

CWA Technical Seminars

Concept Note

Value chain financing: Emerging opportunities for resilient food systems

Organizers: FAO (and CDB? EU? SLC please advise on possible partners)

Background/ Introduction (250 – 300 words)

Agrifood supply chains in the Caribbean are vital for economic stability and food security, but they face significant challenges due to climate change, market volatility, and limited access to finance. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the vulnerability of these systems by disrupting logistics and supply chains, which is especially concerning for Caribbean nations that heavily depend on food imports. This situation underscores the need for more resilient and self-sufficient agrifood supply chains in the region.

In response, CARICOM has introduced the "25 by 2025" strategy, which aims to reduce the region's food import bill by 25% by the year 2025. Achieving this ambitious goal requires substantial investment in local agrifood systems, particularly through financing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). However, these enterprises often struggle to secure traditional financing due to high perceived risks and a lack of tailored financial products.

With the reduced fiscal space of governments in the post-pandemic context, private sector financing has become increasingly important. Leveraging climate finance, impact funds, and innovative financial mechanisms can help address these financing gaps. This session will explore how to effectively mobilize public and private financing to support the Caribbean's agrifood sector, ensuring a sustainable and secure food future in alignment with the "25 by 2025" strategy.

Objectives (100 – 150 words)

This session will explore how to effectively attract and mobilize public and private financing to support the Caribbean's agrifood sector, ensuring a sustainable and secure food future. In particular:

- Explore financing solutions that address the specific needs of SMEs in the Caribbean agrifood sector, including example from other regions
- Discuss the integration of climate finance and impact funds into agrifood value chains.
- Explore strategies to increase private sector financing,

Target Audience

- Government Officials and Policymakers
- Financial Institutions
- Agribusinesses (SMEs)
- Climate and Development Organizations
- Academia and Research Institutions
- Donors and Impact Investors

Proposed Agenda of Seminar

A roundtable with four speakers and an open dialogue:

Time	Speaker	Topic
5 min	introduction by the facilitator (FAO - TBD)	Objective and structure of the session
10 min	Representative from the World Bank or CDB	How do development banks innovate to offer attractive solutions for sustainable agriculture and agribusiness finance? What are the lessons in the Caribbean context?
10 min	Representative from a leading agribusiness company	What are the biggest challenges that your company faces in accessing finance for value chain development?
10 min	Representative from IDB Invest or Caribbean Private Bank	How have the financing needs of Caribbean agribusinesses evolved and what does it mean for how you work with them?
10 min	Representative from AgriFi (EU-funded impact fund)	How does impact investment promotes value chain inclusiveness and addresses the needs of smallholder farmers and SMEs, in small economies?
15 min	Follow-up questions to the panel	
25 min	Open discussion with seminar participants	
5 min	Closing remarks by the facilitator	