

TOWARDS A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SECURITY FRAMEWORK IN MAURITIUS

Executive Summary

Mauritius is entering a pivotal moment in the evolution of its agri-food system. To give renewed impetus to the sector and lay the foundations for long-term food sovereignty, the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries will convene the “*Assises de l’Agriculture 2026*”. As a preparatory step, the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) initiated a series of pre-consultative meetings on 22 September 2025 with a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including government agencies, private-sector actors, farmer organisations, civil society groups, youth, and producer associations.

These engagements created a platform for collective reflection on sector performance, constraints and opportunities. Stakeholders highlighted persistent structural challenges, including fragmented governance, inadequate data systems, weak land-use coherence, limited value addition, climate vulnerability, declining soil health, labour scarcity, and an ageing agricultural workforce. They also identified strong potential for transformation through digitalisation, regenerative practices, improved market organisation, strengthened extension, agro-processing, youth entrepreneurship, and closer alignment among agriculture, health, the environment, trade, and tourism.

Towards an Integrated Framework for five-year food security programme

To guide the national dialogue, ten thematic areas were conceptually developed through multidisciplinary analysis led by FAREI in consultative with AMB, Agricultural Services and SFWF. These themes shift the focus from a traditional production-centric model to a comprehensive agri-food systems approach in which production, markets, natural resources, institutions, nutrition, technology and resilience are integrated components of a unified system.

Together, the ten themes below constitute a structured and interconnected framework for modernising Mauritius’ agri-food sector:

1. **Food Sovereignty and Resilient Production Systems** - Reinforces national self-reliance by promoting diversified, adaptive and sustainable production systems that reduce dependence on imports and external shocks.
2. **Value Chains and Market Differentiation** - Enhances competitiveness by strengthening linkages from farm to market, promoting value addition, product differentiation and fair market access.

3. **Information and Knowledge Management, AgriTech and Youth Engagement** -Fosters innovation and generational renewal by leveraging data, digital tools and youth entrepreneurship to modernise the agricultural landscape.
4. **Regenerative and Sustainable Agriculture** - Encourages resource efficiency and ecosystem restoration through regenerative practices, recycling of organic matter and circular production models.
5. **Empowering Smallholders, SMEs, Women and Youth** - Promotes inclusive growth by building capacities and opportunities for those who form the social and economic backbone of the sector.
6. **Good Governance, Institutional Coordination, Policy Coherence and Financing** - Strengthens accountability and alignment across institutions, ensuring that policy, regulation and financial mechanisms operate in concert.
7. **Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Disaster Preparedness** - Enhances adaptive capacity through risk assessment, early-warning systems and resilience-building measures against climate and disaster risks.
8. **One Health Approach; Integrating Environment, Plant and Animal Health** - Safeguards the productive base of agriculture by promoting responsible resource use, pollution control and integrated land-water stewardship.
9. **Nutrition Security, Food Safety and Wellness** - Links agriculture to public health by promoting safe, nutritious and diverse food systems that support human well-being.
10. **Conservation of Genetic Resources and Breeding** - Protects and develops local genetic resources to secure long-term autonomy, resilience and adaptation to evolving agro-ecological conditions.

Fisheries priorities—including food safety, aquaculture development, stock management, IUU control, post-harvest upgrading and blue-economy resilience—were also embedded to ensure a fully integrated Food Systems perspective. In parallel, specific inputs from Rodrigues have been preserved through a dedicated chapter in this consolidated report in order to reflect the island’s particular realities, priorities and institutional context.

A Coherent Vision for a Resilient and Inclusive Agri-Food System

The ten themes collectively provide the analytical backbone for Mauritius' agricultural transformation. They offer a coherent structure for addressing systemic constraints, mobilising investment, strengthening institutions and enabling evidence-based decision-making. Most importantly, they articulate a forward-looking vision in which food sovereignty, economic diversification, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and public health reinforce one another.

This consolidated report shall form the backbone of "*Assises de l'Agriculture 2026*", where its recommendations will undergo final validation and be elevated into a National Food Security Roadmap. The latter will guide all institutions in formulating their Operational Strategic Plans for 2026–2030, ensuring strong alignment with the outcomes of the national consultative process, shared stakeholder aspirations, and the broader sustainable development agenda.