



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Caribbean
Agricultural
Research and
Development Institute



CAYAB REGIONAL CONSULTATION & VALIDATION SERIES

Empowering Youth. Transforming Caribbean Agrifood.



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VIRTUAL SERIES



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SUMMARY PRESENTATION

Local Agriculture First Policy

Market access • procurement • food security • validation

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Production alone will not transform agriculture

Caribbean producers often face weak and inconsistent market access even where demand exists.

01

Import dependence

High reliance on imported food reduces resilience and local value capture.

02

Unstable markets

Producers may lack predictable access to institutional buyers.

03

Fragmented supply

Production is dispersed across small producers without aggregation.

04

Weak logistics

Storage, cold chain and distribution gaps affect reliability.

05

Limited visibility

Buyers may not know what local or regional products are available.

06

Procurement barriers

Requirements can be difficult for small and emerging producers to meet.

CORE PROBLEM

Producers need reliable pathways to demand—not production support in isolation.

The policy connects production with reliable demand

Agricultural development is stronger when producers can reach fair, predictable and transparent markets.

CURRENT GAP

Production capacity does not always translate into sales, contracts or scale.

LOCAL AGRICULTURE FIRST

DESIRED RESULT

More predictable demand, stronger market access and improved food security.

Create demand • improve producer access • encourage investment • reduce avoidable import dependence

The LAFP is a market-access and procurement framework

It complements existing law and programmes rather than replacing them.

The policy seeks to increase the use of locally and regionally produced agricultural goods where they are available, competitively priced and able to meet required quality, safety and supply standards.

Supports

CARICOM 25 by 2025 + 5, food security and producer opportunity

Complements

Procurement laws, food-safety systems, trade rules and development programmes

Requires

Phased implementation, quality safeguards, transparency and reliable supply

VALIDATION FOCUS

Is the scope clear enough to guide implementation without overstating agreed commitments?

Preference must be balanced with safeguards

The principles define how Local Agriculture First should be applied in practice.



Local & Regional Preference



Competitive Pricing



Reliable Supply



Phased Implementation



Regional Cooperation



Fair & Transparent Procurement



Quality & Food-Safety Compliance



Inclusive Producer Participation



Accountability & Monitoring



Complementarity with Existing Initiatives

Principle in practice: preference must remain consistent with quality, reliability, transparency and value for money.

A five-step pathway turns preference into purchasing

The proposed framework links demand planning, supplier readiness, aggregation, procurement and transparent exemptions.



KEY POLICY CHOICE

Set realistic procurement targets and transparent exemptions while building supplier capacity.