CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY AGENCY
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BRIEF #2

CAHFSA's Objectives: Protecting Caribbean Agriculture and Food Safety

The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the region's agriculture and food systems. Behind this work lies a clear set of objectives guiding its programmes and initiatives. These centers are on establishing an effective regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime, supporting national agricultural health and food safety systems, and undertaking activities that can be delivered more effectively and efficiently through a regional mechanism. The following themes explain how these objectives benefit the region.

1. **Protecting Animal and Plant Health:** CAHFSA supports Member States in preventing the introduction and spread of harmful pests and diseases, including invasive species of agricultural concern, that threaten the Caribbean's agriculture, livestock, and ecosystems. This work helps secure farmers' livelihoods and regional food production.

2. **Strengthening Food Safety Systems**
   The agency supports Member States in strengthening systems to help ensure that food produced, processed, and traded within the Caribbean meets applicable food safety requirements. CAHFSA promotes practices that reduce risks of contamination and foodborne illness.

3. **Facilitating Trade and Market Access**
   By facilitating the harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures among Member States, CAHFSA supports smoother, safer trade of agricultural goods. This helps Caribbean producers meet requirements for regional and international markets with confidence.

4. **Building Capacity and Collaboration**
   CAHFSA supports training, technical assistance, and information sharing among stakeholders to strengthen institutional capabilities. Collaboration across governments, the private sector, and communities amplifies the impact of agricultural health and food safety measures.

5. **Contributing to Sustainable Agricultural Development:** Through its agricultural health and food safety work, the agency contributes to broader goals of sustainability, including the protection of natural resources, biodiversity, and resilience in Caribbean agriculture.

Together, these areas of work show how CAHFSA's objectives support consumer protection, agricultural productivity, and economic growth. They help the agency respond to the region's evolving agricultural health and food safety challenges.
In the next article, we will dive into CAHFSA's mandate, exploring the official authority and responsibilities that empower its work across the Caribbean. Stay with us!

Submitted by: