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

(Agro-Industry and Food Security Division)

Report “Assises de L’Agriculture” 2026

Contents

Background and Rationale

Mauritius stands at a defining crossroads in its agricultural development trajectory. With approximately 70% of national food requirements met through imports, the country remains acutely vulnerable to global price volatility, supply chain disruptions, exchange rate fluctuations, and climate-induced shocks. This dependence not only threatens food security but also undermines economic resilience, rural livelihoods, and national sovereignty over critical food systems.

The *Assises de l'Agriculture 2026* provided an opportunity to assess the status of the non-sugar agricultural sector in the Republic of Mauritius, identify key challenges and opportunities, and build consensus on the transformation of agri-food systems. Building on this, a coherent, inclusive, and resilient framework has been articulated to strengthen food sovereignty through strategic and well-coordinated interventions. The framework adopts an integrated food systems approach that links production, processing, distribution, and consumption, and is structured around six core pillars that collectively aim to enhance productivity, sustainability, and overall sector resilience.

The strategic framework presented for discussions addresses these vulnerabilities through a comprehensive, multi-dimensional transformation of the agri-food sector, organized around ten interconnected strategic objectives. These span food sovereignty, genetic resource conservation, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, public health, market development, social inclusion, digital innovation, and institutional governance. Together, they form an integrated and forward-looking roadmap for building a more self-reliant, competitive, equitable, and environmentally sustainable food system capable of meeting the demands of current and future generations.

Objective of Assises

- Strengthen food sovereignty and resilient domestic production by identifying pathways to reduce import dependency, enhance adaptive capacity and stabilise local supply under climate and market shocks.
- Promote inclusive and competitive value chains that improve market access, value addition, price transparency and fair returns for producers and agri-entrepreneurs.
- Foster innovation, knowledge systems and youth engagement through improved data governance, digitalisation, research–extension linkages and generational renewal.
- Ensure sustainable natural-resource management and ecosystem health by promoting regenerative practices, soil and water stewardship and circular-economy models.
- Enhance nutrition security, food safety and public-health linkages by aligning agricultural production with dietary quality, consumer trust and wellness objectives.
- Strengthen governance, institutional coordination and financing mechanisms to improve policy coherence, service delivery, accountability and investment confidence across the agri-food system.

Consultative Process

From September 2025 onwards, the Ministry coordinated a series of structured pre-consultative engagements using a bottom-up and participatory approach. These consultations sought to capture perspectives from stakeholders such as planters, breeders, agro-processors, agri-entrepreneurs,

producer organisations, private-sector actors, civil-society groups, youth and relevant public institutions. Key activities conducted include:

- Nine liaison meetings for both crop and livestock sectors held at Demonstration Centres, Model Farms and at FAREI Office St Pierre.
- Stakeholders' Meeting – Crop Sector on 29th September 2025 at Boname Hall (91 participants).
- Stakeholders' Meeting – Livestock Sector on 08th October 2025 at FAREI Head Office, Réduit (52 participants).
- Youth Engagement Session on 07th November 2025 at FAREI Head Office (54 participants).
- Pre-Validation Workshop with planters and breeders (FSC Hall, St Pierre – 24 October 2025) in collaboration with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF), facilitated by FAREI resource persons.
- Pre-Validation Workshop with Stakeholders on 29th September 2025 and 29th October 2025 at FAREI Head Office, Réduit.

Engagement modalities encompassed liaison meetings, sector-specific stakeholder workshops, dedicated youth engagement sessions, pre-validation meetings, and broader consultations with the public at large. In recognition of the critical role of fisheries in national food security, the Ministry also sought inputs from the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, which was undertaking parallel consultations under Les Assises de l'Océan.

Although the report primarily reflects discussions at the national level across the thematic areas, the forthcoming Food Security Programme will fully integrate the perspectives of Rodrigues and the Outer Islands, as well as those of the Blue Economy and Fisheries sector, to ensure a more comprehensive and resilient approach to national food security. Annex 1 provides the Major Food Security Proposals from the Blue Economy & Fisheries Sector.

Main Outcomes based on list of Priority Projects

A portfolio of flagship projects has been identified and reflects a comprehensive strategy to strengthen national food sovereignty through productivity enhancement and increased domestic production capacity. A major cluster of interventions focuses on revitalizing key food crop value chains, particularly potatoes, onions, bananas, tea, and other strategic crops. These initiatives emphasize the introduction of improved and disease-tolerant varieties, expansion of cultivated areas, strengthening of local seed and planting material systems, and upgrading of storage and processing infrastructure. Collectively, they aim to reduce import dependency, stabilize supply, and improve both product quality and farmer incomes. In parallel, livestock sector interventions contribute to increased domestic availability of meat and animal products through improved breeding systems and enhanced production capacity.

Water and soil resource management constitute a critical area of intervention, with a strong focus on building climate resilience. Projects targeting supplementary irrigation promote efficient water harvesting and utilization through small reservoirs and portable drip systems, thereby mitigating the effects of water stress and climate variability. In parallel, the soil health programme adopts an integrated approach combining chemical, physical, and biological assessments, including advanced techniques such as soil microbiome profiling. These efforts aim to restore soil fertility, support sustainable intensification, and enhance long-term agricultural productivity.

The programme places strong emphasis on sustainability, food safety, and environmental stewardship through a holistic approach to ecosystem health. The development of a digitally enabled farm-to-fork ecosystem integrates pesticide tracking, traceability systems, and enhanced laboratory surveillance aligned with international standards. Livestock interventions further strengthen disease surveillance, biosecurity frameworks, and diagnostic capacities to safeguard animal and public health. Complementary initiatives such as honeybee production expansion contribute to biodiversity conservation and improved crop pollination, reinforcing ecosystem balance.

At the same time, significant attention is given to strengthening agricultural value chains and improving market systems. Investments in storage, processing, and product development enhance value addition and reduce post-harvest losses. Institutional support mechanisms, including the introduction of a one-stop shop for small farmers, facilitate access to mechanization services, modern technologies, and agricultural insurance. Capacity-building initiatives aim to professionalize farmers through training in modern, climate-smart, and agribusiness practices, while also promoting youth engagement and entrepreneurship to ensure generational renewal within the sector.

A central component of the strategy is the promotion of innovation and digital transformation in agriculture. The establishment of a dedicated centre for artificial intelligence and advanced technologies will serve as a national platform for precision agriculture, integrating tools such as drones, remote sensing, IoT, and centralized land databases. This initiative is designed to enhance data-driven decision-making, improve resource-use efficiency, and provide real-time advisory services to farmers and policymakers, while fostering a culture of innovation and strengthening knowledge systems across the sector.

Finally, institutional strengthening underpins the successful implementation of all interventions. The programme promotes enhanced coordination among public institutions, research bodies, and private stakeholders, while encouraging public-private partnerships to leverage expertise and investment. It also supports the development of coherent policy frameworks and regulatory systems, alongside mechanisms for resource mobilization and efficient programme delivery. Together, these efforts ensure that the transformation of the agricultural sector is supported by robust governance structures and sustainable financing arrangements.

Way Forward

A structured way forward will involve the formulation of a comprehensive National Food Security Programme that consolidates and operationalizes the priority actions identified during the Assises de l'Agriculture and the Assises de la Blue Economy and Fisheries. This programme will serve as an overarching strategic framework to align interventions across the agro-food and blue economy sectors, ensuring coherence, complementarity, and optimal resource allocation.

The programme will be developed through a coordinated, whole-of-government approach, bringing together relevant ministries, parastatal bodies, research institutions, and private sector stakeholders. It will integrate key thematic areas emerging from the consultations, including domestic production enhancement, value chain development, climate resilience, sustainable resource management, food safety, and market access. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening synergies between land-based agriculture and fisheries to support a more diversified and resilient food system.

A dedicated consultative process will be undertaken with stakeholders in Rodrigues and the Outer Islands to ensure that their specific constraints, comparative advantages, and vulnerabilities are fully reflected in the programme design. These consultations will help identify tailored interventions to enhance local production systems, improve inter-island connectivity and logistics, and strengthen resilience to external shocks, thereby contributing to a more balanced and geographically inclusive food security framework.

In operational terms, the Food Security Programme will translate the identified priority actions into targeted interventions, supported by clear institutional arrangements, monitoring mechanisms, and performance indicators. It will also incorporate cross-cutting dimensions such as innovation, digital transformation, capacity building, and investment facilitation, ensuring that both traditional and emerging sectors are adequately supported.

Furthermore, the programme will provide a platform for mobilizing technical and financial support from development partners while fostering public-private partnerships. This integrated approach will ensure that national efforts towards food security are strategic, inclusive, and sustainable, ultimately contributing to improved availability, accessibility, and stability of food supply in Mauritius

Pillar 1: Sovereignty

This pillar aims to reinforce national self-reliance by promoting diversified, adaptive and sustainable production systems that reduce dependence on imports and external shocks, while also protecting and developing local genetic resources to ensure long-term autonomy, resilience and adaptation to evolving agro-ecological conditions. In this context, the strategic objectives are to promote food sovereignty and resilient production systems, and to strengthen the conservation of genetic resources and breeding.

Strategic Objective A: Food Sovereignty and Resilient Production Systems

Mauritius remains highly dependent on imported food, exposing the nation to global price volatility, currency fluctuations and supply-chain disruptions. Achieving food sovereignty therefore requires deliberate action to strengthen local production, reduce dependence on imports and ensure preparedness in times of crisis. This entails aligning agricultural production with national consumption needs, reinforcing value chains, improving post-harvest management and establishing robust systems for data-driven planning and monitoring.

Resilient production systems must withstand the increasing frequency of droughts, cyclones, floods and other climate-induced challenges. They should integrate traditional adaptive practices such as agroecology, agroforestry, intercropping and regenerative soil management with modern innovations including protected cultivation, vertical farming and digital agriculture. Soil-based systems remain the foundation for long-term fertility and ecosystem health, while soilless and controlled-environment systems can play a complementary role in optimising production under constrained conditions.

Institutions such as FAREI, the Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB), the Irrigation Authority and the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF) are key actors supporting transformation. However, gaps persist in coordination, production planning, digital integration and farmer support.

In the livestock sector, Mauritius remains heavily dependent on imports of animal products such as milk, meat and feed ingredients, making its food system vulnerable to global supply shocks, currency fluctuations and price volatility. Enhancing food sovereignty requires expanding local production capacity, improving reproductive efficiency, strengthening feed and forage availability and building climate-resilient systems adapted to limited land and resource constraints.

A diversified and sustainable livestock sector—anchored in improved breeding, herd management and productivity—will reduce import dependency while ensuring stable access to safe, nutritious and affordable livestock products for all. This transformation calls for coordinated interventions in herd expansion, animal health, feed security and genetic improvement, supported by farmer capacity-building and institutional alignment.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area A1: Boosting Production of Strategic Crops

Boosting the production of strategic crops is essential for strengthening national food security and reducing reliance on food imports. Strategic crops generally include staple foods and other products that are widely consumed and can be cultivated locally under existing agro-ecological conditions. Increasing the production of these crops contributes directly to improving food self-sufficiency and ensuring a stable and reliable food supply for the population. By prioritizing strategic crops with high domestic demand and nutritional value, the agricultural sector can contribute to a more resilient, productive, and self-reliant national agrifood system.

Proposed Actions

- Establish production targets for selected crops with potential to increase production including potato, onion, garlic, crucifer, legumes, tomatoes, banana and starchy crops (eddoes, cassava and sweet potato)
- Review seed purchase schemes for relevant strategic crops
- Review the pricing and grading system for relevant strategic crops
- Make provision for additional storage facilities at AMB to enhance storability for seeds and products for consumption
- Develop value chain flagship programmes using a farm to fork approach to increase production of strategic crops

Intervention Area A2: Labour Scarcity and Mechanization

Labour scarcity remains a structural constraint affecting agricultural productivity and operational efficiency. The declining availability of farm labour, combined with rising wage costs and an ageing agricultural workforce, has increased pressure on producers to adopt mechanised solutions. However, the high capital cost of agricultural machinery and limited access to appropriate financing mechanisms restrict the uptake of mechanisation, particularly among small and medium planters. In addition, farm fragmentation and limited economies of scale further reduce the economic viability of mechanised operations

Proposed Priority Actions

- Simplify and fast-track permits for importation of agricultural labour, including seasonal schemes.
- Develop shared mechanisation clusters or cooperatives with subsidised access to small-scale equipment.
- Encourage R&D in low-cost mechanisation and simple robotics suited to smallholder operations (planting, fertilizing, harvesting).
- Provide subsidies and soft loans for machinery purchase or rental.
- Establish regional processing plants for basic crop transformation to reduce post-harvest losses
- Introduce frameworks for supervised use of rehabilitation and prison-detainee labour for outdoor agricultural work under ethical guidelines.
- Promote mechanisation service pools accessible through digital booking systems to ensure timely field operations.
- Expand availability of tractors and mechanisation services at regional level to reduce waiting times and enhance timeliness of land preparation.

Intervention Area A3: Neglected and Underutilized Crops (NUC)

Many local and heritage crops have gradually disappeared from mainstream markets due to limited consumer awareness, changing dietary preferences, and weak value-chain support. These crops often lack organized production systems, reliable market outlets, and adequate post-harvest handling, which reduces their commercial attractiveness for farmers and traders. As a result, producers tend to

shift toward a narrow range of high-demand crops, contributing to the erosion of agrobiodiversity and the loss of traditional knowledge associated with these varieties.

Priority Actions

- Compile a national database of NUC accessions and heritage varieties.
- Conduct research on optimal growing conditions, pest resistance and nutritional properties of traditional crops.
- Implement public awareness campaigns and "Eat Local" initiatives highlighting the nutritional and cultural value of indigenous crops.
- Develop market linkages and supply chains connecting traditional crop growers with supermarkets, hotels and processors.
- Develop Quality-Declared Seed (QDS) schemes and decentralised seed multiplication.
- Provide incentives and training to NUC growers, including youth and women.
- Conduct national media campaigns and food fairs promoting "local foodcrops" and "recipes from local foodcrops"
- Protect local germplasm under IP and biodiversity legislation.
- Promote partnerships with chefs and SMEs to valorise NUC-based dishes and processed foods.
- Integrate NUCs into school-feeding and nutrition programmes.

Intervention Area A4: Land Use and Access

Limited availability of arable land, combined with infrastructure gaps in irrigation, drainage, and farm access roads, constrains the expansion of agricultural production. Increasing conversion of agricultural land to residential, industrial, and commercial uses further reduces the land base available for farming, thereby limiting opportunities to scale up domestic food production

Priority Actions

- Establish and maintain a live Land Bank identifying available and suitable agricultural land.
- Ensure infrastructure readiness (water, drainage, electricity, security) before land allocation.
- Enforce zoning to prevent conversion of fertile agricultural areas.
- Promote agroforestry, intercropping and rotation to optimise land use.
- Digitise cadastral data using GIS to monitor land allocation and utilisation.
- Rehabilitate abandoned or marginal lands through cluster farming and soil-restoration schemes.
- Provide fiscal incentives for leasing idle private land for food production.
- Facilitate gradual release of sugar-cane lands for diversified food-crop production so as to reduce food import bill as opposed to income generated with sugar export.

Intervention Area A5: Vertical Farming and Hydroponics / Aeroponics

Vertical farming and hydroponics offer innovative approaches to optimise land use, particularly in contexts where arable land is limited. By enabling crop production in controlled environments and stacked systems, these technologies significantly increase productivity per unit area while reducing

dependence on soil and climatic conditions. They also allow efficient use of water and nutrients, enhancing resource efficiency. Asx climate variability intensifies, the adoption of such systems can strengthen the resilience of local food production and contribute to more stable and sustainable supply chains.

Priority Action Vertical Farming

- Promote soil based vertical farming to strengthen organic/bio production systems
- Encourage adoption of soilless systems in a complementary manner for high value crops.
- Implement pilot projects in urban and peri urban zones through public–private partnerships.
- Offer fiscal incentives for vertical farming infrastructure and renewable energy integration.
- Develop training manuals and standards for vertical system design and management.
- Promote knowledge exchange through FAREI led demonstration sites.

Priority Actions Hydroponics and Aeroponics

- Promote hydroponics and aeroponics for high-value or climate-sensitive crops.
- Diversify cultivated varieties through adaptive research.
- Provide concessional loans and input subsidies for infrastructure.
- Strengthen coordination between input suppliers, research and markets.
- Offer continuous training via FAREI, MITD and Polytechnics Mauritius.
- Foster R&D partnerships for new crops and nutrient formulations.
- Encourage cluster or cooperative hydroponic units to share infrastructure.

Intervention Area A6: Enhancing Commodity Production for Import Substitution

The revitalization of niche high-value commodities such as apiculture, tea, and mushrooms presents important opportunities to strengthen domestic production and diversify the agricultural sector. Through modernization of production systems, improved processing, and value addition, these subsectors can enhance productivity and product quality while meeting growing market demand. Promoting these commodities can also contribute to improved self-sufficiency, generate higher incomes for rural producers, and support small-scale agri-entrepreneurship. In addition, strengthening these value chains would help reduce reliance on imports and improve the overall trade balance in selected food and agricultural products.

Proposed Policy Actions: Regulation and Land Access

- Enforce strict pesticide-use regulations to protect bee populations and ensure the health of the local ecosystem.
- Ensure secured access for beekeepers to the three national melliferous zones and rehabilitate ex-tea belt areas for replanting degraded fields.
- Facilitate NPPO clearance for the importation of inoculated mushroom substrates and establish a high-level coordination committee for mushroom sector development.
- Regulate honey quality and tea grading systems to ensure domestic produce can compete with and replace premium imported brands.

Proposed Policy Actions: Regulation and Land Access: Research Innovation and Agri-Tech

- Conduct research on bee diseases and deploy IoT-enabled "Smart Hives" to monitor hive temperature and weight, maximizing honey yield.
- Upgrade nurseries to propagate improved tea varieties and diversify local mushroom substrate sources using agricultural by-products like bagasse and sawdust.
- Provide credit and grants for Smart Climate-Controlled Units for mushroom cultivation and modern processing/grading facilities for tea.
- Promote the cultivation of melliferous trees and flowering cover crops to support honey production and soil health.
- Training, Youth & Cooperative Development
- Strengthen training and mentorship on production and marketing; organize smallholders into cooperatives to produce high-value specialty teas and artisanal honey.
- Develop community-based digital pollination services linking beekeepers with fruit and vegetable growers via mobile platforms.
- Introduce youth-specific financial incentives and digital literacy programs to attract a new generation to the tea and mushroom sectors.

Proposed Policy Actions: Marketing Branding and Value Addition

- Promote national branding for Mauritian honey and tea to capture the domestic tourism and retail markets.
- Encourage tea growers to diversify into herbal blends and by-products (cosmetics, compost) and launch awareness campaigns on the nutritional benefits of locally grown mushrooms.
- Use the National Agritech Data Platform to track commodity prices and production volumes, ensuring a stable supply that displaces imports.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area A7: Herd Expansion and National Production Targets

National livestock production, excluding poultry, satisfies only a limited share of domestic demand, reflecting declining cattle and goat herds and a high reliance on imported meat and dairy products. Revitalizing the sector requires targeted measures to rebuild and modernize the national herd through improved breeding, better animal health management, and enhanced feeding systems. Sustainable expansion must also ensure efficient use of land, water, and feed resources while minimizing environmental impacts. Strengthening local livestock production would contribute to improved food security, reduced import dependency, and greater resilience of the national agrifood system

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a National Livestock Development Strategy with species-specific production targets aligned to national consumption needs and local resources.
- Identify priority zones for livestock expansion based on land suitability, feed resources and infrastructure access.
- Facilitate access to land suitable for livestock
- Simplify access to agricultural land and utilities for livestock producers through streamlined lease and permit processes.
- Promote and support development of feedlot system supported by feed resource development) using underutilized land for increased meat production (beef, goat/sheep and deer)
- Promote contract farming and cluster models to enable collective investment and economies of scale.
- Strengthen data systems for monitoring herd size, production and productivitProvide incentives for sustainable intensification and adoption of climate-resilient production systems.
- Develop value chain flagship programmes for goat and pig

Intervention Area A8: Labour Scarcity and Mechanization

Labour shortages and rising wage costs pose significant constraints to productivity in the livestock sector, affecting effective herd and flock management. Limited availability of skilled farm labour can lead to reduced efficiency in feeding, animal health monitoring, breeding, and overall farm operations. These challenges increase production costs and discourage expansion of livestock enterprises. Addressing the issue requires greater adoption of labour-saving technologies, improved farm management practices, and capacity building to enhance labour productivity and ensure more efficient livestock production systems

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote small-scale mechanisation and labour-saving technologies.
- Enhance training in mechanisation of farm activities.
- Support shared-equipment or service-provider models for affordability.
- Facilitate importation of skilled labour.

Intervention Area A9: Feed and Fodder Security

The livestock sector remains highly dependent on imported feed ingredients, making it vulnerable to international price volatility and supply chain disruptions. At the same time, expanding local fodder production faces several constraints, including limited land availability, difficult terrain, shortages of quality planting materials, and inadequate access to appropriate machinery. The absence of large-scale fodder production areas and the low adoption of fodder conservation practices, such as silage and haymaking, further contribute to irregular feed supply throughout the year. Addressing these constraints is essential to strengthen feed security, reduce production costs, and enhance the resilience and sustainability of national livestock systems

Proposed Priority Actions

- Update the inventory of local feed resources (fodder crops, agro-industrial by-products) for the creation of a fodder and feed database through consolidation of research.
- Digital mapping of potential and existing fodder production/ grazing sites to enhance productivity.
- Support to fodder producers to optimize production and promote fodder conservation.
- Diversify feed base and promote cultivation of high-yielding, climate resilient fodder crops adapted to local conditions.
- Promote adoption of sustainable land management practices for sustainable fodder production.
- Precision-feeding technologies and optimise utilisation of feed resources.
- Establish community based national fodder production and conservation sites/ banks/ reserves.
- Encourage the setting up of integrated tree-pasture silvopastoral sites and promote the use of home-grown protein forages for climate resilient livestock rearing.
- Enhance research on alternative feed resources sources such as insects, seaweed, or agro-industrial by-products for integration in commercial or small-scale manufacture of animal feeds.
- Train farmers and technicians on feed and fodder management, sustainable land management practices, conservation techniques, use of feed-formulation software and digital ration tools.
- Encourage PPP or private investment in local manufacturing of feed technologies (hay/ silage bales, etc) and total mixed ration (TMR).
- Revisit Feed subsidy Scheme to be result oriented.

Intervention Area A10: Breeding Stock and Reproductive Management

The limited availability of quality genetic stock and restricted access to artificial insemination services significantly constrain livestock productivity and herd expansion. These limitations slow genetic improvement and reduce reproductive performance across cattle and goat populations. Strengthening breeding infrastructure, expanding artificial insemination coverage, and promoting structured breeding programmes are essential to accelerate genetic progress. Improved reproductive efficiency would enhance productivity, support sustainable herd growth, and contribute to strengthening the overall resilience and competitiveness of the national livestock sector

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen artificial insemination and extend across major livestock species (beef cattle, goat/sheep and pigs)
- Provide AI service using local breeds

- Provide mobile breeding services for remote and smallholder areas.
- Set up goat reproduction farm and scale up cattle and sheep reproduction farms to increase the supply of breeding stock.
- Enhance farmer training on reproductive management, heat detection, calving/ kidding management, nutrition and improved housing to improve reproductive efficiency and herd progression.
- Facilitate the importation of breeding stock, including young heifers, stud bulls, bucks, rams and pigs.
- Facilitate farmer participation in nucleus and multiplier herds.
- Support private breeders in developing certified local breeding stock businesses.

Intervention Area A11: Animal Health and Biosecurity

Endemic livestock diseases, limited veterinary service coverage, and inadequate on-farm biosecurity measures pose significant risks to animal health, productivity, and sector stability. These constraints can lead to production losses, increased treatment costs, and reduced confidence in local livestock products. Strengthening preventive animal health systems through improved disease surveillance, wider veterinary outreach, vaccination programmes, and enhanced farm biosecurity practices is essential. Such measures would help safeguard herd health, improve productivity, and ensure that the livestock sector meets sanitary standards necessary for market credibility and potential trade opportunities

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen veterinary services for enhanced surveillance, vaccination programmes, and diagnostic capacity (recruitment, mobile clinics, training of paravet, modern diagnostic tools)
- Strengthen veterinary capacity for surveillance and health care (recruitment, mobile clinics, trained paravets, and modern diagnostic tools).
- Develop curriculum and provide training on basic veterinary care
- Set up government quarantine station
- Establish early-warning systems and rapid-response mechanisms for disease outbreaks and containment.
- Promote good husbandry and hygiene practices through continuous farmer education.
- Enhance coordination between veterinary services, private practitioners and livestock associations.
- Facilitate disposal of dead animals

Strategic Objective B: Conservation Of Genetic Resources and Breeding

Crop Sector

Seed sovereignty is the cornerstone of a resilient and self-reliant agri-food system. Reliable access to quality, affordable and locally adapted seed varieties enable farmers to maintain productivity under variable climatic conditions while preserving biodiversity. Mauritius remains heavily dependent on imported seed for most vegetable and field crops, leaving the country vulnerable to supply-chain disruptions, currency fluctuations and phytosanitary restrictions.

Local breeding and multiplication capacity are limited, scattered across public institutions with insufficient infrastructure, funding and skilled personnel. Traditional and under-utilised crops—such as cassava, sweet potato, taro, millet and indigenous vegetables—are gradually disappearing, leading to genetic-resource erosion. Safeguarding and promoting these resources is essential for climate adaptation, nutrition diversity and cultural identity.

Existing institutions (NPPO, FAREI, MSIRI, UoM) provide a base for seed-system development, but coordination and legal frameworks require modernisation and alignment with international and regional standards (UPOV 1991, ITPGRFA, SADC Seed Protocol). Stronger farmer participation, cooperative models and public-private partnerships will be crucial for local seed production, quality assurance and conservation.

Furthermore, Mauritius' dependence on imported livestock breeds has improved short-term productivity but increased costs, reduced adaptability and weakened sovereignty over its animal genetic resources. Conserving and improving local breeds—many of which are tolerant to heat, diseases and low-quality feed—is essential for long-term resilience, biodiversity and food security. A national breeding framework is needed to balance productivity, adaptation and independence.

Intervention Area B1: National Seed Policy and Institutional Framework

Fragmented mandates across agencies and outdated legislation severely hinder coordination and transparency in agricultural policy implementation. Overlapping responsibilities lead to duplicated efforts, resource wastage, and conflicting priorities, especially in SIDS like Mauritius facing trade and climate challenges. Without unified frameworks, stakeholders struggle with information silos, eroding trust and accountability

Proposed Priority Actions

- Formulate and adopt a National Seed Policy and Action Plan covering breeding, certification, import/export and farmers' rights.
- Establish a National Seed Council bringing together public, private and farmer representatives.
- Update seed legislation to align with UPOV 1991, ITPGRFA and SADC Seed Protocols.
- Maintain a central seed registry of certified varieties accessible to stakeholders.

- Develop a National Seed Information System integrating production, certification and trade data for policy monitoring.
- Assign QDS seed production responsibility to Barkly Experimental Station (Agricultural Services) while FAREI focuses on varietal research and improvement.
- Review and strengthen seed-selection and certification standards to ensure varietal purity, germination and yield consistency.

Intervention Area B2: Local Breeding and Research Programmes

Dependence on imported seed varieties for most vegetables and field crops exposes Mauritius to supply disruptions, price volatility, and phytosanitary risks, as local production meets only some 20% of needs. Limited R&D investment hampers breeding of climate-resilient, locally adapted varieties, eroding genetic diversity in traditional crops. Boosting public-private breeding programs, seed multiplication, and funding is vital to foster innovation and food sovereignty.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish national seed banks and germplasm collections for traditional and underutilised crops (cassava, sweet potato, winged bean, moringa, pigeon pea, breadfruit, etc.).
- Strengthen government nurseries to supply quality planting materials of traditional crops at affordable prices.
- Strengthen breeding programmes for drought, pest and disease-tolerant crops.
- Establish public–private breeding partnerships and adaptive-trial sites.
- Participate in regional breeding programmes under SADC and IOC.
- Expand biotechnology and molecular-marker laboratories for faster varietal development.
- Encourage open-pollinated and farmer-preferred varieties suited to local soils and climate.
- Conduct annual seed-sector performance audits and publish findings to guide research priorities.
- Document local varieties through participatory characterisation with farmers.
- Ensure representativeness and survival of diverse crops through the establishment of decentralized field gene-plots at regional level.
- Implement purifying breeding programmes to stabilise and preserve genetic integrity of local crop varieties.

Intervention Area B3: Seed Multiplication and Distribution Systems

Insufficient certified seed supply and weak distribution networks severely limit farmer access in Mauritius agriculture. Small-scale producers face shortages of quality seeds for key crops like vegetables and grains, relying on informal, uncertified sources prone to low yields and diseases. Fragmented multiplication systems and poor rural logistics exacerbate delays and high costs. Strengthening cooperatives, public-private seed hubs, and digital tracking platforms is essential to ensure timely, affordable access and boost productivity.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop contract-seed production schemes linking research stations with farmer cooperatives.
- Establish regional seed-multiplication centres with irrigation, drying and storage facilities.
- Promote Quality-Declared Seed (QDS) systems.
- Support seed cooperatives and SMEs with finance and technical training.
- Introduce digital inventory platforms for real-time seed availability and demand.
- Develop a framework for capturing data on seed producers and varieties produced
- Provide training on post-harvest seed handling, cleaning and packaging for retail or distribution.

Intervention Area B4: Seed Quality Assurance and Regulation

Limited inspection capacity and uneven standards severely undermine farmer confidence in seed quality across Mauritius agriculture. Without robust testing labs and trained inspectors, substandard seeds—contaminated or mislabeled—circulate freely, leading to poor germination, disease outbreaks, and yield losses. Inconsistent enforcement erodes trust in certification schemes, discouraging investment in certified varieties. Urgent needs include expanding lab infrastructure, harmonizing regulations with IOC standards, and digital traceability to restore reliability and farmer uptake.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Upgrade governmental seed-testing laboratories or facilities and pursue ISO 17025 accreditation.
- Train inspectors and technicians in modern diagnostic methods.
- Introduce risk-based inspection schedules focused on major crops.
- Implement digital traceability (QR codes) on certified seed lots
- Enforce penalties for counterfeit or sub-standard seed.
- Harmonise testing protocols with SADC and COMESA standards.
- Deploy mobile seed-testing units to service remote areas.

Intervention Area B5: Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR)

Traditional varieties and wild relatives in Mauritius are rapidly disappearing due to agricultural intensification, and market preference for high-yield imports. Land-use changes convert PGR-rich habitats into development zones, while neglect erodes genetic diversity essential for resilient breeding.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen the National Gene Bank for in-situ and ex-situ conservation.
- Support community seed banks and heritage gardens managed by farmer groups.

- Compile a national digital inventory of plant-genetic resources.
- Promote on-farm conservation and participatory varietal selection.
- Collaborate with regional and global gene banks for safety duplication.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on the cultural and nutritional value of traditional crops.
- Encourage seed-exchange fairs and farmer-field days celebrating traditional crops.
- Integrate PGR management into school and community-garden projects.

Intervention Area B6: Farmer Participation and Seed Rights

Farmers, as vital custodians and multipliers of local varieties, receive insufficient recognition in Mauritius agriculture. Their traditional knowledge preserves resilient landraces against climate threats, yet policies overlook incentives, training, and markets for these crops. This undervaluation discourages conservation efforts, accelerates genetic erosion, and limits seed sovereignty.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Recognise farmer-managed seed systems within national regulation.
- Provide training in breeding, seed selection, storage and community multiplication.
- Protect farmers' rights to save, exchange and sell farm-saved seed within guidelines.
- Create farmer innovation and micro-grant funds for local breeding initiatives.
- Facilitate registration of farmer varieties in the national catalogue.
- Include women and youth associations in seed-production and decision-making structures.
- Support farmer-led networks for peer learning and community quality control.

Intervention Area B7: Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange

Limited participation in regional initiatives like IOC, COMESA, and SADC restricts Mauritius farmers' access to advanced technologies, breeding materials, and export markets. Isolation from joint R&D platforms limits adoption of climate-smart varieties and mechanization suited to SIDS challenges. Weak integration hampers trade negotiations for preferential tariffs and sanitary standards.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Participate actively in SADC, COMESA and IOC seed-harmonisation programmes.
- Align certification and quarantine procedures with regional frameworks.
- Facilitate safe cross-border germplasm exchange under phytosanitary protocols.
- Undertake joint regional research projects on breeding and genetic diversity.
- Organise training and study tours for breeders, regulators and seed producers.
- Position Mauritius as a regional training and testing hub for tropical seed systems.
- Invite regional seed entrepreneurs to Mauritian fairs and exhibitions to spur investment and learning.

Intervention Area B8: Financing and Incentives

High production costs—driven by expensive inputs, labor shortages, and infrastructure deficits—and limited credit access severely constrain local seed enterprises in Mauritius. Small-scale multipliers struggle with volatile fertilizer/pesticide prices and inadequate financing, hindering scaling of certified seed output. Risk-averse banks overlook seed ventures despite their food security role.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish seed-production credit lines and concessional financing for certified producers.
- Provide matching grants for start-ups investing in seed infrastructure.
- Offer tax incentives for R&D and promotion of local varieties.
- Integrate seed-sector financing into national Green and Agri-Business Funds.
- Support cost-sharing schemes for cooperative storage and processing facilities.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area B9: Institutional Support and Policy Frameworks

Lack of a coordinated policy framework severely hampers long-term genetic-resource management in Mauritius agriculture. Fragmented strategies across ministries fail to integrate conservation, breeding, and utilization, leaving PGR vulnerable to erosion from climate change and urbanization. Without a national genebank policy, seed roadmaps, or multi-stakeholder platforms, investments remain ad hoc and short-term. Developing an integrated PGR law, aligned with SIDS protocols, is essential to safeguard biodiversity and ensure resilient food systems.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a national breeding policy aligning with regional and international conventions.
- Establish modern AI laboratory for semen collection, storage and quality assurance across species
- Enhance performance recording and selection programmes to increase productivity.
- Establish a National Gene Resource Centre and genetic-data repository.
- Secure sustainable funding for conservation and breeding initiatives.
- Facilitate collaboration with regional /international institutions for conservation and utilisation of AnGR.

Intervention Area B10: Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources

Indigenous breeds possessing valuable adaptive traits—such as drought tolerance and disease resistance—are undervalued and risk extinction in Mauritius. Market bias toward exotic high-yield imports marginalizes local livestock like Creole cattle and goats, leading to genetic dilution through crossbreeding. Without breed registries, conservation farms, or economic incentives, these resilient germplasms vanish, undermining climate adaptation. Prioritizing in-situ preservation, breed

improvement programs, and niche marketing is crucial to harness their potential for sustainable farming.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a national genetic resource inventory to document and tract existing livestock breeds and their genetic potential
- Identify, characterise and document all local livestock breeds.
- Establish on-farm and ex-situ conservation herds of creole cattle and local goats
- Promote local breeds with desirable adaptive traits.
- Promote awareness of the cultural and economic value of local breeds.

Intervention Area B11: Prevention of Genetic Resource Loss

Unregulated importation of exotic breeds, alongside inadequate conservation strategies, risks extinction of indigenous breeds and biodiversity loss in Mauritius. High-yield exotics outcompete resilient locals like Creole pigs and poultry, diluting adaptive traits vital for climate resilience. Weak quarantine and absent breed safeguards accelerate genetic erosion. Implementing import controls, national conservation farms, and community-based breeding programs is essential to protect heritage stocks and sustain agro-diversity.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Regulate importation of exotic genetics through a controlled-approval system.
- Implement national recording and traceability of breeding activities.
- Develop farmer-based conservation schemes with incentives for maintaining pure lines
- Facilitate and promote collaboration with regional genebanks for conservation of genetic materials
- Create awareness on importance of preserving local breeds

Intervention Area B12: Breeding Programmes for Climate Resilience and Productivity

Existing breeding programmes in Mauritius agriculture remain fragmented across institutions, lacking specific alignment with climate resilience goals. They prioritize short-term yields over traits like drought tolerance, pest resistance, and heat adaptability critical for SIDS vulnerabilities. Poor coordination and underfunding limit scaling of resilient varieties for smallholders.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a National Breeding Strategy integrating productivity and resilience traits.
- Support applied research on genetic selection for heat tolerance and disease resistance.
- Facilitate partnerships with research institutions and regional breeding centres for use of innovative technologies in reproduction and genetic improvement.
- Build national capacity in animal genetics, data analysis and reproductive biotechnology.

Intervention Area B13: Reducing Dependence on Imported Genetics

Heavy reliance on imported genetics undermines livestock self-sufficiency in Mauritius, heightening vulnerability to global supply disruptions, disease incursions, and escalating costs. Exotic breeds, unsuited to tropical climates, demand costly feeds and inputs, straining smallholders amid currency fluctuations. This erodes local resilience against cyclones and heatwaves.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create local nucleus and multiplier herds to produce quality breeding stock.
- Strengthen genetic evaluation systems to identify high performing local animals.
- Facilitate exchange of breeding males between farms to promote genetic diversity.
- Facilitate regional partnerships for germplasm exchange within SADC and AU-IBAR frameworks.
- Support establishment of private breeding centres to strengthen local supply chain.

Pillar 2: Agriculture / Climate / Environment

This pillar aims to strengthen the resilience and environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector by enhancing its capacity to adapt to climate change and natural hazards while promoting efficient and responsible use of natural resources. It focuses on improving adaptive capacity through climate and disaster risk assessment, the development of early-warning systems and the implementation of resilience-building measures to better prepare the sector against climate variability and extreme events.

At the same time, the pillar promotes regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices that restore ecosystems, improve soil health and enhance biodiversity. Emphasis is placed on resource efficiency, including better management of water, soil and nutrients, as well as the recycling and valorisation of organic matter within circular production systems.

The strategic objectives under this pillar are therefore to strengthen climate resilience, adaptation and disaster preparedness, and to promote regenerative and sustainable agriculture that ensures long-term productivity while safeguarding environmental resources for future generations.

Strategic Objective C: Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Disaster Preparedness

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Mauritius is highly exposed to cyclones, acute water-stress periods and flash floods, all of which directly affect crop production, food security and farmer livelihoods. Building resilience requires not only preparedness but also proactive adaptation and mitigation strategies to manage these growing risks effectively. The country imports roughly three-quarters of its food requirements, making it highly sensitive not only to local climate shocks but also to international supply-chain disruptions. At the same time, the agricultural sector depends heavily on imported inputs such as chemical fertilisers—around 26,000 tonnes valued at Rs 700 million in 2024—which increases production costs and environmental vulnerability.

Disaster preparedness must therefore include robust and technology-enabled systems for assessing crop damage and food-supply impacts, supported by real-time tools such as drones, satellite imagery, automatic weather stations and AI-based forecasting. These systems should feed into a national agricultural disaster database to guide early recovery actions and, where necessary, trigger transparent and evidence-based import mechanisms when indicators such as crop losses or price spikes warrant intervention.

At the same time, local climate-resilient crops—better adapted and less resource-demanding than imported hybrids—should be strengthened through national breeding programmes and seed-system partnerships with international research institutions. Expanding production of Quality-Declared Seeds (QDS), conserving Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) and promoting drought-tolerant and traditional crops such as cassava, sweet potato, taro and cowpea is a must to enhance self-reliance and diversification.

Climate resilience should also integrate short-term coping measures with long-term adaptation and mitigation actions. These include investment in water-harvesting infrastructure, improved drainage, renewable-energy solutions (agrivoltaics, biodigesters, solar irrigation) and wider adoption of sustainable practices such as intercropping, composting, mulching and agroforestry. Developing quality standards for compost, bio-fertilisers and seaweed-based organic inputs shall further support a low-emission and circular farming system.

Through integrated policies, climate-smart investments and inclusive disaster-management systems, Mauritius can reinforce the resilience of its agri-food sector and safeguard both production and livelihoods against an increasingly volatile climate.

Mauritius' livestock systems face intensifying cyclones, heat waves, flash floods and water stress, with cascading impacts on animal health, feed availability and market continuity. Resilience demands robust preparedness (risk monitoring, early warning, response financing) and practical on-farm adaptation (climate-smart housing, heat-tolerant breeds, efficient water/feeding systems).

Mitigation co-benefits strengthen resilience: improved manure management, precision/ efficient feeding and circular solutions (biogas, compost) reduce emissions while lowering input risk. A coordinated framework linking meteorological, veterinary and extension services—underpinned by data and insurance—will protect livelihoods and national supply.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area C1: Disaster Risk Assessment and Early Warning Systems

Mauritius remains highly exposed to cyclones, droughts and flash floods, yet existing disaster-assessment and early-warning mechanisms are largely manual, fragmented and under-resourced. The limited number of automatic weather stations and weak data integration delay timely response and risk communication to farmers.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Expand the network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) across all agro-climatic zones and link them to a national data platform.
- Deploy drones, satellite imagery and AI-based predictive models for real-time field assessment and forecasting.
- Establish a National Agricultural Disaster Database to centralise damage assessment, yield-loss data and resource mobilisation.
- Create mobile-based farmer alert systems (SMS, WhatsApp, or dedicated apps) for rapid reporting and early warning dissemination.
- Integrate bioswale projects, shelterbelts and vegetative barriers into disaster-preparedness plans for high-risk zones.
- Develop multi-channel communication systems to reach small and ageing farmers using both digital and traditional media.
- Build technical capacity among officers in GIS, remote sensing and data analytics to support disaster evaluation and risk communication.
- Standardise post-disaster crop-loss assessment templates and ensure adequate staffing and mobility for rapid evaluation.
- Designate and train regional contact farmers to support early-warning dissemination and rapid field reporting.

Intervention Area C2: Import Regulation and Food Security

Post-disaster import decisions in Mauritius demand timely data and clear criteria to safeguard food security and prevent market imbalances. Reactive surges without production gap assessments flood markets, crash local prices, and undermine farmer recovery after cyclones. Absence of real-time yield loss mapping and consumption forecasts delays balanced interventions. Establishing protocols with data, buffer stock triggers, and phased import quotas is critical to stabilize supplies while protecting domestic agriculture.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop transparent, evidence-based criteria for automatic import triggers, based on yield forecasts, market prices and verified crop-loss assessments.
- Establish a National Risk and Import Decision Database to guide government decisions.
- Create digital dashboards consolidating production, loss and price data for real-time decision support.

- Publish import permit processes, timelines and follow-up reports to ensure transparency.
- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement to curb illegal and premature imports.
- Maintain strategic buffer stocks and invest in cold-storage and minimal-processing facilities to stabilise local supply.
- Train producers in post-harvest preservation techniques such as drying, freezing and vacuum sealing.
- Ensure import policies align with local crop calendars and protect farmer incomes during recovery periods.

Intervention Area C3: Local Crop Development and Genetic Resources

Climate variability increasingly threatens traditional crops like sugarcane and high-value horticulture in Mauritius, eroding yields and farmer livelihoods. Strong breeding programmes targeting heat, drought, and pest tolerance—paired with sustained funding and robust quality seed systems—can bolster resilience.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Formulate a National Crop Breeding and Seed-System Strategy to develop and conserve drought-, heat- and pest-tolerant varieties.
- Strengthen partnerships between FAREI, UoM, MCIA and international research institutions (FAO, CGIAR) for genetic improvement.
- Promote cultivation of traditional climate-resilient crops such as cassava, sweet potato, taro, cowpea and plantain.
- Scale up Quality Declared Seed (QDS) production and distribution to ensure wider access to improved varieties.
- Conserve and promote the use of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) as part of adaptation strategies.
- Support establishment of post-harvest and storage infrastructure for perishable traditional crops.
- Create niche markets and branding strategies for traditional and climate-resilient produce to incentivise growers.
- Establish a multidisciplinary Rapid-Response Task Force (RRTF) for emerging pest and disease threats related to climate change (e.g. Liriomyza huidobrensis, locusts, nematodes)

Intervention Area C4: Adaptation Strategies

Adaptation practices like efficient water management, crop diversification, and soil-conservation measures remain limited in scale in Mauritius due to high upfront costs, low farmer awareness, and technical capacity gaps. Drip irrigation and mulching demand investment beyond smallholders' reach, while extension services rarely demonstrate viable models.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Expand water-harvesting systems and on-farm reservoirs to increase water availability during dry periods.
- Rehabilitate and maintain land drainage networks to prevent waterlogging and soil degradation.
- Promote agroforestry, intercropping, mulching and minimal tillage to enhance soil structure and moisture retention.
- Support training of trainers on adaptive practices across all regions and microclimates.
- Encourage bio-digesters, composting and organic-matter enrichment to improve soil health and reduce input dependency.
- Implement Bioswale projects and erosion-control works in flood-prone areas.
- Develop a National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture with region-specific action lines.
- Integrate desalination and water-recycling technologies for high-demand sectors such as hotels and agro-industries.
- Facilitate access to adaptation funding and technical assistance from international climate-finance mechanisms.
- Develop micro-climatic and vulnerability maps to target site-specific adaptation interventions.
- Develop rapid-response input-supply mechanisms to provide seeds, compost and irrigation materials immediately after disasters.
- Implement joint maintenance programmes for drainage and farm-access roads between agricultural and local authorities.
- Promote research on pest and disease dynamics/ complex under changing climatic conditions for better preparedness.
- Promote R&D development in adaptation strategies such as water management, crop development and soil conservation.

Intervention Area C5: Mitigation Strategies

The agricultural sector in Mauritius contributes to emissions via synthetic fertiliser overuse, fossil fuel dependency in mechanisation, and land degradation from monocropping. Limited renewable-energy adoption—like solar irrigation—and weak compost regulations hinder mitigation by allowing poor organic waste recycling.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote renewable-energy systems in agriculture, including agrivoltaics, biogas and solar-powered irrigation.
- Encourage permaculture and regenerative farming practices to improve carbon sequestration.
- Develop and enforce quality standards for compost,
- Biofertilisers and seaweed-based organic inputs.
- Support research on biofuel production using agricultural and livestock waste.
- Encourage green-manuring, cover crops and leguminous rotations to replace synthetic fertilisers.

- Introduce post-disaster soil-restoration programmes with incentives for compost and organic amendments.
- Promote low-emission mechanisation and precision agriculture to optimise fuel and fertiliser use.
- Develop a Land Drainage Master Plan integrating soil conservation and carbon-management principles.
- Establish a national knowledge-sharing platform to disseminate climate-smart agriculture (CSA) success stories and practices.

Intervention Area C6: Institutional Coordination and Capacity Building

Climate and disaster risk management in Mauritius agriculture suffer from institutional fragmentation across ministries, parastatals, and research bodies. Limited coordination leads to duplicated efforts, data silos, and delayed responses to cyclones and droughts.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a Central Coordination Mechanism linking MAIFSBEF, FAREI, MMS, MLGDRM and other key stakeholders.
- Integrate climate resilience and policies budgets and extension programmes.
- Build capacity of officers in climate-risk analysis modelling and digital tools.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area C7: Disaster Assessments

Post-shock losses to livestock, feed stocks, and infrastructure in Mauritius agriculture are inconsistently measured, delaying relief and recovery planning. Reliance on anecdotal reports rather than standardized satellite, drone, or field protocols leads to inaccurate damage estimates after cyclones.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Deploy a standardised livestock loss-assessment protocol (animals, feed/ forage, housing, milk/ meat supply).
- Maintain a georeferenced database of farm assets and hazards to target relief.
- Train rapid-assessment teams (veterinary + extension) and pre-position survey tools.
- Establish thresholds that trigger emergency measures (feed reserves, import windows).

Intervention Area C8: Adaptation Strategies

Many agricultural units in Mauritius lack design for extreme heat, intense rainfall, and water scarcity, amplifying cyclone and drought impacts. Livestock sheds overheat, storage silos flood, and irrigation

fails under erratic patterns. Local breeds and practices adapt slowly due to limited breeding focus and farmer inertia.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote climate-smart housing (shade, ventilation, cool roofs, runoff control) and heat-stress management.
- Accelerate adoption of climate-tolerant breeds and resilient species mixes where appropriate.
- Support efficient water systems (rainwater harvesting, trough design, leak control) and drought-proof forage plans.
- Scale precision/efficient feeding to stabilise performance under stress (balanced rations, targeted supplementation).
- Establish demo farms showcasing integrated adaptation packages (housing + breed + water + feeding).

Intervention Area C9: Mitigation Strategies (With Resilience Co-Benefits)

Emissions from enteric methane and manure in Mauritius livestock significantly raise climate impact while wasting nutrients and energy. Ruminants like cattle release potent GHGs during digestion, and unmanaged manure leaches nitrogen, polluting waters..

Proposed Priority Actions

- Improve manure management (covered storage, composting) and promote biogas where viable.
- Pilot methane-reducing feeding options (additives, ration optimisation) and monitor results.
- Encourage local/alternative proteins (e.g., insect meal where feasible) to cut feed-supply risk.
- Integrate mitigation targets and indicators into livestock development and extension plans.

Intervention Area C10: Early Warning Systems

Early Warning Systems in Mauritius agriculture fail farmers with late, generic alerts that lack locality and urgency. Weather forecasts arrive post-peak risk, while disease signals—like fall armyworm outbreaks or sugarcane rust—stay siloed from meteorological data, missing fused insights on infection windows. Without SMS agro-advisories, AI-driven apps, or community sentinel farms linking signals into actionable steps, smallholders suffer crop losses, delayed responses, and eroded trust.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Build an integrated Early Warning for Livestock (EWL) combining weather, heat-index, vector/disease risk and feed alerts.
- Use mobile/SMS/app pushes with simple guidance (move stock, adjust rations/ water, vaccinate, secure fodder).
- Link meteorological, veterinary and extension services for joint risk bulletins and field follow-up.
- Maintain local forage and water-point monitoring to anticipate shortages

Intervention Area C11: Insurance and Safety Nets

Limited risk-financing in Mauritius agriculture leaves farmers exposed to asset loss and cash-flow shocks after cyclones and droughts

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop index-based livestock insurance (heat, rainfall, cyclone) with premium support for smallholders.
- Maintain emergency feed/water reserves and criteria for rapid transparent release.
- Create a contingency fund for veterinary outreach vaccinations and rapid repairs to basic housing.
- Bundle finance with adaptation investments (cool roofs water storage forage systems) via concessional credit.

Strategic Objective D: Regenerative And Sustainable Agriculture

To meet climate and biodiversity goals, Mauritius must shift towards low-emission, regenerative farming systems that place soil fertility at the centre of production. Healthy soils require the regular return of organic matter and the support of biologically active systems that maintain productivity and resilience. Yet traditional sources such as cow manure are becoming scarce, creating the need to mobilise alternative streams such as compost, crop residues, municipal green waste and biochar.

Mauritius currently generates between 1,200 and 1,500 tonnes of solid waste daily, of which nearly 60% is organic. The large proportion of biodegradable waste presents an untapped opportunity for composting and other forms of valorisation. However, the absence of systematic segregation at source, limited logistics for separate collection have constrained the development of an integrated waste-to-resource value chain.

At the same time, adopting regenerative practices — including agroecology, agroforestry, intercropping and integrated crop–livestock systems — can reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides while restoring ecosystem services. The loss of soil organic matter from continuous use of synthetic inputs highlights the urgency to close the nutrient loop by returning organic materials to the soil. Locally available resources such as bagasse, seaweed, livestock manure and food waste can be processed into compost and biofertilisers, contributing both to soil regeneration and to import substitution of chemical fertilisers.

Institutionally, waste management and composting activities remain fragmented among several ministries and local authorities, with limited coordination mechanisms. Existing subsidy structures tend to favour synthetic fertilisers over organic alternatives, creating a policy imbalance that limits investment in composting or circular solutions. Strengthening institutional coordination, establishing clear quality and safety standards and aligning fiscal incentives could unlock the circular economy potential of organic waste streams.

The circular economy also provides a platform for climate mitigation and resilience. Diverting organic waste from landfills reduces methane emissions, while applying compost to agricultural soils enhances

carbon sequestration and water retention. By embedding circular and regenerative principles, Mauritius can achieve long-term soil fertility, sustainable productivity and reduced environmental impact — contributing directly to its national climate, biodiversity and sustainable development objectives. The following key intervention areas outline priority actions required to strengthen soil fertility and accelerate Mauritius' transition to regenerative and circular agricultural systems.

In addition, the livestock systems are both contributors to and victims of climate change. In Mauritius, limited land, feed imports and environmental constraints call for a shift toward regenerative and circular practices that cut emissions while sustaining productivity. By improving feed efficiency, valorising waste, integrating crops and livestock and diversifying species, the sector can enhance soil health, recycle nutrients and secure national food sovereignty. The transition to low-emission livestock will hinge on practical innovations—precision feeding, alternative proteins, manure-to-energy systems and resilient housing—coupled with consumer awareness and supportive policy.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area D1: Natural Farming Zones

Adoption of natural-farming practices remains limited due to low awareness and lack of financial incentives. Farmers require demonstration and mentoring to transition from conventional to ecological systems, while consumers increasingly demand chemical-free produce.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Identify and gazette selected localities or villages as Natural Farming Zones based on farmer interest, ecological suitability and proximity to conventional production areas.
- Provide training, mentoring and start-up incentives (inputs, compost units, certification support) to ensure successful transition and replication.
- Establish model natural-farming clusters with demonstration plots, composting sites and knowledge-exchange visits.
- Develop zonal standards and certification schemes to guarantee integrity and consumer confidence in chemical-free products.
- Strengthen extension capacity through training of trainers in natural-farming techniques, pest control and soil-health management.
- Facilitate market linkages and premium branding for produce originating from certified Natural Farming Zones.
- Encourage participatory monitoring involving local authorities, cooperatives and consumer groups to ensure transparency.
- Integrate Natural Farming Zones into national climate-adaptation and agroecology policies for long-term institutional support.
- Promote community composting, bio-input production and water-harvesting practices as pillars of self-sufficient natural-farming models.
- Document and disseminate success stories to encourage replication across other regions.

Intervention Area D2: Waste Valorization

Significant volumes of plant and food waste generated by markets, processing units, and agro-industrial activities remain largely underutilised, creating both environmental and economic challenges. These organic residues, if left unprocessed, accumulate in landfills, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, leachate formation, and overall environmental degradation. At the same time, the loss of this biomass represents a missed opportunity, as it contains valuable nutrients, energy potential, and raw material that could be redirected into productive uses.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Enact legislation to prohibit dumping of green waste in landfills and promote recycling
- Develop PPP composting and bioconversion plants such as the proposed 'Vermi Compost'.
- Integrate municipal and agro-industrial organic waste streams into national composting networks.
- Incentivize enterprises producing compost, animal feed and bioenergy from agricultural waste.
- Promote community-based waste segregation and composting schemes inspired by successful Nairobi models.
- Create circular economy projects for coconut husk and seaweed valorisation.

Intervention Area D3: Sustainability Adoption

Although smallholders often demonstrate high adaptability and resilience, their transition to agroecology and low-input practices remains constrained. Limited access to technical knowledge, extension services, and capacity-building opportunities hampers informed decision-making and innovation adoption. Moreover, the absence of certification mechanisms, financial incentives, and market recognition reduces motivation to invest in sustainable practices

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a local certification body for bio-/organic production and develop dedicated organic zones as part of which suitable localities could be declared chemical free areas.
- Provide incentives and training for adoption of regenerative and low-input practices, including demonstration plots and model farms.
- Develop business models illustrating the economic viability of agroecological farming.
- Integrate agroecology and sustainability standards (e.g. Singapore model) into national production frameworks.
- Introduce university-level recognised courses in organic and sustainable agriculture.
- Support digital tools (Web 2.0 platforms, apps) to promote traceability, knowledge sharing and market access for certified producers.

Intervention Area D4: Organic Matter Availability

Traditional sources of organic matter, such as cow manure, are increasingly scarce due to declining livestock populations and higher collection and transport costs. This trend limits farmers' access to affordable organic inputs, which are essential for maintaining soil fertility, enhancing crop productivity, and supporting sustainable farming practices. The reduced availability of these resources forces many farmers to rely on costly synthetic fertilizers, undermining long-term soil health and resilience.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish regional composting and bio-digestion facilities using segregated agricultural, market and municipal green wastes, seaweed, filter mud, bagasse and livestock waste.
- Develop a coordinated waste collection and transport system from source to composting centres, with participation of local authorities and private operators.
- Introduce fiscal incentives or tax relief for enterprises converting organic waste into compost, biofertilisers, or biochar.
- Ban or impose levies on organic waste sent to landfill and encourage waste segregation at source.
- Conduct a national soil quality mapping exercise to assess soil organic matter content and guide targeted soil restoration interventions.
- Promote on-farm composting and use of crop residues, cover crops and green manures as primary sources of organic matter before purchasing external inputs.
- Support pilot projects on biochar production and integration into local farming systems, with quality testing and farmer training.
- Provide appropriate machinery through SPMPC or cooperatives to support cover crop incorporation, shredding and compost turning.
- Develop quality and safety standards for compost and other organic soil amendments to ensure product reliability and farmer confidence.
- Strengthen research on low-cost crop residue management tools and on the safe use of seaweed compost considering potential heavy metal content.
- Encourage participation in regional soil initiatives such as the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) for technical and financial support.
- Develop an online compost and organic-manure database to connect suppliers with farmers and promote transparency on quality and pricing.
- Encourage establishment of new model cattle farming systems, in particular by government, where production of manure is the primary activity and that of milk a byproduct in order to ensure supply of manure for sustaining soil fertility.

Intervention Area D5: Agroecology And Regenerative Farming Systems

The shift from conventional, input-intensive farming to regenerative and agroecological systems is slowed by fragmented knowledge, insufficient technical guidance, and a lack of market recognition for sustainable practices. Farmers frequently face barriers in accessing suitable seeds, specialized machinery, and extension services that showcase both the economic and environmental advantages of low-input approaches. Without these resources and supportive frameworks, adoption remains limited, slowing progress toward resilient, environmentally sustainable agricultural systems.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop and implement a National Agroecology Transition Programme to guide and support farmers in adopting practices such as intercropping, crop rotation, agroforestry, mulching, reduced tillage and integrated crop–livestock systems.
- Strengthen capacity of extension officers through specialised training in agroecology, soil health management and integrated pest management (IPM).
- Establish demonstration "Soil Health Farms" and agroecology learning sites in different agro-climatic zones, showcasing cost-effective regenerative practices (AgriSud Model).
- Produce a practical "Guide on Agroecology and Regenerative Farming" with
- Locally adapted examples, crop sequences and soil restoration techniques.
- Provide subsidies or grants for the purchase of leguminous cover crop seeds, companion and trap crops, eco-service plants and heirloom varieties.
- Support interinstitutional collaborative research on soil biology, organic matter restoration and soil carbon monitoring.
- Reorient existing agricultural subsidies towards agroecological inputs and practices that enhance soil resilience and biodiversity.
- Develop national certification and labelling standards for "Regenerative" or "Agroecological" produce to create consumer recognition and market incentives.
- Allocate designated sections in supermarkets and the National Wholesale Market for certified agroecological produce.
- Facilitate leasing of planted forestry lands for agroforestry projects under clear sustainability guidelines.
- Promote intercropping with sugar cane and other main crops to optimise resource use and improve soil fertility.
- Undertake cost-benefit analyses of agroecological transitions to inform policy and support adoption at scale.
- Provide continuous training on composting, microbial soil health and zero-budget natural farming principles.
- Design incentive schemes or temporary income-support measures for farmers adopting fallow or soil-resting periods to regenerate soil fertility.
- Ensure balanced allocation of land between biomass energy and agro-voltaic projects and core food production to safeguard food security.

Intervention Area D6: Reducing Reliance on Chemical Inputs

Mauritius continues to rely heavily on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, resulting in soil degradation, declining biodiversity, and potential health risks. This dependence also exposes farmers to trade risks, as pesticide residues can limit access to international markets. The prevailing policy environment, which heavily subsidises synthetic inputs while providing limited support or incentives for organic and sustainable alternatives, discourages farmers from transitioning to low-input or regenerative practices.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish Integrated Soil Health Programmes combining soil testing, tailored organic amendments and IPM training to reduce dependence on synthetic fertilisers.
- Develop model Integrated Crop–Livestock Demonstration Farms that showcase nutrient recycling, composting and biological pest control methods.
- Provide adequate fiscal incentives and soft loans to farmers investing in composting units, drip irrigation, biofertiliser production and protected cultivation systems.
- Enforce the Use of pesticides Act and Code of Practice through accredited training, licensing and monitoring of pesticide sales and application.
- Support local R&D for biopesticides and biofertilisers derived from Mauritian plants and microorganisms suited to local soils.
- Identify and promote alternative, locally available sources of phosphorus and potassium nutrients.
- Create a tiered certification system ("In Transition", "IPM Certified", "Organic") to support farmers' gradual progression towards low-input systems.
- Facilitate direct market linkages between sustainable producers and institutions (schools, hotels, hospitals) through public procurement initiatives.
- Strengthen laboratory capacities (Soil Chemistry, Food Tech and residue testing) to monitor soil health and food safety.
- Designate buffer zones around reservoirs and rivers where only sustainable practices are permitted.
- Integrate awareness campaigns on safe chemical use and encourage progressive adoption of regenerative methods through incentives.
- Introduce market surveillance and enforcement to prevent distribution of substandard or unsafe agro-inputs, ensuring fertiliser and pesticide quality.
- Undertake research and field validation on the use of activated carbon (biochar) and beneficial microbial consortia as soil-health enhancers to reduce soil-borne diseases such Bacterial Wilt, Pythium and Erwinia and dependency on chemical pesticides.
- Promote farmer adoption of these biological soil-management solutions through demonstration plots and technical advisory support.

Intervention Area D7: Circular Economy Models

The linear "take–make–dispose" model dominates agricultural and municipal systems, causing nutrient loss and environmental pressure. Proper waste segregation, adequate recycling infrastructure and enhanced coordination between ministries can contribute towards the development of a national circular food system.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Integrate circular economy principles across agricultural, waste management and energy policies to close nutrient and water loops.
- Provide fiscal and technical incentives for the valorisation of agricultural by-products (cane trash, manure, food waste) into compost, animal feed and renewable energy.
- Promote black soldier fly larvae rearing for organic waste conversion into protein feed and biofertiliser.

- Support water circularity through rainwater harvesting, leachate recycling in greenhouses and safe use of treated wastewater for irrigation.
- Establish Circular Agriculture Demonstration Farms and a peer-learning network to showcase resource efficiency practices.
- Encourage use of renewable energy (solar, biogas) for agricultural operations such as irrigation, drying and cooling.
- Train extension officers to assist farmers in developing customised circular transition plans and identifying feasible technologies.
- Provide shared equipment (rotovators, shredders, compost turners) through cooperatives or hire schemes.
- Incentivise farmers who increase soil carbon sequestration, water retention and biodiversity through verified circular practices.
- Encourage entrepreneurs to develop and market natural enemies for pest control.
- Integrate circular economy modules into agricultural education and vocational training curricula.
- Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination for waste collection, recycling and monitoring of nutrient flows.
- Evaluate the use of Concentrated Molasses Silage (CMS) and saline water as alternative nutrient sources within a Blue Economy framework.
- Support applied research on local composting prototypes, microbial inoculants (e.g. beneficial soil bacteria) and low-cost regenerative formulations.

Intervention Area D8: Food Loss and Waste Reduction

Around 30–40% of locally produced fruits and vegetables in Mauritius are lost along the supply chain due to inadequate post-harvest handling, poor infrastructure, limited cold storage facilities, and weak market linkages. These losses not only reduce farm incomes but also increase dependence on imports to meet domestic demand. Furthermore, the waste generated contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating environmental pressures.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Conduct national awareness campaigns on food loss prevention targeting farmers, traders, retailers and consumers.
- Establish community-level cold rooms and conditioning facilities for smallholder clusters through cooperatives or public–private partnerships.
- Provide subsidies for rigid stackable crates and improved packaging materials to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Support shared processing facilities for surplus or imperfect produce to extend shelf life and create new market products.
- Encourage collaborations between farmer cooperatives, hotels and NGOs for surplus food redistribution or transformation.
- Develop mobile digital platforms for real-time market information, price alerts and weather forecasts to reduce mismatches between production and demand.

- Promote “imperfect produce” (eg expiring products) campaigns to change consumer perception and reduce retail waste.
- Review market standards to allow flexibility for grade-based marketing of local produce.
- Integrate food loss reduction indicators into national food security and climate monitoring frameworks.

Intervention Area D9: Climate Contribution

Agriculture in Mauritius is both a contributor to and a victim of climate change, with conventional practices driving greenhouse gas emissions while climate impacts threaten productivity and livelihoods. Scaling up regenerative and low-input practices offers significant potential to enhance carbon sequestration, lower emissions, and build resilience against climate shocks. However, the sector currently lacks a coherent framework that integrates agricultural transformation with national climate targets, limiting coordinated action and investment

Proposed Priority Actions

- Integrate regenerative agriculture within the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national climate strategies.
- Develop incentive schemes for farmers adopting low-emission and carbon-sequestering practices (e.g., compost use, agroforestry, biochar).
- Support local R&D on climate-smart practices and precision tools adapted to Mauritian conditions.
- Facilitate access to finance for renewable energy systems and low-emission technologies for farming operations.
- Create a national network of Climate-Smart Demonstration Farms to test and share innovations.
- Strengthen agricultural extension services to provide continuous technical support on adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Develop certification and traceability systems for regenerative and climate-friendly agricultural products.
- Encourage adoption of biomass energy and explore opportunities for green hydrogen use in agriculture.
- Ban or phase out hazardous agrochemicals and promote integrated nutrient management for emissions reduction.
- Recognise agroecology as a key pathway in achieving agricultural emission reductions and climate adaptation goals.
- Optimise the contribution of Rodrigues and Agalega to national food production and carbon balance through adapted regenerative models.
- Support establishment of bio-farming units and biogas systems to recycle waste and reduce emissions.

Intervention Area D10: Production Systems

Conventional open-field farming systems in Mauritius are experiencing declining productivity, primarily due to soil degradation, nutrient depletion, and erosion. The limited adoption of sustainable practices, such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and organic amendments, exacerbates these challenges. Without targeted interventions to restore soil health and promote resilient farming methods, productivity losses may continue, threatening food security and farm incomes.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote integrated, sustainable and climate-resilient production systems combining agroecology and smart farming.
- Strengthen Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) and biological control.
- Encourage composting, permaculture and regenerative soil practices.
- Facilitate research and breeding of climate-adapted, high-yield varieties.
- Establish demonstration “Model Soil Health Farms” showcasing best practices.
- Promote local entrepreneurship in bio-input and biocontrol-agent production.
- Provide small-grant or tax-credit schemes for adoption of soil-health technologies.
- Train farmers on sustainable techniques.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area D11: Crop–Livestock Integration / Species Mix

Resource optimisation can be achieved through crop-livestock integrated system

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote closed-loop crop–livestock integrated systems for resilience.
- Encourage rotational grazing and mixed species.
- Support diversification toward small livestock (small ruminants, poultry and rabbit) requiring less land and inputs.

Intervention Area D12: Agroecology and Regenerative Systems

Intensive models degrade natural resources and increase climate vulnerability.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Support silvopastoral and agroforestry-livestock.
- Set up demonstration farms for agroecological practices.
- Promote climate-smart and resilient production systems, including heat-tolerant breeds, climate-adapted housing and efficient water and feeding technologies.
- Support access to green finance and sustainability certification.
- Integrate environmental performance indicators into farmer-support schemes.

Intervention Area D13: Methane Reduction and Climate Contribution

Enteric fermentation and manure management are key emission sources lacking systematic mitigation.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote feed additives and vaccines targeting rumen methane production.
- Partner with universities for R&D on low-emission feed additives and supplements
- Support biogas installations for manure-to-energy conversion and fertiliser co-products.
- Facilitate partnerships with energy and waste management companies for waste recycling especially in pig zones
- Integrate emission-reporting tools into farm monitoring to inform national inventories.

Intervention Area D14: Housing, Facilities and Animal Welfare

Poorly designed livestock housing leads to higher energy use, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and greater animal stress, negatively affecting welfare and productivity. Inadequate ventilation, space, and facility layout can compromise health, reduce growth rates, and increase disease susceptibility.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote sustainable housing with natural ventilation, daylight and local materials.
- Introduce design templates combining energy-efficiency and animal-comfort standards.
- Encourage silvopastoral shading and integration of renewable-energy systems (solar, biogas).

Intervention Area D15: Waste Management and Circular Economy

Livestock waste and by-products are frequently underutilised or mismanaged, resulting in environmental issues such as odour, water and soil pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. This not only harms ecosystems but also represents a missed economic opportunity. Proper treatment and valorisation of these residues—through composting, biogas production, or organic fertilizers—can transform waste into valuable resources.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote best practices in manure management, including covered storage and controlled nutrient application to reduce emissions and losses.
- Promote circular-economy models for livestock by-products (manure, offal, hides, etc.) through composting, biogas, biofertiliser and feed-recycling systems).
- Encourage private sector and PPP investment in waste-to-energy, composting, pelletising and nutrient-recovery enterprises.
- Establish and enforce national quality standards and regulatory guidelines for animal-based by-products, manure management and bio-inputs.
- Provide targeted incentives for farms and processors adopting certified, environmentally sound waste-valorisation and recycling technologies.

- Integrate livestock waste valorisation into national circular-economy and climate strategies, aligned with low-emission and sustainability goals.
- Align land-use planning and environmental-licensing frameworks to facilitate low-emission livestock waste and bioenergy facilities.
- Zone and develop eco-industrial clusters or parks linking livestock production, bioenergy, composting and fertiliser industries.
- Strengthen capacity building through training modules on nutrient recovery, pathogen control and environmental compliance.

Pillar 3: Environment / Plant / Animal Health

This pillar focuses on safeguarding the environmental foundations of agriculture while strengthening the link between food production, public health and human well-being. It promotes responsible use of natural resources, pollution control and improved stewardship of land and water to ensure that agriculture remains productive and sustainable over the long term. Key priorities include maintaining soil fertility through improved nutrient management, promoting soil conservation practices and enhancing irrigation efficiency to support sustainable water use. Strengthening monitoring systems, research and institutional coordination is also essential to ensure effective environmental governance within the agricultural sector.

The pillar also recognizes that agriculture plays an important role in shaping public health outcomes. Beyond ensuring sufficient food supply, food systems must provide safe, nutritious and diverse diets that support healthier populations. Strengthening food safety systems, improving monitoring of pesticide residues and contaminants and promoting safer alternatives to chemical inputs are therefore critical.

Two strategic objectives guide this pillar: promoting a One Health approach integrating environment, plant and animal health, and advancing nutrition security, food safety and wellness through safe food production and stronger food governance.

Strategic Objective E: One Health Approach; Integrating Environment, Plant and Animal Health

Crop Sector

Healthy soils and reliable water resources are the foundation of agricultural productivity and environmental stability in Mauritius. Yet soil fertility has declined over time because of erosion, nutrient mining, excessive chemical input and loss of organic matter. Freshwater availability is under pressure from competing domestic, industrial and tourism uses, while rainfall variability and drought events linked to climate change further constrain supply.

Mauritius produces roughly 130,000 tonnes of animal manure per year, far below national crop-nutrient requirements. To compensate, around 26,600 tonnes of chemical fertilisers valued at Rs 707 million were imported in 2024. Dependence on these inputs raises production costs, degrades soil biology and contributes to water pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Simultaneously, approximately 500,000 tonnes of solid waste are generated annually—70 % biodegradable—but most remains unsegregated and landfilled. Harnessing this organic waste for compost and bio-energy would close nutrient loops, cut emissions and support a circular economy.

Water-use efficiency remains low due to outdated irrigation infrastructure, limited storage and minimal reuse of treated wastewater. Run-off laden with fertiliser and pesticide residues contaminates waterways and coastal ecosystems. Pollution from plastics and agrochemical packaging further threatens soil and marine health.

An integrated soil-and-water-management framework—anchored in evidence-based governance, efficient irrigation, nutrient recycling and pollution control—is therefore essential to safeguard natural resources, ensure long-term productivity and enhance resilience to climate change.

Livestock

Animal health underpins productivity, food safety and public trust. However, the misuse of antibiotics in livestock production contributes to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), threatening both animal and human health. The path forward lies in prevention—through stronger biosecurity, vaccination, natural remedies and improved housing—rather than reliance on antibiotics.

Adopting a One Health approach that links veterinary, human and environmental health will ensure early detection, coordinated response and responsible management of zoonotic risks. As urbanisation increases, zoning, surveillance and consumer transparency must guide where and how livestock are raised to protect communities and ecosystems.

Intervention Area E1: Soil Fertility and Biological Health

Declining soil fertility, coupled with limited soil testing and diagnostic capacity, hampers the efficient management of nutrients in agricultural systems. Without accurate information on soil health and nutrient status, farmers struggle to apply the right types and amounts of fertilizers, leading to reduced crop productivity, increased input costs, and environmental risks such as nutrient runoff.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Upgrade and decentralise soil-testing laboratories; deploy mobile soil-analysis units.
- Develop a national digital soil database with fertility maps and recommendations.
- Provide affordable farmer test kits and training in interpretation.
- Issue soil-health cards indicating nutrient status and management options.
- Promote Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) combining organic and mineral inputs.
- Encourage mixed crop–livestock systems to recycle manure.
- Conduct soil-fertility awareness campaigns through extension and farmer groups.
- Carry out benchmark soil surveys every five years to monitor trends and guide fertiliser policies.

Intervention Area E2: Organic Matter and Nutrient Management

A shortage of organic inputs, combined with heavy reliance on chemical fertilisers, can degrade soil structure, reduce fertility, and harm soil biodiversity. Over time, this imbalance undermines ecosystem functions, diminishes crop resilience, and increases vulnerability to pests and diseases.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote on-farm composting using crop residues, green waste and agro-industrial by-products.
- Establish regional composting and bio-digestion facilities via public–private partnerships.
- Encourage seaweed-based and microbial biofertilisers as local alternatives.
- Introduce compost-quality standards and certification.
- Provide incentives or rebates for compost users.
- Support manure-collection and cooperative composting schemes.
- Train farmers on nutrient budgeting and fertiliser-use efficiency to reduce wastage.
- Promote composting of banana, pineapple and vegetable residues through simple pit or windrow methods demonstrated on pilot farms.

Intervention Area E3: Soil Conservation and Land Management

Soil erosion and inadequate conservation practices continue to degrade agricultural land, leading to nutrient loss, reduced soil fertility, and declining crop productivity

Proposed Priority Actions

- Prepare soil-vulnerability and erosion-risk maps to guide interventions.
- Train farmers in contour planting, terracing, vegetative barriers and agroforestry.
- Encourage reduced tillage, cover crops and crop rotation to preserve structure and carbon.
- Integrate soil-conservation criteria into land-use and environmental regulations.
- Provide mechanisation support for soil-friendly implements (mulchers, residue incorporators).

- Undertake joint maintenance of drains and farm access roads with local councils to control erosion and flooding.
- Establish model conservation plots in each region for demonstration and farmer training.

Intervention Area E4: Water Networks and Irrigation Efficiency

Upgrading irrigation systems can significantly improve water-use efficiency, ensure consistent crop water supply, and reduce losses from evaporation or leakage. Enhanced irrigation infrastructure supports higher crop productivity, stabilizes yields under variable climatic conditions, and enables more sustainable water management. Modernized systems, including drip or sprinkler technologies, also contribute to resource conservation, lower input costs, and strengthen the resilience of agricultural production.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Modernise and rehabilitate existing irrigation networks to reduce leakages.
- Expand drip and sprinkler systems through subsidised schemes.
- Build small reservoirs and rainwater-harvesting structures in major farming zones.
- Provide financial incentives for farmers to build overnight storage reservoirs
- Promote reuse of treated wastewater under defined quality standards.
- Encourage IoT-based irrigation sensors for real-time water management.
- Strengthen coordination among Irrigation Authority, CWA and FAREI.
- Provide micro-irrigation kits to small and backyard farmers with training on maintenance.
- Develop micro-climate and water-availability maps to tailor irrigation scheduling and drought-preparedness planning.

Intervention Area E5: Pollution, Waste Management and Circular Economy

Uncontrolled disposal of agro-chemicals and plastic waste leads to contamination of soil and water, harming ecosystems, reducing soil fertility, and threatening human and animal health. Persistent pollutants can accumulate, disrupt microbial activity, and enter food chains, creating long-term environmental and health risks

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and gradually phase out hazardous products.
- Enforce container-return and disposal schemes for pesticide packaging.
- Support biodegradable mulches and controlled-release fertilisers.
- Create regional waste-recycling centres for farm plastics and packaging.
- Encourage waste-to-soil initiatives linking municipal green waste to composting.
- Include pollution-control indicators in farm certification systems.
- Establish awareness programmes on safe storage and triple-rinsing of agro-chemical containers.

- Strengthen testing for heavy-metal accumulation in intensively cropped soils and irrigation water.

Intervention Area E6: Monitoring, Data Systems and Governance

Weak institutional coordination and limited availability of reliable data constrain effective soil and water management. The absence of integrated information systems, regular monitoring, and data sharing reduces the ability of policymakers and farmers to make informed, evidence-based decisions. This leads to inefficiencies in resource use and limits the effectiveness of conservation measures.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create a National Soil & Water Monitoring Network linked with climate and land-use data.
- Publish annual soil- and water-quality bulletins.
- Standardise data protocols among MAIFSBEF, MESWDCC, FAREI and UoM.
- Develop digital dashboards for decision support and public transparency.
- Build regional capacity for data collection and analysis.
- Integrate soil and water indicators into the National Agricultural Observatory. (Extension addition): Train extension officers to collect geo-referenced field data using mobile applications for real-time reporting.

Intervention Area E7: Research, Innovation and Capacity Building

Low levels of investment and slow technology transfer significantly limit the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers often face difficulties accessing modern technologies, innovative inputs, and practical demonstrations that illustrate their economic and environmental benefits. Inadequate funding for research, extension services, and capacity-building further constrains dissemination

Proposed Priority Actions

- Support research on local composting technologies, microbial inoculants and bio-inputs.
- Promote precision-agriculture tools for soil and water management.
- Encourage innovation in desalination, irrigation automation and water recycling.
- Strengthen training of extension officers on soil, water and pollution management.
- Foster knowledge exchange within SADC/IOC on land and water innovation.
- Introduce farmer field schools on soil and water conservation to demonstrate best practices.
- Include youth and women participation in soil-conservation and compost-enterprise projects.

Intervention Area E8: Institutional Coordination and Policy Integration

Responsibilities for soil, water, and waste management are dispersed across multiple ministries and local authorities, resulting in fragmented governance and limited policy coherence. This institutional

dispersion can lead to overlapping mandates, gaps in implementation, and weak coordination in planning and enforcement. As a result, efforts to promote sustainable resource management may be less effective

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a national coordination mechanism bringing together MAIFSBEF, MESWDCC, MLGDRM and FAREI.
- Integrate soil-, water- and pollution-management goals into National Land-Use and Climate Strategies.
- Ensure joint planning and budgeting among line ministries for infrastructure maintenance.
- Embed soil and water indicators into agricultural performance assessments.
- Strengthen collaboration with local authorities for waste segregation and compost collection.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area E9: Responsible Use of Antibiotics

Unregulated or excessive use of antimicrobials in livestock production increases the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), posing a serious threat to animal and human health. The emergence of resistant pathogens can reduce the effectiveness of essential medicines and compromise disease control. It also undermines food safety and may affect access to export markets with strict sanitary standards.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Implement a National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Action Plan specific to the livestock sector.
- Enforce stricter regulation of antibiotic sales and distribution and use.
- Build awareness campaigns for farmers and veterinarians on responsible use.
- Integrate AMR monitoring in national livestock databases and residue-testing programmes.

Intervention Area E10: Alternatives to Antibiotics

Limited access to effective and affordable alternatives to antibiotics, such as vaccines, probiotics, improved biosecurity, and better husbandry practices, perpetuates dependence on antimicrobial use in livestock production. This reliance increases the risk of antimicrobial resistance and undermines efforts to promote responsible use.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote biosecurity, vaccination and improved housing and proper feeding to prevent infection naturally.

- Support research on use of herbal and organic remedies (e.g., neem, turmeric, garlic) with proven antimicrobial properties.
- Promote organic/natural farming systems that minimize use of veterinary drugs
- Create a framework for certification and safe commercialisation of approved natural products.

Intervention Area E11: Zoonotic Risks and Disease Surveillance

Weak surveillance systems and limited data sharing among relevant institutions delay the timely detection, reporting, and control of emerging zoonotic diseases. Insufficient coordination between animal health, public health, and environmental authorities further constrains early warning and rapid response mechanisms. As a result, outbreaks may spread before appropriate containment measures are implemented.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen national disease-surveillance systems and laboratory networks for real-time reporting.
- Integrate animal and human health surveillance under a unified digital platform.
- Train veterinary and health officers for coordinated outbreak response.
- Engage community animal-health workers to improve local disease intelligence.

Intervention Area E12: One Health Coordination

Fragmented sectoral action across animal health, public health, and environmental institutions hinders the implementation of a coordinated response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), zoonotic diseases, and environmental health challenges. Limited collaboration, data sharing, and joint planning reduce the effectiveness of prevention and control measures.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a National One Health Platform linking veterinary, medical and environmental authorities.
- Conduct joint simulations, training and risk-assessment exercises.
- Develop joint policies on AMR, zoonotic surveillance and food safety management.
- Facilitate regional collaboration (SADC/AU-IBAR) for transboundary disease control.

Intervention Area E13: Policy on Livestock Location and Zoning

Policy frameworks regulating the siting of farms near urban centres and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) require better harmonisation to effectively address risks of environmental contamination, public health concerns, and social conflicts with surrounding communities. Inconsistent regulations and planning guidelines can lead to inappropriate farm locations, increasing pressure on sensitive ecosystems and residential areas.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop livestock zoning and land use guidelines balancing biosecurity, environment and community safety.
- Enforce setback distances and waste disposal standards for intensive units.
- Require environmental and health impact assessments prior to farm licensing.
- Promote low density and environmentally compatible livestock clusters.

Strategic Objective F: Nutrition Security, Food Safety and Wellness

Crop

Nutrition security and food safety are essential components of national well-being and sustainable development. While Mauritius enjoys adequate food availability, dietary diversity and nutritional quality remain insufficient. Heavy reliance on imported and ultra-processed foods—often high in fats, sugars and salt—has contributed to rising rates of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity. Micronutrient deficiencies and undernutrition persist in vulnerable groups, reflecting the double burden of malnutrition.

Ensuring nutrition security requires stronger integration among agriculture, health, education and trade policies. Agricultural production must focus not only on yield, but also on nutrient density, cultural suitability and food safety. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, pulses and traditional staples should play a larger role in everyday diets.

Food-safety systems are largely in place but remain fragmented across ministries. Limited laboratory capacity and inconsistent surveillance reduce effectiveness. Strengthened coordination, transparent reporting and traceability are key to building consumer confidence and maintaining export compliance.

Consumer awareness of healthy diets is growing but still needs to be strengthened. Nutrition education, clear labelling and promotion of local, wholesome foods can guide healthier choices. Linking farmers, processors and consumers through shorter value chains will improve access to safe, nutritious food while supporting local economies.

A coherent institutional framework, supported by research, monitoring and cross-sector collaboration, will enable Mauritius to deliver a food system that supports nutrition, wellness and economic sustainability.

Livestock

Livestock products play a vital role in ensuring balanced diets and national nutrition security. However, growing health concerns linked to non-communicable diseases, misuse of veterinary drugs and unsafe production practices threaten public trust and wellbeing. Strengthening food safety, residue monitoring and nutrition-sensitive production will ensure that livestock systems contribute not only to food security but also to public health and community wellness.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area F1: Safe Food Production

There is a need to review and strengthen the regulation and use of agrochemicals to safeguard food quality and protect soil and water resources. Inappropriate or excessive application can lead to contamination, environmental degradation, and potential food safety risks.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a routine monitoring programme for nitrate levels in locally grown leafy vegetables and other sensitive crops.
- Expand residue-monitoring capacity within the Food Technology Laboratory for both domestic and export produce.
- Promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), MauriGAP and organic certification schemes through training and incentives to reduce chemical dependence.
- Conduct on-farm demonstrations on safe pesticide handling, calibration and alternatives such as bio-pesticides and trap crops.
- Develop a traceability and labelling system linking production batches to residue-testing results for transparency.
- Enforce periodic auditing of retailers and distributors of agricultural inputs to ensure compliance.
- Introduce community-based monitoring teams to collect samples and report unsafe practices in fresh-produce markets.
- Establish a multi-agency Food Safety Coordination Committee to harmonise enforcement across agriculture, health and trade authorities.
- Ensure compliance of law for dosage, usage and safety information to be in legible font size.
- Review pesticides volume packaging so that they fit normal dosage requirements for 1 arpent.
- Conduct periodic retailer audits and farmer-training sessions on safe handling and record-keeping.

Intervention Area F2: Pesticide Residue Monitoring and Health Surveillance

Pesticide-residue testing plays a critical role in public-health monitoring and risk-communication systems. Regular analysis of residues in food products helps ensure compliance with safety standards, protects consumer health, and maintains confidence in the food supply. It also supports regulatory authorities in identifying potential risks, enforcing pesticide-use regulations, and providing timely information to the public

Proposed Priority Actions

- Expand the national residue-monitoring programme to cover a wider range of crops and markets, using internationally recognised sampling protocols.
- Upgrade analytical laboratories with modern multi-residue detection equipment and ensure international accreditation (ISO 17025).
- Review residue analysis with respect to international norms.

- Develop a joint alert system linking residue exceedances with rapid communication to producers and retailers.
- Integrate food-safety and occupational-health surveillance to identify exposure trends among farm workers and consumers.
- Conduct public-awareness campaigns on safe harvest intervals, pre-harvest intervals and withdrawal periods.
- Introduce risk-based inspection plans focusing on crops and areas with a history of high residue levels.
- Promote collaboration with universities and health institutions to research chronic exposure impacts on vulnerable populations.
- Publish annual national residue-monitoring reports to enhance transparency and consumer confidence.

Intervention Area F3: Health Impacts

Limited health surveillance and insufficient data on chronic pesticide exposure hinder effective risk assessment and management. Farmers, farm workers, and consumers face potential health impacts from unsafe handling of agrochemicals, consumption of contaminated produce, or improper disposal of pesticide containers. Weak coordination between agricultural and health authorities further reduces the ability to track, prevent, and respond to food-related illnesses

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a joint health and agriculture surveillance mechanism to track pesticide related illnesses and foodborne conditions.
- Conduct baseline and follow up medical screenings of farmers and farm workers to detect exposure symptoms early.
- Develop a national registry of pesticide poisoning and foodborne disease incidents managed jointly by the Ministries of Health and Agro Industry
- Integrate public health data with residue monitoring results to enable targeted interventions.
- Promote protective equipment use and safe handling campaigns for farmers and sprayers.
- Implement a public awareness programme on safe washing, storage and preparation of fresh produce.
- Collaborate with universities to research long term exposure impacts on vulnerable populations (children, women, elderly).
- Introduce medical waste and pesticide container disposal protocols for farms and rural communities.

Intervention Area F4: Alternatives to Chemical

Farmers' heavy reliance on chemical pesticides is driven by limited knowledge of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and inadequate access to biological control alternatives. This dependence contributes to environmental risks, pest resistance, and health concerns. Persistent fruit-fly infestations continue to cause significant crop losses, undermining productivity and profitability.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Implement a National IPM Programme combining biological, cultural and mechanical pest-control techniques.
- Establish a central IPM knowledge and alert platform for real-time pest-management guidance.
- Empower farmers on low-toxicity and biological pest-control options.
- Provide subsidies or tax exemptions for approved bio-inputs to boost adoption.
- Strengthen regional pest-surveillance and early-warning systems in collaboration with NPPO and SADC.
- Demonstrate IPM results through model farms showcasing cost-effectiveness.
- Form community pest-management clusters to coordinate area-wide fruit-fly control.
- Create a National IPM Coordination Committee linking research, regulation and farmer organisations for monitoring and evaluation.

Intervention Area F5: Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

Agricultural production in Mauritius has historically prioritized yield and commercial value over nutrient density, leaving the nutritional potential of traditional crops under-valued. Coordination between agricultural and health authorities remains limited, reducing the integration of nutrition objectives into farming practices. At the same time, consumer awareness of balanced diets and the benefits of locally produced, nutrient-rich foods is low

Proposed Priority Actions

- Undertake a national nutrient-profiling study of major and traditional crops to identify varieties rich in vitamins, minerals and fibre.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to integrate nutrition objectives into agricultural and school-feeding programmes.
- Promote the production and consumption of nutritious crops such as soya bean, avocado, acerola, soursop, guava and sweet potato through public–private nursery initiatives.
- Strengthen seed and planting-material dissemination systems to make nutrient-dense varieties widely available.
- Develop community and backyard nutrition gardens and school demonstration plots as practical learning sites.
- Conduct public-awareness campaigns highlighting the nutritional benefits of local produce and balanced diets.
- Integrate nutrition indicators into agricultural planning and monitoring frameworks.
- Encourage food processors to reformulate products with locally sourced, nutrient-rich ingredients.
- Support farmer cooperatives and women's groups to supply nutrient-dense produce to public institutional markets (schools, hospitals, canteens).
- Promote research on bio-fortified and climate-resilient varieties to address micronutrient deficiencies and ensure year-round availability.
- Promote R&D in biofortified crops to address nutrient deficiencies including Vitamin D, iron and Vitamin B12.

Intervention Area F6: Institutional Procurement

Public institutions—including schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities—represent a substantial market for food. However, procurement policies often prioritize low cost over nutritional quality, food safety, or local sourcing. This approach limits the demand for locally produced, nutritious foods, reducing opportunities for smallholders and agroecological producers to participate in institutional markets.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop and implement a National Institutional Food Procurement Policy prioritising locally produced, certified safe and nutritious foods.
- Introduce local-content quotas for agricultural and processed products supplied to public institutions.
- Simplify procurement procedures to enable participation of farmer cooperatives, SMEs and women-led agribusinesses.
- Establish framework contracts between government institutions, AMB and producer groups for stable supply at fair prices.
- Require MauriGAP or HACCP certification for suppliers to institutional feeding programmes.
- Capacity development of smallholder farmers and local processors so they can meet procurement standards.
- Integrate nutrition criteria (dietary diversity, sodium and sugar limits) into institutional menus and tender specifications.
- Encourage joint planning between Ministries of Agro-Industry, Health, Education and Commerce to align supply and demand cycles.
- Monitor and evaluate procurement outcomes based on indicators such as proportion of local produce, nutritional quality and supplier participation rate.
- Establish a multi-agency steering committee to oversee the Institutional Procurement Programme and ensure policy coherence.

Intervention Area F7: Consumer Awareness and Trust

Consumers in Mauritius often lack adequate information on food-safety standards, nutritional value, and production practices. Misinformation and inconsistent labelling have undermined trust in locally produced foods, while limited access to verified data on pesticide residues, certifications, and product origin restricts informed decision-making.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Design and implement a National Food-Safety and Nutrition Awareness Campaign promoting safe-handling practices, balanced diets and trust in locally certified produce.
- Develop a public information portal publishing up-to-date results from residue monitoring, MauriGAP and organic-certification audits.

- Conduct community outreach through schools, local councils and women's associations to raise awareness on safe-food preparation and good consumption habits.
- Strengthen labelling enforcement to guarantee accuracy on ingredients, allergens, origin and nutritional profiles.
- Partner with consumer-protection organisations and media to disseminate verified food-safety information and counter misinformation.
- Encourage retailers and supermarkets to display certification logos and QR codes linking products to their traceability data.
- Introduce "Know Your Farmer" and "Buy Local Safe" programmes connecting consumers with local producers through fairs and digital platforms.
- Develop nutrition-education materials for schools and workplaces highlighting the health benefits of safe and nutritious foods.
- Establish a Consumer Advisory Panel under the National Food-Safety Committee to provide feedback on public-communication strategies.
- Monitor impact of awareness campaigns through consumer-trust and perception surveys conducted annually.
- Register and train market sellers and street vendors on traceability, hygiene and labelling requirements

Intervention Area F8: Food Industry Reformulation

The growing consumption of processed foods high in salt, sugar and saturated fats contributes to non-communicable diseases. Reformulation efforts by local food manufacturers remain voluntary. Technical guidance, fiscal incentives and coordination between health authorities, research bodies and industry can contribute to this measure.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop and implement a National Food Reformulation Strategy in partnership with the Ministries of Health, Commerce and Agro-Industry to reduce sodium, sugar and fat in processed foods.
- Establish voluntary → progressively mandatory nutrient targets for major food categories (bread, snacks, beverages, sauces).
- Provide technical assistance and training to processors on product reformulation, portion-size control and use of healthier ingredients.
- Facilitate joint research with universities on substitution of synthetic additives with natural, locally sourced alternatives.
- Introduce fiscal incentives or recognition schemes for companies achieving reformulation benchmarks (e.g. "Healthier Choice" label).
- Require clear front-of-pack nutrition labelling consistent with WHO guidance.
- Promote use of locally grown nutrient-dense crops (sweet potato, cassava, breadfruit, legumes) as alternative raw materials in processing.
- Strengthen inspection and compliance capacity to monitor adherence to reformulation standards.
- Encourage public-private platforms to share best practices and innovation in low-salt, low-sugar product lines.

- Monitor population-level dietary outcomes through joint surveys by Health and Statistics Mauritius to evaluate reformulation impact.

Intervention Area F9: Horticultural Therapy and Wellness Initiatives

Urbanisation, sedentary lifestyles, and increasing stress levels have weakened people's connection with nature. Limited access to community green spaces and the absence of structured wellness programmes reduce opportunities for physical activity, mental-health support, and social inclusion through agriculture-based initiatives.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish horticultural-therapy gardens in hospitals, elder-care homes, rehabilitation centres and schools to support physical and psychological wellbeing.
- Train health and social-service professionals in the therapeutic use of gardening for rehabilitation and stress management.
- Promote community wellness gardens in collaboration with local councils and NGOs to foster social interaction and food awareness.
- Integrate nutrition and wellness education components into horticultural-therapy programmes.
- Encourage the private sector and CSR foundations to sponsor wellness gardens and community green spaces.
- Develop training programmes on ergonomics and adaptive gardening tools.
- Include horticultural therapy indicators in national wellness and social-development monitoring frameworks.
- Facilitate research on health outcomes and cost–benefit of horticultural-therapy interventions in partnership with universities.

Intervention Area F10: Enforcement, Coordination and Governance

Implementation of food-safety and nutrition initiatives in Mauritius is often fragmented across multiple ministries and agencies, leading to overlaps, enforcement gaps, and limited accountability. The absence of a dedicated coordinating mechanism slows policy execution, hampers information sharing, and reduces the effectiveness of interventions.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a National Food Safety and Nutrition Security Council bringing together key ministries, statutory bodies and private stakeholders to steer policy and implementation.
- Develop a comprehensive Food Safety and Nutrition Act harmonising current regulations on production, processing, labelling and consumer protection.
- Strengthen inspection, surveillance and enforcement capacity of regulatory authorities through modern tools, training and budget support.
- Introduce joint inspection protocols between Health, Agro-Industry and Commerce officers to avoid duplication and ensure coherence.

- Clarify institutional mandates through memoranda of understanding between agencies for coordinated implementation.
- Integrate digital data-sharing systems to connect inspection findings, laboratory results and traceability platforms.
- Conduct periodic inter-agency simulation exercises to test emergency-response and food-recall mechanisms.
- Ensure regular public reporting on compliance rates, enforcement outcomes and corrective measures.
- Promote capacity building of local authorities in market surveillance and safe-food enforcement.
- Align national governance structures with SADC and Codex Alimentarius frameworks to ensure international recognition of standards.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area F11: Safe Food Production

Inadequate food safety systems undermine hygienic, traceable, and welfare-compliant livestock production. Weak monitoring and enforcement allow risks such as contamination, disease spread, and poor animal welfare to persist, reducing product quality and market credibility.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen regulatory control and monitoring of veterinary drugs and feed additives.
- Improve inspection capacity and residue testing at abattoirs and collection points.
- Enforce food safety systems of medium and large processors, and voluntary (with technical assistance) for micro- and small-scale producers.
- Develop national livestock hygiene and husbandry guidelines (cahier de charges) to standardise on-farm biosecurity, milking hygiene, and meat handling.
- Provide training and certification programmes for farmers, abattoir workers, and processors on Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).
- Designate Natural Farming and Low-Residue Zones to ensure chemical-free production and establish inspection and compliance systems at farm and retail levels.
- Facilitate establishment of accredited slaughter and processing facilities that comply with food safety and animal welfare standards.
- Introduce incentive schemes (grants, branding, or tax rebates) for enterprises implementing certified safety systems.

Intervention Area F12: Health Impacts and Alternatives to Chemicals

Overreliance on chemical inputs in agriculture and livestock production negatively impacts human health and disrupts ecosystem balance. Excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, and veterinary

chemicals can lead to soil and water contamination, reduced biodiversity, and the accumulation of harmful residues in food and animal products.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Integrate livestock and public health strategies to promote moderate, safe consumption of animal products as part of balanced diets.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health to align dietary guidelines with sustainable livestock production and nutrition goals.
- Develop educational campaigns on the nutritional value of locally produced milk, eggs, and lean meats.
- Undertake research on alternatives to allopathic treatment and promote natural and organic alternatives for disease prevention and pest control (e.g herbal remedies, probiotics, essential oils, etc.)
- Conduct awareness campaigns on the link between drug residues and consumer health.

Intervention Area F13: Consumer Awareness, Trust and Sustainable Diets

Limited consumer confidence in local livestock products reduces demand and market opportunities for domestic producers. Many consumers also lack awareness of the environmental impacts of their food choices, weakening incentives to support sustainable and locally produced livestock.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Conduct nationwide campaigns promoting local, safe and healthy livestock foods and low carbon diets.
- Create a “Trust Mark” or certification label for compliant producers.
- Strengthen communication between authorities, producers and consumers.
- Promote reduction of food waste across retail and household levels.
- Support innovation adoption through enabling policies, targeted incentives and consumer awareness on sustainable livestock products.

Pillar 4: Value-Chains and Youth Engagement

This pillar focuses on enhancing the competitiveness and inclusivity of the agricultural sector. It aims to strengthen farm-to-market linkages, promote value addition, encourage product differentiation, and ensure fair market access. At the same time, it seeks to foster inclusive growth by building capacities and creating opportunities for smallholders, SMEs, women, and youth who form the sector's social and economic backbone. The strategic objectives are to develop robust value chains and market differentiation and to empower key stakeholders, including smallholders and underrepresented groups.

Strategic Objective G: Value Chains and Market Differentiation

Crop

Mauritius must move beyond commodity production to build a diversified, traceable and high-value agroeconomy that creates jobs, raises farmer incomes and strengthens food-system resilience. Strengthening waste valorisation, quality standards and product innovation will further enhance both economic and environmental sustainability. The country's agricultural base remains dominated by small, ageing producers operating on fragmented plots with limited access to technology, finance and post-harvest infrastructure. As a result, most local produce is sold raw, while processing, packaging and certification capacities remain underdeveloped.

Tourism remains a key catalyst for transformation. With more than 1.3 million visitors recorded in 2023 (Mauritius Tourism Authority, 2024), strong synergies exist between agriculture, hospitality and growing consumer demand for healthy, authentic and traceable Mauritian products. Trusted national brands such as "Bio Mauritius" or "Sustainable Mauritius," underpinned by digital traceability, could reposition local produce in premium domestic and export segments. Building resilient value chains that connect farmers, processors and markets will therefore be central to reducing import dependency, creating rural employment and advancing a circular, climate-smart agri-food system.

According to the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (2023), domestic food-crop production averages around 110,000 tonnes annually, while over 75 percent of national food consumption depends on imports. This imbalance opens opportunities for import substitution through value-added and differentiated production. However, progress can be achieved by enhanced information systems on investment prospects and market opportunities. The recent establishment of the National Wholesale Market (2023) provides a foundation for fairer trade and transparent pricing which can consider differentiated auctioning mechanisms for agroecological and bio-products. This underscores the need of a well-designed, user-centred digital platforms supported by sustained outreach and trust-building.

Livestock

Mauritius must move beyond commodity-based livestock production to build a diversified, high-value and market-responsive agro-economy. Developing strong and inclusive value chains—from production and aggregation to processing, branding and marketing—will create jobs, raise farmer incomes and reduce dependence on imports. Opportunities exist to differentiate local produce through sustainability, traceability and quality assurance while leveraging tourism, hospitality and export channels as key demand drivers.

However, fragmented supply chains, weak aggregation, high logistics costs and limited market intelligence continue to constrain competitiveness. Strengthening integration, transparency and branding across the livestock value chain will be essential to position Mauritian products in premium markets and establish "Made in Mauritius" as a mark of quality and trust.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area G1: Post-Harvest Systems

High post-harvest losses in Mauritius are driven by inadequate storage facilities, weak logistics, and limited processing capacity. These inefficiencies reduce the availability of quality produce, lower farmer incomes, and increase reliance on imports.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Align harvest scheduling with market demand to prevent surpluses.
- Develop low-cost, solar-powered cooling and drying facilities at farm level.
- Expand AMB cold-storage and processing capacity for strategic crops.
- Support SME-level and household processing to reduce waste.
- Establish regional conditioning and packing centres managed by cooperatives.
- Promote women's cooperatives for grading and value-addition services.
- Explore innovative technologies such as food irradiation and smart-shelf-life tracking.
- Provide targeted credit and grants for post-harvest infrastructure.

Intervention Area G2: Inclusive Value Chains

Smallholders in Mauritius are often poorly integrated into structured value chains, limiting their bargaining power, market access, and profitability. Weak organisational structures and the absence of formal contract arrangements prevent them from securing stable, predictable markets.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Encourage contract farming frameworks between smallholders, cooperatives and institutional buyers.
- Develop farmer clusters and cooperatives to enhance collective bargaining and economies of scale.
- Facilitate digital platforms, regional fairs or village markets connecting producers directly to buyers, processors and exporters.
- Pilot minimum support price mechanisms on selected commodities.
- Establish a Police Agricole Unit to safeguard farm produce and infrastructure, improving security and confidence.
- Reinforce producer associations' governance to ensure transparent management of cooperative enterprises.

Intervention Area G3: Value Addition Opportunities

Most locally produced agricultural goods are sold raw or only semi-processed, limiting value addition and income for farmers. Small producers face barriers in accessing technology, finance, and reliable markets, while processing facilities are scarce, fragmented, and poorly coordinated. This constrains opportunities for product diversification and reduces returns along the value chain.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop regional agro-processing parks and shared facilities for SMEs equipped with certified processing and packaging lines.
- Include cold- and chilled-room facilities at NWM with commodity-specific storage guidelines.
- Introduce fiscal incentives, concessional loans and blended finance for investment in post-harvest and transformation technologies.
- Promote innovation in ready-to-eat, functional and nutraceutical products (e.g. breadfruit, cassava, aloe vera, turmeric, moringa, herbal infusions).
- Facilitate technology transfer partnerships between universities, research institutions and private processors.
- Promote PPPs for cold storage, logistics and product aggregation facilities.
- Support capacity-building for women-led and youth agro-processing cooperatives drawing from successful models such as Lijjat Papad (India).
- Conduct sensory evaluation and product development training to enhance local product quality.
- Simplify barcode registration and product approval for SMEs.
- Authorise farm-gate sales by registered planters to reduce post-harvest losses and improve planter margins.
- Undertake value-chain analyses for key crops and develop commodity-specific value-addition manuals.

Intervention Area G4: Agri-Business Models

Smallholders in Mauritius primarily function as primary producers, with limited capacity to engage in value addition, marketing, or provision of ancillary services. This restricts their ability to capture higher returns, diversify income sources, and participate fully in competitive value chains.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Support transition of smallholders toward integrated agribusinesses through training, extension and access to credit.
- Facilitate cooperative formation and business incubation for farmer groups in collaboration with SME Mauritius.
- Promote contract-farming and out-grower schemes with processors, retailers or hospitality sectors.
- Develop regional farmer markets and aggregation hubs to strengthen supply coordination.
- Establish innovation hubs and incubation centres for agri-entrepreneurs.
- Include entrepreneurship mentoring and digital-finance tools targeting youth and women.
- Introduce time-bound payment systems for institutional buyers toimprove cash flow of small producers.
- Introduce cooperative-exchange model providing integrated cultivation, quality, storage and logistics services.

Intervention Area G5: Market Differentiation and Certification

Premium markets for agroecological and organic products are beginning to emerge in Mauritius, offering opportunities for higher returns and market differentiation. However, certification, labelling, and traceability systems remain fragmented, complex, and costly, limiting smallholders' and SMEs' ability to participate fully.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop and enforce national certification standards under a unified 'Bio-Mauritius' framework.
- Establish a single-window certification and traceability platform using QR codes and blockchain.
- Integrate certification and traceability into public procurement and institutional feeding programmes such as for prisons and hospitals.
- The NWM to dedicate auction zones for agroecological and bio foodcrops.
- Conduct educational campaigns targeting both consumers and producers on the need for agroecological / bio farming. And benefits to health and environment.

Intervention Area G6: Market Integration

Weak linkages between producers, processors, distributors, and retailers create inefficiencies in the supply chain, leading to delayed deliveries, uneven product flows, and increased transaction costs. These gaps can exacerbate price volatility, reduce market predictability, and limit income stability for farmers.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Deploy a digital marketplace platform linking farmers, hotels and supermarkets in real time.
- Strengthen cooperative marketing structures and logistics coordination.
- Introduce transparent pricing and electronic auction mechanisms at the National Wholesale Market. Explore digital online auctioning along with in situ physical NWM auction.
- Create regional aggregation hubs and logistics corridors to improve product flow.
- Encourage supermarket and hospitality partnerships for long-term supply contracts with certified producers.
- Review the NWM operations to – consider sister regional auction market in the North and East to reduce transport costs and post-harvest losses.
- NWM to adopt differentiated auction hours for fruits (morning) and vegetables (afternoon) to improve freshness and turnover and expand display space for fruits during peak harvest months (Oct–Dec).
- Review parking space and vehicle flow / movement at NWM.
- The Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) to act as regulator for key commodities (e.g., carrot, tomato).
- To initiate a price stabilisation mechanism at the NWM, through the development of a smartphone app that will indicate to planters in real time whether more supply or lesser supply of foodcrops are needed, helping harvest planning at same time.

- Enhance price transparency by publishing indicative retail reference prices alongside NWM prices to support fair market conduct and informed decision-making.

Intervention Area G7: Consumer Trust and Branding

Consistent branding and increased consumer awareness of product origin, quality, and production methods can significantly enhance the value of local agricultural products. Clear labels and marketing that highlight nutritional benefits, sustainability, or traditional production practices help differentiate domestic produce, build consumer trust, and create market preference. Leveraging branding and transparency strategies is essential to promote local products, support farmer incomes, and strengthen the competitiveness of Mauritius's agricultural sector

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a unified national agri-brand ('Bio-Mauritius', 'Sustainable Mauritius') backed by traceability systems and QR codes.
- Implement quality-grading and packaging standards with Mauritius Standards Bureau oversight.
- Create consumer education campaigns promoting local, safe and sustainable produce.
- Support SMEs to access trade fairs and digital marketing platforms.
- Train producers in storytelling, digital promotion and social media engagement.
- Encourage influencer partnerships to raise brand recognition.

Intervention Area G8: Export Markets

Mauritian exporters encounter high logistical costs and face challenges in meeting international standards, including quality, safety, and certification requirements. These factors limit competitiveness in global markets, reduce profit margins, and constrain the growth of export-oriented agriculture.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Update phytosanitary and SPS protocols to align with EU and Codex Alimentarius standards.
- Provide technical assistance and exporter training for compliance and traceability.
- Support branding for niche, high-value exports such as organic vanilla, herbal teas and tropical fruits.
- Strengthen or establish new innovative freight rebate and export financing mechanisms for agri-SMEs.
- Draw lessons from Rwanda's specialty coffee and Zima brand to position 'Sustainable Mauritius' products in premium markets.
- Promote bilateral trade partnerships and mutual recognition of certification.
- Establish GAP/HACCP-ready export packhouses and shared certification facilities for smallholders.

- Create a body that will identify niche markets for local foodcrops, its promotion and required guidance / support to planters.

Intervention Area G9: Tourism as a Drive

Stronger linkages between agriculture and tourism can create new market opportunities for local producers, including supplying fresh, high-quality, and unique products to hotels, restaurants, and tourist attractions. Integrating local foods into tourism experiences, farm-to-table initiatives, and agro-tourism can increase demand, diversify income streams, and promote the cultural and culinary heritage of Mauritius.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop the 'Mauritian Flavours' initiative linking farms, chefs and hotels through certified local sourcing.
- Facilitate long-term contractual arrangements between hotels, restaurants and local producers.
- Organise promotional events and culinary festivals showcasing Mauritian produce.
- Introduce incentives for tourism operators sourcing from certified local suppliers.
- Integrate gastronomy and local food experiences into national tourism branding.

Intervention Area G10: Agro-Tourism

Agro-tourism in Mauritius holds significant potential to diversify rural incomes, promote local products, and showcase the island's agricultural and cultural heritage. However, its development is constrained by limited investment, fragmented planning, and weak coordination among relevant ministries and stakeholders.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a national agro-tourism policy and simplified permitting framework.
- Create demonstration farms and visitor circuits such as the proposed 'Mauritian Flavour Trail' linking vanilla, tea, fruit and rum estates.
- Provide financial and technical support for farmers to diversify into hospitality services.
- Integrate agro-tourism within rural development and marketing programmes.
- Benchmark successful models from South Africa's wine routes and Zanzibar's spice tours (FAO, 2023).
- Promote partnerships between tourism operators, communities and local authorities to ensure quality and visitor safety.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area G11: Value Addition Opportunities and Market Integration

Most livestock products in Mauritius are sold raw with minimal processing, restricting profitability and limiting access to broader markets. To capture greater value, investment is needed in processing infrastructure, product innovation, and diversification, including value-added and specialty items.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Enhance R&D for development of new dairy and meat products (e.g soft cheese, mozzarella, processed meat)
- Promote the development of small- and medium-scale processing and packaging units for meat, milk and derived-products (fiscal incentives, incubation centre, training)
- Facilitate partnerships between producers, processors and retailers to ensure consistent quality and supply.
- Develop traceability, labelling systems and product certification scheme (e.g. “BioMauritius”, “Sustainable Mauritius”) to enhance market access.
- Strengthen market information systems providing near real-time prices, demand trends and buyer linkages.
- Facilitate integration of small producers into retail, hospitality and institutional procurement channels.
- Develop mechanism to protect current and emerging processors (e.g import taxes, quota) from unfair competition.

Intervention Area G12: Agri-Business Models

Many livestock enterprises in Mauritius operate informally, limiting their access to finance, technology, and formal markets. This restricts growth, efficiency, and value capture.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote cooperative and cluster models to strengthen collective bargaining and shared services.
- Facilitate access to finance through tailored credit schemes, guarantees and equity partnerships.
- Encourage public–private partnerships for shared infrastructure and cold-chain logistics.

Intervention Area G13: Consumer Trust, Branding and Agrotourism Opportunities

Limited branding and low consumer awareness of local livestock products constrain domestic demand and market growth. Integrating branding with tourism, gastronomy, and sustainability initiatives can enhance product visibility, build credibility, and strengthen consumer trust.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Launch national campaigns promoting local livestock products and their nutritional and cultural value.
- Develop farm-to-fork, agro-tourism and culinary tourism initiatives showcasing local production systems.
- Strengthen labelling, certification and communication to reinforce consumer confidence.
- Collaborate with hotels, restaurants and chefs to feature certified Mauritian products.
- Integrate sustainable-diet education into schools and tourism initiatives.
- Promote collective branding and storytelling around Mauritian livestock heritage and sustainable production.

Strategic Objective H: Empowering Smallholders, SMEs, Women and Youth

Crop

Smallholders form the backbone of Mauritius' agriculture and are pivotal to national food security, especially in fruit and vegetable production. According to the 2024 Census of Agriculture, 99 percent of all agricultural producers are smallholders, most of whom operate on less than one acre of land. Despite their importance, smallholders face limited access to land, finance and markets, as well as labour shortages and fragmented value chains.

SMEs, women and youth are essential to modernising and diversifying agriculture, bringing innovation, inclusiveness and renewal to the farming community. Yet agriculture remains perceived as a low-income, labour-intensive sector, leading to weak youth interest, limited female participation and an ageing farming population.

Existing support schemes (HRDC training, DBM loans, SFWF assistance) have shown promise but suffer from low outreach, bureaucratic procedures and insufficient follow-up. Moreover, high input costs, lack of mechanisation and weak integration between smallholders and formal markets have constrained growth.

By strengthening access to land, finance, training and secure markets—while promoting farming as a professional and inclusive enterprise—Mauritius can unlock the potential of smallholders, SMEs, women and youth to drive sustainable agricultural transformation.

Livestock

Smallholders remain the foundation of livestock production in Mauritius, yet many face shrinking margins, labour shortages, ageing farmers and limited access to finance and technology. Women, youth and SMEs are key to revitalising the sector but remain under-represented. Empowering these groups through better recognition, targeted support and access to productive assets will ensure inclusion, innovation and continuity in the livestock value chain.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area H1: Youth Engagement

Attracting youth to agriculture requires creating diverse career pathways and providing entrepreneurial support. Opportunities in agri-tech, value addition, agribusiness, and sustainable farming can make the sector more appealing, while access to training, mentorship, and financing empowers young people to start and grow agricultural enterprises.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a national agri-entrepreneurship and innovation programme linking education, training and finance.
- Introduce school gardens and smart-farming modules to build interest in from an early age.
- Integrate agriculture as an elective subject at primary and secondary-school levels, complemented by inter-school garden competitions and recognition schemes.
- Develop regional agri-tech incubators and demo hubs for youth-led enterprises.
- Provide start-up grants, micro-leasing and green loan facilities for agri-start-ups.
- Launch mentorship and digital marketing training schemes for young farmers.
- Professionalise and modernize the agricultural sector and make it a high-income generator.
- Establish a Youth Empowerment Unit within the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, BE & F to coordinate programmes on agri-entrepreneurship, digital innovation and training.
- Launch a “Best Garden at Home” annual competition for youth under 18 years to
- Promote household-level food production.
- Organise annual Youth Agri-Innovation Fairs where students and young entrepreneurs exhibit projects and receive mentorship or seed funding.

Intervention Area H2: Farmer Pool Rejuvenation (Youth Engagement)

An ageing farming population, combined with limited incentives and support, discourages youth from entering agriculture. The perception of low profitability, hard work, and limited career prospects reduces engagement, threatening the sector’s sustainability and generational renewal.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Launch youth and women agripreneurship programmes with start-up grants and mentoring.
- Integrate modern agriculture into school and tertiary curricula.
- Establish school gardens and digital learning platforms to foster early interest.
- Create incubation farms linking technical training with entrepreneurship.
- Publicise youth success stories through media campaigns.
- Ensure land-lease and credit facilities for young planters.
- Integrate agriculture qualifications into national recognition systems.

- Revive Agricultural Youth Clubs with toolkits and leadership training.

Intervention Area H3: Recognition of Smallholders

Smallholders constitute the vast majority of local agricultural producers in Mauritius but are often under-recognized in national policies and frameworks. Many are excluded from support schemes due to lease limitations, lack of formal registration, and limited visibility as economic actors. Acknowledging their contribution is essential, as smallholders play a critical role in food production, rural livelihoods, and local economies.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Formally recognise and register smallholders as core contributors to food security.
- Develop a national classification system for smallholders and SMEs by activity type, scale and production system.
- Conduct GIS mapping of smallholder plots to guide planning, clustering and service delivery.
- Embed differentiated incentives and policy measures tailored to smallholder realities (e.g. credit access and marketing support).
- Strengthen inter-institutional coordination (FAREI, DBM, SME Mauritius, NWEC) to streamline access to schemes.
- Promote awareness campaigns and success-story competitions to improve public perception of smallholder agriculture as a viable career.
- Encourage household-level processing and preservation to increase community food security and value addition.

Intervention Area H4: Retention and Motivation

Agriculture in Mauritius is increasingly perceived as a challenging sector, characterized by low remuneration, price volatility, and limited market access. These factors discourage participation and retention of producers, threatening the sustainability of the sector.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Introduce maximum price mark-up guidelines to ensure equitable returns across the value chain (farmer–wholesaler–retailer).
- Implement floor prices for strategic commodities to stabilise incomes.
- Strengthen follow-up mechanisms under DBM, SFWF and HRDC programmes to ensure beneficiaries remain supported post-training.
- Encourage value addition and local processing to increase profitability.
- Reinforce agricultural planning and zoning to prevent subdivision of productive land.
- Promote public campaigns highlighting agriculture's economic and environmental contribution.
- Implement import-control measures for selected crops during peak local production to protect smallholders' income stability.
- Exempt fruits and vegetable producers from income tax.

- Introduce a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) framework for key agricultural inputs (fertilisers, pesticides, feed) to protect farmers from market distortions and over-pricing.

Intervention Area H5: Women and Youth Empowerment

Women and youth remain under-represented in commercial farming in Mauritius due to limited access to land, finance, and decision-making structures. Social perceptions portraying agriculture as physically demanding and financially insecure further discourage participation.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Provide collateral-free, interest-free loan facilities for women and young entrepreneurs, with flexible repayment terms.
- Establish clusters and cooperatives for women and youth in mechanisation, processing and marketing.
- Promote branding and value-added products led by women entrepreneurs (e.g. baby foods, dried herbs, high-fibre products).
- Introduce training and mentorship programmes combining technical, digital and business skills.
- Replicate successful models such as Ferney Agri Hub and Eco Sud for youth incubation.
- Introduce nursery or childcare facilities to support women entrepreneurs with young children.
- Ensure women/youth representation in agricultural committees and decision-making bodies.
- Encourage the establishment of Young Farmers' Clubs and international exchange programmes.
- Integrate rehabilitation and social-reintegration youth programmes with sustainable agriculture training.
- Simplify procedures and reduce administrative burdens in existing financial-support schemes.

Intervention Area H6: Capacity Building and Skills Development

Traditional agricultural training programmes in Mauritius remain largely theoretical and are often disconnected from labour-market needs and on-farm realities. Youth and women frequently lack practical exposure, mentorship, and access to digital tools that could enhance skills, innovation, and productivity.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish national and international exchange programmes and industrial placements for hands-on training.
- Incorporate agriculture modules in school curricula, encouraging early exposure and positive attitudes.
- Develop cost and feasibility sheets per crop to guide business planning.
- Create online platforms linking producers, buyers, processors and consumers.
- Promote coaching and mentoring hubs focusing on finance, marketing and digital literacy.

- Mobilise donor and private partners to support innovation labs and agri-tech incubation hubs for smallholders and youth.

Intervention Area H7: Empowers the Farmer into an Entrepreneur

Agriculture continues to be widely perceived as a subsistence activity rather than a viable professional career. This perception, combined with weak institutional recognition of farming as an enterprise, discourages innovation and long-term investment in the sector. Limited financial, technical and policy incentives further constrain the development of entrepreneurial farmers.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Launch a National Agri-Entrepreneurship Programme to promote business-oriented farming models.
- Redesign Planter's Cards to include enhanced benefits (insurance, grants, training, input rebates).
- Develop a land bank and facilitate access to leasehold or cooperative-based land for trained graduates and spouses of farmers.
- Promote digitalisation and data-driven decision-making in farm management.
- Introduce minimum support prices for key crops to provide predictability and encourage reinvestment.
- Facilitate regional and international study tours to expose Mauritian farmers to innovative and profitable models.
- Foster collaboration between ministries, the business sector and export-promotion agencies to strengthen agri-entrepreneurship.

Intervention Area H8: Succession Planning and Generational Renewal

An ageing farming population poses a significant risk to long-term productivity and national food sovereignty. Limited generational renewal in the sector is compounded by the perception among many young people that agriculture is risky, labour-intensive and outdated. The absence of clear succession mechanisms, targeted incentives and modern career pathways further discourages youth engagement. Without strategic measures to attract and retain young farmers, the sector risks declining dynamism, innovation and capacity to sustain future food production.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Design succession-support schemes offering concessionary loans, mentorship and start-up grants for young farmers.
- Encourage parental engagement and mentorship programmes linking retiring planters with youth.
- Develop youth-targeted credit lines and guarantee funds for promising projects.
- Promote agriculture career campaigns showcasing success stories and viable income opportunities.
- Simplify access to land, licences and markets for young entrepreneurs.

- Introduce tax or lease incentives for farmers transferring land use rights to trained youth.
- Revitalise Agricultural Youth Clubs with starter kits, mentorship and leadership training.
- Integrate agriculture career pathways within pre-vocational and secondary curricula, supported by internships and mentoring.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area H9: Recognition of Smallholders

Smallholder farmers often operate informally and remain under-represented in national statistics, institutional databases and policy frameworks. This limited visibility constrains evidence-based policymaking and reduces the effectiveness of targeted support programmes. As a result, the specific needs, constraints and contributions of small-scale producers are frequently overlooked in sectoral planning

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create a National Register of Smallholders to support policy targeting and inclusion.
- Develop a framework for recognition of farmers as a “profession”
- Facilitate representation of smallholder groups in decision-making platforms.
- Strengthen farm-business planning, financial management and record-keeping through training and extension.

Intervention Area H10: Retention and Motivation

Rising input costs, limited profitability and persistent market uncertainties are discouraging many farmers from remaining in livestock production. High prices for feed, veterinary inputs and infrastructure investments place increasing financial pressure on producers, particularly smallholders. At the same time, social perceptions that livestock farming is labour-intensive and financially risky further reduce its attractiveness as a viable livelihood.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Provide incentives such as input subsidies, credit support and guaranteed markets.
- Improve extension support and peer-learning networks to enhance motivation.
- Recognise exemplary farmers through awards and mentorship programmes.

Intervention Area H11: Sustainability Adoption

The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices remains slow due to persistent knowledge gaps, limited technical capacity and resource constraints among farmers. Many producers lack access to practical training, extension services and demonstration models that could facilitate the transition toward climate-smart and environmentally sustainable farming systems. In addition, financial limitations often hinder investments in improved technologies and inputs.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Promote climate-smart and regenerative livestock practices through training and demonstration farms.
- Support access to green finance and sustainability certification.
- Integrate environmental performance indicators into farmer-support schemes.

Intervention Area H12: Women and Youth Empowerment

Women and young people continue to face structural barriers that limit their full participation in the agricultural sector. Restricted access to land, limited availability of tailored financial services and inadequate representation in leadership and decision-making structures constrain their ability to develop viable farming enterprises. These challenges are often compounded by social norms and institutional gaps.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Provide targeted grants, mentorship and incubation programmes for women- and youth-led agribusinesses.
- Ensure gender- and youth-sensitive design of all support schemes.
- Create recognition platforms for women and youth innovators in livestock production.

Intervention Area H13: Capacity-Building Models

Training and advisory services are often insufficiently aligned with the practical realities faced by farmers on the ground. Many programmes remain overly theoretical, with limited emphasis on hands-on learning, farm-level problem solving and technology adoption. As a result, farmers may struggle to translate knowledge into effective practices that improve productivity and sustainability.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Set-up farmer field schools and vocational training focused on hands-on livestock management.
- Develop modular curricula integrating entrepreneurship and digital literacy.

- Partner with universities and private training providers to expand outreach.

Intervention Area H14: Professionalization of Farming

Livestock farming is still widely perceived as informal self-employment rather than a structured and professional agricultural enterprise. This perception limits investment, business planning and the adoption of modern management practices within the sector. The absence of strong institutional recognition, formalisation mechanisms and entrepreneurial support further constrains the development of commercially viable livestock operations.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Introduce farm-business planning and record-keeping modules in all training programmes.
- Encourage regrouping of farmers, formation of cooperatives and SMEs for shared services aggregation and collective marketing.
- Facilitate registration of farms as legal business entities to access finance, insurance and other government support

Intervention Area H15: Inclusive Value Chains

Smallholder farmers remain weakly integrated into organised value chains, limiting their access to stable markets, inputs and support services. Operating individually, they often possess limited bargaining power when negotiating prices with traders and intermediaries. This structural imbalance frequently results in lower farm-gate prices and reduced profitability.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Link smallholders to processors, retailers and institutional buyers through contracts or cooperatives.
- Establish aggregation and collection centres to reduce transaction costs.
- Promote equitable pricing mechanisms and transparent quality standards.

Intervention Area H16: Succession Planning

An ageing farming population poses a serious threat to the continuity and long-term viability of livestock enterprises. Many livestock farmers are approaching retirement age, while limited generational succession reduces the entry of new producers into the sector. Younger individuals often perceive livestock farming as labour-intensive, financially uncertain and lacking modern career prospects.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create incentives for inter-generational farm transfer and mentorship/ apprenticeship.
- Include livestock farming in youth employment and entrepreneurship programmes.
- Support youth participation in cooperatives and producer organisations.

Pillar 5: Technology and Innovation

This pillar focuses on fostering innovation and generational renewal by promoting the use of data, digital tools and youth-led entrepreneurship to modernise the agricultural sector. Its strategic objective is to strengthen agriculture through effective knowledge management, the adoption of advanced technologies, and the promotion of innovative practices that enhance productivity, sustainability and competitiveness, while creating attractive opportunities for young farmers and emerging agripreneurs.

Strategic Objective I: Information And Knowledge Management, Agri-tech and Youth Engagement

Crop

Strengthening agriculture in Mauritius requires timely access to reliable information, effective knowledge management and the adoption of modern technologies. Farmers need accurate data on weather, pests, diseases, markets and prices to make informed decisions, yet current systems are often fragmented and difficult to access. Robust information and communication platforms, combined with better knowledge sharing between research, extension and farming communities, are essential to close this gap.

At the same time, AgriTech innovations such as IoT sensors, mobile applications, precision farming tools and forecasting models can help farmers increase productivity and manage risks, while also attracting a younger, tech-savvy generation into agriculture. Ensuring that these systems are affordable, farmer-friendly and supported by adequate training and financing will be critical. By combining stronger information and knowledge flows with AgriTech adoption and youth engagement, Mauritius can modernise its agriculture sector and make it more resilient, competitive and appealing for the next generation.

Farmers need timely, informed decisions regarding production planning, pest control and marketing, hence the importance of developing an Agricultural Digital Public Infrastructure that integrates data, information, communication and knowledge management.

Livestock

Strengthening agriculture in Mauritius can be accelerated by improving access to timely information, enhancing knowledge exchange, and embracing modern technologies. By integrating data systems and making them more accessible, farmers will be better equipped to make informed decisions on production, pricing, and markets. Closer collaboration between research, extension services, and the farming community will further speed up the transfer and adoption of innovations, driving a more responsive and resilient agricultural sector.

AgriTech solutions such as sensors, mobile apps, precision farming tools and digital marketplaces can modernise the sector, enhance productivity and make farming more attractive to youth. However, digital literacy, affordability and access remain key barriers. Building inclusive digital ecosystems and engaging the younger generation as drivers of innovation will help create a more connected, resilient and competitive agri-food system.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area I1: Foodcrops Monitoring and Preparedness

Fragmented data systems and limited information sharing across institutions undermine effective national monitoring and preparedness in agriculture. Inconsistent data collection, siloed databases and weak inter-agency coordination hinder timely decision-making, risk assessment and policy planning. This reduces the ability to anticipate shocks, track production trends, and respond to emerging challenges.

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Proposed Priority Actions

- Set- up a functional central digital platform integrating production, market, pest and weather data.
- Update and publish soil-fertility and crop-suitability maps for all agro-zones.
- Establish standardised data-collection and reporting protocols across institutions.
- Integrate meteorological, pest and market datasets into a unified dashboard.
- Train farmers and extension officers to input and interpret real-time data.
- Conduct periodic consumer- and export-demand surveys to inform production forecasts.
- Promote participatory information-sharing pathways where farmers can report production, pest and disease and other critical data.

Intervention Area I2: Financing and Investment for Agri-Innovation

Innovative AgriTech ventures and start-ups often face significant barriers to accessing finance, largely due to high perceived investment risk and a lack of funding mechanisms tailored to their specific needs. Traditional financing options may be unavailable or unsuitable for early-stage agritech initiatives, limiting their capacity to scale operations, adopt new technologies, and commercialise innovations

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create a dedicated Agri-Innovation Fund supporting pilot projects and digital solutions.
- Establish public-private partnerships (PPPs) for investment in AgriTech infrastructure and youth ventures.
- Introduce innovation vouchers and grant schemes for technology adoption by SMEs and farmers.
- Facilitate micro-leasing and risk-sharing finance to support equipment and ICT access.
- Engage commercial banks and development finance institutions to design green and digital finance products.
- Create a dedicated budget line within agricultural institutions for development, upgrading and maintenance of Agricultural Digital Infrastructure with objective to aid decision making processes by stakeholders.
- Establish regional Agri-Tech Equipment Sharing Hubs to provide farmers, SMEs and cooperatives with rental access to drones, IoT sensors, soil-testing devices and other high-cost digital equipment, supported through micro-leasing, PPP investment and risk-sharing finance mechanisms.

Intervention Area I3: National Information Platform

Agricultural data systems remain fragmented across multiple institutions, limiting the availability of coherent and comprehensive information for policymakers and stakeholders. This fragmentation

hinders evidence-based decision-making, reduces the effectiveness of planning, and slows responses to emerging challenges in the sector. Without integrated data platforms and streamlined information sharing, trends in production, market dynamics, and resource use are difficult to track accurately.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a National Agricultural Digital Infrastructure Framework to sustain digital innovation and Artificial Intelligence development.
- Establish a unified national agri-information platform integrating data on weather, pests, markets, land use and certified inputs with contents available on user friendly mobile interface for farmers and stakeholders to use.
- Link existing agricultural databases (at FAREI, SFWF, Statistics Mauritius, IA ..) through open APIs to enable information exchange for smart decision making.
- Develop a registration and traceability system for agro-chemicals sales in order to improve safety and accountability.
- Conduct baseline and follow-up surveys to assess adoption and usability of digital tools.
- Establish a governance mechanism to ensure data quality, privacy and ownership compliance.
- Ensure sustainability, continuity and reliability of data services

Intervention Area I4: Digital Decision-Making Tools and Forecasting Models

Limited adoption of digital forecasting and decision-support tools constrains farmers' ability to optimise productivity and manage risks effectively. Without access to real-time data, predictive analytics, and technology-driven advisory services, producers struggle to anticipate weather events, pest outbreaks, and market fluctuations. This reduces operational efficiency and resilience to shocks.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Deploy multilingual mobile applications with user friendly pictograms for advisory services, including for crop establishment and cultural practices planning. Integrate AI for ease of use.
- Install across the island automatic weather stations and pest-surveillance networks that shall feed a national agri-information platform with continuous learning models so as to forecast or provide early warning to situations like pest or disease attack and water stress to planters.
- Develop yield forecasting systems that take into account biotic and abiotic stress at field level.
- Promote and make available AgriTech bundles (soil sensors, portable testing kits, traceability systems).
- Make continuous impact assessment of adoption through monitoring systems.
- Develop simple farm-management software tailored for planters to record planting data, input use and sales and to automatically generate cash-flow summaries for farm management.
- Integrate satellite-imagery and remote-sensing data within national forecasting systems to monitor regional crop conditions and stress levels.

- Design forecast and advisory outputs in clear, visual formats (icons, colour codes, SMS notifications) to improve usability and adoption among farmers.

Intervention Area I5: Producer-To-Consumer Platforms

Many farmers have limited direct access to markets, often relying on multiple intermediaries to sell their produce. This layered chain reduces transparency, increases transaction costs, and erodes farm-level profit margins. Limited market integration also constrains producers' ability to respond to demand signals, negotiate fair prices, and capture value from their products.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop digital B2B (planters to businesses) and B2C (planters to consumers) market platforms linking producers with buyers.
- Provide technical and financial support for cooperative-led e-commerce ventures.
- Explore possibility of a digital auctioning system where the planter can offer his produce to a highest bidder.
- Modernise the NWM to offer digital auctioning system.

Intervention Area I6: Capacity Building and Inclusiveness

Inadequate training and low digital literacy hinder farmers and agricultural officers from effectively using AgriTech solutions and information systems. Without the necessary skills to navigate digital tools, interpret data, or implement technology-driven recommendations, the potential benefits of modern agricultural innovations remain underutilised.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Introduce continuous training programmes on digital tools for farmers and extension officers.
- Develop certification courses in digital agriculture and data management with local institutions.
- Establish regional demonstration hubs to showcase best practices and technologies.
- Promote peer-to-peer learning and farmer field schools using ICT applications.
- Ensure accessibility for women and youth through targeted outreach and training materials.
- Organise annual field-technology days and demonstration events showcasing practical AgriTech solutions and best practices for farmers and extension staff.
- Produce subject-specific digital toolkits (e.g. Agroecology, Bio-Farming, Integrated Pest Management) providing step-by-step technical guidance and video demonstrations.
- Collaborate with academic institutes to review and align agricultural curricula with emerging labour-market and digital-technology requirements.

- Install interactive self-learning kiosks at regional agricultural centres to enable farmers, women and elderly planters to access training materials and advisory content in Kreol, French and English.

Intervention Area I7: Promotion of Precision Agriculture

Precision agriculture offers farmers the tools to respond effectively to climate variability while optimising resource use. By leveraging technologies such as sensors, GPS mapping, and data analytics, farmers can make informed decisions on irrigation, fertilisation, and pest management, reducing waste and input costs. This targeted approach enhances productivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability, enabling farms to adapt to changing climatic conditions while maximising efficiency and profitability in a resource-constrained agricultural landscape.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Enhance financial support and investment facilitations to promote precision agriculture
- To develop capacity building and training programmes for researches, growers and other stakeholders to upgrade their skills to use precision farming tools.
- To identify and introduce necessary policy, regulatory and institutional reforms to facilitate the use of precision farming tools
- To develop physical and digital infrastructure such as wide digital connectivity and equipment sharing hubs to promote adoption of precision farming tools
- To promote R&D and technology transfer in precision farming to find local solution to existing challenges.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area I8: National Information Platform

Agricultural data are currently dispersed across multiple institutions, with limited interoperability and restricted access for policymakers and stakeholders. This fragmentation hampers timely, evidence-based decision-making and weakens sectoral planning and risk management.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a centralised, interoperable National Livestock Information System (NLIS) integrating all institutions.
- Establish data-sharing agreements among agencies (FAREI, AS, SFWF, MMA, Statistics Mauritius, etc.).
- Create user-friendly digital dashboards and mobile applications for farmers and policymakers.
- Build capacity on microchipping, data collection and digital management within public institutions.

- Launch awareness campaigns to promote registration of Farms and farmers/ operators and ensure compliance
- Ensure open access for policymakers and farmers under strict data protection.

Intervention Area I9: R&D and Farming Community Linkages

Stronger collaboration and continuous feedback loops between researchers, extension officers, and farmers are essential to ensure that research findings are effectively translated into practical on-farm applications. Engaging farmers in the research process, while providing timely advisory support, enhances the relevance and adoption of innovations.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create participatory platforms linking scientists, extension agents and producers.
- Set up farmer field schools and demonstration sites for practical knowledge transfer.
- Facilitate continuous dialogue and co-design research agendas based on field needs.
- Introduce feedback systems to evaluate adoption and effectiveness of technologies.
- Leverage digital tools and platforms to strengthen networking and information sharing between researchers, extension services, farmers and value-chain actors

Intervention Area I10: Digital Tools for Decision-Making

The potential of digital technologies in agriculture remains largely underexploited due to limited awareness, fragmented initiatives and affordability constraints faced by farmers and institutions. As a result, many producers are unable to benefit from data-driven tools that enhance farm management and market access.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop and promote use of mobile app for record-keeping, breeding, farm management, production tracking, and e-marketing.
- Support pilot projects using IoT sensors, drones and GIS for monitoring livestock, and resource use.
- Train farmers and extension officers in the use and maintenance of digital tools.
- Develop e-learning modules for livestock management and entrepreneurship.
- Offer digital vouchers or incentives for young farmers adopting AgriTech.

Intervention Area I11: Producer-To-Consumer Platforms

Small producers often face limited market access and difficulties in connecting directly with consumers, relying heavily on intermediaries. This situation reduces price transparency and weakens their bargaining power. Digital platforms offer significant potential to bridge this gap by facilitating direct marketing channels, improving traceability and enhancing price discovery. By promoting local

products and shortening supply chains, such platforms can strengthen farmer incomes, increase consumer trust and support more inclusive and efficient agricultural markets.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop e-marketplaces and digital traceability systems linking farmers, processors and consumers.
- Promote the use of QR codes to showcase product origin, quality and sustainability practices.
- Encourage cooperatives and youth enterprises to manage and scale these platforms.

Intervention Area I12: Youth Engagement and Capacity Building

The agricultural sector faces an ageing workforce and increasing difficulties in attracting younger generations. Many young people perceive agriculture as labour-intensive and offering limited economic prospects. Promoting youth engagement through the integration of modern technologies, entrepreneurship opportunities and targeted training programmes can help reposition agriculture as an innovative and viable career path. Encouraging youth participation is essential to stimulate innovation, ensure generational renewal and sustain the long-term competitiveness and resilience of the sector.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Integrate agriculture and AgriTech in school and tertiary curricula to reshape perceptions.
- Create innovation hubs and incubation programmes supporting youth-led agribusinesses.
- Provide targeted financing, mentorship and grants for digital and green agriculture ventures.
- Promote success stories of young agripreneurs to inspire new entrants into the sector.

Intervention Area I13: Shared Data Platforms

Fragmented information systems across the agricultural sector limit the availability of reliable and timely data for policymakers and stakeholders. Disconnected databases and weak coordination between institutions reduce transparency and make it difficult to generate a comprehensive picture of production, markets and risks. This situation constrains evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Develop a centralised digital database on livestock production, health and markets.
- Ensure data interoperability among ministries, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius.
- Build staff capacity in data management and analytics for policy planning.

Pillar 6: Good Governance, Institutional Coordination, Policy Coherence and Financing

This pillar focuses on strengthening accountability and institutional alignment to ensure that policies, regulations and financial mechanisms operate in a coordinated and coherent manner. It seeks to enhance governance, transparency and coordination across relevant institutions involved in the agricultural sector. The strategic objective under this pillar is to ensure effective delivery of programmes and policies in a harmonised and transparent manner, thereby improving implementation efficiency, reducing institutional fragmentation and reinforcing trust among stakeholders across the agrifood system.

Strategic Objective J: Good Governance, Institutional Coordination, Policy Coherence and Financing

Crop

Cohesive governance and technical support, underpinned by coherent and supportive policies, have the potential to unlock the constrained capacity of the agri-food sector. Stronger coordination among ministries, parastatal bodies, local authorities and research or extension services is critical to avoid duplication, optimise scarce resources and ensure effective and timely farmer support.

The agricultural institutional landscape, however, remains fragmented, with overlapping responsibilities among divisions and agencies and limited mechanisms for regular joint planning and review. Clearer mandates, enhanced communication channels and a well-defined coordination structure are required to improve efficiency and ensure that public institutions deliver services in a harmonised and transparent manner. The establishment of a dedicated coordination "cell" or focal point, supported by digital dashboards and GIS tools, would strengthen visibility, accountability and responsiveness across agencies.

Common access to centralised agricultural databases and digital platforms will enhance evidence-based decision-making, transparency and service delivery. Innovative financing mechanisms, performance-based management systems and clear institutional mandates are essential to enable the transformation of the sector. While several financing instruments currently exist, there is a pressing need to evolve towards adaptive models—such as equity funds for young entrepreneurs, carbon-credit schemes and a potential Banque Agricole—to mobilise investment and attract new actors to the sector. Strengthened accountability and robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be critical to ensure that governance reforms translate into tangible and sustainable results by reinforcing coordination, coherence and accountability, Mauritius can create an enabling governance environment that supports agricultural innovation, financial sustainability and long-term food sovereignty.

By reinforcing coordination, coherence and accountability, Mauritius can create an enabling governance environment that supports agricultural innovation, financial sustainability and long-term food sovereignty.

Livestock

Strengthening coordination among ministries, parastatals and local authorities; improving policy alignment; and creating sustainable financing mechanisms are essential to ensure that institutional actions reinforce one another and deliver coherent support to producers. Transparent governance, shared data systems and innovative financing will unlock the full potential of the agri-food system.

Crop Sector

Intervention Area J1: Production Planning

Uncoordinated crop planning can result in imbalances between supply and demand, leading to seasonal shortages or temporary market gluts. These fluctuations can destabilise prices, reduce farmer incomes and disrupt market stability. Without effective coordination and production planning, farmers may simultaneously produce similar crops, intensifying competition and lowering profitability.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish supportive framework to coordinate national production targets and interpretation of production data for informed decision making.
- Conduct regular demand and consumption surveys and publish indicative production calendars.
- Align import and trade policies with domestic production cycles to stabilise prices.
- Introduce transparent indicative price mechanisms for strategic crops.
- Promote consumption of local staples (eg cassava, sweet potato, taro) through nationwide awareness.
- Implement mandatory public-procurement quotas for local produce in public institutions (schools, hospitals, canteens).
- Develop regional food-balance sheets for self-sufficiency tracking.

Intervention Area J2: R&D And Farming Community Linkages

There is a need to establish dedicated platforms that facilitate stronger linkages between research institutions, extension services and farmers. Such platforms would help align research and development (R&D) priorities with the practical needs and constraints faced by producers. They would also support the effective transfer of research outputs, technologies and innovations to the farm level.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Undertake Rapid Rural Appraisals (RRA) to realign extension programmes with farmer needs.
- Encourage participatory video and peer-to-peer learning approaches for knowledge sharing.
- Reorient national research priorities toward local crop improvement, climate resilience and productivity enhancement.
- Require farmer validation of research topics before implementation to ensure practical.
- Released varieties prior to national dissemination.
- Publish all outcomes from publicly funded research to promote transparency and shared learning.
- Strengthen participatory research models linking research institutions, universities and farmer clusters for co-designed field trials and feedback.
- Conduct applied research and mapping of agro-climatic suitability zones for key fruit crops to guide orchard planning and reduce planting mismatches.
- Establish model orchards in appropriate regions as demonstration and training hubs for farmers and extension officers.
- Provide technical assistance and mentoring for orchard establishment, maintenance and pest-management based on validated field research results.

Intervention Area J3: Institutional Coordination and Mandate Review

Fragmented mandates and overlapping responsibilities across ministries and parastatal institutions often lead to duplication of efforts, operational inefficiencies and delays in service delivery. Weak coordination and unclear institutional roles can hinder effective policy implementation and resource utilisation within the agricultural sector.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Undertake a comprehensive review and clarification of institutional mandates under the Ministry of Agro-Industry and allied agencies.
- Establish interinstitutional flagship programmes towards to common goals
- Establish a technical committee to facilitate inter-agency communication and joint planning.
- Adopt a modular structure for divisions to enhance flexibility without creating new units.
- Establish regular ministerial and review meetings to monitor progress and align priorities.
- Develop a shared digital platform for all divisions and parastatal bodies to exchange information, project data and resources.
- Use ICT dashboards for better monitoring and planning of agricultural programmes.
- Formalise linkages with foreign agricultural institutions to strengthen technical cooperation.
- Adopt standardised templates and shared KPIs across institutions to align monitoring and reporting.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Labour for importation of foreign labour to review and update farm-labour regulations, ensuring that imported agricultural workers.

Intervention Area J4: Regional Integration and Cooperation

Mauritius' participation in regional agricultural bodies remains relatively limited, reducing opportunities to leverage regional cooperation for food security, trade and knowledge exchange. At the same time, existing mechanisms for implementing regional agreements are often weak, slowing the translation of commitments into concrete actions at the national level.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen active participation in SADC, COMESA, IOC and AU agricultural platforms to align with regional goals and funding opportunities.
- Review, track and monitor all existing international agreements to ensure follow-up and implementation at national level.
- Leverage opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to enhance market access for Mauritian products.
- Promote bilingual capacity to facilitate regional and continental collaboration.
- Align decisions made at regional level with national legislation and standards, particularly on agricultural trade and laboratory accreditation.

- Position Mauritius as a regional hub for technical expertise in sustainable agriculture and agri-innovation.

Intervention Area J5: Policy Coherence Across Sectors

Policies governing sectors such as agriculture, trade, health, tourism and the environment often operate in parallel with limited coordination, reducing overall policy effectiveness. Greater synergy across these sectors is essential to address cross-cutting challenges related to food systems, sustainability, market development and public health.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish inter-ministerial councils or task forces to align policies on agriculture, food security, trade, environment and health.
- Integrate shared national targets for food sovereignty, import substitution and sustainable production.
- Encourage joint programmes linking tourism, schools and public institutions to local food procurement and nutrition awareness.
- Benchmark and adapt the international frameworks such as CAADP for policy coherence.
- Implement follow-up mechanisms to ensure decisions are implemented.
- Develop Crop-Loss Relief Allowance to compensate planters for drought, floods, or pest outbreaks.
- Develop a coordinated policy framework—jointly with the Ministry of Commerce and the Agricultural Marketing Board—to implement a maximum retail-price mechanism for selected foodcrops, anchored on benchmark wholesale prices to ensure fair mark-ups, consumer protection and income stability for producers."

Intervention Area J6: Agricultural Data and Digital Governance

Data on production, land use, markets and weather are fragmented, inconsistent and difficult to access across institutions, limiting effective planning and decision-making. Farmers are often reluctant to share information due to weak data governance frameworks, unclear data ownership, and concerns over privacy or misuse.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Recognise agricultural data as part of the national dataset, governed under clear data-governance protocols.
- Establish an Observatoire de l'Agriculture at national and regional levels.
- Create a national agri-food system information platform and to setup an inter-agency steering to oversee its implementation.

- Strengthen collaboration with Statistics Mauritius for standardised data collection, analysis and dissemination.
- Build trust with farmers by developing data-protection guidelines and transparent feedback mechanisms.
- Promote the use of digital tools and analytics to support decision-making, monitoring and service delivery.

Intervention Area J7: Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

Weak performance tracking and limited transparency undermine accountability within the agricultural sector, making it difficult to monitor progress, evaluate outcomes, and identify areas for improvement. This lack of oversight often leads to inefficient allocation of resources, duplication of efforts, and suboptimal impact of interventions.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Implement performance-based budgeting and clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for agricultural institutions.
- Enhance accountability and transparency in use of public funds and human resources and assets.
- Require annual performance and audit reports from all agencies to be tabled at the National Assembly for scrutiny.
- Introduce citizen and stakeholder feedback mechanisms to assess service delivery quality.
- Encourage adoption of digital monitoring dashboards for real-time progress tracking of major projects.
- Institutionalise a culture of evaluation through periodic independent reviews of policies and programmes.
- Publish an annual Agriculture Performance Bulletin accessible to stakeholders.
- Conduct periodic client-satisfaction surveys among farmers to improve public-service delivery.
- Develop training for officers on performance management and results-based reporting.

Intervention Area J8: Financing and Investment Mechanisms

Limited access to affordable financing, a shortage of tailored credit products, and insufficient investment in green and innovative agricultural practices constrain the sector's ability to modernise and transform. Smallholders and agripreneurs often struggle to secure funds for technology adoption, climate-resilient practices, and value-added production.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Ensure agriculture's fair access to climate-finance facilities, redirecting part of national climate funds toward climate-smart farming investments.
- Establish equity funds and performance-linked soft loans for young agro-entrepreneurs and start-ups.
- Create a dedicated Banque Agricole or green-finance window to access global climate funds.
- Adopt an Agriculture Technology Diffusion Scheme (ATDS) to promote technology adoption.
- Develop a carbon-credit and ecosystem-services financing mechanism to reward sustainable practices.
- Promote public–private partnerships and government co-funding in innovative agri-enterprises.
- Encourage academic–business mentorship and incubation support for sustainable agribusiness ventures.
- Establish dedicated financing schemes for women and youth, targeted for specific activities.
- Develop micro-insurance products on climate and pest-risk management.
- Simplify grant access for acquisition of farm equipment by smallholders.
- Create a national mentorship network linking experienced agri-entrepreneurs with new entrants.
- Introduce temporary income-support or concessional-credit facilities to help farmers maintain livelihoods during non-productive or transition phases (e.g., establishment of perennial crops such as orchards).

Intervention Area J9: Institutional Strengthening and Human Capital

Outdated institutional structures, unclear mandates, and limited technical capacity hinder the effective delivery of agricultural services. These constraints reduce the efficiency and responsiveness of extension systems, regulatory agencies, and support programmes, limiting their ability to meet farmers' needs and implement sectoral policies.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Formulate and implement a National Agriculture and Extension Policy to modernise extension services.
- Recruit and retain subject-matter specialists in key disciplines such as soil management, pest control, climate resilience and agribusiness.
- Strengthen IT and logistics support for efficient service delivery.
- Recognise the importance of technical staff and administrative staff as distinct categories and none overstepping on each other.
- Ensure adequate resourcing of agencies to avoid understaffing and improve field coverage.
- Provide continuous training to officers in technical writing, policy drafting and results-based management.

Intervention Area J10: Farmer Security and Enforcement

Increasing incidents of theft and vandalism on farms result in significant financial losses and create a climate of insecurity that discourages investment in agricultural production. Farmers face direct economic damage from stolen equipment, livestock, and crops, while the perceived risk reduces willingness to expand operations or adopt new technologies.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Create a Police Agricole with ensuring adequate staffing and logistics support.
- Review legislation to include cash compensation for theft losses and fast-track trials for field-level cases.
- Promote digital surveillance systems (CCTV, drones, IoT sensors) through cooperative or cluster-based initiatives.
- Develop public–private partnerships for security infrastructure in high-risk agricultural zones.
- Establish a communication link between police or a police Agricole unit and farmer associations for real-time reporting and coordinated response.
- Raise awareness among farmers on preventive measures and cooperative security models.

Intervention Area J11: Insurance and Safety Nets

Existing crop insurance and relief mechanisms provide limited protection for smallholders and SMEs, leaving them vulnerable to production losses and financial shocks. Low awareness, complex and rigid eligibility conditions, and high premiums further discourage participation, reducing the effectiveness of risk mitigation strategies.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Design flexible insurance schemes tailored to diverse crops and farm sizes.
- Conduct actuarial and feasibility studies for long-term financial sustainability.
- Establish a National Agricultural Reinsurance Facility to manage high-risk exposure.
- Pilot index-based and weather-based insurance products for automatic payouts post-disaster.
- Provide premium subsidies for small and vulnerable farmers.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to educate farmers on insurance options and claim processes.
- Develop standard operating procedures for disaster-compensation and relief disbursement.
- Introduce emergency contingency funds for immediate post-disaster support and provide short-term livelihood stipend to affected farmers while re-establishing crops.
- Explore insurance linkages with banks and microfinance institutions for wider outreach.

Livestock Sector

Intervention Area J12: Inter-Agency Coordination

Ministries, agencies, and livestock institutions frequently operate independently, resulting in fragmented service delivery, reduced efficiency, and weakened accountability. Lack of coordination leads to duplication of efforts, inconsistent support to farmers, and delays in implementing programmes.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a Livestock Sector Coordination Committee under the Ministry of Agro-Industry to oversee cross-institutional collaboration (FAREI, SFWF Agricultural Services, Veterinary Services, MMA, and Farmer Associations) and to harmonise planning implementation and resolve bottlenecks.
- Define clear institutional roles reporting lines and accountability frameworks.
- Promote joint planning budgeting and monitoring mechanisms across agencies.

Intervention Area J13: Regional Integration

Limited collaboration with regional agricultural bodies constrains opportunities for knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and capacity building. It also restricts access to regional markets, reducing trade potential and the ability to leverage complementary production systems

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen collaboration with regional organisations (SADC, COMESA, FAO, AU-IBAR) for livestock development, trade facilitation, and technology transfer.
- Promote regional agreements on animal health surveillance, transboundary disease control, and genetic material exchange.
- Facilitate farmer participation in regional training programmes on breeding, feed formulation, and animal welfare.
- Encourage regional trade and investment partnerships to expand market opportunities for local livestock products.
- Develop joint research and breeding initiatives with regional partners to enhance genetic diversity and resilience.

Intervention Area J14: Policy Coherence

Policies governing livestock, trade, health, tourism, and the environment often operate in isolation, limiting overall efficiency and effectiveness. Lack of synergy can lead to conflicting objectives, resource duplication, and missed opportunities for integrated development.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Review all existing livestock support schemes for effectiveness, inclusivity, and relevance to current market realities.
- Align financial incentives and subsidies with production performance and verified output to promote efficiency and accountability.
- Promote local livestock products within the tourism sector through government-led branding and procurement initiatives.
- Review price control mechanisms (e. beef and other meats during festive seasons) to ensure fairness and market stability.
- Establish a national policy framework aligning livestock production, food security, welfare, and trade objectives under a unified vision.

Intervention Area J15: Monitoring and Accountability

Weak monitoring systems limit the capacity to track performance, evaluate outcomes, and enforce responsibilities across the agricultural sector. Without reliable oversight, inefficiencies, gaps in service delivery, and accountability issues remain unaddressed, reducing the effectiveness of policies and programmes.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Establish a results-based sector monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework.
- Publish annual livestock performance scorecards and public dashboards.
- Introduce independent audits and social-accountability mechanisms.

Intervention Area J16: Innovative Financing

Public budgets for the agricultural sector remain insufficient to meet investment needs, limiting the scope and impact of development programmes. Inadequate funding constrains infrastructure development, technology adoption, extension services, and climate-resilient initiatives, slowing sectoral transformation and productivity growth.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Mobilise blended-finance instruments combining public, private and donor funds.
- Create revolving funds or guarantee schemes for livestock SMEs.
- Promote green-finance and climate-investment facilities supporting sustainable practices.

Intervention Area J17: Farmer Security and Enforcement

Weak enforcement of contracts and limited legal protection for farmers undermine trust within agricultural value chains and discourage investment. Producers face risks of delayed payments, breaches of agreements, and unfair trading practices, reducing their willingness to engage in formal markets or adopt innovative practices.

Proposed Priority Actions

- Strengthen legal frameworks for contract enforcement and dispute resolution.
- Develop farmer-insurance and risk-mitigation mechanisms.
- Ensure transparent licensing, inspection and compliance processes.
- Enhance farmer protection mechanisms ensuring secure land tenure, fair market access, and transparent contract arrangements.

Annex 1

ASSISES DE L'AGRICULTURE 2026
BLUE ECONOMY & FISHERIES DIVISION

Ensuring Food Safety and Security

The Government of Mauritius places strong emphasis for ensuring that food consumed and produced in the country is safe, nutritious, and sustainably available. The government, through various ministries and agencies, has established policies, regulations, and monitoring systems to safeguard food quality and maintain national food security. These departments are the Agro-Industry and Food Security, Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Government Analyst Division and the Blue Economy and Fisheries Division, amongst others.

The Blue Economy and Fisheries division plays a crucial role in maintaining food safety and food security in Mauritius by managing the country's living marine resources, promoting sustainable fisheries, and ensuring that fish and fish products meet both national and international food safety standards, through regulatory framework and monitoring. A new Fisheries Act 2023 and its implementing regulations caters for aspects such as fish farming and aquaculture, import of fish and fish products, and disease control, maintaining fish stocks and monitoring the handling and processing of fish and fish products at fish business operators.

The competent Authority - Seafood which is the division set up by the Ministry is responsible for the verification and certification of fish and fish products for export primarily to Member States of the European Union (EU) as well as to non-EU countries. The Competent Authority (CASF) operates under Fisheries Act 2023. The section ensures that food safety is not compromised using the farm to fork concept. This is achieved by ensuring that throughout the food chain all relevant regulations/directive/pre-requisite programs as per the HACCP Manual are met. This is enforced by regular checks and inspections as well as audits conducted by EU officers to fish processing plants and fishing vessels.

The training programmes dispensed to fishers by the Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC), aim at empowering fishers to earn a better livelihood and facilitate them to venture into more profitable and sustainable off-lagoon fishing around anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs) by deploying and maintaining a number of these AFADs around the island. The 'General Course for Fishers' to non-registered fishers aims at providing fishers with knowledge, skills and attitude to fish responsibly, efficiently and safely around AFADs at sea. This will help reduce fishing pressure in the lagoon areas, therefore ensuring food security on the long term through conservation and sustainability of fish stocks. FiTEC also delivers Training Course in Fish Handling, Preservation & Marketing which has been designed to meet the training need of fish handlers, in particular the fishmongers. It aims at providing the fishmonger with the knowledge and abilities to maintain freshness & quality of fish to ensure that fish are safe for human consumption, to add value to the product etc.

Fishing quotas, closed seasons for fishing and Marine Protected Areas are also implemented by the Blue Economy and Fisheries Division, help prevent overfishing to maintain fish stocks.

The Aquaculture Division provides technical assistance for farmers who are willing to carry out fish farming. In view of promoting aquaculture, Red Tilapia fingerlings are distributed free of charge for less than 100 units to farmers and sold at Rs1.25 per unit for more than 100 units. Freshwater prawn juveniles are sold to fish farmers at a subsidised rate of Rs 1.25 per unit to farmers. A Marine ranching programme is also being implemented since 1997 and fish fingerlings (*R.Sarba* and *Siganus* sp) are being released yearly in the lagoon for replenishment of the stock.

The Fish Toxicity Laboratory at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre ensures that safe fishes are available to the local consumers as certain types of seafood including reef fishes causes poisoning due to the presence of marine algal toxins or bacterial toxins in their tissue. In this regard, the laboratory carries out toxicity tests for ciguatoxin on fish and fish products. As at date, 21 fish samples have been listed as toxic under the Fisheries and Marine Resources (Toxic Fish Regulation 2004).

Catch data collection and monitoring of the tuna fishery in Mauritius also play a vital role in enhancing food security through sustainable fish production and ensuring seafood safety.

The Pelagic Fishery Unit is responsible for the monitoring of tuna catches made by the Mauritian tuna fleet and foreign licensed vessels. The main activities include the collection, verification, recording and processing of data which include fishing logbooks data, landing, catch and effort and size frequency data. These activities provide data on species composition, size, and catch volumes, which are essential for managing fishery resources responsibly. Sustainable management ensures continued income for fishers and processors, supporting livelihoods and national food access. Data analysis provides information on exploitation rates, species composition, stock structure and spatial distribution of the various tuna species. All the processed data are sent to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to ensure that tuna harvesting aligns with ecological limits and long-term food supply goals. The IOTC principally uses these data to assess tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean. This helps determine the stock status of tuna which governs conservation and management measures required to preserve the stock.

By maintaining healthy tuna stocks, Mauritius ensures that fish remains available and affordable for local consumption, contributing to food security.

Priority Actions:

a) Replace Rosary types AFAD by Smart AFAD. Presently, there are twenty-eight (28) confirmed sites where AFADs are located around Mauritius. AFADS placed around Mauritius include both rosary types AFADS as well as single buoy FADs with satellite sensors, also referred to as SMART AFADs.
b) Training to be dispensed to fishers with regards to the untapped resources (ex. Squid)
c) Reviewing the list of toxic fish in Mauritius to see whether there are new species which are becoming toxic with climate change and testing of untapped resources for ciguatoxin.

d) Increase the importation of certain species of fin fish to cater for high demand during festive seasons.
e) Using AI-based predictive models for real-time assessment and forecasting in Aquaculture farms.
f) Developing tools to capture production data from all farmers.
g) Encourage investment
h) Collaboration with regional bodies
i) Invest in marine research
j) Enhance catch data collection through observer programs.
k) Combat IUU fishing
l) Food safety shall focus on standards, infrastructure, monitoring and traceability and Food security actions shall focus on production, expansion, post-harvest value addition, market access and nutrition. It is therefore proposed that the national law have a perspective of the EAT-Lancet Commission principles which ensures a seafood production that contributes to human health, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

The following are proposed:

- Sustainable and safe seafood for National Food security: focus on food safety and food security within fisheries and aquaculture;
- Innovation, Governance and Climate resilience in the blue economy: this will combine policy, technology and environmental sustainability for long term resilience;

Priorities actions that shall be taken by the ministry are as follows:

Thematic area	Priority actions
Food Safety	Strengthen regulatory and institutional framework under a unified governance framework
	Enhance food safety system and certification to artisanal and fishers, small processors and aquaculture farms.
	Develop a national database of certified operators (make use of digitalization and traceability.
Food Security	Increase sustainable fish and aquaculture production by expanding aquaculture zones for marine and freshwater species
	Support small scale and artisanal fishers and introduce a one stop shop to ease application process to any prospect applicant e.g. fisherman card or oyster farming card
	Improve post-harvest and value addition-
	Strengthen market access and transport availably that reduce food loss.
	Ensure that there is cooperation within the department with a specific goal