



**CARICOM PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATION  
CARIBBEAN WEEK OF AGRICULTURE – TECHNICAL SESSION**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**TITLE:** CARICOM TRADE IN AGRICULTURE: TENDENCIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR 25% X2025

**ORGANIZER:** CPSO

**DATE:** 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 – 10:30 AM

**I. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION**

Myriad climatic, human-induced/man-made and policy induced crisis, continue to portend elevated risk and opportunity for CARICOM’s food security, economic development and sustainability. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CARICOM offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders and policy makers, for ‘stocktaking’ facilitated by the examination of CARICOM’s agri-food performance. The paper will undertake a detailed examination of CARICOM’s agri-food sector in order to identify the opportunities, challenges and critical interventions necessary for production and trade growth, propelled by regional production, trade and exports.

The Community is at the tail end of the CET and Rules of Origin reform process. This ‘reform process’ did not benefit from a thorough analysis of CARICOM’s trade performance as a precursor and input into the CET and Rules of Origin reform process. Though ‘the hour is nigh’ insights from this technical session can contribute to the ongoing ‘reform process’; other aspects will constitute much needed input to the important ‘build-in’ agenda by focusing the attention of Members States on critical policy and infrastructure changes after thirty-two (32) years of CARICOM’s revised trade and development policy

**II. OBJECTIVES**

The CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) Technical Session – CARICOM Trade in Agriculture: Tendencies and Implications for 25% X 2025 will provide a situation and outlook for CARICOM Agriculture.

In particular, the Session will:

- i. Undertake a much-needed assessment of the trends in intra- and extra-regional agri-food trade for the 2000 – 2023 period.
- ii. Examine/Analyse the evolution of sector and product performance, and emergent trends and potential opportunities



- iii. Explore trade performance under central elements of the Community’s trade policy regime, particularly the ‘List of Commodities Ineligible for Conditional Duty Exemptions’ (*‘Ineligibles List’*) with products *not included* in the ‘Ineligibles List’.
  
- iv. Highlight a number of policy reforms critical for unlocking the potential opportunities identified from the analysis of trade policy.

**III. TARGET AUDIENCE**

- Private sector entities
- Government Officials, Policymakers, and Regulators
- Practitioners and technicians in the agriculture sector- e.g. Farmers and farmer organizations, extension officers etc.
- Representatives from Regional and international organizations
- Agribusinesses (SMEs)
- Financial Institutions
- Agriculture, Climate, and Development Organizations
- Academia and Research Institutions

**IV. PROPOSED AGENDA**

<b>DRAFT AGENDA</b>
<b>ITEM</b>
Welcome and Opening Remarks
Introduction to Presentation
Presentation on CARICOM Trade in Agriculture
Presentation on Opportunities
Policy Solutions and Support Measures
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
Wrap - Up
Closing Remarks
<b>END OF SESSION</b>