



Agriculture Month 2022

Message of

His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali,
President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana,
for Agriculture Month 2022.

We are living in exceptional times. The confluence of the health, energy and climate crises, and the outbreak of war in Eastern Europe, has disrupted food production and food supply chains and led to a steep increase in food prices.

The Caribbean has not been insulated from food supply constraints and food inflation. At the 32nd Inter-Sessional Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, regional leaders acknowledged food security as a major challenge. Guyana, recognising the gravity of the threat facing the Region, tabled a strategy entitled, Advancing the CARICOM Food Systems Agenda; Prioritising Regional Food and Nutrition Security. The Heads agreed to the establishment of a Special Ministerial Task Force to work along with the regional private sector to develop an Action Plan to follow up and monitor the implementation of the strategy. The Region also adopted a proposal to slash food imports by 25% by 2025, Following a Regional Agri-Investment Forum in Guyana, four areas were identified for priority action: food insecurity, transportation, trade barriers and women and youth in agriculture.

The theme of this year's Agriculture Month: "Championing food security through innovation, investment and resilience", reflects, in part, the alignment of Guyana's food security goals with that of the Region. Indeed, since August 2020, Guyana has been revitalising and repositioning its agriculture sector to respond to the global food crisis; to boost agricultural investment; to build resilience, including through diversification, modernisation and climate-smart agriculture; foster greater innovation and competitiveness; and protect livelihoods now and in the future.

Agriculture is and will remain a mainstay of our economy. Indeed, the sector already accounts for almost a quarter of the country's non-oil Gross Domestic Product. One in every eight members of our employed workforce is to be found in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors, and agriculture is the principal source of livelihood for thousands of Guyanese households.

My government is unfazed by the existing food security challenges. It is committed to and confident in its ability to address the vulnerabilities in the country's agri-food system, such as to the adverse impact of climate change, exogenous market shocks and higher input costs. The government has made interventions to support our farmers and fishers and moderate food inflation.

The other elements of our national agricultural strategy include:

- boosting critical agricultural infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation structures and farm-to-market roads;
- expanding non-traditional agriculture, including aquaculture;
- pressing for greater export market access for local agricultural production;
- investing in greater use of technology and innovation in the agricultural sector such as new and higher-yielding, more climate and pest resilient crop varieties, and introducing new livestock breeds;
- catalyzing large-, medium- and small small-scale agriculture; and
- incentivizing the involvement of more young people and women in the sector so as to enhance inclusion and sustainability.

Guyana's agricultural potential is without question. We have the physical and human resources necessary to drive agricultural development and improve food and nutrition security. But such an enterprise requires coordination and cooperation across all sectors. Let us, therefore, all work together for the development of the local agriculture sector, which for generations was one of the bedrocks of our economy!

Happy Agriculture Month 2022!



Message by the

Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

Minister of Agriculture

In observance of Agriculture Month 2022

A thriving and robust agriculture sector is not just critical to Guyana's future but also to the CARICOM region and the international community. For this reason, our government has initiated a wide range of transformative initiatives and projects in the agriculture sector to ensure its resilience and sustainability. These initiatives and projects will benefit farmers directly and enhance our agricultural diversification programme.

Agriculture Month 2022 is being observed under the theme "Championing Food Security through Innovation, Investment, and Resilience".

This government will continue to invest in every facet of the agriculture sector while seeking to implement innovative measures to drive sustainable production. Since assuming office in August 2020, our government has invested approximately G\$95 billion in the sector and we are committed to significantly increasing both public and private investment in the coming years.

Our efforts have been directed by our unwavering commitment to secure an expanded, diversified, modernized, resilient, and competitive sector in Guyana and CARICOM. We commenced the expansion of this critical sector through the commercialization of several priority commodities in the crops, livestock, and aquaculture industries. Our efforts are also directed at de-risking the sector, the removal of trade barriers, promoting women and youth involvement, utilizing advanced technology, facilitating access to financing, and increasing partnership. All of this will also contribute to achieving food security and 'Vision 25% by 2025'.

Being food secure requires the adoption of an all-encompassing food system approach which will help us to become more productive, inclusive of the poor, environmentally sustainable, and resilient, all while being better equipped to deliver healthy and nutritious diets to all Guyanese.

The Ministry of Agriculture remains committed to ensuring agriculture has a place in the development of the President, H.E. Dr. Irfaan Ali's 'One Guyana' Initiative, as all our efforts and undertakings, remain deeply rooted in inclusivity and the aspiration of together; we can achieve more if we work towards a common goal. Moreso, our programmes and projects embrace the empowerment of women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

The activities planned for Agriculture Month 2022 will build a greater sense of awareness among stakeholders about the many projects currently being undertaken within the agricultural sector and the role that every actor along the food value chain plays in the development process. We look forward to the usual participation of the Private Sector, Civil Society, NGOs, International Organizations, and our farmers as we roll out our many activities.

We are building a 'One Guyana' stronger than ever together, and the agriculture sector will be a pillar of its success.

Happy Agriculture Month 2022!

Honourable Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P
Minister of Agriculture



Main Events for the Month of October



Saturday 1st

- Launch of Snap n' Share Competition
- Launch of Enmore Crystals Brand Sugar

Monday 3rd

- Inter-Faith Service at the Ministry of Agriculture's main office, Regent Street

Wednesday 5th

- Hydromet 57th Anniversary & Career Fair at the Hydromet Office, Brickdam

Friday 7th

- Open Day and Commissioning of the GRDB's Germplasm Facility and Value-Added Laboratory at GRDB's Rice Research Station, Burma, Mahaicony

Tuesday 11th

- Plant Distribution at the Ministry of Agriculture's main office, Regent Street

Wednesday 12th

- Launching of Hosororo Coconut Nursery at Hope Estate, ECD
- PTCCB Public Day in New Amsterdam, Region Six

Thursday 13th

- Health Fair at the Ministry of Agriculture's main office, Regent Street, Georgetown

Friday 14th

- Women & Youth in Agriculture Symposium, Region Six

Sunday 16th

- World Food Day – Agriculture Village and Farmer's Market Day at Berbice Expo, Region Six
- Ethanol Display at Albion

Tuesday 18th

- Commissioning of Agro-Processing Facilities in Region Nine (Deep South and St. Ignatius)

Wednesday 19th

- MOA Inter-Agency Cook Out at the Ministry of Agriculture's main office, Regent Street, Georgetown

Thursday 20th

- MoA Open Day (GLDA, NAREI, Fisheries, and GSA) – Agriculture Road, Mon Repos, ECD

Friday 21st

- Mahaica Mahaicony Abary / Agriculture Development Authority Open Day, Region Five
- Commissioning of an Agro-Processing Facility at Fort Wellington
- Commissioning of the new Extension Office for MARDS, Mahaicony, Region Five

Saturday 22nd

- Agro-processors' Market Day and Launch of Guyana Shop Corner at Massy Supermarket, MovieTowne
- Food Safety Training - General Hygienic Practices for Food Handlers

Tuesday 25th

- PTCCB Graduation & Ministry of Agriculture Long Service Award Ceremony at the National Culture Center

Friday 28th

- Launching of new Brazilian Green Dwarf Coconut at Hope Estate
- Empty Pesticides Container Management Scheme Launch and Open Day at the PTCCB's Office, Mon Repos

Saturday 29th

- Farmer's Market Day at Leonora, Region Three
- Mon Repos Market Outreach

Monday 31st

- Prize giving for "Snap & Share" Competition

Friday 4th (November)

- Day of Sports

Other activities scheduled for October

Oct. 2nd

- Poultry seminar (GLDA)

Oct. 3rd

- GLDA Fitness Walk (GLDA)
- Poultry seminar (GLDA)

Oct. 4th

- Public Day at Stabroek Market (GLDA)

Oct. 6th

- Small ruminants' farmers' exchange visit to Region Three (GLDA)
- Farmers Outreach (GLDA)

Oct. 7th

- Farmers' exchange visit to East Bank Demerara (GLDA)

Oct. 9th

- Animal Auction (GLDA)

Oct. 10th

- Pesticides Vendors Education and Training Exercise, Region Five (PTCCB)
- St. Cuthbert's Mission farmers' exchange visit to GSA farm (GSA)

Oct. 11th

- Pesticides Vendors' Education and Training Exercise, Regions Four and Ten (PTCCB)
- Ambulatory Services Regions Two and Five (GLDA)

Oct. 12th

- Public Day at New Amsterdam Market
- Swine Seminar in Region Four

Oct. 13th

- Pesticides Vendors Education & Retraining Exercise, Region Six (PTCCB)
- Dairy Seminar, Region Three (GLDA)

Oct. 14th

- Pesticides Awareness Training & Cabinet Distribution (PTCCB)
- Mini-Exhibition

Oct. 18th

- Pesticides Vendor Education & Retraining Exercise, Region 3

Oct. 19th

- Enhancing the sound management of chemicals – Industry Dialogue (HHPs & GHS)
- Lecture at the Guyana School of Agriculture on rice agronomy

Oct. 20th

- Farmers' Outreach

Oct. 23rd

- Launch of Pesticides Awareness Week – TV, Newspaper & Radio
- Launch of Lead in Paint Awareness

Oct. 24th

- Pesticides Awareness Training & Cabinet Distribution

Oct. 25th

- Pesticides Awareness for Schools using Learning Channel Newsprint & Radio (both PAW & Lead in Paint)
- National Implementation Plan Validation Workshop under Stockholm Convention (BCRC & PTCCB)

Oct. 26th

- Cattle Seminar in Region Nine
- Farmers' Outreach

Oct. 28th

- Empty Pesticides Container Management Scheme Launch, Region Three
- Sensitization sessions on improved agronomic practice for rice cultivation

Oct. 29th

- Pesticides Awareness Trivia Programme – TV & Radio (PTCCB)

Oct. 31st

- National Implementation Plan Validation Workshop under Stockholm Convention (BCRC & PTCCB)
- Poultry Production Seminar, Region Ten