

CAHFSA and CABI Strengthen Caribbean Capacity Through Regional Pest Risk Analysis Training Workshop

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago – December 5, 2025.

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), in partnership with CABI through its [Plantwise Plus](#) programme, successfully concluded a Regional Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Training Workshop held from December 1–5, 2025, at the Cascadia Hotel in Port of Spain. The workshop brought together about 20 participants from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) across the Caribbean. The training targeted NPPO staff directly involved in conducting PRAs or contributing to national or CAHFSA-led PRA activities.

The workshop was a key milestone under CAHFSA's 2024–2026 workplan, which includes a major activity focused on Regional Collaboration on PRA Training and the development of regional PRAs for at least four pests identified in the Regional Priority Pest List (RPPL). To support the delivery of this critical SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) activity, CABI through its global [Plantwise Plus](#) programme collaborated with CAHFSA to host this regional PRA workshop. [Plantwise Plus](#) aims to help countries predict, prepare for, and prevent plant health threats, with a strong focus on capacity building and the development and application of decision-support tools for assessing pest risks.

As part of the training sequence, representatives from CAHFSA Member States first participated in online PRA training, using internationally recognized courses from USDA, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and COLEAD. Participants then undertook PRA development for selected pests from the RPPL before attending the face-to-face session in Trinidad, where they had the opportunity to review, refine, and finalize their PRAs collaboratively.

During the in-person workshop, participants worked intensively to finalise PRAs for four priority regional pests and one biological control agent. They also gained practical experience with key tools used globally for science-based decision-making, including: The CABI Invasive Species Compendium, CABI Horizon Scanning Tool, and CABI PRA Tool. Sessions covered critical components of PRA development, including pest categorization, pathways of entry, establishment potential, spread likelihood, and economic and environmental impact assessments. Group presentations and peer reviews allowed participants to exchange insights and harmonise approaches across countries. The workshop also provided a space for participants to discuss long-term needs, including the creation of a regional Pest Risk Register and enhanced pest risk monitoring mechanisms. Participants reviewed the benefits and challenges of regional PRA development, identified capacity gaps, and adopted recommendations and next steps to guide continued collaboration.

With the successful completion of the workshop, CAHFSA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Member States in strengthening plant health systems, facilitating safe agricultural trade, and safeguarding regional food security. The training further strengthened technical capacity across NPPOs and advanced the development of harmonized, evidence-based PRA processes across the Caribbean.