

## Regional PVS Pathway Orientation Training Workshop in Saint Lucia

April 10, 2026

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) is participating in the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway Orientation Training Workshop for the Caribbean, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Saint Lucia from 8 April to 10 April 2026.

Hosted at the Bay Gardens Hotel, this workshop brings together approximately 50 participants from 20 CARICOM Member Countries and partner institutions.

This event is organized by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Pandemic Fund project in partnership with CAHFSA.

Representing CAHFSA at the Regional PVS Pathway Orientation Workshop are:

- Dr. Gavin Peters, Chief Executive Officer
- Dr. Nneka Hull James, Animal Health Specialist
- Mrs. Rosaya Gunter-Kamit, Animal Health Programme Officer

This morning's opening ceremony marked the official start of the three-day workshop and was chaired by Saint Lucia's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Sharmine Melville-Edwin.

Remarks were delivered by Ms. Tania Hoost-de Getrouwe (FAO), Dr. Gavin Peters, Chief Executive Officer of CAHFSA and Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Director General of WOA (virtual). A feature address was also delivered by Permanent Secretary Mr. Bradley St. Ange on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Sustainable Development, Hon. Lisa Jawahir.

The Regional PVS Pathway Orientation workshop provides a valuable platform for regional participants to deepen their understanding of the PVS Pathway, an independent, country-driven, step-by-step process designed to support sustainable planning and continuous improvement of national Veterinary Services, in line with WOA standards.

A key focus of the workshop is achieving targeted learning outcomes aimed at strengthening regional veterinary systems. Participants are expected to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced within the subregion and identify priority areas where interventions are needed;
- Recognize the value of external evaluations in supporting countries to achieve their veterinary service goals;
- Recognize the benefits of WOA membership;

- Develop a clearer understanding of the subregional context, including animal health status, production systems, international trade challenges and opportunities, and the importance of subregional collaboration;
- Understand the role of capacity building and data-driven decision-making in improving Veterinary Services;
- Identify opportunities for both WOAHA Members and non-members to engage in capacity-building activities;
- Strengthen knowledge of the PVS Pathway programme, including its benefits for countries and insights from previous PVS evaluation;
- Share experiences and lessons learned from actions taken following PVS self-assessments and recommendations.

At this workshop participants are engaged in the second phase of the training, building on e-learning modules completed prior to this week's face-to-face workshop.

The sessions include interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing opportunities facilitated by WOAHA experts, regional partners and CARICOM member countries.

Two panel discussions were also held as part of the first day's programme.

The first focused on expectations from the Pandemic Fund project, with country representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines sharing their perspectives.

The second panel discussion provided an opportunity for WOAHA Member Countries (Belize, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname and Bahamas) to share their experiences on PVS Self-Assessment and annual reporting, highlighting both challenges encountered and key lessons learned.

The workshop continues with more technical sessions on the second day, where participants explored the PVS Tool in detail, including its critical competencies and gained practical knowledge on how to prepare for a PVS Evaluation.

On the final day, discussions will focus on PVS Gap Analysis and the targeted support available to countries, as well as defining the way forward for strengthening Veterinary Services across the region. CAHFSA's Animal Health Specialist participated in a panel discussion focused on how regional institutions can support the implementation of recommendations generated by PVS evaluations.

CAHFSA's participation in this workshop underscores its continued commitment to strengthening veterinary services, enhancing regional collaboration, and supporting Member States in improving animal health systems, food safety, and resilience to emerging threats.