

Suriname – October 30, 2025.

Statement from CAHFSA following the passing of Hurricane Melissa

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) stands in solidarity with all CARICOM Member States affected by the passage of Hurricane Melissa. The destruction left behind, particularly across our agricultural landscapes, reminds us of both the fragility and the importance of the sector that sustains our region's food security, livelihoods, and economies.

We stand with our farmers, fishers, and agri-entrepreneurs who have suffered losses of crops, livestock, infrastructure, and vital productive capacity. Agriculture is the backbone of our communities, and its recovery is central to the sustainable development of our nations.

CAHFSA remains committed to working hand-in-hand with Ministries of Agriculture, regional partners, and international organizations to support assessment of impacts, protection of human, animal and environmental health, restoration of safe production systems and prevention of secondary risks to food safety that may follow flooding.

As we rebuild, this moment also calls for renewed commitment to climate-resilient agriculture strengthening surveillance, emergency preparedness, and sustainable practices that can withstand the increasing intensity of hurricanes and other climate-related threats.

The spirit of Caribbean cooperation and resilience has always guided us through adversity. Together, we will restore our farms, protect our food systems and emerge even stronger.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Peters', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Dr. Gavin Peters

Chief Executive Officer

Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)