



MINISTRY OF AGRO-INDUSTRY, FOOD SECURITY, BLUE ECONOMY AND FISHERIES



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Pig Breeding Sector: Dr Arvin Boolell Outlines Concrete Measures to Support Breeders and Strengthen the Sector

The Government is taking a holistic approach to address the challenges facing Mauritius' pig breeding sector, with Hon Dr Arvin Boolell, Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, placing particular emphasis on supporting breeders while ensuring environmental protection and the sustainable development of the sector.

During a meeting on the pig breeding sector, co-chaired by Dr Boolell and Hon Mrs Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, Dr Boolell acknowledged the difficult situation faced by pig breeders and stressed the need to strike a balance between the interests of breeders, environmental considerations and the wider national interest.

Dr Boolell noted that 466 pig breeders are currently involved in the sector, with an estimated 24,000 pigs in Mauritius. Around 17,700 pigs are located in designated areas, including St Martin Phases I and II, Bassin Requin and La Laura, while approximately 6,300 pigs are located in non-designated areas, including Roche Bois, Pamplémousses, Albion, Flacq and Grand Port.

He stressed that decisions concerning the sector must serve the interests of the country and its population as a whole. Referring to the swine fever outbreak of 2007/2008, he highlighted the importance of learning from past experience and ensuring that future pig breeding activities are conducted in an appropriate and controlled manner.

Dr Boolell also underlined the need to review the sector, particularly as there is currently no value addition to pig production. He emphasised that environmental considerations must remain an integral part of the management and development of pig farms.

Rs 10 million allocated for infrastructure upgrades

A key measure announced by Dr Boolell is the allocation of Rs 10 million in the Financial Year 2026/2027 to address infrastructure requirements in the pig breeding sector.

The funding will cater for:

- Cleaning of the waste treatment system at Bassin Requin;
- Rehabilitation of the reticulation system at Bassin Requin Pig Farm;
- Cleaning of the waste treatment system at St Martin Phase I;
- Cleaning and rehabilitation of the stormwater drain at St Martin Phase II; and
- Supply and installation of individual holding tanks for the collection of pig waste at St Martin Phase II.

The measures respond to infrastructure difficulties faced by breeders and aim to improve waste management and the overall conditions of pig farms.

During a two-hour site visit with pig breeders at St Martin on 1 July 2026, issues including clogged drains, overflowing pigsties and pig waste management were discussed. Dr Boolell invited breeders to collaborate with the authorities to mitigate these issues while respecting the sanitary and phytosanitary norms established by Government.

Supporting breeders and facilitating access to land

Dr Boolell has also called for the relevant authorities to facilitate processes relating to lease agreements, the Livestock Feed Production Scheme and other schemes available to breeders.

On relocation, he noted that land previously identified at Le Val for breeders from areas such as Le Bouchon was not considered appropriate due to land conditions. As land under the Ministry's purview is mostly committed, discussions will be held with the sugar industry and Landscape Mauritius to identify suitable land for pig rearing.

The authorities will also work towards the relocation of breeders from non-designated to designated areas, with the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, the Ministry of Housing and Lands and other relevant entities involved in the process.

Towards a more sustainable pig sector

One of the key proposals is the launch of a 30-day pilot project at St Martin Phase I for the transportation of pig waste to the Riche Terre Waste Treatment Plant, where it would subsequently be transformed into biogas.

This initiative reflects the broader objective of improving waste management while exploring opportunities for more sustainable practices within the sector.

Dr Boolell also stressed the importance of compliance with Government norms and procedures, particularly among breeders operating in urban and non-designated areas, in order to protect public health and the environment and prevent a recurrence of the difficulties experienced during the 2007/2008 swine fever outbreak.

Creating new opportunities for pork products

The way forward also includes efforts to strengthen the economic potential of the sector. The Ministry of Tourism will explore the possibility of marketing pork products in hotels, while the Ministry of Agro-Industry will continue facilitating schemes relating to breeders, including livestock feed and breeder cards.

The Ministry will also facilitate the transfer of lease agreements from parents to children, while the issuance of breeder cards outside designated zones will be discussed at Ministry level.

A structured roadmap ahead

Dr Boolell has further indicated that the Ministry will prepare a Cabinet Memorandum outlining short-, medium- and long-term measures to address the various challenges affecting the pig breeding sector.

Pig breeders and cooperative societies have been invited to submit their suggestions and proposals to the Senior Chief Executive of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries by 15 September 2026.

With these measures, Dr Boolell has placed emphasis on a coordinated approach that seeks to support pig breeders, upgrade infrastructure, improve waste management, facilitate relocation, strengthen market opportunities and ensure that the future development of pig breeding is compatible with environmental and public health requirements.

Integrated Pest Management of the **sugar cane borer**

The potential for integrating the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) as a complementary and sustainable tool alongside the well-established biological control programme for the sugar cane spotted borer, *Chilo sacchariphagus*, is being investigated. The project, funded by FAO/IAEA, focused on the development of a mass rearing system for the pest. To support the application of SIT, the establishment of a cost-effective mass-rearing system, together with the development of nutritious artificial diets, is a prerequisite. Based on the original composition and method of preparation of published diets for *Chilo* spp., together with some modifications, new formulations were developed in the laboratory and extensively evaluated. Assessments have taken into consideration important biological parameters in terms of both insect yield and quality across several generations. This has led to the identification of a promising diet on which it has been possible to rear the pest for 6 successive generations. Constraints such as microbial contamination were successfully addressed through close monitoring, identification and incorporation of appropriate antimicrobials into the diet. To further optimize insect development in the diet, the temperature and relative humidity conditions in the insectary are being monitored and Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) are being established for each stage of the rearing process. It was found that the host specificity and dual feeding behaviour of *C. sacchariphagus*, neonate and more mature larvae feeding on sugar cane leaves and shoots respectively, proved to be a determinant factor in development of the diet. Work has also been initiated to study the radiation biology of the pest.



Strengthening Mauritius' Sterile Insect Technique Programme with the Acquisition of a New X-ray Irradiator

The Entomology Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries has reached another important milestone in advancing sustainable agricultural pest management with the acquisition of a state-of-the-art X-ray irradiator machine. Donated by the United States Department of Energy (US DOE), the equipment will significantly enhance the country's Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) programme, strongly supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), thereby reinforcing Mauritius' commitment to environmentally friendly and science-based crop protection.



Figure 1: Fruit Fly Mass Rearing Lab (Entomology Division)

The X-ray irradiator represents a major technological advancement for the Entomology Division. It will be used to sterilise male insect pests, particularly fruit flies, before their release into the environment. Once released, these sterile males mate with wild females, resulting in no viable offspring and a gradual reduction of pest populations over successive generations. This biological control method is highly species-specific, reducing the need for chemical pesticides while safeguarding beneficial insects, human health, and the environment. Modern X-ray irradiation systems provide an effective alternative to isotope-based irradiators while maintaining the high levels of sterility required for successful SIT programmes.

The donation from the US Department of Energy demonstrates the strong international cooperation supporting agricultural innovation and food security in Mauritius. The new equipment will strengthen the operational capacity of the Entomology Division by improving the efficiency, safety, and reliability of insect sterilisation. It will also increase the programme's ability to support area-wide pest management strategies aimed at reducing crop losses and improving agricultural productivity.

Mauritius has long been recognised as a regional leader in the application of the Sterile Insect Technique. Over the years, the country has invested in research, infrastructure, and technical expertise to combat economically important fruit fly species that affect both local food production and export markets. Previous investments, supported by international partners, have enabled Mauritius to expand its capacity to produce and release sterile insects while serving as a regional training hub for African countries implementing SIT programmes.

The introduction of the new X-ray irradiator will further strengthen these efforts by supporting the production of high-quality sterile insects for field releases. The technology contributes to integrated pest management by reducing reliance on chemical insecticides, lowering production costs in the long term, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices that are aligned with national food security and environmental conservation objectives.

The Ministry expresses its sincere appreciation to the United States Department of Energy for this valuable contribution. This donation reflects the importance of international partnerships in addressing global agricultural challenges through scientific innovation and technology transfer.

As Mauritius continues to modernise its agricultural sector, the acquisition of the X-ray irradiator marks another significant step towards building resilient, sustainable, and environmentally responsible pest management systems. The enhanced capabilities of the Entomology Division will not only benefit local farmers through improved crop protection but will also strengthen the country's capacity to support regional collaboration in the application of the Sterile Insect Technique, contributing to food security and sustainable agricultural development for years to come.



Fig 2: X-Ray Irradiator RS 2400

Highlights

- Safer irradiation technology;
- Reduce use of harmful insecticides; no pesticide residues;
- Enhanced quality and quality of fruits and vegetables;
- Aligns with SDGs on FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD SECURITY

“Jardin Bio” at FAREI Wooton Crop Research Station

FAREI Strengthens Sustainable Agriculture through the “Jardin Bio” at Wooton Crop Research Station

The **Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI)** continues to promote sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices through the establishment of the “**Jardin Bio**” at its **Wooton Crop Research Station**. Developed with the financial support of the **SICOM Group**, the initiative forms part of a broader collaboration to encourage the adoption of bio farming practices and build farmers' capacity for sustainable food production in Mauritius. regenerative farming techniques.



Located in the vicinity of the **Farmers Training School of FAREI at Wooton**, the **Jardin Bio** serves as a demonstration and learning facility where farmers, trainees, students and other stakeholders can gain practical knowledge and hands-on experience in organic and regenerative farming techniques.

The project aims to:

- Demonstrate a wide range of organic and bio farming practices under local conditions.
- Provide a practical training facility for participants attending programmes at the Farmers Training School.
- Support farmers in their transition towards sustainable and organic agricultural production through field-based demonstrations.

The **Jardin Bio** showcases several innovative and environmentally sustainable practices, including:

- Upcycling of organic waste through traditional aerobic composting and vermicomposting.
- A nursery for the production of healthy seedlings.
- Sustainable crop production systems such as mixed cropping, companion planting, mulching, banana circles and ecosystem service plants.
- A rainwater harvesting system that promotes efficient water use and conservation.

As a living demonstration site, the **Jardin Bio** provides an opportunity for visitors to observe how natural farming principles can improve soil health, recycle on-farm resources, conserve water and enhance biodiversity while reducing reliance on synthetic agricultural inputs.

The **Jardin Bio** was officially inaugurated on **21 July 2026** by the Chief Executive Officer of FAREI, **Dr M. Madhou**, and the Chief Executive Officer of the **SICOM Group**, **Mrs N. Ramdewar**. The project reflects the importance of strategic partnerships in supporting agricultural innovation and sustainable development.

Orchid Show and Workshop on Orchid Conservation at SSR Botanic Garden

On 26 March 2026, the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden (SSRBG), in collaboration with the Orchid Society of Mauritius, the Forestry Services, and the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS), organised an Orchid Show and Workshop to promote orchid conservation, cultivation and public appreciation of this diverse plant group. The event showcased a wide range of orchid species from the collections of the participating organisations and featured practical demonstrations on orchid cultivation, propagation, potting techniques and general maintenance.

The programme also included educational sessions highlighting the importance of orchid conservation and the role of botanic gardens and conservation institutions in safeguarding plant diversity. The event attracted horticulture enthusiasts, students and members of the public, thereby enhancing awareness of orchid conservation while reinforcing SSRBG's educational, conservation and community outreach mandate.

As part of the event, the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr Arvind Boolell planted an endemic orchid namely *Cryptopus elatus* (Liane camaron) and the Honourable Junior Minister, Mr Fabrice David potted a native orchid, *Platylepis occulta* (Jewel orchid') in the Orchid House/Fernery of SSRBG. This symbolic activity underscored the Government's commitment to the conservation of Mauritius' native flora and provided an opportunity to showcase the Garden's ongoing efforts in orchid conservation and the preservation of indigenous plant biodiversity.



Young Scientists in the Garden: organised by SSR Botanic Garden in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre

On **14 April 2026**, the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden organised an educational workshop in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC) engaging students aged between 13-15 yrs. The workshop entitled 'Young Scientists in the Garden' provided participants with an opportunity to explore the Garden's rich plant diversity and learn about plant conservation, biodiversity, and the ecological importance of botanic gardens. Through guided activities and interactive discussions, students gained practical insights into botanical science and environmental stewardship, fostering scientific curiosity and a greater appreciation of Mauritius' natural heritage.



Agricultural Marketing Board(AMB) - Period March-June 2026

1. Progress on Decentralisation of Wholesale Market Operations

The AMB continued to support the decentralisation of wholesale market activities through the proposed establishment of regional/satellite wholesale markets at Goodlands and Flacq. The initiative aims to bring market facilities closer to production areas, reduce transportation constraints, improve freshness of produce, minimise food wastage and provide better market access to growers and consumers. Consultations are ongoing with relevant stakeholders, with emphasis on ensuring adequate security, traffic management and smooth market operations through measures such as CCTV monitoring and police presence. A consultative meeting was held on 11th June at Goodlands FSC and some 200 growers attended the event.

2. Strengthening International Collaboration for Potato Seed Programme

The AMB welcomed representatives from leading international seed potato suppliers, namely SCEA du Fayet (France), Wesgrow (South Africa) and HZPC (The Netherlands), as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance local potato production and food security. Discussions focused on seed quality improvement, disease management, storage technologies, improved varieties and international best practices. The visit strengthened collaboration between international suppliers, AMB, FAREI and local stakeholders towards developing a more sustainable and resilient potato sector.

3. Government Support to Aggrieved Potato Growers

Following the challenges faced during the 2025 potato production campaign, a meeting was held at AMB between the Hon. Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and affected potato growers. The Government reaffirmed its commitment to supporting farmers and safeguarding local production. A compensation package of MUR 85,000 per arpent, based on the Cost of Production, was announced to provide assistance to eligible growers.

4. Engagement with Potato and Onion Growers across the Island

AMB management conducted consultations with potato and onion growers in the East, Centre and South regions to present Budget 2026/2027 measures and new initiatives aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector. Growers were informed of support measures including compensation schemes, seed assistance, 75% subsidy on certified seeds, top-up payments for deliveries, and initiatives to improve seed quality, pricing transparency and crop sustainability. Future measures such as the inimports of Super Elite seed potatoes, enhanced quality control, improved phytosanitary measures and crop insurance were also discussed.

5. Field Monitoring and Technical Support to Growers

The AMB continued its regular field visits to major production areas, including Medine Ltd, Compagnie Sucrière de Saint Antoine (CSSA) Ltd and small growers' plots, to monitor crop development, assess production prospects and evaluate crop quality. Joint field visits were also organised with international seed suppliers, allowing growers to benefit from technical exchanges and international expertise on potato cultivation, crop management and quality improvement.

6. Implementation of Support Schemes and Operational Achievements

During the period March to June 2026, AMB continued implementation of Government support measures, including subsidies on agricultural seeds (potato, onion, garlic and beans). Under the seed subsidy scheme, MUR 37.1 million was disbursed, benefiting 793 growers.

Other key achievements include:

Continued operation of the National Wholesale Market (NWM), ensuring uninterrupted access to markets for growers, traders and consumers.

Completion of upgrading works at AMB Moka Stores, improving storage facilities, operational efficiency and working conditions.

Strengthening of revenue generation through improved management of by-catch operations involving licensed and non-licensed vessels.

Continued stabilisation of prices of controlled products through regulated importation and distribution mechanisms.



FORESTRY SERVICE

- **Establishment of a Medicinal Corner at Cité Atlee Government Primary School**

As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting forest protection, environmental awareness and community outreach, the Forestry Service supported the establishment of a mini medicinal garden at Cité Atlee Primary Government School. The initiative was undertaken on 06 May 2026, following a request from the school's teaching staff, seeking technical assistance for a project aimed at promoting environmental awareness and introducing students to the importance of medicinal plants and tree planting from an early age.

The Forestry Service played a key role in the implementation of the said initiative by providing technical guidance on the selection, planting and maintenance of suitable medicinal plant species. A variety of native and exotic medicinal plants propagated in our forest nurseries were supplied to the school, enabling students to gain first-hand exposure to plant species of ecological, cultural and medicinal significance.

- **Creation and Launch of a Medicinal Garden at the Open University of Mauritius, Curepipe**

As part of its continued efforts to promote public-private partnerships, environmental sustainability, forest protection and the conservation of the Country's natural heritage, the Forestry Service collaborated with the Open University of Mauritius in the establishment of a medicinal garden on the University's campus at Curepipe. The garden, established on State Land leased to the University, was officially inaugurated on 30 May 2026 in the context of the celebration of World Environment Day.

The Forestry Service provided technical support throughout the implementation of the project by conducting site visits, advising on the selection and layout of suitable plant species and supplying a range of native and exotic medicinal plants propagated in Forest nurseries free of charge. The garden serves as a demonstration site to promote awareness of their ecological, cultural and medicinal importance.

To complement the inauguration, the Forestry Service actively participated in the event through an exhibition of native and exotic medicinal plant species propagated in forest nurseries. Officers also conducted awareness sessions on the medicinal properties and traditional uses of selected plant species, the importance of conserving native biodiversity and the vital role of forests in supporting ecosystem services and human well-being.

The event also marked the launch of the Open University Eco-Club, comprising staff and students who will be responsible for the maintenance and further development of the medicinal garden. The initiative is expected to serve as a valuable educational resource, promoting environmental stewardship, experiential learning and greater appreciation of Mauritius' rich botanical heritage.

The launch was attended by alumni and organisations and received media coverage, contributing to increased public awareness of the Forestry Service's efforts to promote environmental conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. Students also participated in the exhibition, showcasing maquettes and models of sustainable projects to protect the environment.



→ Awareness exhibition of medicinal Plants and rare Species propagated at the Forestry Service as well as the mandate of this Service as guardians of this country's forest heritage.



→ Speech by Senior Teachers and the Eco-Club .



→ Maquettes and models by students

• Pilot Reforestation Project in Collaboration with the Rotary Club of Sodnac

The Forestry Service, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Sodnac, initiated a pilot phased reforestation project at the State Land Arboretum, located adjacent to the Curepipe Botanical Garden. The project aims to restore the ecological value of the site through the establishment of a green space while providing an additional recreational area for the community.

As part of the future development of the site, a footpath and benches will be installed to allow visitors to enjoy the restored landscape, appreciate the planted trees and benefit from a natural setting for relaxation, complementing the adjoining botanical garden.



Prior to the intervention, the site was heavily invaded by noxious vegetation, which affected its ecological and aesthetic value. With the support of the Rotaract Club of Sodnac, extensive clearing operations were undertaken, including the removal of invasive growth and proper disposal of green waste, thereby preparing the site for reforestation activities. The Forestry Service provided essential technical support by conducting site assessments, advising on appropriate restoration measures, selecting suitable plant species and supplying native and exotic plants propagated in forest nurseries. Forestry officers also supervised the planting operations and conducted awareness sessions on the importance of reforestation, forest and biodiversity protection and sustainable forest management.

Members of the Rotary Club of Sodnac subsequently participated in a tree planting exercise, contributing to the restoration of the area. The event encouraged families to work together in restoring the degraded site, fostering a stronger connection with nature and promoting environmental awareness across generations. Through their collective participation in tree planting and restoration activities, families gained a greater appreciation of the importance of conserving Mauritius' natural forests heritage. The pilot project serves as a reminder of the importance of establishing PPPs towards restoring degraded land, enhancing urban green spaces and promoting public participation in environmental conservation. Upon completion, the site will serve as a valuable green recreational area while contributing to environmental awareness within the community.

FISHERIES DIVISION (April 2026– June 2026)

Executive Summary

During the period April to June 2026, the Blue Economy and Fisheries Division continued to make significant progress in advancing sustainable fisheries management and the Blue Economy through strategic initiatives in aquaculture, marine conservation, research, stakeholder capacity building, policy development and international cooperation. The Division also strengthened scientific support, promoted public awareness and enhanced sustainable resource management through a range of programmes and collaborative initiatives, reflecting its continued commitment to the sustainable development of Mauritius' fisheries sector.

Europe Day 2026

The Fisheries Division participated in the Europe Day 2026 Exhibition held at Telfair on 08 May 2026, where it showcased achievements realised under the European Union (EU) Sectoral Support Programme. Visitors were introduced to ongoing projects and the tangible benefits arising from EU cooperation in supporting sustainable fisheries management and the Blue Economy in Mauritius. Projects included the development of innovative aquaculture, the provision of safety equipment to the fisher community, including 243 Personal Locator Beacons and 706 Very High Frequency radios and receivers, the award of scholarships to fishers, financial support for the drafting of the **Blue Economy**

Development Strategy for Mauritius, and the holding of **Les Assises de l'Océan**.



Ocean Week 2026 – Open Day at AFRC

An Open Day was organised on 08 May 2026 at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre as part of Ocean Week 2026. Approximately 125 visitors, including students from two schools and members of the general public attended the event.

Awareness campaigns were undertaken on toxic/venomous organisms and on activities of the Laboratory Division during the Open Day.



World Biodiversity Day

An awareness-raising event was organised on 27 May 2026 at Gaëtan Raynal State College, Quatre Bornes, in the context of the World Biodiversity Day. The Albion Fisheries Research Centre, through the Aquaculture, Marine Science and Marine Conservation Divisions, showcased its research activities and initiatives through banners, displays and live specimens. The Aquaculture Division highlighted its work on sea cucumber culture, mud crab, freshwater prawn, silver seabream, red tilapia and marine ranching. The event contributed to enhancing students' awareness of biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management and the importance of protecting Mauritius' marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Educational Awareness Programme

An environmental education and awareness programme was conducted on 28 May 2026 at the Blue Bay Marine Park Centre for secondary school students, with the participation of approximately 23 to 30 students. The objective of the programme was to enhance students' awareness and understanding of the importance of marine ecosystems and the need for their conservation.

During the programme, presentations were delivered by Officers of the Ministry on various topics, including the significance of Marine Protected Areas, mangrove ecosystems, and seagrass habitats. The students were further sensitised on the importance of marine biodiversity, conservation measures, and the role of sustainable practices in protecting marine resources. Additionally, information was provided on the biology, structure, and ecological functions of coral reefs, seagrass meadows, and mangrove ecosystems.



Catch Quota for Yellowfin Tuna

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission meeting was held in May 2026. Mauritius, together with Kenya and Tanzania, put forth a proposal to increase the catch quota for yellowfin tuna. Mauritius catch quota for yellowfin tuna has successfully been increased by 500 tons for the year 2027.



Training of fishers in fish processing

ILICO project (JICA)

Fishers from the eastern and south-eastern regions of Mauritius received their certificates on 27 April 2026 after completing the Fish Processing Business Training under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) ILICO project titled ***“Improvement of Livelihood of Coastal Communities through the Sustainable Development of Blue Economy”***, in collaboration with the Ministry.

The ILICO project focused on empowering more than 150 fishers and their families by promoting livelihood diversification and enhancing income-generating opportunities.

ILICO project (JICA)

Through targeted training programmes, beneficiaries have been equipped with practical and hands-on skills in kitchen gardening, fruit gardening, seaweed composting, and value addition to fisheries products, including filleting, processing and packaging of key species such as tuna and squid. Training was also provided on improving hygienic fish handling and landing practices to preserve quality and freshness, key factors in accessing higher-value markets and supporting tourism-related economic activities.



Rehabilitation of marine turtle at Albion Fisheries Research Centre

In May 2026, fishers in Roches Noires reported the presence of a distressed sea turtle to the Ministry. The Protocol for the Action Plan for Stranded Mammals/Turtles was activated, and the turtle was rescued with the assistance of the National Coast Guard and the Fisheries Protection Service. The turtle had a severely injured hind flipper and minor injuries to its carapace. It was kept at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre for one week before being released in the Blue Bay Marine Park for rehabilitation, with the assistance of Eco-Sud.



Green turtle injured in its back right flipper

Sandfish Resource Enhancement Programme

The sea cucumber (*Holothuria scabra*) project, which is partly funded by the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC), Australia, is ongoing. As part of the project, Dr Jay R. Gorospe, an expert in sea cucumber (commonly known as sandfish) mariculture from the University of the Sunshine Coast, visited Mauritius from 28 April to 07 May 2026 and worked with officers of the Aquaculture Division at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre.

During the visit, Dr Gorospe assisted officers of the Division in the grading of juveniles in larval rearing tanks, transfer of juveniles in hapas, implementing feeding regimes for juveniles in ponds, and pond management, among other technical activities.



Juvenile Sea cucumber in hapa nets

Culture of the live feeds:

Plankton culture is ongoing at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre, with both phytoplankton and zooplankton being cultured for use as live feed for fish larvae. Four species of phytoplankton are currently under culture, namely *Nannochloropsis* sp., *Chaetoceros muelleri*, *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* and *Dicronema lutheri*. The zooplankton culture includes rotifers (*Brachionus plicatilis*). This is an ongoing activity to maintain a continuous supply of live feed for fish larval rearing.



Mass Culture of *Nannochloropsis* sp (phytoplankton) in outdoor tanks for seabream Culture of zooplankton

Aquaculture Framework

The Fisheries (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2026 were introduced on 23 June 2026 to prescribe three fish farming zones, with a view to encouraging and promoting sustainable aquaculture practices among aquaculturists, in line with the Government's vision for the Blue Economy sector. As at date, 28 fish farming zones have been prescribed.



Statistic Corner

Indicators	Quarter (April 2026 – June 2026)
Total Fish Production, (tonnes)	7,753
Total export of fish and fish products (tonnes)	24,904
No. of Fishing licences issued	21
Number of licences/extensions issued to industrial fishing vessels by type	4
Number of semi-industrial fishing vessels operating in the banks fishery	9
Revenue generated from licences by vessel type:	
(i) Semi-Industrial (Mauritian) / MUR	13,000
(ii) Seychelles/EUR	322,000
Number of fishing projects approved	8
Number of fishermen trained (JICA Special Course)	11
Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) - Number of infractions detected leading to prosecution actions	7
Analysis of sea water samples	
(i) For physico-chemical parameters	118
(ii) For levels of Total Coliform and Faecal Coliform	87
(iii) Harmful marine micro-algae	24
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Mauritius Oceanography Institute drives Conservation Efforts, Marine Research and Innovation towards Blue Economy Development

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) is reaffirming its position as the nation's leading authority on ocean research, marine conservation and Blue Economy development through a series of pioneering scientific, environmental and community-based initiatives. From unlocking the potential of biodiversity assessment and marine biotechnology to restoring coral reefs and combating pollution, the Institute continues to play a critical role in safeguarding Mauritius' marine resources while supporting sustainable economic growth.

As Mauritius pursues its vision of becoming a regional leader, the MOI remains at the forefront of scientific innovation and evidence-based marine governance. Through cutting-edge research and strategic partnerships, the Institute is generating knowledge and solutions that strengthen climate resilience, protect marine ecosystems and create new opportunities for sustainable development.

1. Ocean Research and Blue Economy Innovation

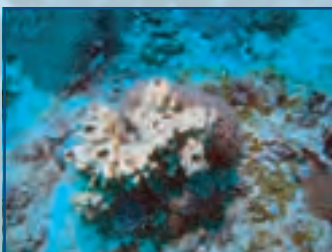
a. Biodiversity Assessment & Exploration of the EEZ of Mauritius

With Mauritius possessing an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending across more than 2.3 million square kilometres of ocean, the sustainable exploration of marine resources is a national priority. MOI researchers have intensified efforts to document and analyse biodiversity through the study of marine organisms collected during offshore expeditions, including sponges, fish and crustaceans.

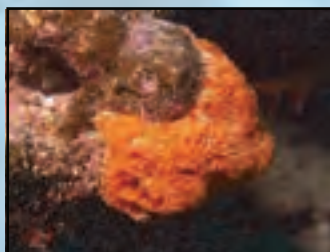
These scientific investigations are providing valuable baseline data to support marine spatial planning and informed decision-making, while enhancing understanding of the rich and largely unexplored ecosystems found within Mauritian waters

b. Marine Natural Products for Healthcare

The Institute is harnessing the potential of marine biodiversity for human health. Researchers have undertaken laboratory assessments of extracts derived from local marine sponges with preliminary studies demonstrating promising activity against cancer cell lines, Alzheimer and Diabetes. These findings underline the growing importance of marine biotechnology and the ocean's potential contribution for pharmaceutical discoveries.



Acanthella Cavernosa_P



*Underwater picture of the
marine sponge Liosina sp
collected in Mauritius Waters*



*Marine sponge sample
collected during Nansen
expedition for taxonomy
identification*

c. Converting Fish Waste to Biofuel

The MOI is also advancing innovative solutions that align with Mauritius' sustainability agenda. Through ongoing research into the conversion of fish processing by-products, including fish skin and viscera, into biodiesel, scientists are promoting a circular economy approach that addresses waste management challenges while supporting the transition to cleaner energy sources. The initiative could transform marine waste into a valuable renewable resource capable of meeting international fuel quality standards.



Fish processing waste



Fish waste that has been subjected to a wet rendering treatment



Oil extracted from the visceral extraction of waste following the oil separation process



Phase separation of fish waste hydrolysate into an upper oil-rich layer intermediate protein-rich sludge layer and lower aqueous phase using a separatory funnel

2. Marine Ecosystem Conservation, Climate Resilience and Reef Protection

a. Restoring Coral Reefs (Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services Project)

As the impacts of climate change increasingly threaten coral reef ecosystems and coastal communities, the MOI is leading efforts to restore critical marine habitats and enhance ecosystem resilience.

A major milestone includes the establishment of land-based coral nurseries and field-based coral gardens. These facilities will cultivate resilient coral species for transplantation into degraded reef areas, contributing to biodiversity conservation, fisheries productivity and coastal protection.



b. Tackling Microplastic Pollution

The Institute is also investigating the occurrence, distribution and characteristics of microplastics in Mauritian Waters. Through field surveys and laboratory analyses, MOI scientists have identified the presence of microplastics in seawater, sediments and coral samples collected from both lagoon and offshore sites. Long-term offshore monitoring stations at Albion and Belle Mare have been established to assess temporal trends complemented by the chemical characterisation of microplastics through their unique signatures using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Microscopy. Identifying the most common types of plastics found in the marine environment provides valuable information for policymakers and stakeholders in supporting novel regulations regarding plastic pollution. The project plays a key role in supporting the implementation of the National Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free for Mauritius (NSP) (i.e. Target 8) that was approved in Cabinet at its meeting in April 2026



c. Coastal Ocean Mapping

Further reinforcing its role as the country's oceanographic leader, the MOI continues to expand coastal monitoring activities through ocean mapping and water quality assessments. Researchers are collecting critical information on ocean circulation patterns and conducting conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) profiling to better understand coastal processes.

At strategic locations including Balaclava and Ferney, scientists are also monitoring water quality indicators linked to ocean acidification, including pH, total alkalinity and nutrient levels. These assessments provide valuable insights into the health of marine ecosystems and help guide national adaptation responses to climate change.

NEWSLETTER

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