



# AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT BULLETIN

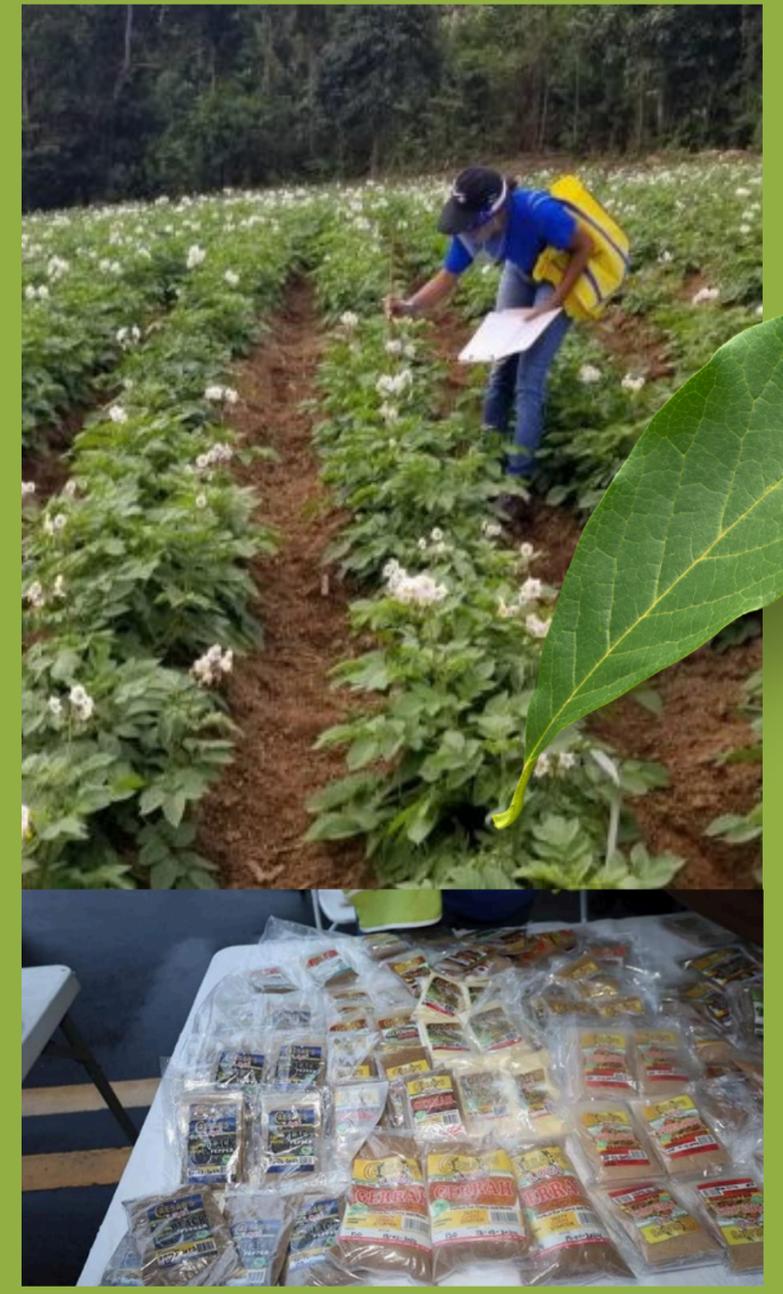
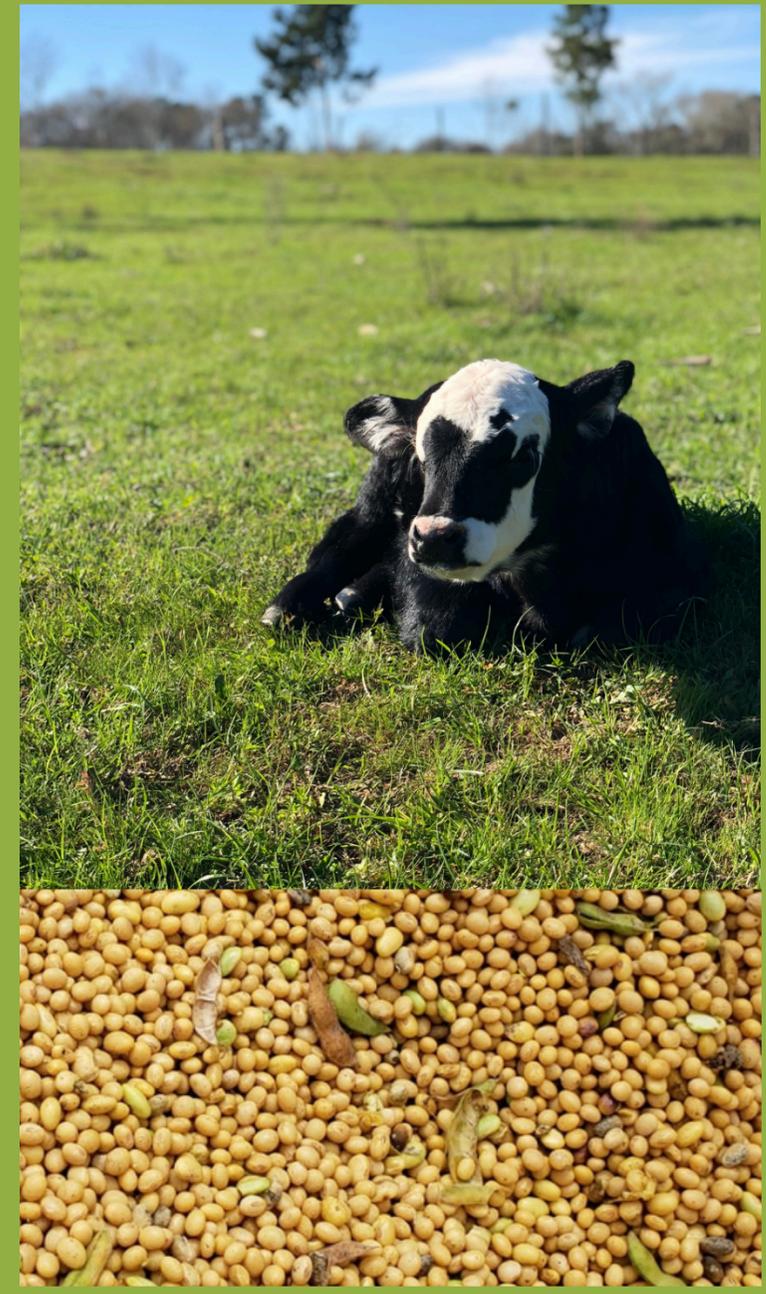
This bulletin provides a clear snapshot of regional demand trends for major agricultural commodities within the CARICOM Single Market, highlighting persistent supply gaps and the investment opportunities they create. It is intended to guide stakeholders and potential investors toward high-value areas supported by CARICOM's established trade facilitation mechanisms.

# UNDERSTANDING THE OPPORTUNITY

Every year, CARICOM Member States report recurring shortfalls in the supply of essential agricultural inputs required for food manufacturing and broader economic resilience. These gaps are directly linked to insufficient regional production.

To help address these shortages, CARICOM operates a mechanism allowing Member States to suspend Common External Tariffs (CETs) on agricultural commodities imported from outside the region - but only when regional producers are unable to supply sufficient quantities.

Data generated through these CET suspension requests is compiled and presented to the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), offering valuable insights into unmet regional demand and signaling opportunities for investment.



# KEY AGRICULTURAL DEMAND INSIGHTS

More than 250 products are requested annually through this mechanism. Here are high-demand commodity categories with frequent suspension requests - indicating strong, persistent supply gaps and potential investment niches.

## 1. SOY PRODUCTS

Total annual regional demand: 216,450 MT

PRODUCT	SHARE OF DEMAND APPROX.	VOLUME	LARGEST DEMANDERS
CRUDE SOYABEAN OIL	38%	83 000 MT	JAMAICA
SOYBEAN MEAL	28%	60 000 MT	GUYANA
SOYABEAN OIL (REFINED)	34%	73 450 MT	JAMAICA TRINIDAD ANAD TOBAGO

# KEY AGRICULTURAL DEMAND INSIGHTS



## 2. SPICES OF THE COMMUNITY

Total regional demand: 4,704.12 MT

PRODUCT	SHARE OF DEMAND APPROX.
TUMERIC	48%
CINNAMON	18%
GINGER (CRUSHED/GROUND)	15%
PIMENTO (PEPPER)	11%
CLOVE	8%

# INVESTMENT OUTLOOK

Strategic investment in agriculture, agro-processing, and distribution infrastructure is essential to closing the region's supply gaps. CARICOM's current economic environment offers a favourable foundation for such investments, supported by:

- The 25 by 2025 + 5 Initiative, signaling strong regional commitment to scaling agricultural production.
- Favourable investment and credit profiles across CARICOM economies.
- Growing regional capacity through targeted agricultural expansion and value-chain investments.
- Stable inflation projected for 2026, enhancing market predictability.
- Projected economic growth of 1–2.3% (except Guyana at 23%) in 2026, supporting sustained demand.
- Ongoing agricultural and economic reform programmes aimed at strengthening food security and resilience.





**Significant and persistent demand for soy products and community spices – combined with supportive regional policies - makes CARICOM an attractive destination for agricultural investment.**

**Investors aligned with these priority areas stand to gain long-term commercial value while contributing meaningfully to regional food security.**

