



AFC – AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY POLICY

“People, Land, and Legacy: A New Approach to Agriculture for a New Guyana” A People-Centred Approach to National and Regional Food Security



VISION STATEMENT

To build an equitable, resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and profitable agricultural economy that restores dignity to the people who till the land, reshapes food production, and positions Guyana as the principal exporter of food to the Caribbean. Modernisation must be guided by the principle of ensuring food access for all citizens.

RESTORING PEOPLE TO THE HEART OF AGRICULTURE

Guyana’s agricultural identity was forged through the resilience of enslaved and indentured labourers. In honouring their sacrifices, the AFC repositions agriculture not just as economic activity, but as national inheritance. Our vision is of a human-centred, technologically advanced, and inclusive agricultural sector that uplifts those who cultivate the land.

Recognising the historical baggage of the term “agriculture,” the AFC proposes the abolition of the Ministry of Agriculture and the establishment of a Ministry of Food

Security.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Restore Dignity to Agricultural Workers
- Achieve National Food Accessibility and Regional Food Security
- Modernise and Diversify Agricultural Production
- Enhance Climate Resilience and Land Stewardship
- Develop Value-Added Industries and Agri-Entrepreneurship
- Reform Agricultural Governance and Land Use Systems





MINISTRY OF FOOD SECURITY

- Dedicated departments will include:
- Food Policy
- Food Justice
- Food Systems
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Budgeting
- Climate & Sustainability
- Industrial Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Apiculture
- Food Pedagogy and Nutrition

RESTORING DIGNITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- **Land for the Landless:** Allocate serviced farmland to youth, single mothers, Indigenous people, and ex-sugar workers.
- **Living Wages & Social Security:** Implement a minimum income policy for small farmers and ensure NIS and healthcare coverage.
- **People-Centred Extension Services:**

Retrain and decentralise extension officers to focus on education, dignity, and collaboration.

- **National Recognition Programmes:** Honour farmers with awards, scholarships for their children, and storytelling platforms.

FOOD SECURITY AT HOME AND FOR THE CARIBBEAN

- Establish a **National Nutrition & Food Security Council** to monitor production and consumption.
- Provide **transportation subsidies** for nutrient-dense foods.
- Make Guyana a **licensed organic certifier** for CARICOM.
- Establish **food banks** in every NDC and Indigenous Hub.
- Create **Micro-loan Centres** for food-related ventures.
- Turn **schools** into food hubs with shade



houses, aquaponics, and agroecological systems.

- Develop **cassava starch processing** in Indigenous communities.
- Build **dehydration chambers**, **regional seed hubs**, and **sanitary packaging centres** for small producers.
- Develop **certified processing facilities** for meat and fish.
- Train **chefs (not cooks)** and install industrial-grade kitchens regionally.
- Develop **urban and peri-urban agriculture** with grants for community gardens.
- Form **strategic partnerships** under the 25 by 2025 initiative.
- Achieve **grain and protein independence** by investing in local feed production.
- Establish **export ports** in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10.

MODERNISATION WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

- Create **regional agri-innovation hubs** with access to drones, soil testing, advisory apps.
- Develop **digitally connected cooperatives**.
- Implement **solar-powered irrigation** and flood-resilient infrastructure.
- Provide **real-time data** to farmers via SMS or app.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Develop **national land use maps** to protect forests and manage salinity.
- Offer **agroecology incentives** for composting, crop rotation, pest control.



- Establish **flood-ready zones** and transition vulnerable areas to aquaculture.
- Fund **community climate adaptation** projects.

AGRO-PROCESSING, EXPORT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Launch a **National Agro-Processing Incubator** for youth, women, and Indigenous producers.
- Create **Export Enablement Zones** with fast-track services.
- Initiate a **Buy Local Campaign** for public institutions.
- Upgrade **farmers' markets** with sanitation and digital POS systems.

INSTITUTIONAL & GOVERNANCE REFORM

- **Revive the sugar industry** with community-owned agri-parks and multi-crop farms.
- Convert sugar lands into **mixed-use farms**.
- Undertake **land tenure reform**: resolve leases, digitise titles, reduce corruption.
- Ensure **farmer representation** on national boards.



- Establish an **Agricultural Data Bureau** for output, pricing, land, and labour data.

IMMEDIATE POLICY ACTIONS (FIRST 24 MONTHS)

- Conduct a **National Agricultural Census**
- Launch the **People's Agricultural Transformation Programme (PATP)**
- Provide **20,000 low-interest agri-loans** for youth and women
- Develop **10 Climate-Resilient Model Farms**
- Adopt the **CARICOM Agri-Food Strategy** as national policy
- Rehabilitate **5 key drainage and irrigation schemes**

CONCLUSION:

BREAD, HONOUR, AND HOPE This AFC Agricultural Policy is a call to action—to restore bread, honour, and hope to every Guyanese man, woman, and child who labours in our fields, gardens, and factories. As we modernise, the people must remain at the centre—not machinery, not foreign capital, not forgotten promises. Only then can Guyana truly become the breadbasket of the Caribbean—and a global model for people-first food security.

