

Revised OECS Regional Plan of Action for Agriculture

2012 - 2022

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I. Acronyms and Abbreviations

AGF	-	Attorney Generals Office
BOS	-	Bureau of Standards
Cafan	-	Caribbean Farmers Network
CARDI	-	Caribbean Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	-	Caribbean Community
CARUTA	-	Caribbean Regional Unit for Technical Assistance
CDB	-	Caribbean Development Bank
CDEMA	-	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CEHI	-	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CIDA	-	Canadian International Development Agency
CIMH	-	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
Comsec	-	Commonwealth Secretariat
CRFM	-	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROSQ	-	Caribbean Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
CSME	-	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
EPA	-	Economic Partnership Agreement
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organisation

IDB	-	International Development Bank
IICA	-	Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPCC	-	International Panel on Climate Change
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
MOA	-	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	-	Ministry of Finance
NAAC	-	National Agriculture Advisory Council
NCD	-	Non Communicable Diseases
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organisation
NTAE	-	Non Traditional Agriculture Exports
OECS	-	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
SIDS	-	Small Island Developing States
TMAC	-	Technical Management Advisory Committee
TWG	-	Technical Working Group
UWI	-	University of the West Indies
WINFA	-	Windward Islands Farmers Association

II. Executive Summary

A. Background and Rationale

In recognizing the need for the urgency to address the challenges facing the agriculture sector and its development, consistent with the goal and the commitment of Member States under Article 20 of the Economic Union Protocol, the OECS Secretariat conducted an independent review of the existing Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for agriculture in 2009. The review indicated that the Policy Framework and Strategic Plan compared well to framework priorities for agriculture in the wider regional sphere and in countries with similar open economies and development challenges.

However, arising out of international developments since 2004 and the difficulties encountered in the installation of the institutional arrangements for execution of the original OECS Agriculture Plan of Action, a number of critical areas for attention emerged as inputs for a reoriented OECS Agriculture programme. These include:

- private sector led strategies to transform OECS agriculture by enhancing response to national and regional food and nutrition security and new trends in non-traditional agricultural exports;
- balancing the integration of poverty considerations in commercial supply chains;
- a strategy for financing agriculture and for resource mobilization primarily for the OECS regional programme;
- strategies to address the impacts of climate change and climate variability;
- enabling more coherent and effective participation of OECS Member States in the regional programme through capacity building at the OECS Secretariat in programme management, monitoring and evaluation; and
- approaches to more systematically developing synergies with CARICOM-wide agriculture.

Eight new Programme priorities were developed and presented to OECS Ministers of Agriculture on May 31 and June 1 2010 in St. Kitts/ Nevis. Approved were the following short, medium and long term program priorities, for elaboration into a Regional Plan of Action, taking into account the guiding considerations summarised in the introduction.

Priority 1: Transform Agriculture

Programme Objective

Transform agriculture through promotion of and support to viable private sector initiatives, targeting markets for Non-Traditional Agricultural Exports (NTAEs) and in the process raise average wage levels in the sector.

Priority 2: Alleviate Poverty and Food Insecurity

Programme Objective

Alleviate poverty and reduce food insecurity through policy and incentives regimes that encourage transition of rural populations out of poverty and vulnerability to poverty.

Priority 3: Develop and Promote Agro-Tourism Services

Programme Objective

Establish OECS criteria and guidelines to identify, appraise, evaluate and develop or strengthen a package of complimentary agro-tourism sites throughout OECS Member States

Priority 4: Develop Synergies with CARICOM/CSME

Programme Objective

Adopt a strategic approach to establishing synergies with the wider CARICOM/CSME process

Priority 5: Mobilise Resources for Implementation

Programme Objective

Formulate and implement a Resource Mobilisation, Investment and Financing Strategy for the OECS Agriculture Plan and Programme.

Priority 6: Strengthen Capacity of the OECS Agriculture Desk

Programme Objective

Coherent and effective participation of Member States in the OECS regional programme through strengthened capacity of the OECS Agriculture Desk

Priority 7: Secure the Water Resource

Programme Objective

Secure long-term access to water for irrigation and supply chain activities

Priority 8: Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Programme Objective

Promote and support climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies including early warning systems, and mainstream in agriculture programmes to protect food production systems and build resilience against natural disasters (hurricanes) in rural/farming communities.

III. Plan of Action

Guided by the working meetings and consultations, the eight aforementioned programme priorities were condensed into six priorities in the Revised Plan of Action. These priorities, which are designed in intervention periods of short, 0-3 years, medium, 3-5 years and long, 5 years and over are based on the principle of subsidiarity, which is fundamental to the functioning of

the OECS Economic Union. The plan defines a network of relationships that will facilitate an integrated approach best suited for successful implementation of the programme. The six Programme Priorities are summarized below.

Programme Priority 1: Promotion of a Market-Oriented Agribusiness Approach to Alleviating Poverty & Food & Nutrition Insecurity

Objectives:

1. Modernization of agriculture through the promotion of and support to public and private sector initiatives in response to national and regional food and nutrition security demands and export opportunities; and
2. Alleviation of poverty and food insecurity through policy and incentive regimes that encourage transition of rural populations out of poverty and vulnerability to poverty.

Programme Priority 2: Develop and Promote Agro-Tourism Services

Objectives:

1. Establish and implement OECS criteria and guidelines to identify, appraise, evaluate, and strengthen the agro-tourism value chain and develop or strengthen a package of complimentary agro-tourism sites throughout OECS Member States.

Programme Priority 3: Develop Synergies with CARICOM/CSME

Objectives

1. Develop and adopt a strategic approach to establishing synergies with the wider CARICOM/CSME process.

Programme Priority 4 : Mobilise Resources for Implementation

Objectives

1. Formulate and implement a Resource Mobilisation, Investment and Financing Strategy for the OECS Agriculture Plan and Programme.

Programme Priority 5: Strengthen Capacity of the OECS

Secretariat/Agriculture Desk

Programme Priority 6: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Securing Water Resources for Sustainable Development

Objectives

1. Promote and support climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies including early warning systems, and mainstream in agriculture programmes to protect food production systems and build resilience against tropical storms, heavy rains and droughts in rural/farming communities.
2. Secure long term access to water for irrigation and value chain activities.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Plan of Action will develop a systematic and continuous process for collecting and analysing data and using information, which will enable decision makers, executing agencies, and other stakeholders to take effective decisions at the various stages of implementation of the Plan of Action consistent with the goal of the sector and the objectives of the programme. The system will be developed at all levels of the program with the aim of assessing whether the objectives are realistic, and are being or have been met.

The monitoring and evaluation process will outline key indicators to compare actual achievements at various levels against the objectives. The method of collecting will be specified in the programmes and will be carried out by Member State Ministries, The Technical Working Groups (TWGs)/National Agriculture Advisory Councils (NAACs), the OECS Secretariat and support institutions. The provision for evaluation must look at the impact of the plan of Action, intended or unintended, its contribution to the overall objectives/goal and performance in terms of the purpose of the actions and results. Ministers will meet periodically to review the progress of implementation.

1 Introduction

A. Background and Rationale

The goal assigned to the sector is articulated as follows “To transform the agricultural sector of the OECS Member States while reducing poverty and promoting food and nutrition security”. To achieve this goal, a value chain approach shall be adopted in diversifying agricultural production and exports, intensifying market led agro-industrial development, deepening institutional reform, expanding agribusiness management and generally, conducting agricultural production on a competitive, market-oriented, internationally integrated and environmentally sustainable basis;

In recognizing the need for the urgency to address the challenges facing the agriculture sector and its development, consistent with the goal and the commitment of Member States under Article 20 of the Economic Union Protocol, the OECS Secretariat conducted an independent review of the existing Policy Framework and Strategic Plan for agriculture in 2009. In the light of a growing population and increased food demand, accompanied by changing taste and dietary preferences, high cost of energy, and a scarcity of resources such as water, land, finance and the issues of climate change, that all impact on the production and distribution of food, there was need to address the transformation of the sector. The review indicated that the Policy Framework and Strategic Plan compared well to framework priorities for agriculture in the wider regional sphere and in countries with similar open economies and development challenges.

However, arising out of international developments since 2004 and the difficulties encountered in the installation of the institutional arrangements for execution of the original OECS Agriculture Plan of Action, a number of critical areas for attention emerged as *inputs for a reoriented OECS Agriculture programme*. These include:

- private sector led strategies to transform OECS agriculture by enhancing response to national and regional food and nutrition security and new trends in non-traditional agricultural exports;
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Priority 3: Develop and Promote Agro-Tourism Services

Programme Objective

Establish OECS criteria and guidelines to identify, appraise, evaluate and develop or strengthen a package of complimentary agro-tourism sites throughout OECS Member States.

It should be noted that this programme would complement the now completed FAO grant-funded project through which the OECS intends to establish a quality seal for agriculture products sold to the tourism sector, including agri-tourism services such as farm tours.

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Programme Objective

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The OECS Secretariat was further mandated to engage national focal points in OECS Ministries of Agriculture and the private sector in a collaborative process of review, consultation and elaboration to consider the following:

- Identifying a set of agriculture products in which the OECS region has a competitive production and trading advantage
- Identifying and targeting appropriate private sector operators, including financial institutions, for the establishment of partnerships
- Reducing the high costs of agriculture inputs, in particular fertilizers and feeds, through joint procurement
- Risk Management, including introducing and strengthening insurance arrangements for crops, livestock and fisheries
- The cross-cutting need to put measures in place to ensure preservation of environmental integrity

The OECS Authority at its 51st Meeting in June 2010 approved the Ministers' recommendations. As a consequence of the above, the Secretariat secured the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for a technical review of and stakeholder consultation on the proposed new Programme Priorities and the formulation of a sustainable Plan of Action for OECS agriculture.

B. Methodology

Given the institutional and financing difficulties experienced in the implementation of the previous Plan of Action, which resulted primarily from and in particular insufficient program promotion and weak commitment to execution, the approach taken in the formulation of the new Plan of Action emphasized a stakeholder participatory approach.

Through this approach it is envisaged that the ownership of the program will be established with the major implementation players, and leadership responsibilities identified, streamlined and committed to.

The process of formulation of the new Plan of Action was conducted in three phases involving desk research, technical review and public/private sector sensitization and consultations with the assistance of the FAO under Technical Cooperation Project, TCP/RLA/3308, which also secured the services of a consultant..

The following actions were undertaken:

- 1) Working Group Meeting convened in Dominica April 26 and 27th 2011 with the following objectives:
 - a) Facilitate presentations on National Actions being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture and projects/programs supported by development partners in Regional/International Institutions and the Donor Community/Group;
 - b) To review the findings from the presentations and their relevance to the Policy Framework and Plan of Action and in particular to the Priority Program Areas identified;
 - c) Make recommendations on the adjustments to the original Plan of Action and the identification of critical elements in the implementation strategy for the Priority Programs approved by the Ministers of Agriculture and initiate the process for the formulation of a new Implementation Plan of Action.

Over thirty (30) Participants representing Directors of Agriculture and Senior Management of the Ministries of Agriculture, Regional Farmers Organisations, Regional and International Institutions and major donors were present at the meeting.

- 2) Country Missions were conducted engaging over ninety (90) private and public sector stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts/Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. While country missions were not conducted in Anguilla, BVI and Montserrat, inputs were independently received as they participated in the TWG meeting. The country missions undertaken with the following objectives:
 - a) To continue the process of consultation on the status of the OECS Policy Framework and Strategic Plan and identify constraints to its operation.

- b) To sensitize public and private sector personnel and institutions on the new Program Priorities, give direction to the implementation of the Policy and obtain guidance on activities for inclusion in the Plan of Action.
- c) To solicit discussion on issues to be addressed in the execution of the new priorities and assess capabilities of national public and private sector institutions to deliver implementation activities.
- d) To identify best practices that could be applied in accelerating implementation of the Plan of Action.

Subsequent to the working meeting and the country missions, the Secretariat participated in a Regional workshop entitled “Agriculture and Tourism Working Together – A strong Opportunity for Caribbean Agribusiness”, on 20 - 22 September, 2011 in Barbados. This workshop, which was hosted by the CARICOM Secretariat and IICA, was designed to fine-tune the regional strategy proposed by IICA. The Secretariat interfaced with representatives from both public and private sector representatives in Tourism and Agriculture from the fifteen Member States in developing an Action Plan for the promotion of linkages between Agriculture and Tourism in the Region.

The Secretariat also participated in a number of technical working meetings, which developed the Community Agriculture policy and the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan

With the absence of a focus on an Integrated Policy on Poverty Reduction and Rural Development in the OECS, the Secretariat collaborated with UNDP/CARUTA in hosting a workshop during the period 5-7 December, 2011 to commence a common social policy on poverty reduction and rural development in the OECS. The workshop, which brought together experts and practitioners in the areas of poverty reduction, rural development and gender, provided the guidelines for the formulation of an integrated rural development policy and steps in the definition and operationalisation of a Rural Development Plan of Action.

2.0 Status of National Programmes

The current agricultural programme in the Member States is characterized by a diverse set of agricultural activities undertaken by commercial and semi-commercial producers who both play a critical role in the performance of agriculture in the region.

The intensity and effectiveness of the delivery of these programme components rely heavily on national budgetary allocations approved for the sector, the level of support provided by regional and international institutions and donor agencies and the capacity to attract private sector investments.

The following reflect the major areas related to OECS Strategic Production Priorities currently receiving priority attention in the Member States' national agricultural programmes.

2.1 Food Security

Food Security and its linkages to rural poverty, semi-commercial and subsistence small farmers is a central objective in all countries. Actions to reduce the food import bill and enhance food safety and nutrition are receiving particular attention. Programmes in root crops, vegetables, horticulture crops, poultry, pigs and small ruminants and fish are being pursued in most countries. National Food and Nutrition Strategies are being formulated and actions to address the seasonality of supply and the management of periods of gluts, including possibilities for regional exports, are receiving attention.

Programmes in addressing the food demand of the tourism/hospitality sector are being actively promoted. The efforts of St. Lucia in notably reducing its food import bill and its impact on the hospitality and retail sector are evidence of significant progress.

2.2 Crop Production Marketing and Trade Promotion

Programmes in Export Crop Production, Marketing and Trade Promotion with a focus on non-traditional crops continue to receive attention in all national programmes. Special attention is being given to programmes for the rehabilitation of export crops in Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, linked to recovery from hurricanes/storms.

New export crop interests have developed in the Cocoa industry in Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica; Root Crops in St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica; and Onions/ Carrots in Antigua.

Generation of new production technologies is receiving special attention (St. Lucia in Orchid Production, Fruits and Vegetables in Dominica, Spices in Grenada and in Disease and Pest Management Facilities - Diagnostic Lab in St. Lucia and Dominica, and in Plant Propagation - Germplasm Facilities in St. Vincent). Associated with these efforts were programmes related to land access/distribution (Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Vincent).

Actions are being taken in the development of marketing infrastructure (collection and distribution centres, port facilities and cold storage) and support legislation in Grades and Standards and Product Certification. The development of National Export Strategies led by Ministries of Trade is providing guidance in product identification, value chain interventions and mechanisms for the integration of the overall marketing process. Private sector partnerships in marketing are being pursued with examples of production and marketing ventures being pursued in Coffee in Dominica, Poultry in Dominica and St. Vincent and with WINFRESH in fruit processing in Grenada and in the export of root crops, spices in St. Vincent and Grenada and continuing mobilization in St. Lucia (see Table 1)

Table 1 below gives an indication of the current commodities produced in countries and their importance in national food and nutrition security (NFS) and exports (EX).

Table 1 Commodities Produced in Member States

	ANG		ANT		BVI		DOM		GDA		MON		SKN	
	NFS	EX												
ROOT TUBERS														
Dasheen							√	√	√	√				
Yam	√		√				√	√	√	√			√	
Tania/Eddoes														
Sweet Potato	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Cassava	√		√		√		√		√		√	√	√	√
Other (Peanuts)													√	√
Arrowroot														
VEGETABLES/ HERBS		√												
Tomato	√		√	√			√		√	√	√		√	√
Cabbage	√		√				√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Cauliflower	√		√				√		√	√	√		√	√
Carrots	√		√	√			√		√	√	√		√	√
Cucumber	√		√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√	
Melons	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Pumpkins	√		√		√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Onions	√		√	√							√		√	√
Seasonings/Herbs	√	√	√				√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Lettuce	√	√												
SPICES														
Nutmeg									√	√				
Cinnamon							√	√	√	√				
Ginger							√	√	√	√				
Hot Pepper			√	√			√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Seasoning Pepper		√												
ESSENTIAL OILS														
Bay leaf							√	√						
FRUIT			√	√	√		√	√	√	√			√	
Banana	√		√	√	√		√	√	√		√		√	
Plantain			√				√	√	√	√	√		√	
Citrus	√		√				√	√	√	√	√		√	
Mango	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	
Coconut	√		√		√		√	√	√	√			√	
Cocoa							√	√	√	√				
Coffee							√	√	√					

	ANG		ANT		BVI		DOM		GDA		MON		SKN	
	NFS	EX												
Breadfruit	√		√				√	√	√	√	√		√	
Avocado	√		√				√	√	√	√	√		√	
Golden Apple					√				√	√				
Papaya	√		√	√	√		√		√		√		√	
Pineapple			√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	
Minor Exotics			√				√	√	√	√			√	
LIVESTOCK														
Small Ruminants	√		√	√			√		√		√		√	
Pigs	√						√	√	√		√			
Poultry	√		√				√		√		√		√	
Cattle	√		√	√					√		√		√	√
FISH														
Fresh Fish	√		√	√			√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Processed			√	√			√		√	√				
Conch	√		√	√					√	√			√	√
Lobster	√		√	√			√		√	√			√	√
Aquaculture			√				√				√			
Mari culture							√						√	
WATER														
Bottled	√		√	√			√	√	√	√	√		√	√
Bulk	√						√	√	√	√	√			

NFS – National Food Security

EX – Exports

2.3 Natural Resources Management

Actions relating to Land Use and Sustainable Forestry and Fisheries Management led by the Ministries of Agriculture, Divisions/Departments/Units are common to all countries. A notable exception was the case of Dominica which has established a separate Ministry of Forestry and the Environment. Programme Priorities include data collection and reforestation (Grenada, St Vincent, St. Lucia), Watershed Management/Eco-system-management (Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Kitts,) Soil and Water management (Antigua, St. Kitts). Emphasis is also being placed on biodiversity and its impact on climate change mitigation, and the enactment of the legislative framework related to Land Use Policy and Planning, Forestry and Fisheries Resources Management continues to be a constraint in program implementation in most countries.

2.4 Capacity Building

Capacity building in data collection and agricultural information systems is receiving attention. Examples of emerging good practices in the Dominica Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) and Farmer registration and certification programmes in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Dominica are ongoing. The OECS Hub and Spokes program has provided technical support for design of a system of data collection and management for the OECS to be implemented in the short term as a step towards establishing a regional agriculture management information system.

2.5 Development of Agro Tourism Sites

Complementary to the FAO project, “Strengthening the Value Chains that Serve the Hospitality Sector”, programmes in the development of Agro Tourism sites and services have been initiated coupled with the required stronger linkages and collaboration with Ministries of Tourism and other relevant Agencies in the Public and Private sector. Projects in Trail Development and National Parks are at an advanced stage of development in Dominica and St. Lucia and on Heritage sites/Community based tourism (Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent).

2.6 Risk Management

All Member States are establishing programmes in risk management and vulnerability reduction that will impact on water resources management and climate change issues. Actions in watershed management, erosion, conservation and river bank stabilization are receiving attention particularly in Member States that have been affected by Hurricane Tomas and the more recent rainstorms in 2011. While actions have been led by Ministries of Agriculture, Dominica has established an independent Ministry of Fisheries and the Environment and has proceeded to develop a Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient Development Strategy, 2012-2020 and a concept note, which addresses integrated risk management and climate change issues, which could serve as a model to be replicated in the other Member States.

Other risk management programmes include reduction of Praedial Larceny (St. Lucia), the facilitation of agricultural insurance schemes (Grenada) and WINCROP. Discussions are being held with WINCROP and CCRIF on the development of an insurance facility.

2.7 Constraints and Recommendations

The new programme priorities identified recognize that as OECS agriculture becomes more integrated into the complex legal and regulatory international system, national and ultimately, regional agriculture programmes must adapt in order to enable effective participation. The priorities therefore, focus on transforming and upgrading the institutional and regulatory framework and capacity to create an environment conducive to agriculture's repositioning. This environment includes the mobilization and use of resources, technical and financial, to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in delivering the programmes to meet the value chain demands of food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, agro-tourism development and the adaptation of climate variability strategies and programmes to protect food production systems and build resilience against hydro-meteorological, geological and man-made disasters, while securing water resources for value chain activities.

The Working Meeting and Country Missions identified a series of constraints that continue to face the agriculture sector and impact its performance. The constraints identified include:

- Inadequate Capacity to fully establish the legislative framework required to include in Land Use Policy, Plant and Animal Health, Food Quality, Grades and Standards, Praedial Larceny, Dog Predation.
- Inadequate capacity to develop agriculture information systems and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The need for reliable Market Information Systems was critical.
- Production and Marketing linkages – Lack of capacity in modern technology generation; Professional skills in production particularly, irrigation technology and farm mechanization, agricultural marketing.
- Limited capacity in Agro Processing product development and enforcement.
- Low attraction of the sector to investment.
- Inadequate Marketing infrastructure, more particularly regional transportation services.

- Limited research and development.
- Institutional Reform particularly in the modernization of extension services in the public and private sectors.
- The formation and sustainability of farmer organizations and in particular the mobilization of youth and women in agriculture.
- Inadequate coordination mechanisms at both national and regional levels and the across country promotion, transfer and adoption of “Best Practices”.

In light of these constraints, which continue to challenge the efforts of the sector, the consultations found that the programme approach and elements identified in the revised priorities presented to the Ministers of Agriculture quite appropriate and relevant. They therefore form the core platforms of intervention elaborated in the Plan of Action.

Recommendations emanating from those deliberations (the Working Meeting and National Consultations conducted during the country missions) provide further direction on considerations that will need to be addressed and are summarized in the following:

1. The realities of the global trends in food prices and availability and the transformation of the agricultural sector and related objectives in alleviation of poverty will need to be driven by production priorities directed to Food and Nutrition Security that will address domestic food supply distribution and utilisation while taking advantage of export opportunities in regional Food Security Markets (OECS and CARICOM) and in international markets for selected agricultural products.
2. Attention needs to be given to arresting the declining trend in agricultural performance across OECS Member States, and to actions to revitalize the sector in the context of modernizing sectoral production practices/processes through technology generation and transfer mechanisms that will promote innovation in productivity. Value chain approaches that will generate increases in quantity, quality and safety of agricultural outputs will also require priority attention. Investments in research and technology adaptation must be encouraged at both national and regional levels and opportunities for joint actions within and between public/private sector stakeholders fully pursued. Issues related to the structure of the sector, the demographics of the farming/fishing communities and in particular the mobilization of youth into the agricultural sector must receive priority attention.

3. The sustainable exploitation of natural resources especially with regards to the imperatives of global climate change and the challenges presented; the issues of land use, watershed and coastal marine environments; land and water management and biodiversity conservation will all require early attention. Critical will be the capacity of institutions to promote innovations in technology, production and agribusiness management etc, that will address risk and engender positive growth in productivity that are crucial to increasing the output of the sector, employment and incomes.
4. Programme Platforms will need to be supported by a robust harmonized legislative framework that will provide the necessary protection to measures in sustainable natural resources management; the efficient delivery of services that will facilitate innovation and productivity enhancement measures; the adoption and implementation of agriculture health and food safety measures; and the facilitation of trade, among others. In so doing the enactment of the legal framework and legal reform processes will need to be accelerated and prioritised and where appropriate harmonised to give maximum effect to the required measures in risk management and investment promotion. Actions that will address incentives regimes, income safety nets, insurance, production certification, product grades and standards and praedial larceny are examples of areas for attention specifically mentioned.
5. With regard to the availability of and access to financial and technical resources, critical to the implementation of the Plan of Action, attention needs to be given to the allocation of resources in national and regional budgets and the rationalization of bilateral and regional donor support in the execution of activities promoted in the Plan. Important also will be the capacity of regional institutions to give technical support to the programme and their recognition of all of the special and differentiated needs of the OECS sub-region. National and regional needs for strengthening of institutional capacities in programme/project formulation and management require attention.
6. The modernization of the Agricultural Sector should be led by capacity building in national and regional institutions that would ensure the availability of skills and professional expertise that will drive leadership of programmes in natural resources management, production (agronomy, engineering, irrigation, water management etc.)

and marketing, food technology, agro-processing market intelligence etc. Additionally, skills training in enterprise development and management were particularly required in the private sector.

7. The identification and adoption of “Best Practices” emanating from previous national and regional programmes viz, the banana industry the OECS, TROPRO etc, and national programmes (Natural Resources Management, Risk management/Praedial Larceny etc.) should be used as models for cross-country adoption in accelerating the implementation of Programme action areas developed. The promotion of dialogue and collaboration among Member States, the Secretariat and institutions on agriculture and trade issues and the development and transfer of relevant technology should be facilitated through the establishment of formal and informal networking mechanisms.

Synergies with programmes being promoted and delivered by other regional institutions and development partners should be creatively developed to allow for maximum impact of their support on OECS Priority Programme actions. Development partners should consider the need for a “differentiated programme” especially in the delivery of technical and financial support that would address the particular circumstances/peculiarities of OECS Member States. A mechanism needs to be established to facilitate regular dialogue with development partners/institutions/CARICOM etc. on their program priorities and delivery mechanisms and to promote the collective representation of OECS interests.

8. Regarding the matter of mobilization of donor financial support, consideration should be given to the establishment of a donors’ forum that will involve public/private sector representation and will serve to assist in the rationalization of support, the avoidance of duplication, establish arrangements for disbursements (flexibility, accountability) and monitoring of impact. In the immediate term actions related to the concerns of the participation of OECS Member countries in the EU/Caribbean/EPA and other agreements need to be accelerated, and the dialogue already established by the Secretariat reinforced to reflect the expectations of private sector stakeholders in the programme.

9. Member States should be guided by the provisions of Article 20, sections 20.1 and 20.2 (a) (b) (c) and (d) of the Protocol in the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the Economic Union, which commits to the transformation of the sector through the establishment of a framework necessary for its modernization.

4.0 Plan of Action

The formulation of the revised Plan of Action is informed by the unfolding global environment and lessons learnt during the review of the implementation of the previous OECS Agricultural Policy and Plan of Action.

Guided by the findings of the review of the OECS Policy Framework and Strategy, the formulation and acceptance of the eight (8) new programme priorities, and the constraints that impeded the implementation at the national and regional levels the Revised Plan of Action is required to give focus to the following:

- 1) The re-enforcement of national programmes currently being planned and implemented in the sustainable development of the agricultural sector for more direct relevance and impact on the regional programme priorities being pursued, with special attention given to the conservation of the regions natural resource base.
- 2) Opportunities for regional interventions that will strengthen and accelerate national programmes and the identification of harmonized regional programme activities best implemented through regional institutions and collaborative mechanisms.
- 3) The identification and creation of national and regional capacities in the public and private sectors to facilitate implementation of intervention activities and the establishment of coordinating mechanisms that will provide for effective programme management, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation utilizing the existing arrangements established in the Secretariats of the OECS and CARICOM for the development of agriculture in the region. Special regard will need to be given to the leadership role of national public and private sector entities (MOAs, NGOs, Farmer/Fisher Organisations/Chambers etc) given their direct responsibility for activities in production and marketing and distribution, the development of agro-tourism linkages and response to the imperatives of climate variability.

- 4) The mobilization of technical and financial resources with priority attention given to the issues in allocation of resources, the optimization of skills and expertise through networking and collaborative mechanisms and the promotion of efficiencies in technology generation and transfer.
- 5) Strengthening the capacity of the O ECS Secretariat/Agriculture Desk to implement

Given the central areas of attention discussed in the Plan of Action in addressing the activities required in the national and regional responses to the new programme priorities has identified a number of intervention platforms that will address the following activity clusters:

- a) Policy Formulation and Reform Measures
- b) Institutional Reform and Capacity Building
- c) Production/Product development
- d) Trade and Market Development
- e) Programme Coordination and Management
- f) Programme Promotion

While the Plan of Action should be required to give indications on prioritization of activities, the lead implementation institutions, time frames, milestones and areas of risks that impact on effective implementation, these aforementioned areas will be more clearly articulated in the operationalisation of the Plan through the platform task forces that will be established under the institutional structure being proposed by the final technical working group.

Accordingly the plan defines an organic, open and horizontal platform of relationships best suited to support and deliver national and regional programmes in the context of the aforementioned priorities. Its successful implementation requires a deep level of commitment and responsibility for ensuring national execution of interventions. Hence the full support of Member Governments, the private sector and civil society is particularly critical at both the national and regional levels.

The intervention and implementation time horizons of the plan is defined in short, medium and long terms representing 0-3 years, 3-5 years and 5 years and over respectively.

4.1 Programme Priority 1: Promotion of a Market-Oriented Agribusiness Approach to Alleviating Poverty & Food & Nutrition Insecurity

Objectives

Modernization of agriculture through the promotion of and support to public and private sector initiatives in response to national and regional food and nutrition security demands and export opportunities; and

Alleviation of poverty and food insecurity through policy and incentive regimes that encourage transition of rural populations out of poverty and vulnerability to poverty.

Rationale

All Member States in both written and implied policy undertakings have established food and nutrition security as a primary focus, while pursuing exports, regionally and internationally and fostering linkages with the tourism sector, in response to: the region's vulnerability to high and volatile prices; the increasing prevalence of nutritionally poor diets and concomitant non communicable diseases (NCDs); the annual nemesis of hurricanes, droughts and floods influenced by climate variability; and the persistent hunger and poverty in certain segments of society including rural areas.

Production activities have accordingly given emphasis to National Food and Nutrition requirements through programmes in roots and tubers, bananas, plantain, coconut, cocoa, coffee, fruit crops including citrus, avocado, mango, breadfruit and minor exotics and vegetables, condiments, livestock production, fisheries aquaculture and pelagic capture, as presented in **Table 1 on Page 13**.

Active development of exports regionally, in response to the wider regional food and nutrition security imperatives, is being pursued through the facilitation of the CSME, while international exports in traditional crops, namely bananas, cocoa, nutmeg, coffee, coconuts, fresh fish products (fish, lobster, conch) are being resuscitated and expanded.

The production system is primarily small farmer based, with some surviving larger commercial plantations and a diversity of agents and businesses which service the sector but have generally been outside the agricultural development program with a large number of small to medium scale food processing units relying primarily on domestically produced raw material.

It is essential that the diversity in the value chain is recognized and understood if the plan is to adequately prepare agriculture for a business oriented future and to ensure food and nutrition security, which is at the heart of the Lilliendall Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security signed by CARICOM Heads of Government in July 2009, the Community Agriculture Policy and the Regional Food and Nutrition Security policy. It is also integrally rooted in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), one, seven and eight, which focus on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing global partnerships for development.

In addressing the transformation and rationalization of the OECS production base, the Plan of Action will give considerations to the following:

1. The articulation of a clear national and regional policy framework that will facilitate an integrated approach to national and required strategic planning and programme formulation. Some countries are in the process of addressing the formulation of national policies, with the assistance of IICA and the FAO and have been developing national capacity in data collection and planning units that will lead to programme formulation, implementation and monitoring. This will facilitate the formulation of policy and the development of a legal and institutional framework that will provide direction and support on measures related to sustainable natural resources management, land use, land tenure, access to land and marine resources to include the regulation of unregulated fishing, production (fisheries, crop and livestock) and trade, intellectual property rights, education etc., as well as risk measures that will promote and protect production through the organization and delivery of services through:
 - Incentives regimes that promote and provide for innovation, productivity, input support, access to credit and inputs
 - The provision of safety nets for vulnerable population groups
 - Pest and disease control protocols, and SPS
 - Food safety and standards development and adoption
 - Compliance with trade facilitation measures and regulations
 - Measures to combat praedial larceny
 - Insurance

Mechanisms to Address Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and the transformation of the sector will need to be driven by interventions that will generate value chain and productivity innovations that pay critical attention to the following:

- The integration of the Plan with the Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP) paying attention to agro-ecological organic agriculture and sustainable development;
- Modernisation and innovation through primary and value added production technology, to include protected agriculture through green house technology to attract the youth; Production ecosystems with the promotion of value chain enhancement processes and agribusiness commercial production systems that will generate employment and incomes in rural communities;
- The realignment of support services in the public and private sectors (with particular emphasis on Ministries of Agriculture) and strengthening of skills capacities to effect technology transfer and agri-business development transformation;
- The strengthening of farmer/fisher folk organizations with particular emphasis on the mobilization of youth for succession and improved governance of the sector;
- The development of national and regional institutional structures that will support transformation of the sector;
- Promotion of investment opportunities in Agro-tourism sites and services
- Information Dissemination through establishment of a regional information management system and networking capacity that will address data collection analysis, storage and dissemination and specifically market information and intelligence.
- Establishment of a food insecurity and poverty monitoring mechanism to complement the regional information system mentioned above.

The Agricultural sector is essentially structured as a small farmer system with a declining number of estate plantations that will be required to be reorganized in developing economies of scale that can effect efficiencies in technology transfer and innovation, distribution of inputs,

farm management systems, marketing and distribution. The declining and aging farming population is an issue of urgent concern, as is the related matter of the availability of farm labour and its quality. The Plan will therefore be required to review the demographics of the farming community with a view to consolidation of the production base through the establishment and strengthening of farmer groups and commodity associations and the development of national and regional umbrella organizations. The ongoing work of IICA and FAO will need to be supported and accelerated and the emerging best practices, like the CAFAN, WINFA, Fairtrade and the Nationals Chambers of Agriculture/Agribusiness strengthened in their capacities and services. Specific attention needs to be paid to the mobilization of membership and their empowerment and in particular the mobilization of youth and women. Institutional capacity to facilitate delivery of the Plan is a critical concern. The findings of both Working Meetings and Field Missions speak to significant deficiencies in human resource capacity in both public and private sector institutions. In the public sector, Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment are particularly constrained by quantity and quality of staff, exacerbated by attrition of senior staff and inexperienced professional replacements.

The Plan of Action will need to take urgent stock of the existing technical skills across Member States and devise training programmes that will address skills deficiencies. The retooling and modernization of the Ministries and in particular the Extension Services to formulate and deliver value chain agri-business management systems and support services will be a primary objective of the Plan. Actions such as in-service training, professional level training that will identify relevant training institutions that will establish appropriate training modules for the specific needs of the OECS agricultural sector, will need to be pursued. Past experiences in regional training programmes like the CIDA training programs, the CEPAT and CAEP delivered by UWI and REPAHA programme for animal health assistants are models of best practices that can provide direction on this Human Resource Development need. Equally important is the capacity for technology generation and transfer that will provide the platforms for innovation as a requisite for the productivity responses of the Plan of Action to address production technology in farming. Value added processes and product development, in management enhancement and competitiveness, marketing and market intelligence systems will need to be specifically supported. Critical to this will be the establishment of information dissemination and technical networking platforms that can facilitate this transfer of technology by public and private sector players. Capacity building in private sector will be required to give focus to training of rural

women and youth beginning at school level through curricula development and formal training for farmer organisations and private sector support agencies/institutions.

The matter of the financial resources to implement the actions previously discussed must receive adequate consideration in the Plan. In the context of this intervention the Plan will need to review current national budgets and allocations to the Agricultural sector in particular the financing of capital projects, infrastructure investments feeder/access roads input supply and services support systems etc.

Important as well is the review and evaluation of bilateral donor assisted programmes and the relevance of their global and regional priorities / themes to the national and OECS Policy and programmes.

Accordingly, the plan will be required to develop a coordinated regional mechanism that can secure rationalization and integration of programmes, provide monitoring and evaluation support and the realization of a differentiated program of technical and financial assistance.

Given the central importance of this Priority Programme in the overall Policy Framework, the participation of National Public and Private Sector Stakeholders must be secured through effective Programme Promotion activities that will facilitate information dissemination and generate producer confidence.

In the list of short term Programme Priorities developed to inform the OECS Policy Framework for the development of the Agricultural Sector in Member States, actions related to the Transformation of the Sector (Priority 1) and to the Alleviation of Food Insecurity and Poverty (Priority 2) are essentially the production based platforms condensed in this priority programme that will need to be pursued across the OECS to ensure food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation.

The approach to food and nutrition security in the Plan of Action is influenced by a physical and a temporal factor. The physical determinant relates to the food flow: availability; accessibility; and use and utilization and the temporal determinant refers to stability which affects all the three aforementioned elements.

The Plan of Action will therefore address the following:

Programme Priority 1: Promotion of a Market-Oriented Agribusiness Approach to Alleviating Poverty and Food and Nutrition Insecurity

INTERVENTION	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	Responsibility	Support Institutions	Best Practices
1. Policy/Legal/Institutional	1.1 Policy Formulation and implementation				
	a) Review and strengthen national policy formulation.	Short term	OECS/MOA	FAO/IICA/ COMSEC	
	b) Review and operationalise CARIFORUM food and nutrition policy	Short term	OECS, MOAs,	CARICOM	
	c) Review/formulate/strengthen national land use/land management policies including land tenure reform	Medium term	MOA	FAO,	
	d) Review, amend and harmonization of fisheries policies taking into account the Revised Treaty's provisions for Maritime Boundaries, ocean's Governance and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.	Short term	OECS/	CARICOM/ CRFM/COMSEC/ FAO/WECAFC (Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission)	
	e) Development of consistent national and regional agricultural policies	Short term	OECS/MOA	FAO/IICA/ COMSEC	
	f) Formulation of policy for the protection of biodiversity and coastal marine resources	Short term	National	CRFM/ CARICOM COMSEC/OECS	
	g) Development of a policy on Poverty Reduction and Rural development in the OECS to focus on women, youth and other vulnerable groups	Short-medium	OECS	UNDP/CARUTA;	
	1.2 Legal Framework				
	a) Enactment and enforcement of appropriate land use legislation	Short term	National (MOA, Attorney General office (AGF)...)/	OECS/FAO/ UNDP	

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	b) Formulate and enact legislation for the adoption of watershed and land management measures	Short – Medium Term	National (MOA/Water Resource Unit,/AGF)	OECS/FAO	
	c) Enactment of legislation for the regularization of land ownership	Short to Medium	MOA, AGF/OECS/lands	EU/UNDP	Mabouya Valley Development project (SLU)
	d) Develop and enforce legal mechanism to the effective use of idle lands to youth pursuing careers in agriculture with an emphasis on engaging the youth, women and other vulnerable groups	Short to Medium	National MOA/AGF	FAO/EU/ world bank	Land bank (FAO)
	e) Institutionalisation of a Land Use Authority	Short to Medium	MOA/Lands/AGF /	OECS/FAO/ CARDI	
	f)Review/develop legislation for the protection of coastal and marine boundaries	Short – medium	CARICOM/CRFM /MOA/OECS/AG F/COMSEC		
	g) Harmonise fisheries legislation with emphasis on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.	Short – medium	OECS	CARICOM/ COMSEC/CRFM FAO	
	h) Amend existing/enact new legislation in relation to: development of the agribusiness sector; intra-regional trade; agriculture health and food safety; intellectual property rights and GMO standards; cross border trade in raw materials; sustainable use of natural resources; trademarks, patents, geographical indicators, traditional knowledge;	Short -medium	OECS/MOA/AGF	CARICOM/BOS CROSQ/trade/ COMSEC/IICA	
	i) Develop legislation to support risk management	Short term	MOA/AGF/OECS	IICA/CDB/ COMSEC	St. Lucia programme
	1.2.1 Risk Management/Develop & Harmonise				
	a) Support harmonization of praedial larceny legislation for the sector (crops, livestock fishery, forestry and value added commodities)	Short term - long	MOA/AGF/OECS	FAO/COMSEC	St. Lucia Praedial Larceny Programme
	b) Enact and enforce legislation	Short -medium	MOA/AGF	OECS	St. Lucia Praedial

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					Larceny Programme
	c) Heighten public awareness of legislation and consequences of praedial larceny	Short-medium	MOA/AGF/	OECS/FAO	
	d) Build awareness campaign of illegal fishing in OECS targeted at consumers and fishers	Short-medium	OECS/ OECS National MOA/AGF/	CRFM/CARICOM FAO/WECAFC ACP Fish II	
	e) Develop a harmonized monitoring, control and surveillance system among countries for unregulated fishing	Short-long	MOA/AGF/OECS/CRFM/CARICOM	FAO/WECAFC ACP Fish II	
	f) Develop habitat enhancement programmes for the recovery of overexploited stocks	Short-long		OECS/CRFM/CARICOM/FAO/WECAFC ACP Fish II	
	g) Train marine police and fisheries officers in surveillance and enforcement	Short-medium			
	h) Discuss and develop legislation/programme for agriculture/fisheries insurance	Short term	MOA /OECS	COMSEC/FAO DFID/CaribRM/C RIF	1) WINCROP model to include non banana enterprises
	i) Establish incentives regime to encourage compliance with land use/management policies/food & nutrition security/production & investment	Short term	National MOA/	OECS/CARDI/ UNDP/WOMEN	St. Lucia Fiscal Incentives Regime
	j) Provide safety nets to semi commercial/rural producers	Short term	MOA/	CARUTA/CDB	
	k) Develop and establish value chain financing/credit facility/mechanism for agribusiness sector	Short term	OECS	CDB/CARUTA/ FAO	
2. Institutional Reform	2.1) Institutional Restructuring (Ministry of Agriculture)				
	a) Conduct skills audit within Ministry of Agriculture(MOA) in relation to meeting value chain demands	Short	MOA/Public service/	FAO/IICA/ COMSEC	
	b) Conduct relevant in-service and professional training to strengthen capacity of MOA staff	Short-medium	OECS	UWI/CARDI	UWI in service training

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	c) Redirect extension to deal with the complexities of global markets in the context of the dynamics of the agri/food business/value chain approach	Short –long	OECS	UNDP/UWI UNWOMEN/IICA /FAO	UWI CAEP model REPAHA/ECIAF /JSA
	d) Development and consolidation of integrated planning mechanisms	Short -medium	MOA/ Central Planning	UNDP/ UNWOMEN/	
	e) Establish formal networking mechanism for sharing skills, information and experiences with OECSSEC and Member States/R&D technological networking with appropriate institutes and CARDI	Short –long term	, OECS/	UNDP/ UNWOMEN/FAO /CARDI	CTA
	f) Strengthen data collection mechanisms and establish national and regional agric. management information systems	Short – long term	OECS, Hub and Spokes,	FAO,IICA/CDB	MIOA/IICA, UNECLAC
	g) Training and establishment of market intelligence and trade facilitation network	medium-long	OECS	CARICOM/IICA/ CDB	UNECLAC/MIO A,IICA
	h) Establish formal trade facilitation representation through OECS Missions in international for a(OIE, CODEX, ITC, WTO)	Short-long	OECS	MOA/Trade	OECS technical missions Brussels & Geneva
	i) Establish/harmonise certification standards training for farmers and processors/GAP/GMP/HACCP	Short-long term	OECS/Trade policy/EDU	CROSQ/National bureaus of standards/CDB/ CAFAN	EDU; Fair trade (FLO); CROSQ; Bureaus of Standards;
	j) Develop capacity for compliance with established harmonised grades and standards	Short-medium term	OECS/Trade policy unit/EDU	CROSQ/National bureaus of standards/CDB	CROSQ; Bureaus of Standards

	2.1.1 Farmer /Fisher/Forestry Agribusiness /Enterprises/Organisations				
	a) Conduct audit/register of farmer organisations in OECS and review/implement recommendations for future agribusiness development of farmer fisher groups/chamber organizations/ as assessed by COMSEC Project “Promoting Agribusiness and Food Safety in the Eastern Caribbean”	Short – medium term	, OECS/MOA	UNDP /UNWOMENWINFA, CAFAN, IICA; FAO/COMSEC	Promoting Agribusiness a Caribbean States CFTC/ X model
	b) Assist in membership mobilisation including youth and women	Short – medium term	MOA	CAFY/IICA UNDP/UNWOMEN	
	c) Develop and Strengthen management of farmer /fisherclusters/ groups/agribusiness organisations	Short to medium term	IICA/OECS/CO MSEC/MOA	IICA,/COMSEC/CAFAN CARICOM/FAO	
	d) Assist in facilitating value chain investments/partnerships	Short –long term	/OECS/MOA	CARICOM/FAO/COMSEC CDB	CAFAN; WINFA;
	e) Develop mechanism for joint production and marketing and procurement of agricultural/livestock and fishery inputs	Short-long term	/OECS /MOA	CAFAN/WINFA/WINFRES H informal sector shipping cluster/CDE/IDB	Kenya experience
	f) Establish farmer group training and exchange visit models	Short-medium	OECS/ /MOA/	CAFAN/CARDI/ CARUTA FAO	
	g) Support networking mechanism for national and regional farmer organisations	Short-medium	OECS/ /MOA	CAFAN/CARDI/FAO	CAFAN; WINFA; Chamber
	h) Review/ develop appropriate model of operation for exporters and national marketing boards	Short – long term	OECS/MOA/	CDE/Marketing boards/ CAFAN/COMSEC/DEXIA	DEXIA,
3.0 Production Interventions	3.1 Production – Improvement of food and agricultural productivity				
	a) Establish food and nutrition security and export requirements	Short term	OECS/MOA/	CFNI/CARDI/CARICOM FAO/CDE	
	b) Develop improved R&D production systems and support services/including R&D for alternative energy for production and improved farming systems	medium	OECS/ESDU;	CARDI/USAID/CDB	CARDI, CIRAD, INRA, COL
	c) Invest in relevant technology and generation transfer as determined by market demand	Short-medium	OECS/MOA	CDB/CARDI/	CARDI, CIRAD, INRA, COL

	d) Train and certify producers in GAP/ GMP and food safety issues, highlighting issues of competitiveness along the value chain; develop regional fisherfolk training and certification programme	Short-long term	OECS/	CROSQ/CARICOM/COMSEC/CARDI EC/CARDI BOS/ CRFM/CARICOM CTA/WECAFC	CARDI, FAO/OECS/BOS CROSQ/SLU and DCA prog
	e)) Support investments in post harvest infrastructure (grading, packaging, storage, distribution and transportation)	Short-long term	OECS	CDB/CDE/World bank/	TROPORO project
	f) support the formation of a cluster of small vessels to enhance/ modernize the informal shipping sector g) Training in transport logistics	Short-long Short - medium	OECS/MOA OECS	CDE/IDB CDE/IDB/COMSEC/	
	h) Build technical capacity in labs and diagnostic facilities	Short-medium	OECS(10 th EDF)/	FAO/EDF	
	i) Assist in overcoming challenges of labour availability, cost and productivity	Short-medium	OECS/MOA/AG F		Dominica program
	j) Develop research and development capacity and the introduction of appropriate technologies for the commercial improvement of livestock (poultry, pigs and small ruminants), crop husbandry, forestry and fisheries to include aquaculture k) Develop improved production systems including greenhouse technology and support services at national and regional levels l) Undertake research and development in the use and commercialization of wild forest species m) Undertake resource management measures (soil and water conservation) that will assist in better ocean governance n) Improvement and extension of rural infrastructure (small scale irrigation, harvesting etc; storage systems; feeder roads; markets; and micro credit) o) Develop/Coordinate a regional plan of action for the management and control of black and yellow sigatoka	Short-long Short – long Short-medium Medium -long Short-long Short	OECS/ OECS/MOA OECS/MOA OECS/ESDU OECS OECS	CARDI/ COMSEC/UWI/FAO/CDE CARDI/UWI UWI/CARDI/ USAID UWI/CARDI/ COMSEC/FAO/USAID FAO/CARDI/IICA/MOAs/ EU	CIRAD/INRA Dept of Forestry, St. Lucia

4.0 Marketing	4.1 Marketing support				
	a) Develop and strengthen data collection and forecasting systems	Short-medium	Hub and spokes/OECS)MOA	CARICOM/MIOA(IICA/CAFAN/CARDI/FAO	SKN production forecasting
	b)Develop national food and nutrition security market intelligence capacity/system c) Harness existing skills and training in data collection, analysis and data entry and strengthen national marketing information systems	Short-medium Short-medium	HUB and SPOKES, OECS/ HUB and SPOKES, OECS	MIOA(IICA)/CAFAN/CARDI/FAO/Carib Export MIOA(IICA)/CARICOM	MIOA model/NAMDEVCO NAMDEVCO
	d)Develop regional market information system	Short-medium	Hub and spokes/OECS	CARICOM/FAO/MIOA/II CA/CAFAN/CARDI/FAO/Caribexport	OECS/ADCU TROPORO pr trade
	e) Develop marketing infrastructure/ sea and air transportation/port facilities/ customs facilitation	Short-long	OECS/	CDE/World Bank/CDB	Banana industry;
	f)Develop grades and standards, compliance and certification programmes g)branding of OECS products including work on Geographical with associate origin and quality	Short-long Short-medium	OECS/ OECS/TPU/EDU	CDB/CROSQ/ Caribexport/CROSQ/	CROSQ model/BOS
5.0 Programme Promotion	5.1 Programme Promotion				
	a) Establish website for OECS agriculture b) Conduct sensitization programmes on Regional Action Plan and Strategy	Short	OECS OECSMOA	HUB and Spokes FAO/IICA/CARICOM/	
	c) Promotion of agriculture, food and nutrition among the youth and women) Promotion of school feeding programmes e) Promotion of household food and nutrition security with	Short - medium	MOA	CFNI/UNDP/UNWOMEN	

	emphasis on increasing use of local foods	Short-medium			
		Short - medium	MOA	CFNI/FAO/CARDI/UNDP	
			MOA	CFNI/UNDP/UNWOMEN /FAO/CARDI	

4.2 Programme Priority 2: Develop and Promote Agro-Tourism Services

Objectives

Establish and implement OECS criteria and guidelines to identify, appraise, evaluate, and strengthen the agro-tourism value chain and develop or strengthen a package of complimentary agro-tourism sites throughout OECS Member States.

Rationale

The tourism/hospitality sector, specifically the hotel and culinary areas of the industry, present a major opportunity for linkages between the agricultural sector and tourism. Varying levels of success have been achieved in satisfying this market opportunity, which still remains largely underexploited primarily due to supply issues related to agriculture products targeted for production and sale to the hospitality, cruise and export markets. Quantity and quality consistency, and distributions systems for those products need to be specifically targeted in the Plan of Action at both the regional and national levels and attention given to production data collection, forecasting and market intelligence. Some of these have already been in addressed in Programme Priority one and would require a focused approach within the agro-tourism linkages value chain.

There is an emerging opportunity for greater physical linkages between farming communities, farming systems and tourism through heritage and rural community tourism products that involve on-farm tourist visits, provision of food and culinary services and arts and crafts from agriculture, forestry and fisheries (marine and aquaculture). Some Member States have already been engaged in the development of such activities and some best practices are emerging. IICA has been actively involved with promotion of agro-tourism in general and FAO has provided specific support leading to the development of criteria and implementation of a Quality Seal in the OECS regional programme. The OECS/ESDU has been implementing a programme in the

development of rural livelihoods that has produced some good practices that will need to be transferred to the wider rural communities.

A number of studies/reports are already available which can give direction to the Plan of Action. However, research in defining the development of national agro-tourism sites with a view to targeting some level of economic impact, product development (signage, facilities etc.) and standards will require actions in the establishment of the appropriate legislative and administrative framework. This will in turn facilitate certification and branding. The opportunities for craft production at the rural community level and the development of rural industry need to be explored, through research and technology adoption/adaptation and training, led by a market-driven analysis of product design, pricing, packaging and distribution. The OECS-EDU has already undertaken some very useful diagnostic analysis in this regard.

Of particular significance are the opportunities provided by this Priority Programme in addressing rural poverty and in particular gender issues, as these impact directly on women who represent some 80% of operators in the craft and agro-processing sub sectors.

The Plan of Action of will therefore address the following:

Programme Priority 2: Develop and Promote Agro-Tourism Services

INTERVENTION	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	Responsibility	Support Institutions	
1. Policy/Legal/Institutional	1.1 Policy Formulation and enactment				
	a) Review IICA 2010 Agro-Tourism Policy and adapt for the OECS	Short	OECS/IICA	IICA/MOAs/ Tourism	OECS C
	b) Align Regional Action Plan for agriculture with tourism policy	Short-medium	OECS	IICA/MOT/ Tourism	IICA Reg Policy.
	c) Formulate policy for the adoption a Quality Seal for all products & services along the value chain in the agro-tourism/hospitality sector	Short-medium	OECS	IICA/MOA/ Tourism/CROSQ	TWG(OE
	d) Implementation of policies	Short-medium	MOA/Tourism	IICA/OECS	
	1.2 Legal Framework				
	a) Review/formulate legislation for the development of national parks/heritage sites/community based programmes/forest products	Short-medium	OECS/IICA	BOS/National	CTO Be Commun
	b) Review/formulate legislation for the adoption of compulsory standards	Short	OECS	CROSQ/AGF/ BOS/	CROSQ
	c) Review tourism legislation	Short	OECS/IICA/Tourism		
	d) enactment of legislation	Short-medium	AGF/Tourism		
	1.2.1 Risk Management/Quality Assurance				
	a) Establish and harmonise incentive regimes for the adoption of Quality Seal standards for food and nutraceuticals for which harmonised standards already exist	Short-medium	/OECS/	CROSQ/CTO/BOS/M OH	

2. Institutional Reform	2.1) Institutional				
					CROSQ; FAO/OE program
	a) Establish regional coordinating unit for implementation of the OECS Quality Seal within the OECSSC	Short-medium	OECS	FAO/CROSQ/BOS PROINVEST/CDE	
	b) Support the strengthening of National Standards Bureaus and other relevant Government departments required to provide technical support to implementation of the Quality Seal	Short-medium	OECS secretariat	CROSQ//FAO/PAHO //tourism/ trade	
	c) Expand/establish national/regional agro-tourism linkages committees to support implementation of the OECS Quality Seal and forward and backward linkages between agriculture and tourism	Short-medium	OECS /MOA/	/IICA/tourism//FAO/ Complete caribe.	FAO/OE program
	d) Develop the research capacity for site identification, development and certification and for other service ventures in agro-tourism	Short-medium	OECS	IICA/CROSQ/CDE Grenada BOS/FAO/CARDI	FAO/OE program Grenada
	e) Develop integrated planning programme capacity for livelihood(site) and value chain development	Short-medium	OECS/ESDU	IICA/USAID	ESDU O
	f) Build capacity in site management	Short-medium	OECS/ESDU	IICA/USAID	OPAAL F
	g) Build capacity in craft, culinary, health and wellness, heritage tourism, arts and culinary services	Short-medium	OECS/EDU	CDE/Proinvest/ IICA/MOH/BOS	EDU ma develop
	h) Implement Quality Seal for agriculture goods and services	Short-long	OECS(10thEDF)	10thEDF CROSQ/IICA/BOS	
	i) Develop and consolidate linkages between agriculture and agribusiness, tourism, health and	Short-long	OECS(10 th EDF)/IICA/MOA/Tourism	IICA/MOT/MOA/MO H	Dominic

	wellness				
	j) Site promotion and marketing of programme	Short-long	National MOT, MOA, etc	OECS/EDU	
	k) Secure supplementary financing	Short	OECS/National	PROINVEST/CDB/IICA	PROINVEST
	l) Establish an agro-tourism resource centre in collaboration with IICA	Short-long	OECS	IICA	IICA
3.0 Production Interventions	a) Establish basket of commodities required by the tourism and hospitality sector	Short	OECS/ EDU	IICA/CAFAN/ Tourism mins	
	b) Facilitate Production and processing of crops/herbs/other food items linked to food and nutrition spa and wellness	Short-medium	National	FAO telefood/IDB CARDI	CANARI
	c) Develop/strengthen community based tourism initiatives	Short-long	OECS/EDU/ESDU	Compete Caribe/IICA.	Dominic
	d) Enhance competitiveness of SMEs in the tourism sector	Short-long	OECS/EDU	IICA/CDE/	
	e) Strengthen/develop agro-eco-tourism enterprises	Short-long	OECS EDU/IICA		Sandals
	f) Strengthen linkages between farming community and hotels	Short – medium	National	OECS/IICA	
4.0 Marketing	a) Conduct agro-tourism market demand study and opportunity analysis	short	OECS	Proinvest/IICA	
	b) Promote joint strategy for agro-tourism trade	short	OECS	CDE Proinvest/IICA/ CDE	
	c) Adopt quality seal from developed criteria	short-medium	OECS	CROSQ/FAO/BOS/E DFIICA	
	d) Increase market access for both primary and value added agricultural food and non food items	Short-long	OECS/Trade/Tourism/	CARICOM/IICA/	
	e) Rationalize and consolidate existing buyer-seller trade and market information systems	Short-long	EDU /OECS	Hub and Spokes/CDE	

5.0 Programme Promotion	a) Promote cross border initiatives in best practices for replication in other Member States	Short-medium	OECS/IICA/CARICOM		
	b)Promotion of agro-tourism quality seal	Short-long	OECS	CROSQ/FAO/BOS/CARICOM/Member States	
	c)Promotion of investment in agro-tourism	Short-medium	OECS	Proinvest/IICA/CDE/Compete caribbean	

4.3 Programme Priority 3: Develop Synergies with CARICOM/CSME

Objectives

Develop and adopt a strategic approach to establishing synergies with the wider CARICOM/CSME process.

Rationale

As members of the Caribbean Community, the OECS Member States are active participants in the CSME process, are signatories to regional Agreements on Agriculture and serve as members of the Technical Working Groups responsible for the formulation of the Caribbean Agriculture Policy and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy recently completed. It should also be noted that one of the background papers to the Jagdeo Initiative was the OECS Policy Framework and Plan of Action.

Further, of the ten Technical and Five Management Advisory Committees (TMAC) established by CARICOM under the Jagdeo Initiative, four are chaired by OECS Ministers of Agriculture. Moreover, these areas, namely land and water management; research and development; agribusiness management; risk management including praedial larceny; and regional transportation for agriculture are all critical to implementation and are referenced in the OECS Economic Union Treaty and the CARICOM Community Agricultural Policy.

It is therefore not coincidental that there are notable similarities between the OECS Programme Priorities and the Policy Framework and the CARICOM Programme Pillars. Additionally, Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with traditional major development partners and donors are signed with the CARICOM Secretariat.

The CSME process has selected and is advancing agriculture as the sector to spearhead production integration in the region. This could have important consequences for crafting regional policies and priorities for OECS agriculture in a manner that will position the OECS group to complement, or to take the lead in the process to achieve production integration. Important therefore will be the need to establish mechanisms for OECS/CARICOM joint representation in all regional agricultural related fora. It is also imperative to ensure that OECS interests are accorded appropriate prominence and receive adequate treatment in wider regional agriculture policy dialogue and implementation.

The Plan will address the following:

Programme Priority 3: Developing Synergies with CARICOM/CSME

INTERVENTION	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	Responsibility	Support Institutions
1. Policy Review/Formulation	1.1 Policy Formulation and enactment			
	a) Harmonize national policies with OECS Agricultural policy	Short	OECS	CARICOM/FAO/IICA
	b) Assessment and synchronization of national and regional policies		MOA	CARICOM/FAO/IICA
2. Institutional Reform	2.1) Institutional Restructuring			
	a) Establish a working mechanism for agriculture sector programme formulation and implementation at all levels	Short –Medium	OECS	CARICOM
	b) Establish platform for the Identification of national programmes for support	Short-medium	MOA	CARICOM
	c) CARICOM representation in all OECS agriculture and allied fora and vice versa	Short-long	OECS	CARICOM
	d) Establishment of Institutional and Technical networks to facilitate programme formulation, implementation, transfer of technology and information dissemination	Short-medium	OECS/	CARICOM/CARDI/FAO
	e) Advocate for the reintroduction of the CARICOM Standing Committee for Ministers of Agriculture meeting	Short	OECS	CARICOM/OECS Ministers of Agric.
	f) Annual Meeting of OECS Ministers of Agriculture with representatives of all cooperants and stakeholders to address	Short	OECS/MOA	CARICOM

	issues and constraints to be addressed at CARICOM level			
	g) Support Ministers of Agriculture with responsibility for the TMAC on the Jagdeo Initiative: transportation (SKN); Agribusiness (SVG); Land and Water Management (SLU); Climate Change and Disaster Management (ANU)	Short-medium	OECS/MOAS	CARICOM
3.0 Production Interventions	3.1 Production			
	a) Initiate and strengthen joint production and marketing initiatives and competitiveness, which complement CSME and CAFAN levels to meet food and nutrition requirements of the region	Short – medium	OECS/ OECS/CARICOM/CAFAN/CARDI	FAO/CARICOM/CAFAN
4.0 Marketing	4.1 Marketing support			
	a) Support the establishment of a regional market information system	Short-medium	OECS/ Hub and Spokes/	CARICOM/ IICA(MIOA) CDE/IADB
	b) Develop marketing infrastructure for the movement of products to meet national and regional food and nutrition requirements	Short-medium	OECS/	CDE/CARICOM/IICA(MIOA) WINFRESH/CAFAN
5.0 Curriculum Development	5.1 Agriculture in Schools a) Collaborate with Ministries of Agriculture, Education, CXC , CAFAN, and CARICOM to have agriculture and agribusiness incorporated in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools	Short-medium	OECS/MOA'S	UWI/CARICOM

6.0 Programme Promotion	6.1 Programme Promotion			
	a) Regional promotion of initiatives through various media to raise profile of OECS agriculture through CARICOM	Short-medium	OECS	FAO/CARDI/CARICOM
	b) Promotion and support for differential programme that will address OECS peculiarities	Short-medium	OECS/CARICOM	FAO/IICA

4.4 Programme Priority 4 : Mobilise Resources for Implementation

Objectives

Formulate and implement a Resource Mobilisation, Investment and Financing Strategy for the OECS Agriculture Plan and Programme.

Rationale

The value chain approach and the private sector driven agribusiness environment require a structural shift in the way the business of agriculture is facilitated and conducted. The underdeveloped nature of capital and finance markets in the region and underinvestment by the private sector in agriculture, particularly in meeting the sector's special requirements, act as constraints to the transformation and integration of agriculture into the mainstream business environment. That notwithstanding, OECS Member States need to continue to be proactive in accessing resources to finance the hard and soft infrastructure required to augment the capital base needed to underpin the structural transformation of the sector, thereby enhancing the environment for growth in private sector activity. In the context of the regional objectives and responsibilities in the Plan, particular attention will need to be given to the mobilization of resources (Technical and Financial) from national budgetary allocations, private sector investments, and from regional and external donor partners. Through the Policy Framework and Revised Plan of Action the particular needs of the OECS Agricultural Sector will need to be fully articulated with a view to establishing a differentiated strategy that will reflect the implementation capacities of Member States and provide for flexibility in financing and delivery mechanisms.

In support of this must be capacities at national and regional level to provide the necessary counterpart requirements often necessary in the leverage of external support. The plan proposes the development of an agriculture development fund that could address this issue.

The Plan will therefore address the following:

Programme Priority 4: Mobilise Resources for Implementation					
INTERVENTION	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	Responsibility	Support Institutions	Best Practices
1. Institutional Strategy	1.1 Institutional Mobilisation				
	a) Review national budgets and allocations to agriculture	Short	Member States MOF/	FAO	
	b) Review donor funded national and regional agricultural programmes	Short	OECS Member States MOF	EU/FAO/IICA	
	c) Establishment of database and requirements of funding sources for public/private sector investment funding	Short	OECS	COMSEC/CARUTA	
	d) Development of a differentiated strategy for donor funding of National and Regional OECS Agriculture programmes and enhancement of national and regional project formulation capacities	Short	OECS/MOA's	CARUTA/UNDP/ COMSEC	
	e) Establishment of an OECS Agricultural Development Fund	Short-medium	OECS	CDB/ECCB/ Ministries of Finance/CARICOM	
	f) Establishment of a donor/institutional programme for funding and capacity building for	Short-medium	OECS	CARUTA/COMSEC/ CDE	

Programme Priority 4: Mobilise Resources for Implementation					
	funds solicitation and negotiation				
	g) Facilitation of private/public sector in fund mobilisation activities, capacity building in project preparation, management and reporting	Short-medium	OECS	CDB/FAO/COMSEC/CDE	CDB project preparation and implementation programme
2.0 Programme Promotion	2.1 Priorities Promotion				
	a) Develop programme for promotion of priorities for funding to be presented to identified donor partners and agencies	Short	OECS	CDE/PROINVEST	

4.5 Programme Priority 5 : Strengthen Capacity of the OECS

Secretariat/Agriculture Desk

Objectives

Coherent and effective participation of Member States in the OECS regional programme through strengthened capacity of the OECS Secretariat Agriculture Desk.

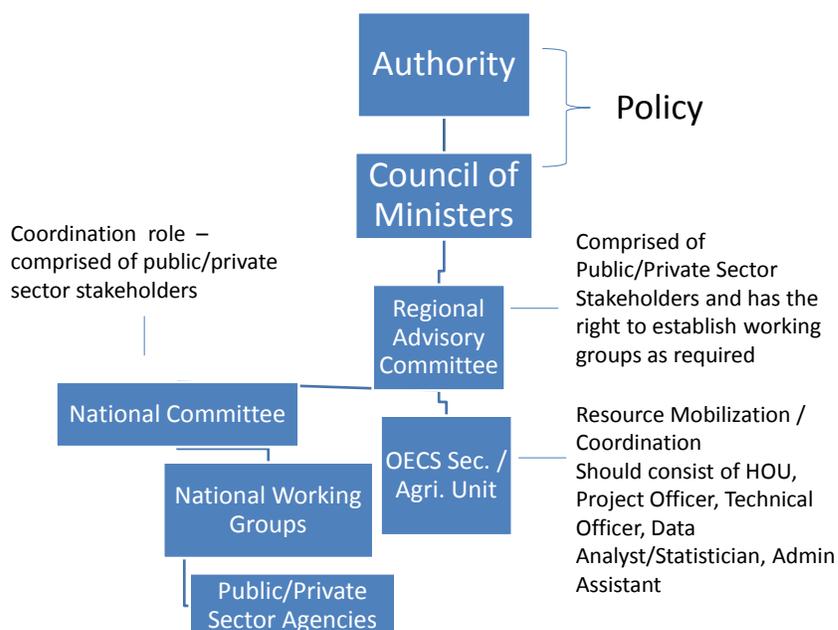
Rationale

The intervention platforms being elaborated provide a general description of the nature of the effort required in each strategic action to realize the goal and objectives of the Plan of Action. The strengthening of the Agriculture Desk is critical in enhancing the OECS Secretariat's capacity to implement and achieve results from undertaking the specified actions.

The implementation matrix of the OECS Agriculture Policy includes very detailed response actions at the national level, the outputs of which would provide inputs or influence actions at the regional level. Accordingly the document recommends the creation of new institutions, notably, National Agriculture Advisory Committees, a dedicated desk in the Ministries of Agriculture and strengthened capacity in agriculture at the OECS Secretariat to manage the processes of coordination, programming, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. These recommendations have not been fully satisfied and the expected reporting to the Secretariat has not been forthcoming. The result is the inability of the Secretariat to build an appropriate knowledge base to assess, evaluate and institutionalize harmonized frameworks to advance a regional agriculture agenda.

The working meeting of April 26 and 27, 2011 made specific recommendations on the regional and national structures for improved governance to facilitate the overall policy direction of the sector and more importantly the approach to the various stages of implementation of the programme of priorities and the establishment of a management information system to include monitoring and evaluation. The meeting recommended the following structure to support the implementation of the programme. (See chart 1)

Chart 1 Structure to support implementation of OECS Programme of Priorities



The consultation also recommended:

1. The proposed structure of Governance of the Programme should be formalized at the National and Regional level and the staffing of an OECS Agriculture Unit be made mandatory to the implementation of the Programme
2. Member States should be required to ensure that adequate staffing is in place to support the institutions/agencies with responsibility for the execution of the Programme. In particular the appointment of a dedicated Senior Technical Officer to provide leadership to the National (Implementing) Committee/Working Groups and for liaison with the OECS Agriculture Unit is critical to the implementation and sustainability of the Programme.
3. The restructuring of the Export Development Unit of the OECS Secretariat to provide support to the Programme in areas such as tourism linkages and capacity building in private sector companies in Management Enhancement, Product Development and Marketing should be pursued
4. Internal coordination between OECS Secretariat Units, vis ESDU, Education Unit, Legal Unit, should be strengthened to ensure maximum impact and implementation support to the Programme.

5. The strengthening of the Legal Unit to address the harmonization of Legislation was deemed a priority.
6. National Budgets must make specific provisions for the funding of core areas of the programme to secure its sustainability and to leverage technical and financial support from development partners.
7. Also of importance is the establishment of technical working groups (TWGs), which would provide advice, support and advocacy to increase awareness and understanding of issues, the monitoring of each component at the various stages of implementation and to address specific issues as the need arises. The establishment of a focal point as technical coordinator in each Member State to provide leadership to the TWG and to liaise with the OECS Secretariat on all issues relating to the Plan of Action and allied areas of agricultural development is a sine qua non for effective implementation of the Plan.

The Secretariat is required to give support and provide analyses, progress reports, impact assessments etc. for the consideration of the regional Advisory Council, the Council of Ministers as well as the National Councils/Committees through their respective Ministries of Agriculture. As a consequence, the Secretariat will require skills in programme formulation, project preparation and design, and capacities in monitoring and evaluation. These functions will need to reside in a strengthened Agricultural Unit and Economic Affairs Division. The operationalization of the plan will require the establishment of working groups (task forces) that will articulate the details of milestones, risks etc. To take advantage of synergies, the location of the existing agricultural unit/desk needs to be considered.

Additionally, public and private sector technicians have identified tasks, which need to be addressed and led at the regional level by the Secretariat. These include: programme advocacy through the instruments of the Economic Union Protocol and the administrative structures being established; policy formulation and implementation through existing Secretariat Divisions/Departments/Units as they relate to Strategic Programme Planning, Legal Reform and Harmonization, Agricultural Programme Planning, Product Development and Value Chain Enhancement, Trade Facilitation and Youth Mobilization.

While important interventions have been recorded in the past, they were achieved outside a desirable coordinated framework. The Plan of Action will develop an internal coordination

mechanism that will facilitate an integrated programme formulation, design and implementation strategy for the delivery of Secretariat support. The plan will pursue the following:

Programme Priority 5: Strengthen Capacity of OECS Secretariat/ Agriculture Desk

INTERVENTION	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	Responsibility	Support Institutions	Best
1. Policy Legal/Institutional	1.1 Policy Formulation and enactment				
	a) Incorporate Revised Agriculture Priorities with OECS Strategic work programmes .	Short term	OECS internal		
2. Institutional Reform	2.1) Institutional Restructuring				
	a) Adopt the organizational structure in chart 1 proposed and agreed by the TWG	Short	OECS internal		
	b) Staff the unit with at least 1 HOU, 1 project officer, and 1 admin assistant with statistical data skills. Resource positions through secondment where possible.	Short	OECS	FAO/COMSEC/ IICA/UNDP/MOAs CARDI	ADCU
	c) Support structure to include dedicated national coordinators for implementing POA	Short	OECS	MOAs	
	d)	Short	OECS		
	e) Relocate the OECS Agricultural unit to the Export Development Unit in Dominica for greater synergies, effectiveness and value for money.	short	OECS		
3 Accountability	3.1 Ensuring Accountability				
	a) Institute quarterly reporting on programmes and use of funds to HOU, Ministers, Stakeholders and donors				
4.0 Ownership	4.1 Building Ownership				
	a) Maintain Bi-annual/annual) participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises with key stakeholders during various phases of implementation.	Short-medium	OECS	FAO/COMSEC/IICA UNDP/CARDI	

4.6 Programme Priority 6: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Securing Water Resources for Sustainable Development

Objectives

Promote and support climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies including early warning systems, and mainstream in agriculture programmes to protect food production systems and build resilience against tropical storms, heavy rains and droughts in rural/farming communities.

Secure long term access to water for irrigation and value chain activities.

Rationale

According to Simon Anderson, Head of the Climate Change Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development, “Climate change will make it increasingly difficult to achieve and sustain development goals. This is largely because climate’s effects on poverty remain poorly understood, and poverty reduction strategies do not adequately support climate resilience. Ensuring effective development in the face of climate change requires action on six fronts: investing in a stronger climate and poverty evidence base; applying the learning about development effectiveness with respect to how we address adaptation needs; supporting nationally derived, integrated policies and programmes; including the climate vulnerable poor in developing strategies; and identifying how mitigation strategies can also reduce poverty and enable adaptation”

There is now international consensus that climate change impacts on all aspects of development and is likely to complicate efforts geared towards achieving and sustaining development goals. Climate variability is likely to increase food insecurity and hunger, changing rainfall patterns and is also likely to impact on water security and access to water for irrigation and value chain activities. Decreased water, availability, water scarcity, decreases in productivity of food production systems, and loss of genetic species and ecosystem biodiversity are some of the short to long term changes which could take place.

Water scarcity, variability in rainfall patterns and intensities in rain fed agriculture are recognized challenges for food production and marketing in small developing countries particularly the OECS.

Further, Climate Change modeling results indicate a warmer climate, which leads to a proliferation of pests and diseases and migration of fish species and decreased precipitation, which have implications for the OECS sustaining a robust, diversified and competitive agriculture. Timely and adequate application of water for on-farm activities is already a challenge. Many OECS countries have been involved in rainwater harvesting initiatives. Yet important domestic markets have been lost due to non-delivery of supplies caused from variability in rainfall patterns. IICA/FAO/CDB, are involved in efforts to reduce water problems on farm through water harvesting. The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) is engaged in activities aimed at enhancing farming in the Member States by providing weather and climate information and training of personnel of meteorological and agricultural services including farmers in relevant aspects of agro meteorology, climate and crop modeling to support agricultural productivity and Food and Nutrition Security.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that warming of the climate is conclusive. Changes are impacting on climate and will continue to affect human development in several ways including occurrences of intense hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts and sea level rises. Developing countries and in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are expected to be most affected and suffer disproportionately from climate change and climate variability. This is so since most SIDS rely on climate-sensitive factors for economic and social development (agriculture, forestry and fisheries and tourism).

Increasing intensities in hurricanes is also a concern for sustainable agriculture production systems and livelihoods in farming communities. Impacts of climate change in coastal areas will also affect fish nurseries, and fishing for food and employment. There is already evidence of warming of the seas and movement of some types of fish away from Caribbean Sea as they follow algal growth in cooler waters. This has implications for marine fishing practices, the cost associated with fish catch and the need for alternatives such as aquaculture.

In addressing these considerations, the Plan will pursue the following:

Programme Priority 6: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Securing Water Resources for Sustainable Development				
INTERVENTION	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	Responsibility	Support Institution
1. Policy/Legal/Institutional	1.1 Policy Formulation and enactment			
	a. Review and strengthen the implementation of the St. Georges Declaration in national sustainable agricultural development programmes	Medium Term	OECS	FAO, CARDI/
	b. Develop and strengthen policies for Data Collection; and capacity building in water information systems; water management; water allocation; research and development; and land use	Short term	ESDU(OECS) Natiuonal Governments	FAO/CIMH/ CDEMA/ CCCCC FAO/CIMH/ CDEMA/ CCCCC
	c. Review and update water legislation	Short-medium	National Governments	CIMH/ CDEMA/ FAO/OECS
	d. Review water pricing systems and develop price policy for agricultural use	Short-medium	National governments	CIMH/TMAC/ FAO/OECS/PAHO

Programme Priority 6: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Securing Water Resources for Sustainable Development				
	e) Establish an Agriculture Natural Disaster Resource Facility consisting of databases of technical resources, national and regional accounts for financial support and national and regional inventories of food stocks, planting material, physical inputs and assets.	Short-medium	OECS	FAO/CDEMA/CDB/COMSEC/CARDI/TMAC
	f) Develop insurance facility	Short-medium	OECS	IICA/TMAC/CaribRM/COMSEC WINCROP/CRIF/DFID
	g) Strengthen national capacities in the macro-economic assessment of damage to the sector after an event and in post-disaster rehabilitation	short	OECS/ESDU	ECLAC/ <u>UWI</u>
	h) Support credit facility/banks/institutions to minimise risk through the development of agricultural risk analysis instruments	Short	OECS	CDB/ECCB/World Bank
3. Reduction of vulnerability	3.1 Interventions			
	a) Establish unified regimes for land management b) Implement new and innovative	Short-medium	National Governments National Governments	FAO/TMAC/OECS/COMSEC CARDI/OECS/USAID/CCCC/World bank (ARD)

Programme Priority 6: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Securing Water Resources for Sustainable Development				
	technologies and methods for crop, livestock and fishery production			
	b) Build/Strengthen platform to reduce vulnerability : conduct EIAs before developing projects; protect and restore forest to safeguard biodiversity; develop forestry management and planning programs	Short-medium	ESDU(OECS)	CDEMA/FAO/CDEMA/CCCC
	c) Enhance the enabling environment for adaptation to climate variability impacts in water and coastal resources sectors	Short	National Government	CIMH/FAO/TMAC/CDEMA/OECS(ESDU
	d) Implementation of Community based disaster risk reduction strategies in the OECS	Short-medium	ESDU(OECS)	CDEMA/TMAC/FAO/CARDI/IICA/CIMH/CCCC
	e) Review and update inventory of water catchments and water sources	Short (high priority)	National Initiative	FAO/OECS/CIMH
	f) Assess water distribution systems	Short (high priority)	National Governments	FAO/OECS/CIMH

Programme Priority 6: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Securing Water Resources for Sustainable Development				
	g) Assess water needs and quality for farm purposes and value addition	Short-medium (high priority)	National Governments	CEHI/FAO/OECS/CIMH
	h) Evaluate, monitor and implement appropriate integrated watershed management practices/programmes	Short-long (high priority)	National Governments	FAO/CEHI/OECS/CIMH
	i) Promote and support small irrigation systems including water harvesting; and introduce incentives for participation. Promote bulk water storage	Short-medium (high priority)	OECS	FAO/CEHI/TMAC/CARDI/USAID
	j) Train farmers and farmer households in on-farm water management and risk reduction strategies	Short-medium (high priority)	National Governments	FAO/CARDI/OECS/CIMH/CCCC
3.0 Programme Promotion	a) Sensitization Workshops b) Generation and dissemination of information c) organized public education programs	Short	OECS/ESDU OECS/ESDU/	ESDU/CDEMA/National entities/TMAC/FAO CDEMA/National entities/TMAC/FAO

5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Plan of Action will develop a systematic and continuous process for collecting and analysing data and using information, which will enable decision makers, executing agencies, and other stakeholders to take effective decisions at the various stages of implementation of the Plan of Action consistent with the goal of the sector and the objectives of the programme. The system will be developed at all levels of the program with the aim of assessing whether the objectives are realistic, and are being or have been met. The monitoring and evaluation process will outline key indicators to compare actual achievements at various levels against the objectives. The method of collecting will be specified in the programmes and will be carried out by Member State Ministries, The Technical Working Groups (TWGs)/National Agriculture Advisory Councils (NAACs), the OECS Secretariat and support institutions. The provision for evaluation must look at the impact of the plan of Action, intended or unintended, its contribution to the overall objectives/goal and performance in terms of the purpose of the actions and results. Ministers will meet periodically to review the progress of implementation.