengthen practical understanding of how standards, certification, traceability and support mechanisms can improve agri-food competitiveness, food security and supply chain resilience in Trinidad and Tobago.

More specifically, the workshop aims to:

- a) Clarify practical pathways to certification and compliance for agri-food producers and agro-processors;
- b) Improve understanding of market requirements and available support for export readiness, traceability, testing and quality upgrading;
- c) Strengthen coordination among public institutions, technical agencies, standards bodies and private sector actors;
- d) Identify priority value chains and practical follow-up actions under the project.

Target participants

The workshop is designed for 40 participants and will place strong emphasis on active participation throughout both days. In-person attendance for the full duration will be essential to ensure continuity between the policy dialogue, technical sessions and group work.

The final list of participants will be determined in close coordination with the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism. Participants are expected to include a balanced mix of public officials, technical agencies, standards and certification actors, producers, agro-processors, exporters and development partners, ensuring that discussions are both strategic and operational.

The active participation of senior officials and operational technical staff is strongly encouraged, as both are needed to ensure that workshop outcomes can be translated into practical follow-up.

Topics

The workshop will follow a practical sequence, moving from the role of standards and certification in resilient agri-food supply chains to the concrete regulatory, institutional, certification and market-readiness pathways available in Trinidad and Tobago.

Session 1. Sustainable Standards, Certification and Resilient Agri-Food Supply Chains UNCTAD

This session will frame the role of standards, certification and traceability in strengthening food security, market access, buyer confidence and resilient agri-food supply chains.

Session 2. Food Safety, Regulatory Compliance and Market Access in Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

This session will present the main food safety and regulatory compliance requirements affecting domestic supply, imports and market access for agri-food products.



Session 3. Understanding Trinidad and Tobago's Standards Landscape

Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)

This session will explain the national standards and certification landscape, including voluntary certification schemes, conformity assessment, buyer requirements and available support services.

Session 4. Export Readiness, Market Access and Institutional Support for Agri-Food Businesses

GlobalTT

This session will provide practical guidance on export readiness, buyer expectations, market access requirements and business support mechanisms for agri-food enterprises.

Session 5. Experience-Sharing from Firms and Producers

Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; NAMDEVCO; GlobalTT; Private Sector representatives

This session will share practical experiences from firms and producers that have worked with standards, certification or market-readiness processes.

Session 6. National GAP Standard and Producer Readiness

IICA; NAMDEVCO

This session will examine how National and Global GAP standards can support food safety, farm management, producer readiness, competitiveness and market access.

Session 7. From Certification to Market Access – Strengthening Value-Chain Readiness

FAO

This session will focus on practical certification pathways, support mechanisms and priority value chains where certification can improve market readiness.

Session 8. Roundtable and Closing Session: From Capacity Building to Practical Follow-Up

Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism with participation of all presenting institutions

This session will identify key takeaways, priority actions, institutional support needs and practical follow-up opportunities for producers, processors and exporters.

Partners

- Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism of Trinidad and Tobago (MTIT)
- United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)]

Expected outputs

- Improved understanding among participants of the role of standards, certification and traceability in agri-food competitiveness and resilience;
- Better knowledge of compliance pathways, support institutions and practical next steps;
- Identification of priority participant groups and value chains for follow-up support;
- Strengthened dialogue among national institutions and stakeholders involved in trade, agriculture, standards, food regulation and business support;



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