



UNCTAD Development Account Project – 16th tranche

”Harnessing trade policy and transport logistics to build sustainable and resilient food supply chains in the Caribbean and Arab regions”



Building sustainable food supply chains through trade policy in Barbados

Geneva, May 2025



Acknowledgments

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACP.....	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ADF.....	Agricultural Development Fund
AHVA.....	Animal Health and Veterinary Act
AHVSD.....	Animal Health and Veterinary Services Division
AIG.....	Agricultural Incentive Programme
BADMC.....	Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
BBD.....	Barbados Dollar
BCEN.....	Barbados Consumer Empowerment Network
BIFA.....	Barbados Institute for Food and Agriculture
BMA.....	Barbados Manufacturers' Association
BNSI.....	Barbados National Standards Institution
BSS.....	Barbados Statistical Services
BWA.....	Barbados Water Authority
CAHFSA.....	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARDI.....	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARE.....	Community Agriculture Response Empowerment
CARICOM.....	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM.....	The Caribbean Forum
CBB.....	Central Bank of Barbados
CDB.....	Caribbean Development Bank
CDEMA.....	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
COTED.....	The Council for Trade and Economic Development
CROSQ.....	Caricom Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
CSME.....	Caricom Single Market and Economy
CTA.....	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
EC.....	Eastern Caribbean
FAO.....	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEED.....	Farmers' Empowerment and Enfranchisement Drive
FNS.....	Food and Nutrition Security
FOPL.....	Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling
FSLIS.....	Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey
GAP.....	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP.....	Gross Domestic Product
GMP.....	Good Manufacturing Practices

HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HEAIR	Human Economic Assessment Impact Report
IFSC	International Food Science Centre
ITC	International Trade Center
LCL	Less Than Container Load
MAS/MAFNS.....	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security
MFAFT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MHW	Ministry of Health and Wellness
MIIST	Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology
MOA.....	Ministry of Agriculture
N.E.S/N.E.C	Not Elsewhere Specified/Not Elsewhere Classified
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NISCSA.....	National Institute for Sustainable and Climate Smart Agriculture
NTB	Non-tariff Barriers
NTM	Non-tariff Measures
PLWHA	Persons Living With HIV/Aids
PSA.....	Public Safety Act
RPI	Retail Price Index
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFA.....	Singapore Food Agency
SIDS.....	Small Island Developing States
SPS.....	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SSG	Special Safeguard
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TRQ	Tariff Rate Quotas
UK	United Kingdom
UN.....	United Nations
US	United States
USA.....	United States of America
Vol	Volume
VSS.....	Voluntary Sustainability Standards
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO.....	World Trade Organization



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Introduction



Introduction

The importance of food security for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) extends far beyond the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving zero hunger. When examined closely, food security is a multifaceted and complex concept. According to the (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. “This definition highlights the need for a holistic approach, recognizing four key dimensions of food security: availability (the consistent supply of food), access (both physical and economic ability to obtain food), utilization (appropriate use based on knowledge of nutrition and care, as well as food safety and quality), and stability (reliable access to food over time, even in the face of shocks or crises).

Barbados, a small island developing state in the Eastern Caribbean, is characterized by limited land area, a dense population, and a service-driven economy primarily reliant on tourism and international business. This geographic and economic context presents unique challenges for national food security, including high dependency on imported food products, limited agricultural land availability, and vulnerability to external shocks such as climate change and global market fluctuations. Consequently, Barbados' food security strategies must carefully balance domestic agricultural production with strategic trade partnerships and regional cooperation to ensure sustained access to nutritious and affordable food.

Against this background—and informed by the multidimensional definition of food security—this study examines the state of food security in Barbados, with particular emphasis on the role that trade policy plays in shaping outcomes across each of the four core dimensions.

The methodology employed to develop this report involved a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure robust analysis and actionable recommendations. Initially, a thorough literature review was undertaken, drawing insights from a wide range of academic studies, policy frameworks, and key reports on food security, trade policy, and sustainability, focusing particularly on Barbados and the broader Caribbean region. Complementing this review, extensive data collection was conducted, gathering detailed agri-food trade data (HS01-22), food insecurity indicators, and relevant sustainability standards from authoritative sources such as the Barbados Statistical Services (BSS), the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security (MOA), and the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), among others. Additionally, the report benefited from active stakeholder engagement, involving multi-stakeholder consultations to validate findings and collaboratively shape recommendations (see Appendix 1 for stakeholder list).

The report contains four substantive chapters: Chapter 1 presents an overview of the state of food security; Chapter 2 explores domestic agricultural production and constraints; Chapter 3 assesses the role of trade and trade policy in food security; and Chapter 4 concludes with targeted policy recommendations to strengthen Barbados' food security.



Chapter I

State of food security in Barbados



Chapter

State of food security in Barbados

Barbados presents a mixed food security profile shaped by high import dependence and structural constraints typical of small island economies. While food availability is relatively stable, access, utilization and stability are affected by rising costs, dietary shifts and exposure to external shocks. These dynamics highlight underlying vulnerabilities across the four dimensions of food security.

A. Food Availability

Food availability refers to the supply side of food security, determined by the production, stock levels, trade, and aid mechanisms that collectively ensure adequate food supply.

In Barbados, food availability is predominantly driven by trade, with domestic production playing a relatively minor role. The country is classified as a net food importer, sourcing approximately 80% of its food requirements from external markets (MOA, 2020). On the domestic front, Barbados is considered self-sufficient in root crops: sweet potatoes, yams and cassava¹ and seasonally self-sufficient in onions² (MOA, 2025) (WTO, 2022). Barbados has almost achieved break-even domestic production in poultry, covering 93% of demand; 100% self-sufficiency in eggs; and was formerly considered self-sufficient in pork production (WTO, 2022) (MOA, 2025).

As a SIDS, Barbados' high reliance on food imports is typical—comparable to Singapore, which imports over 90% of its food (Singapore Food Agency, 2021). A high reliance on food imports does not inherently signal food insecurity, underscoring the importance of distinguishing between food self-sufficiency — defined as a country's ability to meet all food needs through domestic production—and the broader concept of food security. As the report will show, rather than viewing domestic production and imports as opposing strategies, it is more constructive to understand them as complementary components of a resilient food system. This false dichotomy can lead to misguided policy decisions and overlook the critical role of trade in ensuring food availability, particularly for SIDS with limited agricultural capacity.

B. Food Access (Economic and Physical)

Food access refers to a household's ability to regularly obtain sufficient, appropriate, and nutritious food, encompassing not only purchasing power but also safe, timely, and equitable physical access to food sources (World Food Summit 1996)

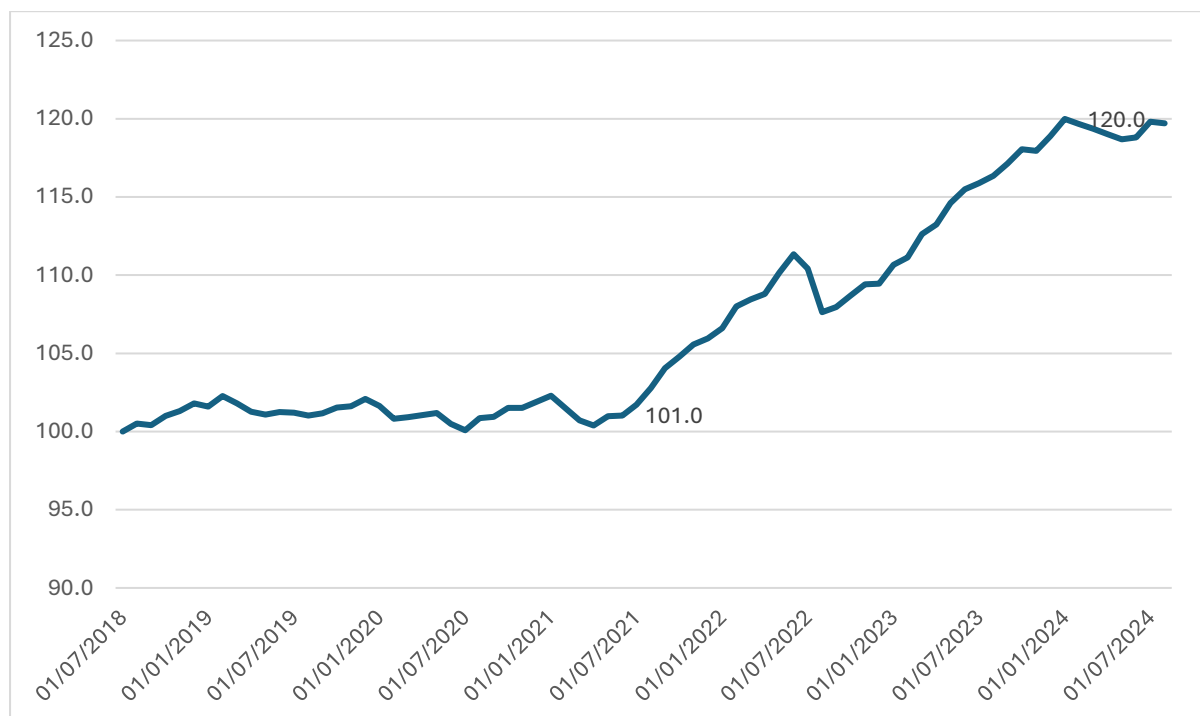
¹ Diseases and pests impact yields and the availability of clean planting material.

² Highly dependent on climate conditions

There are no official data available on food affordability or the cost of a healthy diet in Barbados. Instead, economic food access is assessed using proxy indicators such as the Retail Price Index (RPI), unemployment rates, and poverty levels.

Figure 1 illustrates that between July 2018 and April 2021, the Retail Price Index (RPI) for food and non-alcoholic beverages remained relatively stable at 101. From that point onward, the RPI rose steadily, reaching a peak of 120 in January 2024, with the exception of a temporary decline between July and October 2022. Since February 2024, the index stabilized at 120.

Figure 1. Economic food access measured by Retail Price Index peaked in 2024
Retail Price Index for Food and non-alcoholic beverages July 2018 to July 2024 (July 2018 = 100)



Source: Central Bank of Barbados database (CBBWEBSTATS)

While food prices have risen steadily and stabilized at a higher level, wage growth and economic recovery have not kept pace. The Barbados Consumer Empowerment Network described the newly enacted BBD \$10.50 minimum wage as insufficient to shield vulnerable households from rising inflation (Joseph, 2025). Unemployment rose from 10% in 2019 to a peak of 14.1% in 2021—driven by COVID-19-related job losses in the tourism sector—before declining to 7.9% in 2023, with female unemployment surpassing male rates after 2019 (Barbados Statistical Services, 2025). Barbados' poverty rate rose to 17% in 2016/17, with higher rates among women (21%) and children (32%) (UNDP UNICEF and UN Women, 2020). Evidently, Barbados faces high and rising food costs while purchasing power is decreasing, leaving vulnerable groups—particularly women and children—at greater risk of limited economic food access.

Regarding physical access, Barbados has no recorded “food deserts” as seen in some larger urban or rural contexts, as most residents have reasonable physical access to food vendors via the country's extensive road network and public transportation system. However, infrastructure gaps—such as inadequate (cold) storage and transport logistics—can hinder food distribution efficiency, particularly for vulnerable populations without reliable transport or in more remote areas. That said, the widespread presence of mini-marts and village shops has helped bridge last-mile access, reducing the severity of these barriers.

C. Food Utilization

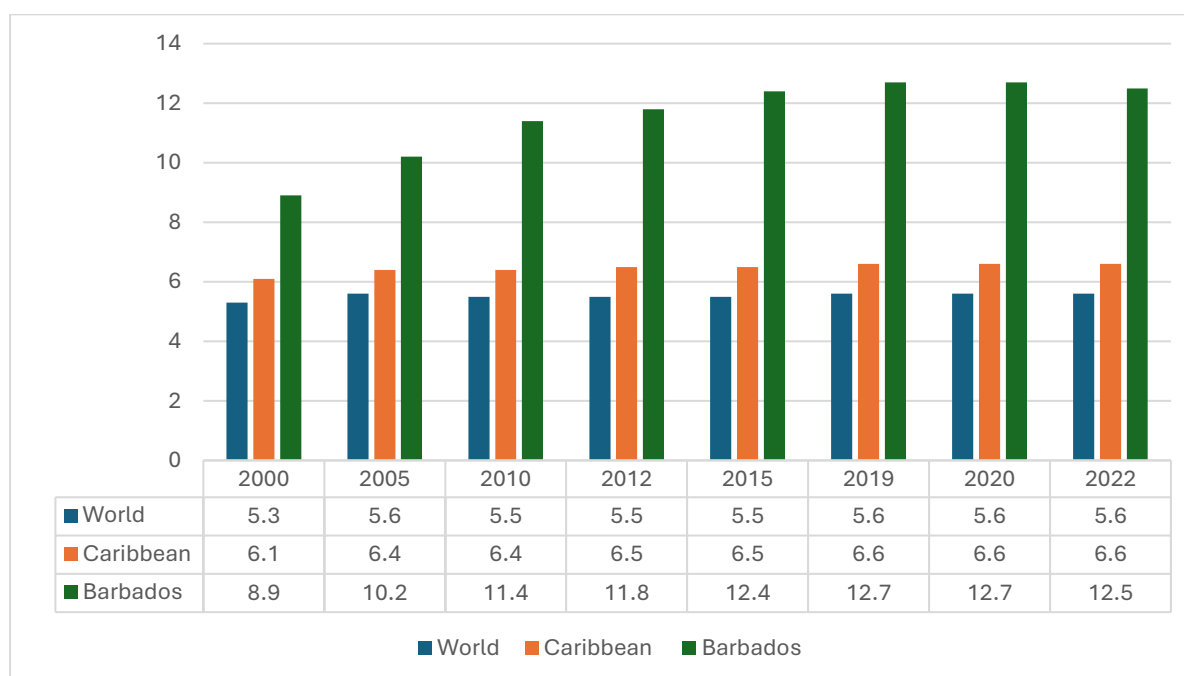
Food utilization refers to how households use the food they access and individuals' ability to absorb nutrients, influenced by food preparation, storage, hygiene, dietary diversity, cultural practices, and the specific nutritional needs of vulnerable groups (World Food Summit 1996).

Barbados faces significant food utilization challenges: a shift toward processed, high-fat, high-sugar diets, inadequate micronutrient intake, and uneven practices in food storage and preparation—all contribute to growing obesity and non-communicable disease (NCD) risks.

Although the levels of undernourishment for Barbados are quite low, by contrast the levels of overnutrition in the form of overweight and obesity are of some concern (Ministry of Health and Wellness 2025; Global Nutrition Report 2025). Between 2000 and 2020, the prevalence of overweight in children under 5 increased from 8.9 to 12.7 %. In 2022, the prevalence decreased slightly to 12.5 % (Figure 2). These levels are almost twice the global and regional averages for the same time period. Even more troubling is the prevalence of obesity among adults. Between 2000 to 2022, the prevalence increased from 22.1 to 38 % (Figure 3). These values exceeded the corresponding rates for the Caribbean (13.5 to 24.5 %) and were more than twice the global levels (8.7 to 15.8 %). Moreover, the obesity rate in women far exceeds that of men. Thus, women and children are vulnerable groups which need special attention in addressing food security.

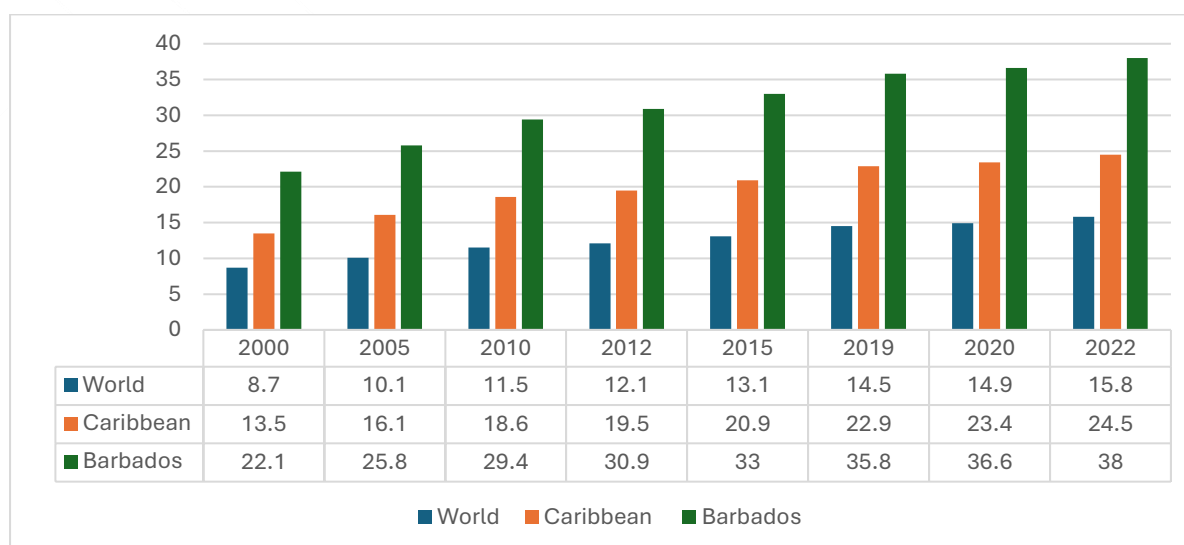
The rising prevalence of overweight and obesity is a major driver of Barbados's non-communicable disease (NCD) crisis. As of 2021, NCDs accounted for approximately 80% of all deaths nationwide, with one in four Barbadians living with an NCD, resulting in healthcare costs estimated at 10% of national GDP annually (Ministry of Health and Wellness, 2025).

Figure 2. Prevalence of overweight in children <5 years
(percentage)



Source: FAOSTAT database

Figure 3. Prevalence of Obesity among adults 18 years
(percentage)



Source: FAOSTAT database

According to (FAO and CDB, 2020), the region's nutritional challenges stem from several interrelated factors: limited availability of diverse, locally produced food; poor dietary choices; inadequate nutrition education; and negative attitudes toward healthy eating. These issues are compounded by a heavy reliance on imported food, vulnerability to natural disasters, and fiscal instability. Aggressive marketing of ultra-processed, calorie-dense foods by supermarkets and fast-food outlets has further shaped consumer preferences toward unhealthy diets (FAO and CDB, 2020).

Food safety is a critical component of food utilization in Barbados, with contamination risks present at every stage of the value chain that can lead to serious health consequences for producers, handlers, and consumers. This is particularly important given Barbados's dependence on tourism³ and the heavy use of imported food within the hotel sector, where maintaining high food safety standards is essential to safeguarding public health and the country's international reputation. However, institutional and regulatory challenges persist. The Barbados Animal Health and Veterinary Services Division faces notable constraints, including a shortage of trained personnel, inadequate laboratory infrastructure, and insufficient oversight of slaughter, processing, and hygiene systems. Although a Public Safety Act has been passed, the supporting regulations remain lacking. Additionally, staff at the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) have highlighted systemic weaknesses, such as fragmented and overlapping responsibilities across food safety agencies, limited availability of epidemiological data, inadequate numbers of food inspectors at ports of entry, and low consumer awareness of food safety standards.

D. Food Stability

Stability in food security means having consistent and reliable access to food over time (World Food Summit 1996). It ensures that people are not at risk of losing access to food due to sudden shocks like natural disasters, economic crises, or seasonal changes. Stability also involves keeping food prices steady, maintaining supportive government policies, and ensuring year-round access to markets and farming inputs for everyone.

The key threats to Barbados's food stability are climate change and natural disasters, economic and global trade shocks, and structural challenges in agriculture.

³ Tourism contributes up to 31% of Barbados' GDP and supports 33% of jobs, with a large informal sector (30–40% of GDP) also heavily reliant on the sector (UNDP 2025).

With respect to climate change, Barbados is heavily influenced by the El Niño Southern Oscillation and is vulnerable to the adverse effects of tropical cyclones, storm surge, and floods, rising sea levels and temperature increase, which impact vulnerable communities and ecosystems. These climate-related events pose a significant risk to the country's food stability. Between 1980 and 2023, the country faced 12 natural hazards—mostly tropical storms—which caused over USD 271 million in damages and affected over 14,000 people (World Food Programme, 2024). Disasters like Cyclone Emily (1987) and Hurricane Beryl (2024) have repeatedly disrupted agriculture and fisheries, undermining consistent food access and livelihoods. Barbados is already one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, and climate change is expected to worsen this. By 2050, projections show a 1.0°C–1.3°C rise in temperature and a 9% decline in annual rainfall, leading to greater water scarcity (Adaptation Fund, 2025). Climate impacts such as flooding, seawater intrusion, and soil salinization will further degrade groundwater quality and agricultural productivity. Additionally, rising sea temperatures contribute to coral bleaching and the influx of sargassum seaweed, both of which negatively affect fisheries and coastal livelihoods.

With over 60% of its food supply imported on average, Barbados remains highly exposed to external shocks such as global price volatility, supply chain disruptions, and exchange rate fluctuations. Economic crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war have threatened food stability. The pandemic halted the tourism sector—Barbados's economic backbone—triggering widespread job losses and income decline. The CARICOM COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey reported that Barbadian households faced reduced access to fresh produce, rising food prices, limited market access, and were forced to buy cheaper or smaller quantities of food, particularly among lower-income groups (World Food Programme, 2021). The war in Ukraine further escalated input costs, particularly for fertilizers, and disrupted trade flows, compounding inflationary pressures on food (UNCTAD 2024).

Agricultural challenges pose a significant threat to Barbados's food stability. Praedial larceny, widely regarded as the most serious disincentive to farming, continues to undermine agricultural investment and productivity (Barbados Today 2025). Compounding this are limited arable land, high production costs, and low yields, all of which constrain domestic food output (FAO and CDB, 2020). The ongoing conversion of agricultural land to housing further reduces the country's capacity for local food production (Brathwaite & Liu, 2012), weakening food security at the national, community, and household levels. These factors also disrupt trade by affecting the quality, quantity, and consistency of locally produced goods available for export.

State of Food Security Overview

In summary, Barbados's food security landscape reflects the unique vulnerabilities and opportunities of a small island developing state. Food availability remains heavily dependent on imports, with limited but strategically important domestic production in select areas like poultry and root crops. However, access to food—both economic and physical—is increasingly strained by rising prices, stagnant wages, and persistent inequality, particularly affecting women and children. Utilization challenges are underscored by a shift toward unhealthy dietary patterns and high obesity rates, which are fuelling a national NCD crisis and placing a heavy burden on the healthcare system. Weaknesses in food safety infrastructure and regulatory oversight also pose risks to public health and the tourism-dependent economy. Stability—perhaps the most fragile pillar—is continually tested by climate change, natural disasters, and global economic shocks, while agricultural production is constrained by land loss, praedial larceny, and high costs. Together, these factors demand a coherent, multi-dimensional strategy that strengthens resilience, promotes sustainable local production, and safeguards the food system against future disruptions. Addressing these interconnected challenges is essential to ensuring that all Barbadians can access safe, nutritious, and affordable food year-round.





Chapter II

Domestic agricultural production and constraints



Chapter

Domestic agricultural production and constraints

Domestic agricultural production in Barbados has declined over time, with limited diversification and persistent structural constraints. Small farm sizes, high input costs, land pressures and environmental challenges continue to affect productivity and scale. These factors limit the contribution of domestic agriculture to food security outcomes.

A. Tracing the Decline and Diversification of Domestic Agricultural Production

During colonial times sugar plantations, driven by British market demand, dominated 87% of Barbados' landscape. Post-independence in 1966, agriculture began to decline as national focus shifted to social development and economic diversification, reducing agricultural land by 25% (Brathwaite & Liu, 2012). During the 1980s–1990s, a 36% decline in global sugar prices spurred efforts to diversify into non-sugar crops like fruits, vegetables, legumes, oil crops and livestock products which at the time provided the highest average production value per hectare across the region. (FAO and CDB, 2020) (Brathwaite & Liu, 2012). Between 1990 and 2010, cultivated land in Barbados declined by a further 50% compared to pre-independence levels, largely due to rising land values and conversion to real estate. However, increasing global food prices and food demand during the late 2000s prompted renewed interest in domestic food production, prompting government initiatives such as land redistribution, subsidies, and duty-free access to farm inputs (Brathwaite & Liu, 2012).

From contributing 20% of GDP in the 1960s, agriculture's role dwindled to less than 3% over the past decade (Barbados Statistical Services, 2025) (Brathwaite & Liu, 2012). In 2024, the agriculture sector only contributed 1.9% to Barbados' GDP – 97.3% of which came from non-sugar agriculture and the remaining 2.7% from sugar agriculture (Central Bank of Barbados, 2025). There are 6,605 registered farmers of which 4,804 are livestock or mixed farmers⁴ (MOA, 2025). Approximately 90% of all farmers operate on smallholdings of 0.5 hectares or less, highlighting the predominance of small-scale production units within the agricultural sector CITATION Fra20 \l 1033 [OBJ:OBJ:OBJ:OBJ].

Barbados produces a variety of crops and livestock locally (see Appendix 2). The island is self-sufficient in root crops such as sweet potatoes, yams, and cassava—though yields are affected by pests and limited clean planting material—and seasonally self-sufficient in onions, which are climate-sensitive (MOA, 2025) (WTO, 2022). In livestock, Barbados maintains 100% self-sufficiency in eggs; local poultry production meets 93% of domestic demand; and pork production, once self-sufficient, now satisfies only 49% (MOA, 2025) (WTO, 2022).

⁴ This number may overstate the current reality, as the last agricultural census was conducted in 1989

B. An Overview of Barbados' Agri-Food Value Chains

In recent years there has been a gradual shift from raw commodities to more processed, branded and higher-value agri-food commodities. Barbados has a developing manufacturing sector that is anchored by food and beverage production – both of which have been growing in recent years (see Table 1). Among products produced include staple foods and commodities (bread, biscuits, grain flours, cooking oils, soybean-based products), snacks and packaged food (chips, novelty treats), beverages (carbonated soft drinks, juices, milk and dairy beverages), and animal feed and byproducts (feed grains and supplements).

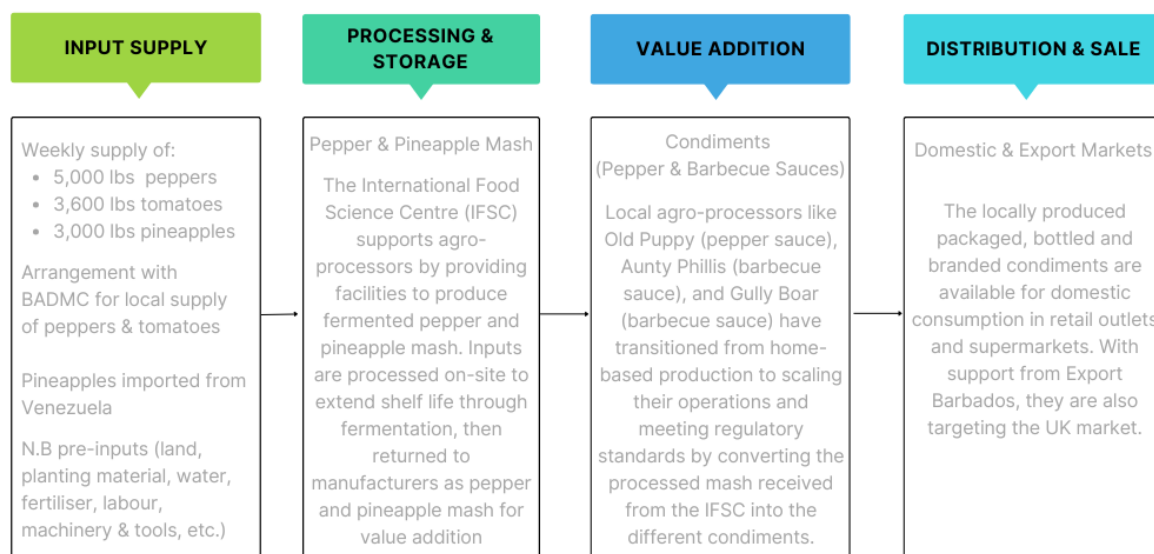
Table 1. Contribution to Manufacturing Output

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Rum & Other Beverages	12%	12%	12%	14%	14%	14%
Food	19%	16%	17%	18%	19%	19%
Furniture	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Chemicals	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Other Non-Metallic Mineral Products	22%	22%	24%	26%	21%	21%

Data sourced from (Central Bank of Barbados, 2025)

Despite advances in automation, the manufacturing sector struggles with scaling, high energy and water costs, and tight margins—where missing modest output targets can result in losses. Heavy reliance on imported inputs also limits flexibility, especially in cases where branding and product standards require specific input characteristics that local sources cannot meet (e.g. granulated white sugar) (BMA, 2025).

While a comprehensive study of Barbados' agri-food value chains is lacking, it's been observed that while imported inputs are commonly used throughout value chains, there is evidence of local production contributing at various stages, highlighting a degree of domestic participation within the broader value-added process. Figure 4 outlines the condiment value chain specifically for pepper and barbecue sauces, which has been an area of focus for the recently developed International Food Science Centre (IFSC). The IFSC's establishment has significantly strengthened the midstream of Barbados' condiment value chain by bridging the gap between raw input supply and final product manufacturing. By centralizing the processing of local and imported produce into fermented mash, the IFSC enables small agro-processors to scale up, meet safety and quality standards, and access export markets (see Box 1).

Figure 4. Barbados' Condiment Value Chain**Box 1. Overview of Barbados' International Food Science Centre****International Food Science Centre: Empowering Barbados' Food Processors for Global Markets**

Established through the vision of Export Barbados and grounded in the findings of a 2010/2011 study on the condiments sector, the International Food Science Centre (IFSC) was created to support small-scale agro-processors transitioning from home-based operations to export-ready enterprises. Officially launched in 2022, the Centre provides shared-use manufacturing space that meets international standards, enabling producers to scale up safely and sustainably. The Centre recently completed its first integrative good manufacturing practices (GMP) audit and is on track for ISO 9000 certification.

At its core, the IFSC focuses on GMP, food safety, and value-added processing. The Centre local and imported produce, including peppers, tomatoes, and pineapples, bridging the gap between raw material suppliers and manufacturers.

Stakeholder interviews revealed that the IFSC will look at sustainability and supply chain innovation in the near future. From gluten-free product development to international standards compliance, the Centre is working to position Barbados as a more competitive player in the global agro-processing sector.

The value chain for agro-processing and food manufacturing in Barbados faces several interlinked challenges that span production, processing, and distribution. At the upstream level, limited land, pest and crop diseases, an aging farming population, water scarcity and climate change effects pose serious threats to raw material supply. While initiatives such as the IFSC are formalizing and improving manufacturing standards, gaps persist midstream due to high operating costs (especially for energy) and input supply shortages. Downstream, warehousing (including cold storage) and transport logistics (heavy reliance on US as a shipping hub) remain hurdles, while market access is currently being exacerbated by geopolitical tensions.

C. Challenges and Constraints to Agricultural Production

The agricultural sector faces a complex web of structural, environmental, and institutional challenges that constrain productivity, hinder investment, and threaten long-term food security.

Structural Constraints

Barbados' farms are predominantly small-scale, nearly half fall under 0.2 ha, and only a small number exceed 10 ha (Adaptation Fund, 2025). Their small size limits economies of scale, mechanization, and cost efficiencies. Meanwhile, high input costs, including water, energy, feed, packaging, and technical services, magnify production expenses, especially as imports remain the norm for most supplies. Compounding these challenges is urban encroachment, with arable land falling from 45,000 acres in 1992 to just 28,000 acres in 2024, diminishing the island's capacity for self-reliant food systems (Blunt, 2024). Findings from stakeholder consultations revealed the following insights. The demographic structure is also troublesome: the agricultural workforce is aging. Low returns and social stigma are discouraging younger generations and eroding future labour quality, innovation capacity, and generational knowledge transfer. Moreover, midstream and post-harvest infrastructure remain underdeveloped. Gaps in cold storage, drying, warehousing, and logistics contribute to post-harvest losses and reduce product competitiveness, particularly for fresh and perishable produce. These structural challenges collectively elevate production costs, limit operational scale and reduce output reliability. They also hinder investment in digital infrastructure, while the lack of a national digital agriculture strategy and coordinated financing mechanisms further limits the widespread adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies.

Environmental Constraints

Chief among these is water scarcity. Barbados is ranked among the countries with high and critical water stress levels (water stress level > 75%) (UN Water, 2024). The country relies heavily on coastal aquifers, with 98% of groundwater resources already developed, and is increasingly affected by saline intrusion and droughts (Adaptation Fund, 2025). From 2010 to 2020 and again in 2023, the Barbados Water Authority imposed annual water prohibitions due to limited supply, restricting the use of potable water for non-essential purposes (Barbados Water Authority, 2023). Climate change exacerbates these conditions through more frequent and severe droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures. Average annual rainfall is projected to decrease by approximately 9% by 2050, while temperatures could increase by 1.0°C to 1.3°C (Adaptation Fund, 2025). These climatic shifts undermine crop viability, especially for rain-dependent crops like onions, where Barbados is only seasonally self-sufficient, and increase the risk of both crop and livestock losses. Climate change also has impacts on the incidence of pests and diseases and may result in the emergence of new pests and diseases which could decimate crops species and livestock earmarked for increased domestic production as well as for trade (Skendžić et al. 2021).

Despite efforts to promote greenhouse and tunnel farming as adaptive strategies,⁵ high upfront costs and limited farmer capacity have slowed widespread adoption.

⁵ Greenhouse farming involves crop production in a fully (or semi-) enclosed structure that allows for control over environment (temperature, humidity, light, pest protection). While tunnel farming (high/low tunnels / hoop houses) includes simpler covered structures (plastic/poly film, shade cloth, etc.) that protect crops from weather, extend growing seasons, and modify micro-climate, but generally less infrastructure & tech than full greenhouses.

Institutional Constraints

One of the most persistent issues is praedial larceny, which remains a major disincentive to farming. This challenge is not unique to Barbados but is also widespread across the region. According to a study on praedial larceny in the Caribbean, 98% of all producers surveyed reported experiencing losses due to theft (FAO, 2013). Despite widespread recognition of the problem, current enforcement mechanisms and legal frameworks are weak, and there is no robust compensation system in place to support affected farmers. This has eroded trust in the system and discouraged investment, particularly from smallholders who are most vulnerable to theft. Another critical institutional challenge is the lack of reliable agricultural data and monitoring systems. Barbados has not conducted an agricultural census since 1989, severely limiting the government's ability to plan, forecast, and respond to evolving sector needs. This data vacuum undermines evidence-based policymaking and makes it difficult to accurately assess land use, crop yields, and market trends. The regulatory framework for food safety and production standards also requires strengthening. Historically, many micro-and small-scale producers operated without adherence to formal safety standards, often from informal kitchen setups. Although progress has been made with the IFSC (see Box 1), the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and full-scale implementation of food safety protocols is uneven across the sector, especially at farm levels as confirmed during stakeholder consultations. There is also a range of legislation and initiatives which have been criticised for being outdated, fragmented and unrealistic. For example, the BNSI during consultations noted that many mandatory standards—dating back to the 1950s and 60s—are outdated, and the fragmented responsibilities across multiple agencies create a significant barrier to effective food safety governance. Another case is evident with the recent passing of the Animal Health and Veterinary Act, which still lacks supporting regulations like standard operation procedures and guidelines to ensure robust inspection systems, as explained during consultations with the Veterinary Services Department, of the Ministry of Agriculture.

D. National Strategies to Boost Local Production

Barbados has implemented a range of strategic programmes aimed at strengthening local agricultural production as part of its national and regional food security agenda. Food security, when considered comprehensively, intersects with the mandates of multiple line ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security (MAFS) holds primary responsibility for policies related to the agriculture sector, the Ministry of Health and Wellness oversees critical aspects of nutrition and food safety, the Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology plays a key role in supporting food and beverage manufacturing, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign trade handles trade policy, market access and trade facilitation of these products.

National Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action 2014-2018

At the overarching policy level, Barbados government had previously developed a National Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action 2014-2018, which outlined strategic goals to enhance domestic food production, improve nutritional outcomes, and reduce import dependency (see Table 2). However, the policy at the time was not formally adopted or passed into law, limiting its implementation and impact. Stakeholder consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture reveal that plans are now underway to develop a new and updated national food security plan that better reflects current challenges—including climate change, economic shocks, and the need for digital and technological transformation in agriculture.



Table 2. Food and Nutrition Security Plan of Action 2014-2018

Dimension	Policy Statement(s)	Objective(s)	Target(s)
Availability	Promote an enabling environment to support domestic production, processing and marketing for a select basket of nutritious foods for which there are capabilities, comparative advantages and new opportunities for the population, with particular focus on vulnerable groups	Increased availability of domestically produced nutritious and safe foods at affordable market prices, through increased production, the improved competitiveness of the domestic food production and agro-processing sectors and through the protection of local enterprises from unfair external competition.	30 percent increase in the quantity of domestic commodities being produced and available for consumption by the population at reasonable prices by 2018 based largely on a portfolio of targeted priority commodities
Access	Ensure improved access to adequate, nutritious, safe and affordable food by the population, with emphasis on poor and vulnerable households. Provide a social safety net for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and Persons Living with HIV/aids (PLWHA) as it relates to food security issues Promote the establishment of back-yard gardening in the urban and peri-urban areas	Increase access by food insecure and vulnerable households to adequate, safe, nutritious and affordable food through measures structured to reduce poverty. Improve the economic status of elderly persons, persons with disabilities and PLWHA to ensure access to adequate food and dietary intakes. Increase household access to nutritious food and income generation among food insecure and vulnerable households	45 percent increase in the number of vulnerable persons having the required resources necessary to access an adequate quantity and quality of affordable food that meets their nutritional needs by 2018 through the implementation of the zero-hunger challenge and other initiatives. 40 percent increase in the economic status of the identified population groups to facilitate access to an adequate supply of safe and nutritious food. 1500 households involved in backyard food production.
Utilization	Implement and promote measures to reduce the prevalence and burden of obesity and nutrition-related chronic non-communicable diseases. Improve the Nutritional Status of Vulnerable Groups. Strengthen the national nutrition surveillance systems in accordance with WHO standards.	Reduce the prevalence of obesity and nutrition-related chronic non-communicable diseases (cncds) Improve nutritional status of infants, children and pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, PLWHA, the poor and other vulnerable groups Identify those at risk of nutrition-related diseases and to monitor the	30 percent decrease in the prevalence of obesity and cncds by 2018 25 percent improvement in the nutritional status of infants, children, adolescents and lactating women, PLWHA and the elderly by 2018 25 percent increase in early detection of nutrition-related diseases through implementation of a comprehensive national



	Develop and implement national guidelines on good nutrition and physical activities to promote health and wellness in schools, workplaces, retail and service outlets and communities. Develop and implement measures to detect, prevent and manage micronutrient deficiencies. Apply the internationally recognized standards on both imported food and domestically produced food	nutritional status of the population Promote increased levels of physical activity and healthy lifestyle practices among the population Reduce the incidence of micronutrient deficiencies in the population Ensure that the supply of food to the domestic market meets internationally recognized standards	surveillance system on nutrition by 2018 60 percent increase in the number of persons engaging in physical activity and healthy lifestyle practices by 2018. 50 percent increase in the detection and treatment of micronutrient deficiencies among the population by 2018 40 percent increase in the application of Good Agricultural Practices (gaps), Good Manufacturing Practices (gmps) and Quality control systems by enterprises along the value chain by 2018
Stability	Implement relevant risk reduction and mitigation strategies targeted towards reducing the impact of natural and economic shocks on food production, incomes and livelihoods. Implement strategies to monitor and manage the impact of natural and economic shocks on the most vulnerable communities.	Minimize the negative consequences of natural and economic shocks on food availability and on food access by food insecure and vulnerable households within the country Enhance the national capacity to respond on a timely basis to the impact of natural and economic shocks on most vulnerable	Ensure that all of households have access to adequate food and water during periods of disaster by 2018 60 percent Increase in the number of persons having the capacity to maintain their food and nutrition security status during situations of natural and economic shocks by 2018

Source: (Government of Barbados and FAO, 2013)

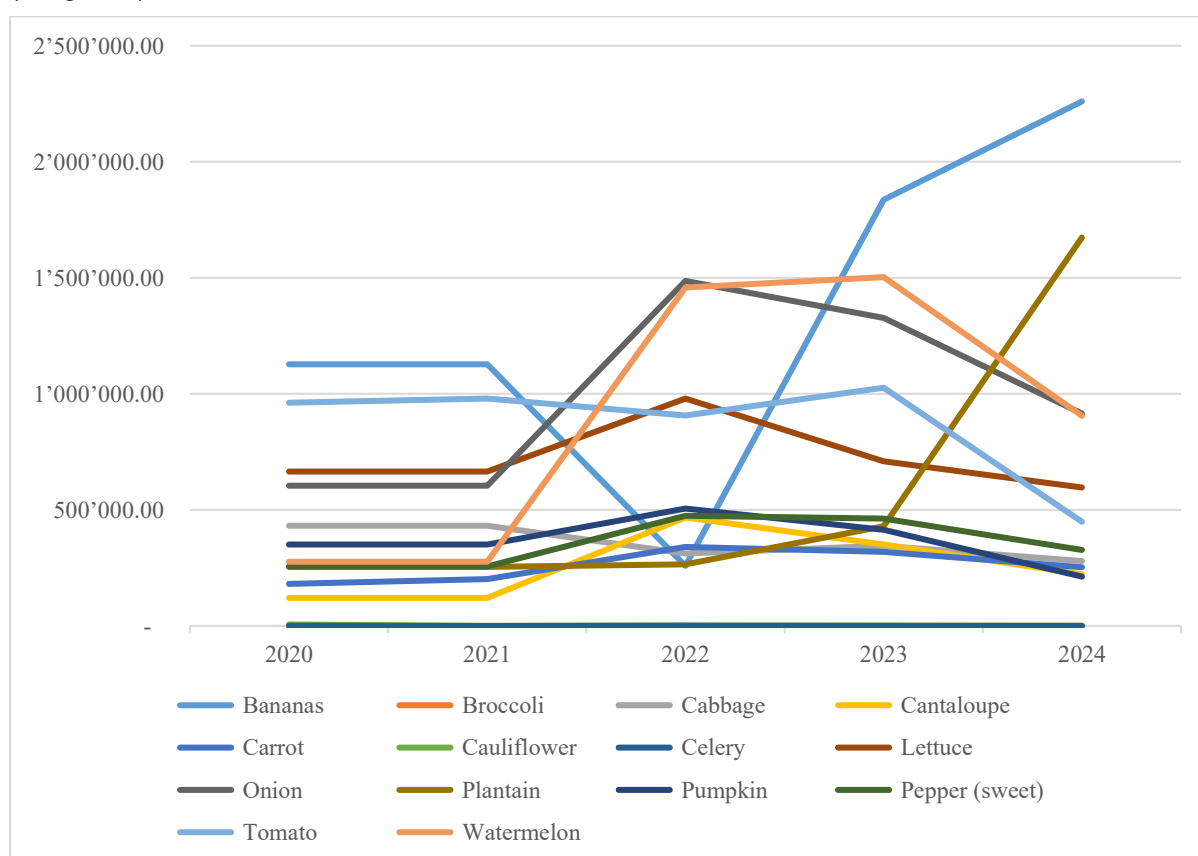


Vision 25 by 2025 CARICOM Initiative

The 25x25 CARICOM Initiative aims to reduce the region's food import bill by 25% by 2025 by boosting local production and improving regional trade. With progress slower than expected, the target has been extended to 2030 (now dubbed 25 x 30) to give member states more time to meet food security goals.

As part of its implementation plan for the 25 x 30 initiative, Barbados' Ministry of Agriculture has identified 14 priority crops as national priority for increased domestic production (MOA, 2025). These include banana, broccoli, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrot, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, onion, plantain, pumpkin, sweet pepper, tomato, and watermelon. Over the past five years, production trends of these priority crops have been mixed. Figure 5 shows a declining trend in most priority crops, with only bananas and plantains showing an upward trajectory over the 2022–2024 period.

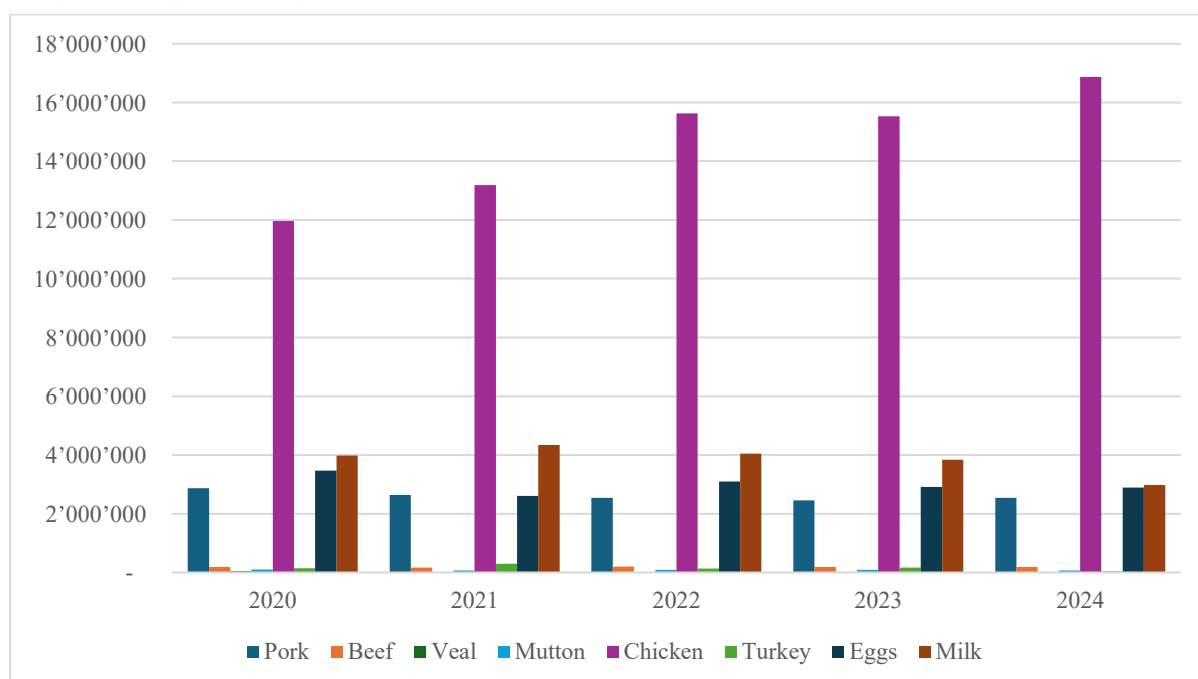
Figure 5. Crop Production of fourteen priority crops, 2020 – 2024
(Kilograms)



Source: Data sourced directly from the Ministry of Agriculture May 2025

Regarding livestock, chicken and their byproducts (eggs and milk), pork, turkey, mutton and beef are all national priorities under the 25 x 30 initiative, with emphasis on increased domestic production. Barbados has almost achieved break-even domestic production in poultry, covering 93% of demand, with positive upward trends (WTO, 2022). Barbados was also formerly considered self-sufficient in pork production which has since declined, with only 49% of demand being met by local production (MOA, 2025) (WTO, 2022). Figure 6 illustrates these dynamics clearly: poultry production has risen steadily in recent years, while pork has declined and other livestock categories such as beef and mutton have remained relatively flat.

Figure 6. Livestock Production, 2020 – 2024
(Kilograms)



Source: Data sourced directly from the Ministry of Agriculture, May 2025

FEED (Farmers' Empowerment & Enfranchisement Drive)

The Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation's (BADMCO) FEED Programme is a national initiative designed to increase domestic agricultural production and strengthen food security. FEED supports new and existing farmers by providing access to government-owned land, technical assistance, equipment, and subsidized inputs such as seedlings and animal feed. Lands under the programme are leased at a rate of BBD \$300 per acre annually, and registered farmers benefit from a reduced water rate of \$1.80 per cubic metre which is lower than the standard household rate of BBD \$2.48 per cubic metre for the first 8 metres (BADMCO, 2025) (Barbados Today, 2022). FEED also offers training in sustainable farming practices and connects farmers to markets through BADMC's distribution channels. By lowering production costs and barriers to entry, the programme seeks to build a more resilient, productive, and self-sufficient agricultural sector.

In addition to the FEED programme, there is CARE (Community Agriculture Response and Empowerment) which targets those individuals with a keen interest in agriculture that do not qualify for commercial venture under the FEED programme, but who have access to their own lands or those within the community.

BIFA (Barbados Institute for Food and Agriculture)

Barbados is currently developing a National Institute for Sustainable and Climate Smart Agriculture, aimed at revolutionizing the country's agricultural sector and attracting a new generation of farmers. Housed at the former Hope Plantation in St. Lucy, this institution will offer hands-on training in climate-smart practices, agricultural technology, and sustainable food systems. The initiative is part of the government's broader strategy to boost domestic food production, enhance resilience to climate change, and tackle youth disengagement in farming. The institute is expected to house additional infrastructure such as crop storage, a fire control centre, a solar energy system, and bio security access to animal pens (Moore S. , 2025).



Chapter III

The role of trade and trade policy in food security



Chapter



The role of trade and trade policy in food security

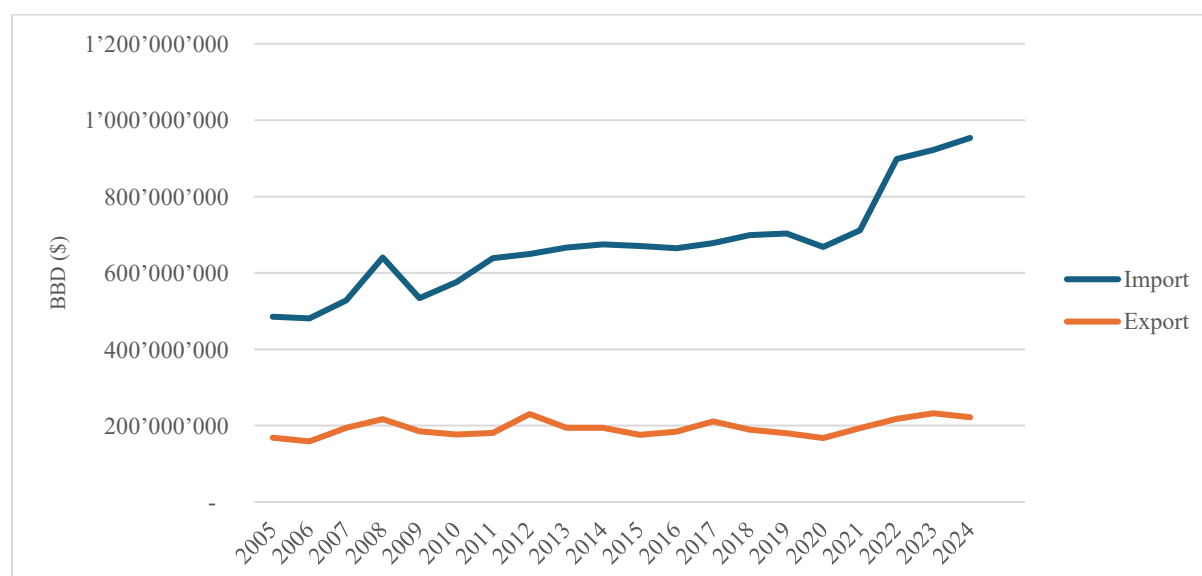
Barbados relies heavily on international trade to meet its food needs, with imports accounting for the majority of consumption. Trade policy frameworks shape availability, access and price dynamics, while also influencing domestic production incentives. At the same time, structural and regulatory constraints affect trade performance and competitiveness.

A. An Overview of Barbados' Agri-Food Trade Profile

Agri-food Imports (HS 01-22)

Barbados maintains some degree of food availability through domestic crop and livestock production. However, an estimated 80-90% of the island's food requirements are met through imports (MOA, 2020) (CTA, 2018). Classed as a net food importing country (see Figure 7), Barbados' food import bill reached BBD \$954 million in 2024-which accounted for over 20% of the nation's total import expenditure.

Figure 7. Barbados' Agri-Food Trade Value in BBD\$ 2005 – 2024
(BBD\$)



Data sourced from Barbados Statistical Office, covering HS01-HS22

Over the last two decades, Barbados' food imports have been consistently dominated by broad processed categories such as 'Other Food Preparations (n.e.s./n.e.c.)', as well as key staples like soybeans, wheat, corn, cheese, and frozen meats (see Table 3). A secondary tier of imports—ranging from molasses to fresh grapes and cereal-based snacks—has also emerged among the top 10 agri-food imports in more recent years (see Table 3).

During 2024, Barbados' main source countries for food were the United States of America (45%), Trinidad and Tobago (12%) and the United Kingdom (5%) (see Figure 8) – from which fresh grapes, soybeans, food preparations (USA); aerated and other waters, frozen fish (Trinidad and Tobago); refined sugar, cheddar cheese and frozen wings (United Kingdom) were the main imports (see Figure 9). A long-term aggregated analysis confirms the USA as Barbados' dominant food supplier with imports growing steadily over the two-decade period, nearly doubling from BBD \$178 million in 2005 to over BBD \$424 million by 2024 (see Figure 10). Trinidad and Tobago is the second-largest import partner, and its trade with Barbados also increased significantly, especially between 2014 and 2024. The United Kingdom, although historically important, remained a secondary but stable import partner until around 2021, after which there has been a notable decline. Other major source countries include Canada, New Zealand, and France with whom Barbados has maintained moderate food import levels, but no long-term upward trend. Meanwhile, Jamaica and the Netherlands showed notable increases in recent years, particularly Jamaica, from whom Barbados' food imports have more than doubled between 2020 and 2024 (see Figure 10).

When assessing Barbados' food import profile, particularly the rising food import bill, it is important to acknowledge that a 166 square mile (429 square kilometres) island with limited land and other resources cannot attain total food self-sufficiency and will always depend on regional and international markets for significant portions of its food (WTO, 2022). Additionally, many imported agri-food products serve as inputs for higher value-added production; the extent to which these imports can be offset by the export of higher value-added goods presents an opportunity for balancing trade. However, maintaining a desired level of domestic production is essential to Barbados' overall food security—particularly in ensuring food availability and stability, as was evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic when food sovereignty gained renewed interest.



Table 3. Top 10 Agri-Food Imports over 5-Year Periods (Values in BBD \$ rounded to the nearest million)

2005		2010		2015		2020		2024	
Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$
Other food preparations n.e.s.	23	Other food preparations n.e.s.	28	Other food preparations n.e.s.	35	Other food preparations n.e.c. in item no. 2106.10	42	Other food preparations n.e.c. in item no. 2106.10	49
Other wine, in containers holding ≤2 litres	16	Other soya beans, whether or not broken.	20	Other soya beans, whether or not broken.	23	Molasses from sugar beet resulting from the extraction or refining of sugar.	24	Fresh grapes	30
Other cheese	14	Other cheese	18	Other wine, in containers holding ≤2 litres	17	Soya beans: other than seed, whether or not broken	21	Soya beans; other than seed, whether or not broken	27
Other soya beans, whether or not broken.	14	Other maize (corn).	17	Other boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen.	17	Cheddar cheese	19	Cheddar cheese	22
Other wheat and meslin	11	Other cuts with bone in, of other meat of sheep, frozen.	12	Other cheese	15	Other meat of bovine animals, boneless, frozen	15	Headed broccoli, fresh or chilled	22
Aerated beverages	10	Oth. Cane/beet sugar & chemically pure sucrose, in solid form.	12	Hatching eggs, not for breeder flock	14	Other maize (corn)	14	Molasses from sugar beet resulting from the extraction or refining of sugar.	21
Other waters inc. Mineral/aerated with added sugar etc	9	Other waters inc. Mineral/aerated with added sugar etc	12	Other waters inc. Mineral/aerated with added sugar etc	13	Tunas	14	Fresh, fertilised fowls' eggs of species gall. Dom. For incubation, for breeder flock	20
Other boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen.	8	Other boneless meat of bovine animals, frozen.	12	Other maize (corn).	13	Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals	13	Other meat of bovine animals, boneless, frozen	19
Beer in other containers containing > 4% but ≤ 5% alcohol	8	Other wine, in containers holding ≤2 litres	11	Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals	11	Fresh grapes	12	Other food preparations n.e.c. in heading no. 1605	17
Other cuts with bone in, of other meat of sheep, frozen.	8	Aerated beverages	11	Other wheat and meslin	11	Other cuts of sheep with bone in, frozen	11	Other mixed condiments and mixed seasonings	15

Data sourced from Barbados Statistical Services

Figure 8. Primary Countries of Origin for Agri-Food Imports into Barbados 2024

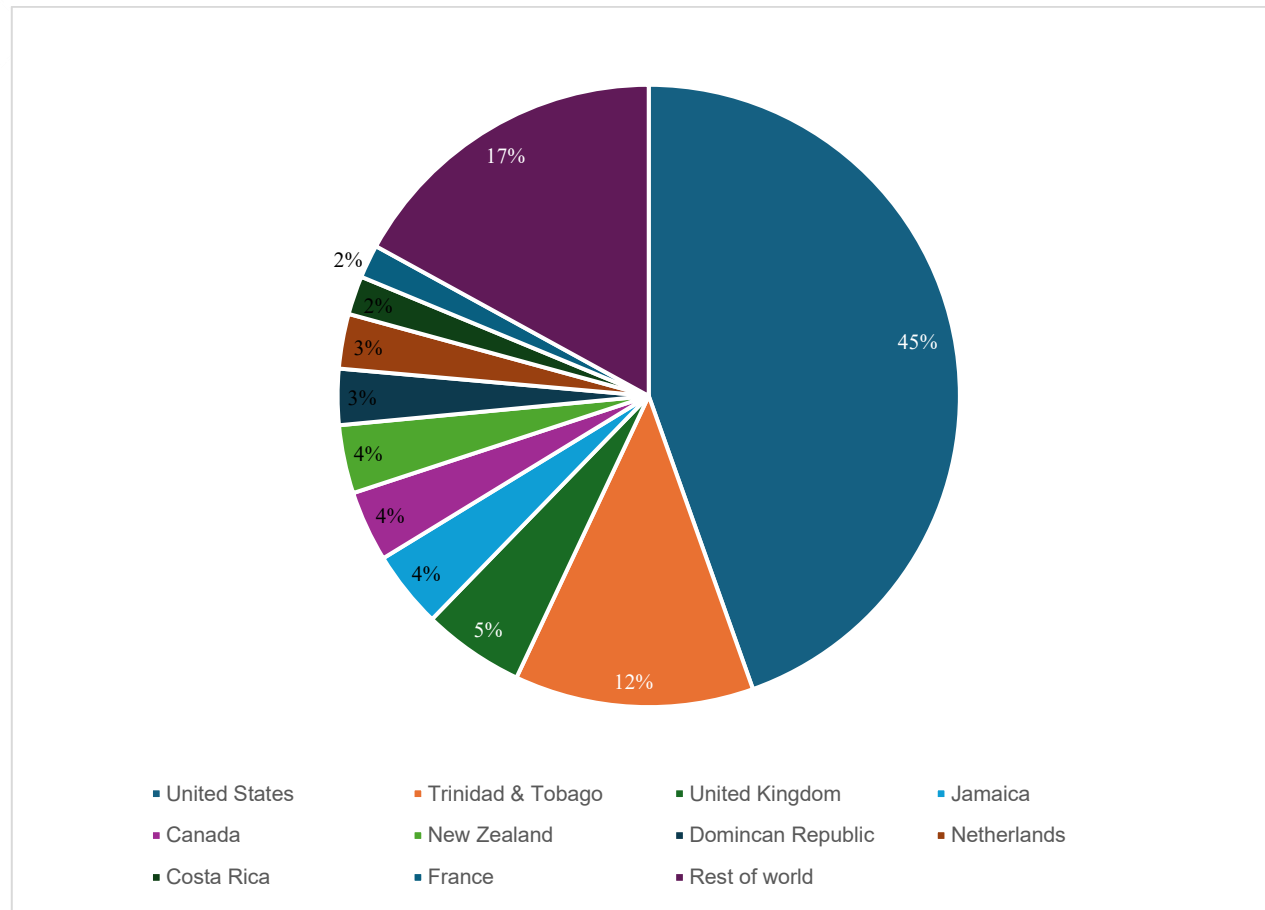
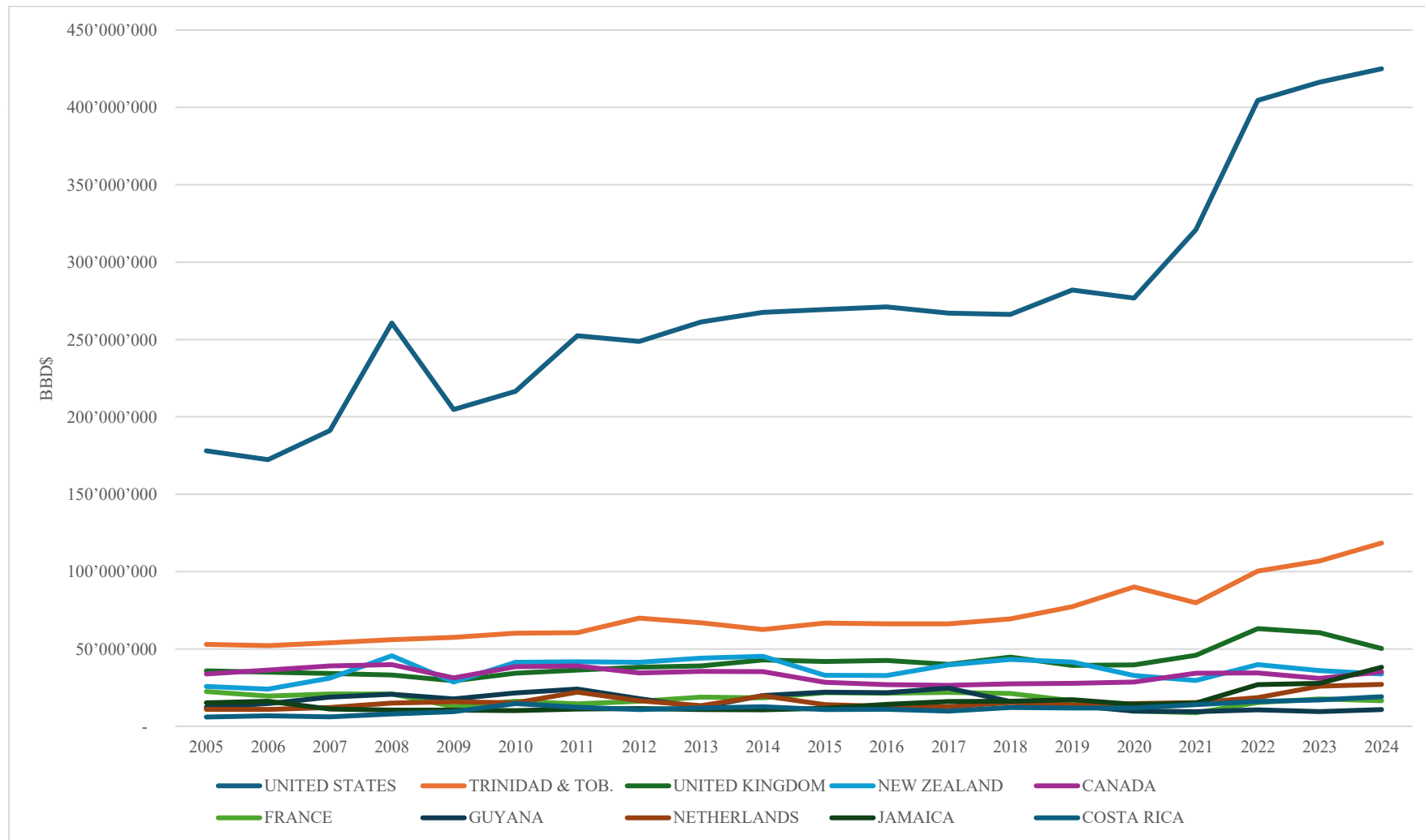


Figure 9. Top 10 imports from Top 3 Source Countries 2024 in BBD \$

USA		Trinidad & Tobago		United Kingdom	
Fresh Grapes	29,867,867	Aerated Waters	11,379,655	Refined Sugar	6,746,865
Soya Beans; Other Than Seed, Whether Or Not Broken	26,990,260	Other Waters Including Mineral And Aerated, Sweetened	9,355,023	Cheddar Cheese	5,055,283
Other Food Preparations N.E.C. In Item No. 2106.10	26,165,812	Marlins, Sailfishes, Spearfish, Frozen	6,267,176	Wings Of Fowls Of The Species Gallus Domesticus, Frozen	3,598,708
Headed Broccoli , Fresh Or Chilled	22,107,339	Other Food Preparations N.E.C. In Heading No. 1605	6,165,033	Other Chocolate & Food Preps With Cocoa In Blocks Etc Not Filled.	1,785,254
Other Maize (Corn)	14,107,477	Tomato Ketchup	5,384,960	Milk & Cream In Solid Forms Not Containing Added Sugar/Sweetening	1,267,603
Fresh, Fertilised Fowls' Eggs Of Species Gall. Dom. For Incubation, For Breeder Flock	13,447,373	Sweet Biscuits	4,628,669	Yogurt	1,248,235
Other Mixed Condiments And Mixed Seasonings	8,652,028	Shandies Containing > 5% But ≤ 10% Alcohol	4,303,916	Other Food Preparations N.E.C. In Item No. 2106.10	1,239,449
Other Dried Fish N.E.C. In Item No. 0305.5	8,182,560	Other Nuts And Other Seeds, Otherwise Prepared/Preserved	3,390,065	Milk & Cream Concentrated In Powder & Solid Forms, Fat Content 1.5% & Less	1,036,145
Apples, Fresh	7,910,497	Mayonnaise	3,293,752	Other Mixed Condiments And Mixed Seasonings	1,033,458
Other Wheat And Meslin, Durum Wheat, Other Than Seed	5,216,556	Biscuits, Unsweetened	2,846,599	Other Wine, Still, In Containers Holding More Than 10 Litres	995,443

Figure 10. Top 10 Source Countries for Aggregated Food Imports into Barbados between 2005-2024



Source: N.B Table 3 and Figures 8-10 were all constructed using data obtained directly from Barbados Statistical Services

Agri-food Exports (HS 01-22)

In 2024 Barbados' agri-food exports amounted to just BBD \$222 million and unlike food imports have not exhibited a strong upward trajectory (see Figure 7). Barbados' long-term aggregated food export profile is anchored by rum and margarine, with value-added processed goods like sweet biscuits and rum based liqueurs becoming more significant in recent years (Table 4). The shift suggests a gradual movement from raw commodity exports (e.g., cane sugar) to more processed, branded, and higher-value agri-food products.

During 2024, the main export destinations were the USA (25%); Trinidad and Tobago (10%); and France (9%) (see Figure 12) – to which other rum and tafia, raw cane sugar, margarine (USA); margarine, sweet biscuits, other soybean oil (Trinidad and Tobago); rums, spirits, and rum-based liquors (France) were the main products exported (see Figure 11). A long-term aggregate analysis of export partners is shown in Figure , where the USA consistently emerged as Barbados' top export partner peaking in 2012 at BBD \$87M and stabilizing in the BBD \$50–55M range in recent years. Canada and France also proved to be significant markets showing notable growth in the past decade, with France moving from a minor export partner in the 2000s to a significant one by 2021. In contrast, exports to the island's traditional colonial partner, the United Kingdom, declined sharply after 2010 and never recovered to previous highs, most likely due to the loss of preferential market access under the Lomé and Cotonou Agreements, which were long-standing trade arrangements between the European Union (EU) and African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries, including Barbados. Within the Caribbean region, countries like St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana have remained reliable partners, with exports to these markets showing gradual increases over time. Over the period 2005-2024 these regional partners consistently imported between BBD \$5M-20M of food products from Barbados annually with Saint Lucia being the largest regional buyer, consistently importing around BBD \$15M-18M worth of food products (see Figure).



Table 4. Top 10 Agri-Food Exports over 5-Year Periods (Values in BBD \$ rounded to the nearest million)

2005		2010		2015		2020		2024	
Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$	Commodity	\$
Other rum and tafia	42	Other rum and tafia	41	Rum/tafia, in bottles of strength not exceeding 46% vol.	45	Other rum and other spirits	45	Other rum and other spirits	51
Cane sugar, raw, not containing added flavouring\colouring matter.	42	Rum/tafia, in bottles of strength not exceeding 46% vol.	27	Other rum and tafia	31	Rum and other spirits in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol	31	Rum and other spirits in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol	30
Margarine excluding liquid margarine	10	Cane sugar, raw, not containing added flavouring\colouring matter.	19	Margarine excluding liquid margarine	17	Margarine excluding liquid margarine	20	Margarine excluding liquid margarine	27
Rum/tafia, in bottles of strength not exceeding 46% vol.	8	Margarine excluding liquid margarine	17	Other sweet biscuits	13	Sweet biscuits	18	Sweet biscuits	26
Other waters inc. Mineral/aerated with added sugar etc	7	Other sweet biscuits	11	Cane sugar, raw, not containing added flavouring\colouring matter.	7	Other undenatured ethyl alcohol, of an alcoholic strength by volume >= 80%	7	Other waters including mineral and aerated, sweetened	12
Other soya bean oil & its fractions whether or not refined	5	Liqueurs and cordials nes	9	Other mixtures of juices n.e.s	7	Other food preparations n.e.c. in item no. 2106.10	4	Other spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages n.e.c. in heading no. 2208	11
Liqueurs and cordials nes	5	Other waters inc. Mineral/aerated with added sugar etc	6	Other wheat flour	7	Rum based liqueurs	4	Other wheat or meslin flour	68
Chicken sausages, canned	5	Other soya bean oil & its fractions whether or not refined	5	Liqueurs and cordials nes	6	Other waters including mineral and aerated, sweetened	4	Rum based liqueurs	63
Other sweet biscuits	4	Other wheat flour	4	Other soya bean oil & its fractions whether or not refined	4	Other soya bean oil & its fractions whether or not refined	3	Other food preparations n.e.c. in item no. 2106.10	60
Other wheat flour	4	Brandy, in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% volume	3	Other	4	Other wheat or meslin flour	3	Other undenatured ethyl alcohol, of an alcoholic strength by volume >= 80%	54

Figure 11. Primary Destinations for Agri-Food Exports from Barbados 2024

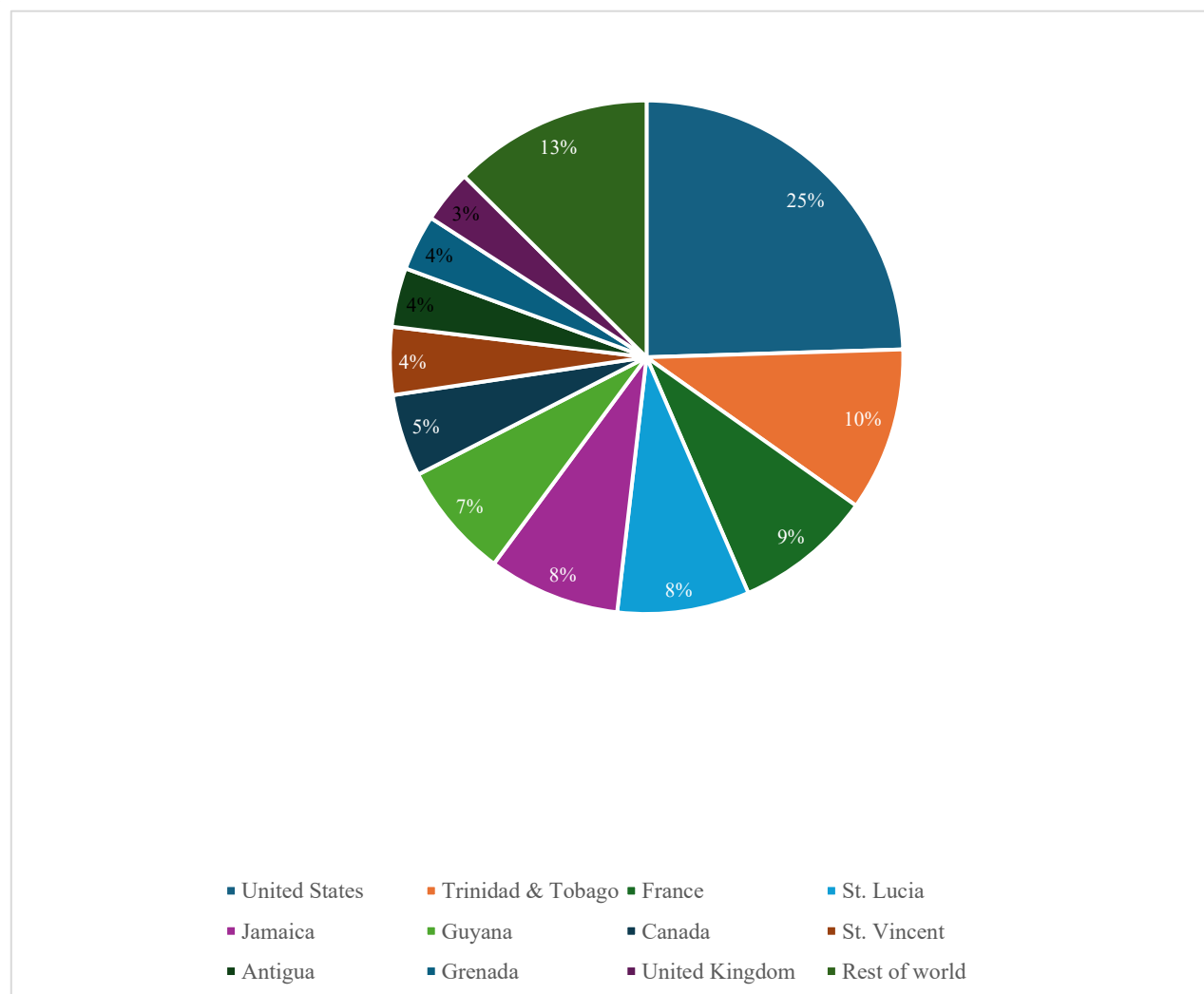
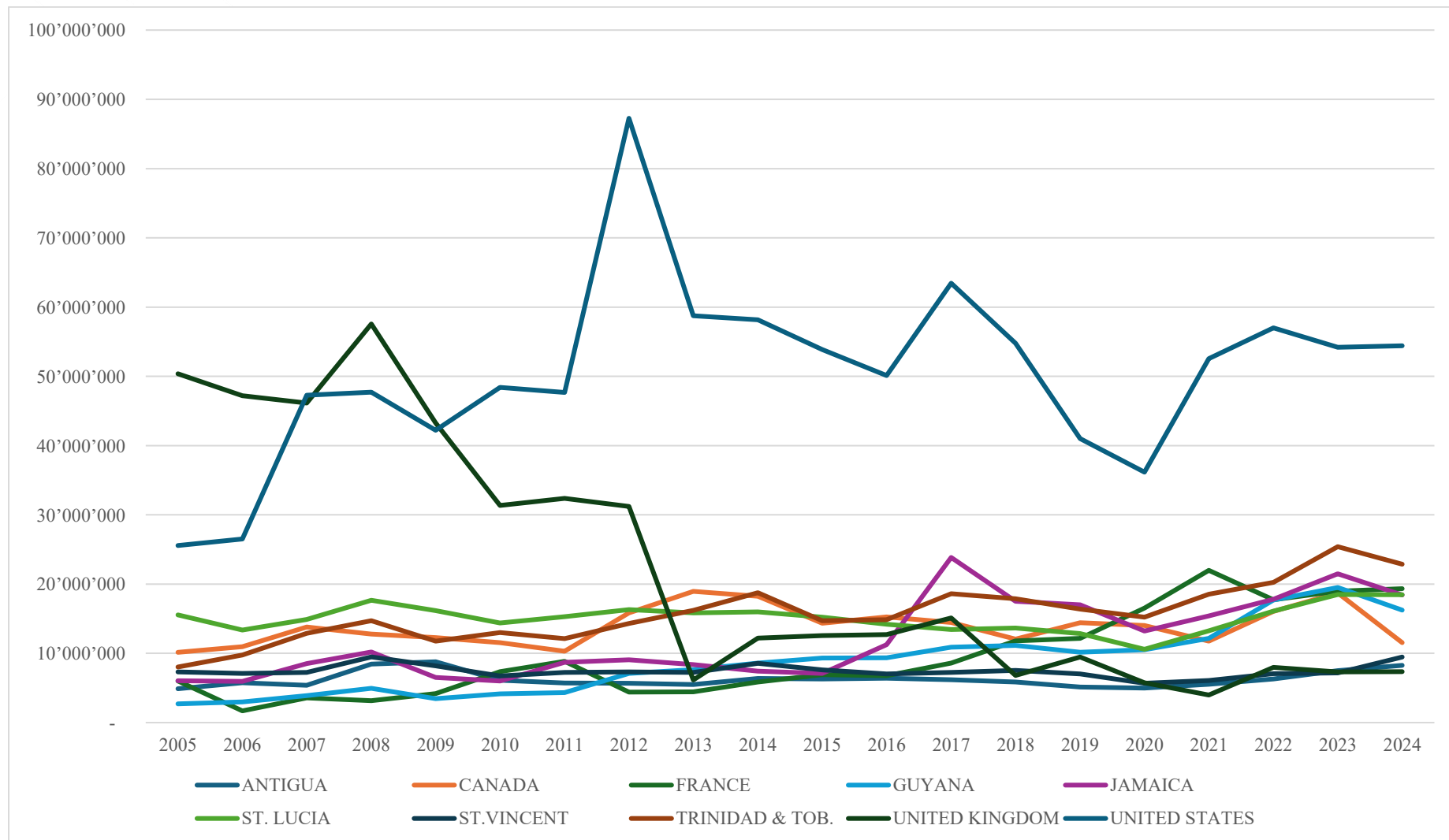


Figure 12. Top 10 Exports from Top 3 Destination Countries 2024 in BBD \$12

USA		Trinidad & Tobago		France	
Other rum and other spirits	19,008,735	Margarine excluding liquid margarine	10,511,151	Other rum and other spirits	8,468,486
Rum and other spirits in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol	17,994,907	Sweet biscuits	4,137,868	Other spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages n.e.c. in heading no. 2208	5,328,565
Sweet biscuits	4,982,978	Other soya bean oil & its fractions whether or not refined	2,427,311	Rum and other spirits in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol	4,935,604
Other spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages n.e.c. in heading no. 2208	1,756,519	Live fowls of the species gallus domesticus, for rearing, weighing <= 185g	1,344,682	Rumbased liqueurs	306,666
Falernum	1,649,877	Aerated waters	1,047,770	Other brandy, in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol	159,976
Rumbased liqueurs	1,602,767	Other spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages n.e.c. in heading no. 2208	742,071	Gin and geneva in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol	59,739
Other yellowfin tunas (thunnus albacares), fresh or chilled	1,041,668	Other food preparations n.e.c. in item no. 2106.10	563,556	Falernum	16,433
Other sweet biscuits	765,483	Biscuits, unsweetened	500,189	Lobster, frozen	10,000
Blended whisky	682,683	Other sweet biscuits	498,073	Other edible vegetables, n.e.c. in chapter 07, fresh or chilled	10,000
Monkeys, live	497,875	Other waters including mineral and aerated, sweetened	365,494	Other yellowfin tunas (thunnus albacares), frozen	10,000

Figure 13. Top 10 Destination for Aggregated Food Exports from Barbados between 2005-2024



Source: N.B Table 3 and Figures 8-10 were all constructed using data obtained directly from Barbados Statistical Services

B. An Overview of Barbados' Trade Policy Architecture for Food Security

Barbados' trade policy is shaped by its commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO), the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), and various bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The policy framework is designed to support economic diversification, ensure market access for domestic products, and manage import dependency.

Barbados utilizes a combination of trade policy instruments and domestic support measures to strengthen its agricultural sector and promote national food security. These include border protection through applied tariffs and tariff rate quotas, state trading arrangements, the application of WTO-sanctioned special safeguard measures, as well as production and export-related support like fiscal incentives, input subsidies, and concessional financing schemes.

Tariff Protections and Tariff Quotas

Barbados imposes high tariffs on agricultural goods to shield domestic producers. The average applied MFN tariff for agricultural goods was 35% in 2021, with peak rates exceeding 200% on items such as vegetables, tubers, meat, and dairy products. Tariff rate quotas (TRQs) are used for 24 products, allowing limited imports at lower tariffs before higher duties are applied (WTO, 2022). While these measures provide a protective buffer for local producers, they may also raise consumer prices and restrict access to cheaper imports, thereby limiting food availability and affordability.

State Trading and Market Access

Barbados maintains state trading through the BADMC, which holds a statutory monopoly on the duty-free importation of key staples like poultry, onions, and brown sugar (WTO, 2022). The rationale is social protection, with the justification that the BADMC distributes these goods to vulnerable populations at lower prices. While this model supports affordability and stabilizes access for low-income households, it may discourage private sector participation and limit domestic competition, affecting innovation and efficiency in the food distribution chain.

Special Safeguard (SSG) Measures

Under its WTO commitments, Barbados reserved the right to apply SSG measures on 36 agricultural products and has implemented these measures on over 30 items, including fruits and vegetables (mainly beets, cabbages, carrots, lettuce, cauliflower, tomatoes, onions and melons) (WTO, 2022). While these safeguards serve to counter import surges and price volatility, overuse or poor calibration could disrupt supply chains or limit consumers' access to diverse food items.

Export Incentives and Quality Enhancement

Barbados offers support for agro exporters through its Export Promotion Policy, covering up to 30% of international transport costs (capped at BBD \$10,000) and 75% of costs for feasibility studies, market research, and implementation of food safety standards (WTO, 2022). These incentives promote competitiveness in global markets, help build value-added exports, and enhance the sector's economic viability. However, current notifications to the WTO show no export subsidies for agriculture up to FY2015/16, and recent reporting is pending. Exports of cotton remain subject to a levy under the Cotton Export Levy Act, with proceeds directed to the Barbados Cotton Growers Association for research and development.

Subsidies, Credit and Tax Incentives

Barbados supports domestic production through the Agricultural Incentive Programme (AIP) and the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF). The AIP provides cost-sharing and per-hectare payments, as well as irrigation investment assistance, with BBD 660,147 disbursed to 522 projects in 2021 (WTO, 2022). The ADF offers preferential loans ranging from BBD \$50,000 to BBD \$1 million, facilitating



access to capital for equipment, technology, and best practices (WTO, 2022). In addition, imports of key agricultural inputs (e.g., machinery, live animals, fertilizers) are duty-free, and eligible businesses can claim tax rebates or enjoy income tax holidays (up to 10 years) for cotton and fruit production in the Scotland District (WTO, 2022). These fiscal incentives are crucial in reducing input costs, encouraging technology adoption, and improving productivity. However, the effectiveness of these schemes hinges on uptake rates, ease of access, transparency, and outreach, especially among smallholders.

Regional Trade and Duty-Free Access

Barbados benefits from CARICOM's duty-free trade regime, allowing imports of both sensitive and non-sensitive goods (e.g., tomatoes, yams) from the region at zero tariffs. This enhances regional food availability and reduces dependence on distant markets. However, Barbados's limited export competitiveness within CARICOM points to the need for strengthening local production capacity and improving standards compliance. Issues such as Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) barriers, high freight costs, and inconsistent standards have limited Barbados' export competitiveness and its ability to fully leverage regional trade for food access. As of 2022, Barbados did not export significant volumes of fresh produce into the region, despite importing items such as yams and coconuts from CARICOM (WTO, 2022).

C. Trade Policy Implications for Food Security

Barbados's suite of trade and domestic policy instruments plays a critical role in shaping its food security landscape across all four pillars: availability, access, utilization, and stability. However, the impact of these tools is not uniformly positive; their effectiveness hinges on strategic coordination, transparency, and alignment with broader development goals—including those related to health and nutrition.

In terms of **availability**, Barbados uses a combination of tariff protection, import licensing, and domestic subsidies to secure food supplies and protect local production. As shown above, high applied tariffs—averaging 35% on agricultural goods, with some products facing rates above 100%—shield domestic producers from external competition. These measures are complemented by subsidies and infrastructure investments under programmes like the AIP and ADF. While these tools can enhance local production and buffer against global supply shocks, overly restrictive import regimes or inefficiencies in state trading (as seen with the BADMC monopoly on key staples) risk limiting the availability of diverse, affordable foods on the market. Excessive dependence on state-led imports without market responsiveness could inadvertently generate supply bottlenecks and price distortions.

When it comes to **access**, Barbados employs mechanisms such as price controls (now largely phased out), input subsidies, and targeted distribution of duty-free goods to low-income households via the BADMC. These interventions aim to enhance affordability and reduce food insecurity for vulnerable populations. However, high border protection can also drive consumer prices up for non-targeted groups, especially in the absence of widespread income support measures. Without nuanced targeting and regular price monitoring, tariffs intended to protect domestic agriculture could inadvertently reduce real access for middle- and low-income households.

The pillar of **utilization**, which relates to food safety, quality, and nutritional value, is increasingly shaped by trade-linked policies. Export incentives, such as subsidies for certification and feasibility studies, promote adherence to international quality standards like Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) and GMP. This creates positive spillovers for domestic food safety practices. However, weak enforcement of food safety regulations at the farm and small enterprise level continues to pose a public health risk. The lack of robust monitoring systems and uneven adoption of GAP leaves gaps in the nutritional and microbiological quality of locally produced food. The integration of food safety standards into trade policies could significantly enhance public health outcomes, particularly if linked with Barbados's school feeding programmes and national nutrition initiatives. Regulatory trade tools such as front-of-pack nutrition labelling (FOPL) are being advanced as part of a wider effort to promote healthier food choices and improve dietary outcomes. These measures, spearheaded by the Ministry



of Health and supported regionally through CARICOM, aim to ensure that imported packaged foods meet certain labelling standards such as clearly displaying sugar, salt, and fat content, before entering the domestic market.

Stability is partially addressed through Barbados's use of WTO-compliant SSG mechanisms and diversification strategies. SSGs allow the government to respond to import surges that may destabilize local markets for fruits and vegetables. Yet the effectiveness of these tools can be hampered by administrative lags and outdated WTO notifications, signalling weaknesses in surveillance and policy responsiveness. Diversification incentives, including support for non-traditional exports and investment in resilient crops, offer longer-term solutions, but require better alignment with climate, health, and nutrition goals.

Policy coherence, backed by timely data and regular review, will be key to making trade a more powerful tool for achieving sustainable, inclusive, and nutrition-sensitive food systems.

D. Challenges and Opportunities for Agri-Food Trade

1. Challenges

Barbados' agri-food trade faces a complex set of challenges, including high logistics costs, limited economies of scale, regulatory barriers, and difficulties meeting international standards, factors that collectively constrain competitiveness and access to key export markets.

High Logistics Costs & Limited Transport Infrastructure

Structural challenges such as small farm sizes and the inability to achieve economies of scale compound high logistics costs. Intra-regional shipments often fall short of filling a 20-foot container, and destination markets may not require full loads, making Less-than-Container-Load (LCL) services essential but costly. Additionally, it is cheaper to trade with extra-regional partners than with neighbouring islands despite geographic proximity. For example, shipping a 20-foot container from Guyana to Barbados costs US \$3,100—more than double the cost of shipping to Brazil (US \$1,200) (see Table 5) (Chambers & Rigal, 2023). Unsurprisingly, despite CARICOM integration efforts, only 16% of Caribbean food imports are sourced regionally (Chambers & Rigal, 2023). Additionally, there are infrastructure challenges such as inadequate cold-chain systems, with most regional ports lacking sufficient refrigerated storage and handling facilities—resulting in spoilage and reduced shelf life for perishables. Transport options are limited by low shipment volumes, making it difficult to justify frequent liner services, while air freight remains prohibitively expensive and maritime schedules rarely align with harvest periods. These issues are further compounded by inefficient port infrastructure, including limited reefer capacity and competition with cruise ships for dock space, all of which inflate shipping costs and reduce the competitiveness of intra-regional agri-food trade.

Table 5. Sample Transport Costs

Product Type	Route	Container Type	Cost (USD)	Notes
Grains	Guyana – Suriname	20'	2500	
Grains	Guyana – Barbados	20'	3100	
Grains	Guyana – Rio de Janeiro	20'	1200	Brazilian tax break in 2019
Perishables	Suriname – Aruba	40' reefer	5000	Rate from Maersk; transit time about 20 days

Source: (Chambers & Rigal, 2023)

Regulatory Barriers

Agri-food traders face a complex web of regulatory trade barriers that impact both regional and extra-regional agri-food trade. On the regional front, regulatory fragmentation remains a key obstacle hindering intra-regional agri-food trade (Alhassan, et al., 2020). Although the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) and the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) are tasked with issuing regional SPS and TBT guidelines, they lack enforcement authority, and adoption of these standards requires unanimous agreement by all 15 CARICOM member states, followed by domestic legislation. As a result, regional uniformity remains limited. In the absence of agreed regional protocols and product standards—particularly for fresh produce—some countries have defaulted to stricter WTO-aligned measures, creating compliance challenges for neighbours. Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, with stronger extra-regional trade ties, have advocated for raising regional standards to match international benchmarks (Chambers & Rigal, 2023). While the use of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) has declined due to increased legal alignment and Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) rulings, improper SPS measures persist (see Table 6). For example, Guyana has been cited for unjustified SPS restrictions on products like honey and citrus, and Trinidad and Tobago has imposed protective measures on domestic staples such as duck meat and sweet potatoes. These regulatory inconsistencies hinder seamless intra-regional trade and limit the region's collective competitiveness.

Table 6. Most commonly reported NTMs and NTBs impacting intra-CARICOM agricultural trade

Non-tariff measures (NTMs)	Non-tariff barriers (NTBs)
• Certain SPS measures • Technical requirements, such as compulsory standards • Quantity control mechanisms • Price control mechanisms • Marketing boards and other legal monopolies • Anti-dumping and countervailing duties • Safeguards • Import quotas • Non-automatic licensing requirements	• SPS measures that prohibit market access (e.g., improper application of Pest Risk Analysis) • Local content laws, such as domestic purchasing requirements • Price control mechanisms

Source: (Chambers & Rigal, 2023)

Extra-regionally, Barbadian exporters must navigate similarly burdensome SPS and TBT requirements from markets like the EU, UK, and US, where compliance documentation such as rigorous hygiene, traceability, and labelling regimes, can impose steep compliance costs on small producers. While trade agreements like those under CARICOM and CARIFORUM (e.g. CARIFORUM EU and UK EPAs) provide duty-free access, compliance with SPS and TBT standards, along with bureaucratic red tape, continues to restrict market entry and competitiveness, as confirmed by stakeholder consultations. Strengthened regulatory capacity and investment in compliance infrastructure are essential for sustainable agri-food trade growth in Barbados.

Limited Access to High Value Niche Markets

Due to its small size and limited scale of production, Barbados cannot compete in the international trade landscape on volume and must instead strategically position itself to export high-value, niche agri-food products. However, smallholders and agro-processors face significant challenges accessing high-value export markets due to limited technical capacity, financing, and institutional support to comply with Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) such as Global G.A.P. or Fairtrade. Despite preferential market access under CARIFORUM–EU and CARIFORUM–UK Economic Partnership Agreements, actual export utilization have not reached full potential, as many producers cannot meet stringent sustainability and traceability criteria for agri-food products. This limits Barbados's ability to capitalize



on demand for premium, certified products like organic herbs or gluten-free root-based flours. While food safety protocols are supported through the IFSC, the absence of a national VSS framework or targeted producer assistance continues to constrain participation in global value chains, thereby weakening the export potential of the agri-food sector.

2. Opportunities

Barbados is actively exploring new avenues to enhance its agri-food trade by leveraging regional partnerships and global programmes. Key opportunities are emerging under the Saint Barnabas Accord with Guyana, which promotes collaboration in agriculture and food security; through engagement with the World Food Programme's Caribbean initiative on disaster preparedness and procurement; and via strategic product diversification targeting high-value exports such as condiments, nutraceuticals, and gluten-free flours.

St. Barnabas Accord

The St. Barnabas Accord, signed on July 5, 2022, by Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Guyana's President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, is a landmark bilateral agreement aimed at deepening cooperation across agriculture, food security, trade, and logistics. It builds upon a 2002 cooperation framework and sets out joint actions in nine areas: agriculture, aquaculture and food security; mining and quarrying sector; tourism and international transport; trade and business development; energy; manufacturing; education and training; security; bilateral integration measures (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, 2022).

Under the agriculture, aquaculture, and food security pillar of the Saint Barnabas Accord, notable developments and emerging opportunities include:

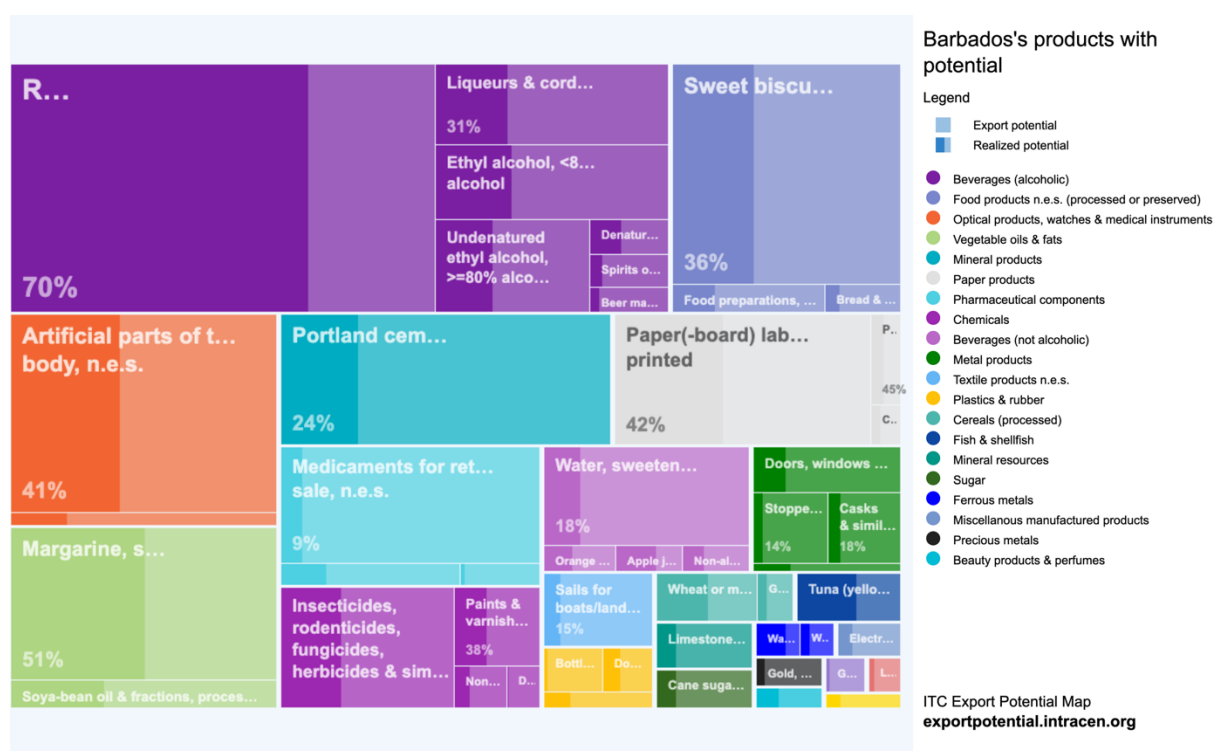
- The Barbados–Guyana Food Terminal: which is being constructed at Lears, St. Michael, Barbados, with progressive private-sector involvement and a completion target around end of 2026. This strategic hub is being developed to process, cold-store, and distribute agricultural produce from both Barbados and Guyana, featuring capacity for about 45 containers, packaging operations, cold storage, processing plants, a large reservoir, and land for crop production (Papannah, 2023). Once operational, the food terminal aims to stabilize supply chains, reduce losses, and improve access to fresh produce, while offering Barbadian farmers contract opportunities and supporting national food security and CARICOM's 25% import reduction goal. As a logistics hub, it also enhances regional and international distribution, with export and private-sector growth potential (Elcock, 2024). However, local stakeholders stress the need for inclusive planning and viable business models to ensure the terminal directly benefits the domestic agricultural sector (Moore S. , 2025).
- The Blackbelly Sheep Rearing Initiative: is a collaborative agricultural venture between Barbados and Guyana, established under the Saint Barnabas Accord. The project involves the export of Barbadian Blackbelly sheep to Guyana for large-scale rearing. Barbados provides the genetic stock and technical expertise, while Guyana supplies the land and capacity for expansion (Barbados Today, 2024). This initiative demonstrates how SIDS like Barbados can creatively address land and resource constraints through regional trade and cooperation. By partnering with Guyana, a CARICOM member state with vast available land, Barbados has exported its genetic stock and expertise in Blackbelly sheep breeding to support large-scale production in Guyana, with the aim of supplying high-quality lamb meat back to Barbados and other regional markets. This is a practical model of how regional partnerships can enhance food security, diversify protein sources, and strengthen agro-industrial linkages across CARICOM. It also exemplifies how SIDS can leverage regional integration to mitigate structural limitations like limited arable land, high input costs, and small market size, while building resilience through distributed production systems.



Export Potential and Product Diversification

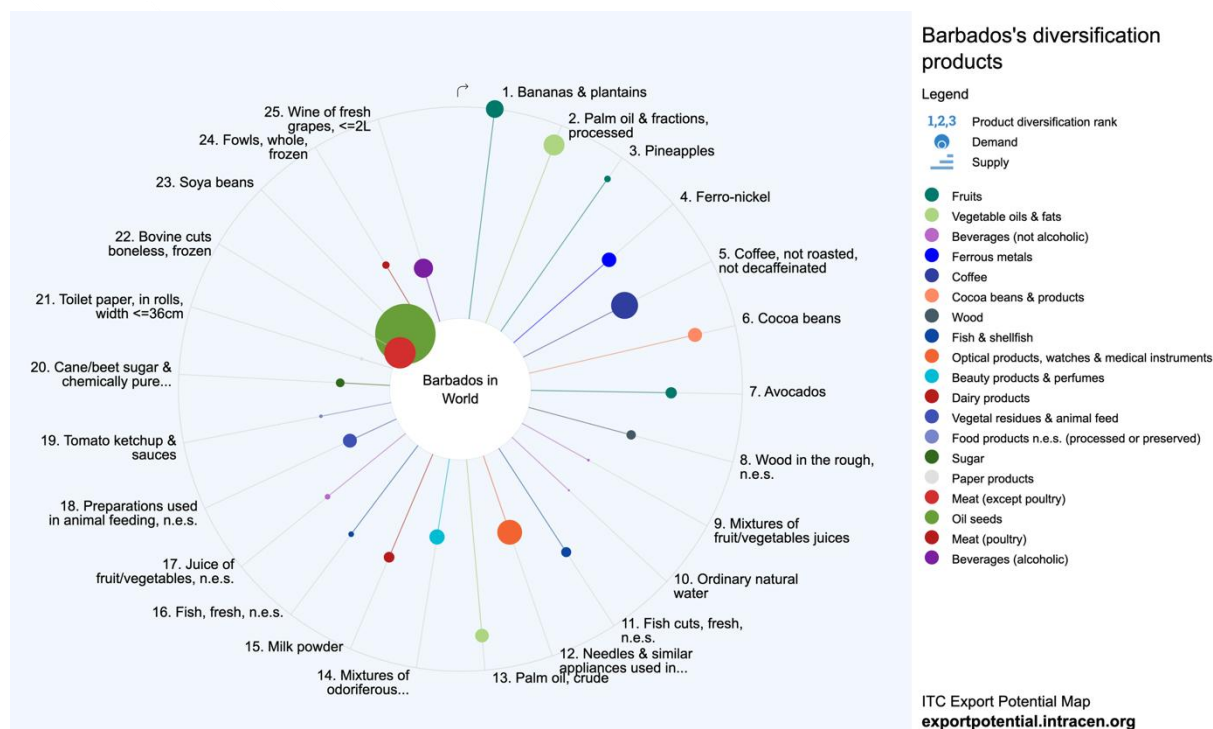
Barbados holds significant untapped export potential and opportunities for product diversification, as identified through the ITC Trade Map portal. The country's top products with unfulfilled export potential include rum, sauces and condiments, sweet biscuits, and preserved vegetables, particularly in markets such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada (see Figure). These goods benefit from existing preferential trade access under agreements like CARIFORUM–EU and CARIFORUM–UK EPAs, but face supply-side constraints and standards compliance gaps. Capitalizing on such opportunities could contribute meaningfully to Barbados's economic diversification and export-led growth strategy.

Figure 14. Export Potential by Product for Barbados (estimate for 2019)



Source: ITC Export Potential Map 2025

Barbados has promising opportunities to diversify its agri-food exports based on global demand trends and ease of market access. According to the ITC Export Potential Map (see Figure), the most viable options for export diversification include bananas and plantains, palm oil and its fractions, processed pineapples, and soybeans. Among these, bananas and plantains are considered the most accessible for Barbadian exporters, likely due to lower barriers to entry and regional familiarity. Strategic investments in these areas could enhance the country's export basket, reduce reliance on traditional exports, and position Barbados to tap into expanding global food markets, while leveraging branding opportunities around quality and Caribbean origin.

Figure 15. Product Diversification Opportunities for Barbados

Source: ITC Export Potential Map 2025

Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub

The UN World Food Programme (WFP), in partnership with CDEMA and the Barbados Government, inaugurated the Caribbean Regional Logistics Hub in May 2025, establishing a state-of-the-art facility to significantly strengthen regional disaster response. Equipped with a 2,500 m² warehouse, space for 40 twenty-foot containers, 1,300 pallet racks, and 112 m³ of cold storage, the hub is designed to deliver food, medical supplies, and essential goods within 48–72 hours of a disaster, reducing response delays by up to a week (WFP, 2025). This hub significantly strengthens the island's food stability by improving its ability to respond rapidly to crises and supply disruptions. By pre-positioning emergency food supplies, the hub enables deployment within 48–72 hours, reducing reliance on external shipments during disasters. It also enhances regional cooperation, cold storage capacity, and logistics infrastructure while providing training in emergency response. This not only positions Barbados as a regional leader in disaster preparedness but also builds long-term resilience in its food system—a critical advantage for a SID highly dependent on food imports.



Chapter IV

Conclusions and policy recommendations



Chapter

IV

Conclusions and policy recommendations

A. Time for Action

Barbados stands at a critical juncture in redefining its food and nutrition security landscape. While the country benefits from a relatively strong import infrastructure and regional trade ties, its heavy dependence on external sources, vulnerability to climate shocks, high production costs, and fragmented food systems threaten long-term sustainability. The assessment reveals that food availability is constrained by declining arable land, aging farmer demographics, and gaps in post-harvest infrastructure. Access is compromised by high prices, inadequate transport links—especially within the region—and limited financial mechanisms for smallholders. Utilization faces barriers in the form of poor nutritional quality, weak food safety enforcement, and limited adoption of climate-resilient crops. Meanwhile, food system stability is increasingly challenged by economic shocks and global conflicts, climate-induced droughts, praedial larceny, and inadequate early warning systems.

Yet, Barbados also possesses distinct opportunities: strategic partnerships under the St. Barnabas Accord, the new WFP Disaster Logistics Hub, emerging agri-tech initiatives, and its potential to export niche, high-value products. The path forward requires bold, integrated reforms that are both innovative and pragmatic—linking trade, health, education, infrastructure, and climate resilience into a unified national food strategy. With targeted investment, regulatory modernization, and regional coordination, Barbados can transform its agri-food system into a resilient engine for economic inclusion, improved nutrition, and national sovereignty. The time for action is now; food security must move from policy intent to operational urgency.

B. Policy Recommendations

The following policy recommendations are actionable, evidence-based interventions structured around the four key pillars of food security—availability, access, utilization, and stability—alongside cross-cutting trade and institutional reforms to support a resilient and nutrition-sensitive agri-food system in Barbados.

Boost Food Availability

Barbados should accelerate passage of its National Food Security Strategy, finalizing a modern, cross-sectoral plan with measurable targets, clear timelines, and defined agency responsibilities. Land-use policy reform is also critical: remaining arable land should be protected from urban encroachment through the designation of agricultural reserves, while incentives should encourage vertical farming and greenhouse production on marginal lands. Strengthening regional supply chains is another key action, deepening partnerships with Guyana and Suriname under the St. Barnabas Accord could diversify imports of fresh produce and livestock, complementing local output. Post-harvest infrastructure should be modernized through investment in cold-chain systems, storage hubs, and shared agro-processing centres strategically located near ports and inland markets. In parallel, establishing a National Market



Information System and Coordinated Crop Forecasting Mechanism would ensure timely, reliable data on supply, yields, demand, and import requirements. Such a system would enable farmers and policymakers to make data-driven decisions, optimize crop scheduling, and prevent surpluses or shortages.

Enhance Access and Affordability

To improve affordability, the Government could expand targeted input subsidies, particularly for water and energy, to registered farmers and offer capped assistance for feed, organic fertilizers, and packaging materials. Dedicated agri-finance windows for small and medium-sized enterprises, designed in partnership with local banks, could provide blended finance or concessional loans to smallholders and agro-processors seeking to scale or upgrade their operations. Digitizing farmer registries and distribution systems using digital-ID-linked platforms would also make it easier to target subsidies and distribute state-imported staples such as poultry and onions more efficiently.

Improve Food Utilization and Nutrition

Nutrition outcomes can be enhanced through consumer education and safer food environments. The introduction of simplified front-of-pack nutrition labelling would help combat non-communicable diseases and improve public food literacy. Expanding the national school nutrition programme to include higher quotas of locally produced, diversified, and climate-resilient crops, such as cassava and sweet potato, would strengthen domestic markets while supporting child health. Moreover, increased investment in food-safety infrastructure is needed to help micro and small producers achieve compliance with international standards such as GAP, HACCP, and GMP, with technical and financial assistance delivered through collaborations with the IFSC and Export Barbados.

Reinforce Stability and Resilience

To buffer against external shocks, Barbados could establish a national food reserve and an early-warning system integrated into a food price and production monitoring dashboard. Promoting climate-smart agriculture should also remain a central focus. For example, mainstreaming tunnel and drip irrigation systems through targeted subsidies for smallholders, while supporting drought-resistant crop research in partnership with CARDI and the UWI. Finally, integrating national systems with the WFP disaster preparedness centre and Guyana's food terminal would help create a coordinated national logistics hub to stabilize supply chains during crises.

Cross-Cutting and Trade Policy Reforms

Complementary reforms at the trade and institutional level will ensure that domestic gains are sustained. Barbados should work with COTED and private-sector actors to negotiate preferential Less-than-Container-Load (LCL) maritime services, facilitating regional pooled shipment options for small agri-exporters. Advancing regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) harmonization, including the domestication of CAHFSA and CROSQ standards and the finalization of the CARICOM protocol on SPS procedures, would help reduce technical trade barriers. A National Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) Promotion Programme could be established to provide grants and training to smallholders seeking certification aligned with priority export markets. Finally, updating agricultural data systems, including conducting a new agricultural census and introducing geospatial, real-time monitoring dashboards, would support evidence-based policy decisions and more efficient resource allocation across the agri-food sector.



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Appendix

APPENDIX 1

Stakeholder Consultations

Meeting	Date	Attendees	Institution
1	20-Mar	Ambassador Matthew Wilson	Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations and other International Organisations at Geneva
		Kay Sealy (Ms) Deputy Permanent Representative	
		Ms. Allison E. St. Brice, Chargé d'Affaires	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva
2	04-Apr	Dr. Carol Hull-Jackson – Chief Scientist at IFSC	IFSC by Export Barbados (BIDC)
		Coral Taylor – Manager of Exports	
		Pedro Hutchinson – Senior Research Officer	
		Dario Pile – Research Officer	
3	08-Apr	Paula Byer Director of Foreign Trade (ag)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
4	09-Apr	Bret Taylor. Senior Agricultural Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security
		Barney Callender. Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer	
		Mark Trotman. Senior Veterinary Officer	
		Michael James. Chief Agricultural Officer	
5	10-Apr	Hadyn Rhynd. Director	Barbados National Standards Institution BNSI
		Dacia Moore	
		Fabian Scott	
		Cheryl M. Lewis	
		Susan Yarde	
		Tamara Lee	
6	17-Apr	Anne Reid, Director	Barbados Private Sector Association (BPSA)
		Elihu Wahid, Trade Consultant	
		James Paul, Head of Barbados Agriculture Society	
		Greg Bromes, Operations Manager, BHTA	
		Andre Thomas, General Manager, KOSCAB Coca-Cola	
7	17-Apr	Shennel Richards, Chief Research Officer	Prime Minister's Office
8	17-Apr	Dr. Beverly Wood, Director, Government Analytical Services	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security
9	29-Apr	Owen Holder, Comptroller of Customs	Barbados Customs and Excise Department
10	02-May	Jane Brome, Divisional Manager Business Development & Strategy	Barbados Port Inc.
		Ade O'Neal, Assistant Manager, Business Development & Strategy	
		Sheldon Layne, Manager, Terminal Operations	
		Leonid Tkach, Manager, Security Services / Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO)	



APPENDIX 2

Barbados Crop Production

Barbados Crop Production 2020 to 2024 (kgs)					
Crop	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Bananas	2,260,042.64	1,836,639.30	258,808.85	1,127,857.66	1,127,857.66
Basil	986.57	952.55	1,020.59	-	102.06
Bean	117,032.57	161,064.37	168,118.25	388,230.65	388,230.65
Beet	134,428.01	77,472.10	122,613.17	115,413.23	115,413.23
Bonavise	3,627.19	8,047.38	933.84	2,911.24	2,911.24
Broccoli	410.51	578.34	27.22	-	11.34
Cabbage	279,347.73	345,677.22	311,851.58	431,708.06	431,708.06
Cantaloupe	222,707.07	350,621.43	467,440.81	120,691.28	120,691.28
Carrot	252,756.74	318,731.29	340,427.74	201,534.69	181,122.82
Cassava	488,168.15	805,348.48	560,361.86	890,523.55	890,523.55
Cauliflower	-	567.00	333.39	-	6,284.59
Celery	476.28	79.38	1,325.64	-	396.90
Chinese Cabbage	109,036.79	293,059.29	224,256.67	159,576.57	159,576.57
Chive	1,680,932.48	1,963,540.89	504,193.50	1,630,488.23	1,630,488.23
Christophene	-	-	68,104.19	-	6,123.56
Corn	23,416.49	100,653.18	51,173.00	101,601.92	101,601.92
Cucumber	1,023,626.05	1,129,936.50	1,245,558.92	780,108.32	771,036.38
Dill	-	-	17.01	4,480.06	4,480.06
Eddoes	214,267.89	250,345.87	287,629.28	181,753.49	181,753.49
Egg Plant	72,564.18	147,640.16	209,091.22	193,358.32	193,358.32
Eschalot	-	-	-	-	51.03
Figs	14,968.70	11,240.13	142.88	-	10,205.93
Lettuce	596,454.69	710,038.28	979,698.09	665,587.52	665,587.52
Marjoram	115,472.19	65,685.39	6,318.61	346,733.92	346,733.92
Muskmelon	4,182.16	23,677.76	38,356.16	22,952.01	22,952.01
Okra	447,337.39	549,532.34	673,567.54	433,801.23	433,801.23
Onion	914,224.80	1,327,315.61	1,486,482.81	604,245.67	604,245.67
Parsley	39,190.78	63,112.36	23,989.61	719,061.90	719,061.90
Paw Paw	217,953.37	175,678.13	72,847.68	303,454.14	303,454.14
Peanut	3,039.10	4,674.32	8,277.01	12,866.28	12,866.28
Peas	64,643.87	73,630.19	43,940.11	16,629.04	16,629.04
Pepper (hot)	138,941.30	142,538.33	226,132.63	345,793.70	345,793.70
Pepper (sweet)	327,382.00	462,084.96	474,463.73	256,476.45	256,476.45
Plantain	1,673,711.78	429,242.49	265,435.91	254,393.09	254,393.09



Appendix

Potato (sweet)	3,512,947.11	3,407,608.95	2,543,464.26	1,664,204.94	1,619,752.44
Pumpkin	212,365.46	414,079.20	505,667.04	351,284.50	351,284.50
Runcifers	15,830.93	11,134.67	9,557.35	13,431.01	13,431.01
Seasoning	357.21	6,991.06	17,942.03	-	-
Spinach	24,516.92	52,685.29	27,621.79	14,034.29	14,034.29
Squash	495,225.89	609,938.88	970,338.27	314,875.15	314,875.15
Squash (finger)	15,421.16	33,859.88	16,560.83	17,009.89	17,009.89
Thyme	195,443.62	384,831.72	66,786.49	194,817.88	194,817.88
Tomato	448,591.58	1,026,454.91	906,023.20	979,361.30	962,351.41
Watermelon	904,963.49	1,502,857.66	1,457,939.99	276,631.82	276,631.82
Yam	998,845.14	671,180.26	988,969.88	221,893.31	221,893.31
Zucchini	85,995.19	107,502.49	66,760.41	42,728.84	42,728.84

Source: Directly provided by the Ministry of Agriculture 2025

