AGRICULTURE:
LET’S EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITIES

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JUNE 5, 2019
Context: Trends in BMC’s Food Consumption

Food import bill more than doubled

$2.1 bn → $4.8 bn

2000 → 2018

Across the Region, food imports are about 60% of all food consumed

Increasing dependence on a limited number of partners

for large shares of food imports
Context: What’s Happening Globally?

Global demand for food expected to rise by at least 60% by 2050.

Production is limited by many factors, e.g. climate change, fuel price increases.

Vulnerability to supply and price swings.
1. Context

2. State of Agriculture in the Caribbean

3. Transforming Agriculture: CDB’s Proposal
State of Agriculture – Contribution to GDP

4 BMCs are heavily dependent on agriculture

12-17% of GDP

10-50% of employment

In 10 BMCs contribution to agriculture is marginal

<4% of GDP

These BMCs tend to have a high dependence on food imports
State of Agriculture – Export Trends

Agri-food Exports pivot away from Traditional Crops

Traditional Crops

1990s: 10-15%
Today: 60%

Agro-processing

<20%

Today: 50%
State of Agriculture - Challenges

- Low Productivity Growth
- Weak Market Linkages
- Natural Hazards and Climate Change
- Poverty and Inequality
Low Productivity Growth

Agricultural Production Value Per Worker, by Region (USD)

North America
> $250,000

Europe
> $100,000

Caribbean
< $25,000
Markets demand high quality, safe, and nutritious foods on a timely basis.

Driving growth of stringent food safety standards

Supermarket Revolution

Outbreaks of food borne illnesses

US Food Safety Modernization Act

GlobalGAP
### Tropical Cyclones

Wind and excess rainfall cause **large economic damages** across many BMCs.

### Droughts

Regionally, **40% has mild droughts** and **10% has severe droughts annually**.
Poverty and Inequality

25% of registered farmers are female

Gender-based inequalities in accessing land, labour, finance, technology, and market information

Rural households highly dependent on agriculture

Poor rural households are highly vulnerable to fluctuations in agricultural income, increasing their risk of poverty

Low agricultural output disproportionately impacts rural communities
Transforming Agriculture: Embracing Opportunities

**Economic Growth**
Growth in agriculture is the most efficient way to reduce poverty in rural areas.

**Technology**
Embracing modern technology and systems.

**Why**

**Productivity**
Agri-entrepreneurs with potential to step-up

**Who**

**Transformation**
Commercial
Transitioning
Subsistence
Transforming Agriculture: CDB’s Proposal

**Strengthening value chains** – identifying and addressing key constraints in an integrated manner

**Promoting science and innovation** – developing modern agricultural practices, harnessing technology and digitization

**Supporting Climate Resilience** – building capacity in Climate Smart Agriculture

**Cross-cutting themes** – gender equality, food and nutrition security, and youth
Transforming Agriculture: Theory of Change

To achieve a more competitive, inclusive, and sustainable agri-food system

Enabling environment for efficient agricultural value chains

Enabling infrastructure for agriculture value chains

Stakeholder and Institutional Capacity Building
Financial Services
Regional Public Goods and Multi-Country Systems
Production
Market Access
Thank you!

Let’s embrace the opportunities