CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY AGENCY
Letitia Vriesdelaan #10, Paramaribo, Suriname | +597 422546
info@cahfsa.org | www.cahfsa.org

Brief #3

Understanding CAHFSA's Mandate: Powers and Responsibilities

CAHFSA's work to strengthen agricultural health and food safety across the Caribbean is backed by a clearly defined mandate. This mandate gives the agency a coordinating and organizing role in establishing an effective and efficient regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime, and provides for it to undertake, on behalf of Member States, actions and activities that can be executed more effectively and efficiently through a regional mechanism. National competent authorities remain responsible for their national systems. CAHFSA supports their efforts through regional coordination, technical assistance, and cooperation.

Key areas of work through which CAHFSA supports this mandate include:

- **Regional Coordination**: Facilitating harmonization of policies, standards, and technical procedures related to plant health, animal health, and food safety among Member States.
- **Technical Assistance:** Providing expert advice, training, and capacity-building support to strengthen national systems.
- **Surveillance and Monitoring:** Supporting national and regional capacity for the detection and management of pests, diseases, and food safety risks throughout the Caribbean.
- **Emergency Response:** Facilitating coordinated actions during outbreaks or food safety emergencies to minimize impact.
- **Facilitating Trade:** Supporting effective SPS systems and greater consistency in technical approaches to facilitate safe trade and compliance with international obligations.
- **Information Sharing:** Providing a regional mechanism for information exchange and communication between stakeholders on agricultural health, food safety, and SPS requirements.

This mandate enables CAHFSA to help the region address agricultural health threats and food safety challenges through a coordinated, science-based approach.

In the next article, we will explore CAHFSA's membership, highlighting who the members are and how they contribute to the agency's mission. ***Stay tuned!***

Check out our Revised Agreement, it gives greater insight into our mandate....Revised Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).pdf

Submitted by: