



### GENESIS OF CAHFSA

CAHFSA has its origin in:

- The **WTO-SPS Agreement** which obliges Members of the WTO to "address the protection of human, animal and plant health through the implementation of internationally recognized health and food safety practices and systems."
- The **Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas** which obliges Member States to "create an efficient and effective regime of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and to harmonize their laws and administrative practices to effect such a regime."

### AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHING CAHFSA

The following Agreements give force to CAHFSA:

- Revised Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), February 23, 2011;
- Original Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), March 12, 2010.

### MODE OF OPERATION

CAHFSA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of one representative from each Member State representing the specialized areas of focus of CAHFSA.

Associate members can attend Board Meetings but cannot vote. Only Board members have the right to vote.

The Secretary General of CARICOM is granted observer status on the Board.

The Board reports annually to the COTED.

The day-to-day operations of CAHFSA is managed by a Chief Executive Officer and three (3) Heads of departments.

### MANDATE

CAHFSA is mandated to:

- perform a coordinating and organizing role in the establishment of an effective and efficient regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime;
- execute on behalf of Member States such SPS actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.

### VISION

To be a leading regional institution of international repute in the application of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems.



### MISSION

To enhance regional development in agricultural health and food safety through the application of SPS Measures that meet the expectation of all stakeholders and contribute to the welfare of our citizens.

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- To provide regional and national support to the Community in the establishment, management and operations of its national agricultural health and food safety systems as they relate to the SPS measures of the SPS Agreement.
- To execute on behalf of those countries such actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To provide a mechanism for the coordination and integration of technical support to stakeholders by relevant regional and international organizations;
- To provide a framework to continuously monitor and evaluate national agricultural health and food safety programmes and provide technical support
- To facilitate the development and use of regional, as well as international SPS standards, measures and guidelines;
- To strengthen the policy and legal framework for SPS related issues;
- To facilitate the harmonization of technical procedures in relation to SPS issues
- To provide a framework for the conduct of tests and the strengthening of laboratory services
- To provide a mechanism for achieving regional consensus on SPS issues that can be represented in international fora;
- To provide an effective regional mechanism to respond rapidly to emergencies and emerging issues;
- To establish a mechanism to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to stakeholders in the private sector by regional and international organizations to improve productivity and competitiveness in the market place;

### MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

- Plant Health
- Animal Health
- Food Safety

### MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership of CAHFSA is opened to all members of the Caribbean Community. This includes Haiti, Montserrat and the Bahamas which are members of the Caribbean Community but are not presently participants in the CSME.

Associate Membership of CAHFSA is opened to Associate Members of the Community, i.e. any Caribbean State or territory admitted by the Community to associate membership of the Community.



### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of CAHFSA is as follows:



### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Committee of Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CCPHD);
- Committee of CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers;
- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanisms (CRFM)

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## "FACILITATING TRADE THROUGH REGIONAL HARMONIZATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES"



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