



Ministry of Planning,
Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport
& Development
Cayman Islands Government



Cayman Islands Food
and Nutrition
Security Policy

A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation



A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation

CAYMAN ISLANDS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY POLICY

2022-2036



Premier's Message

The Cayman Islands Food & Nutrition Security Policy



*The Honourable,
Ms. Juliana O' Connor-Connolly, JP, MP
Premier - Cayman Islands*

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Dear Citizens and Friends of the Cayman Islands,

I am Immensely proud to introduce the Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Security Policy (CIFNSP) for 2022-2036. This groundbreaking initiative signifies our government's unwavering commitment to a food and nutrition secure nation for all Caymanian and residents.

In a world facing unprecedented challenges, from climate change to global health crises, the drive to be more food secure has never been more critical. The Policy seeks to address issues such as the health and well-being of our people and access to safe, quality food sources. I have much confidence in and would like to thank the Honourable Jay Ebanks and his entire team in the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing Infrastructure, Transport and Development for the progress they have made and will continue to make on the Policy as they collaborate with public and private sector, as well as regional partners.

The Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Security Policy is a blueprint for action. It warrants a multi-sectorial approach and should not be viewed as a mere agricultural policy. It embodies a vision for our nation which will require active participation from everyone – Government, non-government organisations, civil society, educational institutions, our youth and each and every one of you.

I would like to impress upon you to make it an imperative to engage with this Policy, to understand its goals and strategies, and to contribute to its success. Together, we can transform this vision into reality, ensuring food security for all of us and our future generations of Caymanians.

May God continue to give us wisdom and bless our Islands.

Juliana O'Connor-Connolly

Premier and Minister for Finance and Economic Development, Education, District Administration & Lands and Cabinet Office,
The Hon. Ms. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly

Minister's Message

The Cayman Islands Food & Nutrition Security Policy



*The Honourable,
Johany "Jay" Ebanks MP
Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport & Development*

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My Fellow Caymanians, Friends and Visitors of the Cayman Islands

As the Minister responsible for this critical sector, I am thrilled to share with you the strides we are making through the Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Security Policy. This policy is a testament to our collective resolve to fortify our islands' efforts and resilience in food production and nutrition.

The CIFNSP charts a strategic path towards enhancing our agricultural capabilities, improving food availability, and ensuring the nutritional well-being of our population. It prioritizes sustainable practices and equitable access to food resources, guaranteeing that economic and physical access to food is a reality for all.

Our goals are ambitious but achievable. They demand robust collaboration across all levels of government and society.

I am especially grateful to our Premier, the Honourable Ms. Julianna O'Connor-Connolly, for her leadership and unwavering support in driving this initiative forward. Her commitment to our nation's health and well-being sets a remarkable example for us all.

I urge our community leaders, entrepreneurs, farmers, and educators to embrace this policy and integrate its principles into their daily operations and teachings. Let us commit to this journey together, with the confidence that we are building a stronger, healthier, and more resilient Cayman Islands.

I look forward to working with each of you to implement these strategies and celebrate our shared achievements in the years to come.

Yours in Service,

Jay Ebanks

Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport & Development.
The Hon. Johany "Jay" Ebanks MP

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CIAS	Cayman Islands Agricultural Society
CIFNSP	Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Security Policy
CIG	Cayman Islands Government
CISPE	Cayman Islands Strategic Plan for Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNSIS	Food and Nutrition Security Information System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HFLACI	Hunger Free Latin American and Caribbean Initiative
ISFNS	Information System for Food and Nutrition Security
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
NFNSIS	National Food and Nutrition Security Information System
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NHPP	National Health Policy and Plan
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RFNSAP	Regional Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan
RFNSP	Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPS	Strategic Policy Statement
UN	United Nations
WB	World Bank

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1. Introduction

1.1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Cayman Islands Government (CIG), particularly concerned about the health and wellbeing of its people as well as the expanding and devastating public health dilemma and related disease burden, have commissioned the formulation of a Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Security Policy (CIFNSP). The CIG's preparation involves the identification and analysis of the contributing factors undermining food and nutrition security in the country and the crafting of measures to address the underlying issues comprehensively and inclusively.¹

Nutrition is essential to human health and wellbeing. It enables the full potential of human growth and development, and influences the quality of life in endless ways. The basis of understanding human nutrition is food and nutrition security, defined as, "When all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".² Its absence has adverse consequences for individuals, households and society.

This globally accepted definition of food and nutrition security points to the following dimensions: availability, accessibility, utilisation/consumption, and stability.

There is also the ethical and human rights aspect, which stems from the fundamental reality of



The Four Pillars of Food Security

the critical importance of food and nutrition to human wellbeing, dignity and survival. Together, these provide a recognisable pathway to link food, nutrition and health with the rationale for adopting a multi-dimensional approach and investing in multi-sectoral collaboration to address the challenge of ensuring global, regional and local food and nutrition security.³

The primary issue of concern is the ability of the individual human being to meet his/her food and nutrition needs.

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1. Situation Analysis, Annexure B

2. World Food Summit Plan of Action, FAO, Rome, 1996

3. Ballayram, Nov 24 2011

1.2 RATIONALE

There are many reasons for the urgent formulation of a National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) for the Cayman Islands.

Firstly, food and nutrition security embraces a wide range of issues spanning food production, food import and trade, food consumption, nutrition, health and wellness and national development.

The major stakeholders are the government, the international community, civil society, private enterprise and the individual citizen. Each of which must share a common understanding of the concept, definition and measures used in reference to this matter. The NFNSP will specify the key aspects and scope of the nation. It will also establish and foster a shared vision of food and nutrition security, owned by all Caymanians.

Secondly, food and nutrition security is a complex problem, crossing many sectors, disciplines and policy areas. It is intrinsically linked to the daunting challenges of international development – e.g. globalisation, climate change and sustainable development.

A NFNSP provides an overarching, more holistic, integrated approach to harmonising sectoral initiatives which impact food and nutrition security, for the sake of coherence and cost-effectiveness. As a framework for sustainable, coordinated multi-sectoral action, it makes a case for systemic change and transformation and for dismantling or at least lessening the adverse impact of silos across public administration.

Thirdly, NIFNSIS is also a useful tool for maximising the synergy between the strategies and actions of the government, the private sector and civil society. It seeks to define roles and purposes, rationalise the responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved in food and nutrition and establish a basis for monitoring and evaluation.

Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere;

Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;

Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lifestyles and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

Moreover, it has been observed that *“More than any other sector, agriculture is the common thread which holds the 17 SDGs together”*.⁴

The need for a NFNSP is justifiable in the local context, and the principles underlying the policy are outlined in great detail in the situation analysis.

1.3 VISION AND PURPOSE

The vision of the CIFNSP is ‘A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation’.

It represents a coherent vision of food and nutrition security for the Cayman Islands and one which all partners; people, parliament, civil society, private enterprise and strategic development allies, can work towards.

Its purpose is to improve the diet, nutrition and health of Cayman Islands residents and visitors by promoting healthy and adequate eating habits, food and nutrition surveillance, and the prevention and comprehensive care of diseases related to food and nutrition. The CIFNSP also seeks to integrate and reinforce the range of relevant initiatives undertaken, in progress and contemplated across the public sector and within a supportive, coherent, and comprehensive framework. It will also embrace related non-governmental initiatives. This facilitates the ability of government, civil society and private sector stakeholders to collaborate with external development partners in a national, multi-sectoral and inter-dependent partnership. All towards identifying, financing, implementing and monitoring an integrated set of concrete actions to achieve:

- Food availability;
- Food access;
- Proper food utilisation for good health, nutrition and wellbeing; and
- Stable and sustainable food supplies at all times.

⁴ The Story of Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals: Farming First

1.4 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

According to the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 (“the Constitution”), the people of the Cayman Islands;

“Affirm their intention to be –...A caring community based on mutual respect for all individuals and their basic human rights...A country committed to the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom...A country that provides a comprehensive healthcare system...”

The right to access an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, is enshrined in international legal instruments.⁵ The basic human rights affirmed in the Constitution and elaborated in these instruments underscore the need for a human rights-based approach to

food and nutrition security and to emphasise the obligations of government to the achievement of food and nutrition security as an outcome of existing rights.

Besides, the CIFNSP has tremendous support that is embedded in the National Conservation Law (2013), the National Energy Policy (2017) and the draft Climate Change Policy of the Cayman Islands (2011). The provisions in the latter include but are not limited to the development of a Food and Nutrition Security Policy (focusing on Availability, Access and Utilisation) and establish land use and zoning policies to identify and protect agricultural land.

The CIFNSP also derives constitutional validity from the commitment to affirmed values and the healthcare system; key matters addressed in its development.

⁵Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESR); and the UN Charter.



2. Strategic Outcome and Goals

2.1 STRATEGIC OUTCOME

To realise the vision for 'A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation', **the Strategic Outcome of the CIFNSP is to ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate, affordable, safe and nutritious food for all people at all times in the Cayman Islands, especially the vulnerable, to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life.**

The CIFNSP adopts a developmental approach. The specific food and nutrition security interventions must be derived from accurate information, in addition to being analysed, monitored and evaluated for impact. There is no accurate data to report who is considered food insecure and why, and/or where food insecure individuals are located in the Cayman Islands.

These are the basic data sets for determining the scope and nature of the food and nutrition security challenges and the design of their solutions. They also establish the benchmarks to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the actions flowing from the objectives, strategies and goals of the policy strategies over time.

The CIFNSP seeks to build on² existing initiatives and mechanisms, and where necessary, to create new approaches in ensuring more accurate alignment, effective coordination and stronger oversight of approved actions in support of food and nutrition security. It is a compelling, focused and resolute response to food and nutrition insecurity in the country.

2.2 GOALS AND ENABLING STRATEGIES

The platform for structuring the CIFNSP is based on the four dimensions of food and nutrition security which are: adequate availability of food; means to access food; utilisation and nutritional adequacy of

food; and stability of food supply. It also includes the intrinsic aspect of an individual's right to adequate food.

Food and nutrition security policy interventions must address both micro and macro-level challenges. They are intended to:

- Resolve issues of hunger, malnutrition and food and nutrition insecurity;
- Facilitate strategy and programme design and implementation that intersect multiple sectors and institutions;
- Assimilate a wide range of data that enable analysis at national, household and intra-household levels; and
- Manage likely conflicting policy objectives, between producer and consumer interests, farmer and market, the budgetary allocation between areas of need and possible short- and long-run considerations.



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The following goals are set based on the preceding challenges presented:

- **Goal 1 - Increase adequate supplies of affordable, safe and nutritious food available to meet national requirements at all times, through increased domestic production and sustainable levels of imports:** acknowledging the significance of imports in the domestic food supply;
- **Goal 2 - Increase access of Cayman Islands households, individuals and visitors to sufficient, wholesome, affordable food:** speaking to the need to increase job and income creation and strengthen national safety nets to better target the vulnerable – the differently-abled, the indigent, children and female-headed households;
- **Goal 3 - Protect the public by providing quality and safety assurance for all food supplies (locally produced or imported) offered for sale in the Cayman Islands:** promoting safe, wholesome foods; and
- **Goal 4 - Enhance integration of evidence-based nutrition interventions within broader public health framework – health service, water and sanitation:** recognising that nutritious food could be compromised by poor hygiene and sanitation.

The following are enabling strategies supporting the CIFNSP goals:

- **Enabling strategy 1 - Formulate and harmonise policies and instruments that protect and enhance food and nutrition security, particularly for the vulnerable, to direct government and non-government decision-making and action:** aimed at providing a coherent framework for informing government and non-government decision-making and action across a broad multi-sectoral platform to resolve the multi-dimensional development challenge of food and nutrition insecurity and its devastating impacts;
- **Enabling strategy 2 - Strengthen the food and nutrition security resilience of the country to natural and man-made shocks and the hazards of climate change:** utilising data and information to lessen unplanned events and developing disaster risk reduction and management strategies;
- **Enabling Strategy 3 - Design and strengthen National Capacity for Food and Nutrition Security:** Taking deliberate action to foster horizontal coordination across public agencies and to limit the adverse impact of “silosation” towards achieving the multi-sectoral objectives of food and nutrition security; supporting and reinforcing civil society; promoting public, private and civil society cooperation.

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3. Priority Areas and Strategic Framework

It has been established that the interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral nature of the complexities regarding food and nutrition security determines the need for comprehensive responses and requires cooperation and collaboration among various sectors. It, therefore, reduces the fragmentation of knowledge and institutional structures in order to better respond to the problems with food and nutrition experienced by the population.

The CIFNSP is an integrated strategy comprising four goals which correspond to the four dimensions of food and nutrition security, namely: availability, access, utilisation/consumption and stability. There are three enabling strategies one that covers one of the dimension of food and nutrition security and the other two cover institutional and organisational issues. They are distinct but interrelated and facilitate cooperation in addressing food and nutrition insecurity among all stakeholders. The proposed institutional arrangements and interactions are intended to realise the goal of food and nutrition security.

The goals are supported by strategies and objectives as follows:

Goal 1 - Increase adequate supplies of affordable, safe and nutritious food are available to meet national requirements at all times, through increased domestic production and sustainable levels of imports: acknowledging the significance of imports in the domestic food supply.

3.1 STRATEGY: ENSURE FOOD AVAILABILITY AND FOOD SECURITY

3.1.1 Ensure that food and nutrition policies are consistent with legislation and policies to conserve and protect the natural environment.

- 3.1.2 Increase agricultural production and productivity for all farms, especially among women and smallholder backyard farmers.
- 3.1.3 Apply sustainable farming practices that enhance food production in response to managing risk resulting from climate change.
- 3.1.4 Equip farmers with technology and know-how to mitigate the effects of changing rainfall patterns and the broader aspects of climate change.
- 3.1.5 Reduce post-harvest losses and improve the efficiency of the food chain by strengthening post-harvest management and storage techniques through investment and training.
- 3.1.6 Ensure timely, appropriate arrangements are put in place to facilitate farmer access to affordable inputs.
- 3.1.7 Promote the role and facilitate the participation of women in the Cayman Islands food production system.
- 3.1.8 Promote and invest in developing agricultural value-addition initiatives (agro-processing), preservation of farm produce, livestock products and traditional foods.
- 3.1.9 Promote awareness of and demand for nutritious, safe, food commodities and the preparation of diverse menus.
- 3.1.10 Conduct investigative studies and publish findings surrounding the levels of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) and living modified organisms (LMOs) in the food supply and their impact on the health of the population

Goal 2 - Increase access of Cayman Islands households, individuals and visitors to sufficient, wholesome, affordable food: speaking to the need to increase job and income creation and strengthen national safety nets to better target the vulnerable – the differently-abled, the indigent, as well as children and female-headed households.

3.2 STRATEGY: PROMOTE INCOME AND JOB CREATION AND ENHANCE SAFETY NETS

- 3.2.1 Improve the employability of unskilled and semi-skilled.
- 3.2.2 Support diversified job creation initiatives – small and medium scale enterprises.
- 3.2.3 Improve baseline information and data collection systems to assess food and nutrition insecurity and vulnerability situation in the Cayman Islands. Incorporate the use of mapping techniques and
- 3.2.4 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyse complex food insecurity and vulnerability information.
- 3.2.5 Ensure social assistance programmes are aligned with relevant social protection policy and have components which enhance food and nutrition security.
- 3.2.6 Ensure social assistance programmes especially with food and nutrition components, have clear targets informed by evidence-based vulnerability and food and nutrition security assessments, and defined objectives.
- 3.2.7 Ensure that nutrition education and behaviour change communication are integral complementary aspects of social assistance programmes.
- 3.2.8 Recognise individual and community-level strategies to cope with food and nutrition insecurity, especially in the Sister Islands.
- 3.2.9 Ensure the design of social assistance programmes recognise the undervalued work of women as care-givers of the vulnerable and includes strategies to economically empower women.
- 3.2.10 Ensure that social assistance programmes which include food inputs prioritise local produce and affordable items of high nutritional value.

Goal 3 - Protect the public by providing quality and safety assurance for all food supplies (locally produced or imported) offered for sale in the Cayman Islands: promoting safe, wholesome foods.

3.3 STRATEGY: STRENGTHEN FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARDS

- 3.3.1 Ensure the adoption of a comprehensive approach to promoting food safety and quality throughout the food supply chain based on national and international standards.
- 3.3.2 Ensure systems and capacities are improved and adequately resourced to discharge mandated functions and responsibilities.
- 3.3.3 Ensure that all food imports comply with the relevant food safety regulations.
- 3.3.4 Ensure that safe water is used in agricultural food production and in all food premises.
- 3.3.5 Ensure use of approved, safe, agricultural chemicals in domestic agricultural production.
- 3.3.6 Effectively coordinate the application of food safety and quality standards across existing multi-sectoral structures, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, for consistency and harmony.
- 3.3.7 Ensure Food testing is evaluated in alignment with a Food Quality Assurance System and governed by an authoritative body that regulates standards for shelf sale.
- 3.3.8 Enhance public awareness and consumer education on food safety and food quality measures.
- 3.3.9 Strengthen national capacity for adherence to food safety and quality standard (human resources, skills development, updated knowledge and practices, and food laboratory equipment
- 3.3.10 Conduct investigative studies and publish findings surrounding the levels of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and living modified organisms (LMOs) in the food supply and their impact on the health of the population.

Goal 4 - Enhance integration of evidence-based nutrition interventions within broader public health framework – health service, water and sanitation: recognising that nutritious food could be compromised by poor hygiene and sanitation.

3.4 STRATEGY: IMPROVE NUTRITION SECURITY

- 3.4.1 Strengthen nutrition coordination within the health sector and reinforce multi-sectoral coordination in response to food and nutrition insecurity.
- 3.4.2 Prevent and reduce micronutrient deficiencies through appropriate awareness campaigns in schools, focusing on essential nutritional requirements for growth and development.
- 3.4.3 Develop and promote a national dietary guideline focused on foods indigenous to the Cayman Islands
- 3.4.4 Ensure behavior-change communication and nutrition education initiatives reflect an understanding of the socio-cultural aspects of Caymanian society and are incorporated in food and nutrition security interventions across all sectors
- 3.4.5 Ensure that food and nutrition security, including public health strategies, address and prevent obesity and chronic non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, other cardiovascular diseases (e.g. heart attacks and strokes), and chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma)
- 3.4.6 Promote safe water, good hygiene practices, and adequate sanitation, and ensure that basic health practices are in place as critical aspects of nutrition security
- 3.4.7 Conduct and publish research on the ecological suitability and nutrient content of GMOs and LMOs
- 3.4.8 Ensure that nutrition programmes are designed taking into account the different roles men and women play in nutrition security and the need to strengthen women's decision-making power therein
- 3.4.9 Ensure institutional nutrition interventions implemented at hospitals, prisons, residential care facilities, and schools meet national standards and are designed to promote and reinforce good nutritional practices

- 3.4.10 Ensure that the most vulnerable are prioritised for access to nutrition services.
- 3.4.11 Ensure optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices for all infants and young children (0-24 months)
- 3.4.12 Ensure optimal maternal nutrition for all women of reproductive age, with emphasis on pregnant and lactating mothers.

Enabling strategy 1 - Formulate and harmonise policies and instruments that protect and enhance food and nutrition security, particularly for the vulnerable, to direct government and non-government decision-making and action: aimed at providing a coherent framework for informing government and non-government decision-making and action across a broad multi-sectoral platform to resolve the multi-dimensional development challenge of food and nutrition insecurity and its devastating impacts.

3.5 STRATEGY: STRENGTHEN POLICY ANALYSIS AND COHERENCE:

- 3.5.1 Ensure that policies are human rights-based and agree with international obligations.
- 3.5.2 Ensure that policies are gender-sensitive and inclusive, to provide greater focus on the elderly, the youth, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups in alignment with international obligations
- 3.5.3 Encourage fully-functional markets, accessible to all farmers, traders, and other members of the food industry
- 3.5.4 Allow clearly-defined private sector roles and prices to respond to market-demand forces
- 3.5.5 Ensure that expenditure budgetary allocations to social sectors (health, education, social protection) and agriculture are increased and maintained at minimum acceptable levels
- 3.5.6 Reduce high fiscal costs of generalised subsidies; target the poor directly
- 3.5.7 Promote and ensure that food and nutrition security is integrated and owned by all relevant sectors and reflected in their policies and strategies

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- 3.5.8 Advocate and promote the implementation and expansion of all food and nutrition interventions with proven effectiveness.
- 3.5.9 Promote the role of the private sector to meet food import needs without adversely affecting local food production capacity. ¹⁴
- 3.5.10 Develop appropriate measures to mitigate the negative impact of rising global food prices.
- 3.5.11 Ensure policies reflect analysis of long-term sustainability, support private initiatives and avoid unplanned adverse environmental changes.
- 3.5.12 Ensure macro-economic, trade and sector policy frameworks support sustainable domestic agricultural production and markets, with particular focus on smallholder and women-owned or operated businesses.
- 3.5.13 Develop policies to stimulate private sector investment in agriculture and related value-added activities as a sustainable, diversified source of growth.

Enabling strategy 2 - Strengthen the food and nutrition security resilience of the country to natural and man-made shocks and the hazards of climate change: utilising data and information to mitigate against unplanned events and developing disaster risk reduction and management strategies.

3.6 STRATEGY: ENSURE STABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLY

- 3.6.1 Promote the establishment of an integrated national food and nutrition security information system (NFNSIS) to address the needs for assessing, analysing and providing early warning on availability, access, utilisation and stability of food.
- 3.6.2 Ensure individual sectors produce high-quality information and that the NFNSISs are established to organise, integrate and synthesise information from the relevant sectors.
- 3.6.3 Ensure all components of the NFNSIS integrate relevant data appropriately (including sex-disaggregated data); are robust and transparent; have buy-in from multiple government ministries and partner organisations, and are based on standardised, agreed indicators.
- 3.6.4 Ensure that the NFNSIS includes routine monitoring to track the effectiveness of food and nutrition security interventions.
- 3.6.5 Ensure food and nutrition security information leads to decision-making and national action.
- 3.6.6 Ensure the establishment of central repository for storage, retrieval, maintenance and update of information.
- 3.6.7 Ensure that the NFNSIS incorporates both qualitative and quantitative tools, emphasising participatory approaches.
- 3.6.8 Improve capability of the agricultural sector to deal with disasters and hazards.
- 3.6.9 Establish mechanisms for an adequate supply of food in times of shortage.
- 3.6.10 Establish stronger regional linkages to mitigate potential food supply challenge during or post a pandemic or disaster.
- 3.6.11 Encourage sound natural resource management in domestic food production. That will see the current land use zoning for Grand Cayman amalgamates agricultural land use with residential.
- 3.6.12 Establish legislation/policies to promote arable agricultural land for sustainable agricultural production.
- 3.6.13 Promote policies and strategies that will lead to the sustainable development and exploration of aquaculture and the blue economy.
- 3.6.14 Mitigate risks for agriculture arising from climate change, including, but not limited to changing rainfall patterns; increasing drought conditions; increased intensity of storms and hurricane; and potential salinisation of the water lenses due to sea level rise.

- 3.6.15 Develop and implement a research agenda on climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- 3.6.16 Improve farm production practices.
- 3.6.17 Promote sustainable controlled environment agriculture (CEA) and backyard farming practices.
- 3.6.18 Provide incentives and other benefits to farmers (including women and youth) to promote agricultural production.
- 3.6.19 Promote agricultural education, training, and research and development as a means to promote involvement, innovation, and productivity in the agricultural sector.
- 3.6.20 Increase access to land suitable for agriculture and capital for agricultural activities and innovations.
- 3.6.21 Incorporate climate change and variability issues in sector policy, planning and programming.
- 3.6.22 Integrate climate change considerations into the decision making of agricultural organisations and operations

- 3.6.23 Build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions to generate, analyse and disseminate climate-related information.

Enabling strategy 3 - Design and strengthen National Capacity for Food and Nutrition Security:

taking deliberate action to foster horizontal coordination across public agencies and to limit the adverse impact of “siloesation” on achieving the multi-sectoral objectives of food and nutrition security; supporting and reinforcing civil society; and promoting public, private and civil society cooperation.

3.7 STRATEGY: BUILD INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

- 3.7.1 Develop institutional arrangements and organisational frameworks for good governance of food and nutrition security actions.

Detailed information on the CIFNSP goals and accompanying strategies, objectives, key actions, outputs, and outcomes are presented in Annexure A.



4. Institutional Framework and Coordination Mechanisms

4.1 CONSIDERATIONS

There are two main considerations when determining institutional frameworks for Food and Nutrition Security. They are the basis of the effectiveness of food and nutrition security institutional frameworks: (1) institutional effectiveness for implementation, and (2) institutional capacities for coordination of food and nutrition security issues.

Available evidence indicates considerable country-to-country variation in institutional arrangements. Much of the analysis is concentrated on which institution should lead food and nutrition security programmes, and little thought about the processes needed within institutions to implement effective food and nutrition security strategies and programmes. For example, an FAO study of 13 countries in Latin America shows social development ministries leading the functions related to management of food and nutrition security in five countries; ministries of agriculture in four; while there was a balance between ministries in the four others. Another comparative analysis involving four countries (two from Africa, one from Asia and the other from Latin America) was similarly non-definitive.⁶

Lessons learned from analysing food and nutrition security institutional frameworks in different countries indicate each country has its own specificities depending on factors such as political will, institutional contexts, the role of civil society and the private sector, parliamentary support, budgetary allocation as well as governance and accountability mechanisms.

Several key variables are identified for ensuring the effectiveness of food and nutrition security institutional frameworks:

- Political commitment to food and nutrition security linked to broader development initiatives;
- Pursuit of flagship programmes, with appropriate levels of investment;
- Use of existing structures to establish and implement frameworks (pragmatism);
- Involvement of civil society and private sector partners in developing the arrangements (inclusivity);
- Instituting accountability, monitoring, evaluation and information systems to guide decisions on policies and programmes (good governance); and
- Legislation, where appropriate, to consolidate food and nutrition security processes.

4.2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral nature of food and nutrition security argues the need for comprehensive approaches to loosen the constraints which hinder its achievement. The proposed institutional framework pursues guidelines of inclusivity and integration. The structure accommodates the range of stakeholders, whose actions must be harmonised to ensure delivery on sectoral mandates, advisory objectives as well as coordination. It is also compatible with existing governmental arrangements.

It is proposed that the structure should be headed by a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Food and Nutrition Security to give political direction, make policy decisions and report to the Premier and Parliament about progress on achieving food and nutrition security targets. This Ministerial team will comprise Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries with responsibility for health, education, social welfare, employment, districts, trade and imports, agriculture.

6. *A Comparative Study on Institutional Frameworks for Food Security and Nutrition at the National Level*, Institute of Hunger Studies – Instituto de Estudios del Hambre (IEH), 2012

The establishment of a Food and Nutrition Security Council (FNCS) is proposed as a public-private-civil society mechanism with the mandate to promote a cohesive national response to the prevailing food and nutrition insecurity issues through coordinated multi-sectoral action.

The FNCS, whose status should be enshrined in law, will give strategic leadership and advice on food and nutrition security. It will also promote research and advocacy, ensure food standards compliance, and monitor and evaluate implementation. It will work in collaboration with all relevant sector ministries and departments. Its composition will reflect the rich diversity of interests in food and nutrition security.

The Council will establish a similarly structured mechanism in Cayman Brac: the Chairperson will be a member of the FNCS.

The National Coordinating Unit (NCU) will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the CIFNSP. It will be the programme support unit located in the Office of the Premier. A similar arrangement will be set up in Cayman Brac.

Figure 1 (below) highlights the institutional arrangements.

The CIFNSP and Strategic Matrix will inform the development and revision of sector-specific policies, budgets and other planning instruments. The cluster of initiatives identified under each strategic component will be overseen by inter-sectoral technical teams coordinated by the lead Ministry.

More detailed aspects will emerge and be elaborated in the Action Plans.

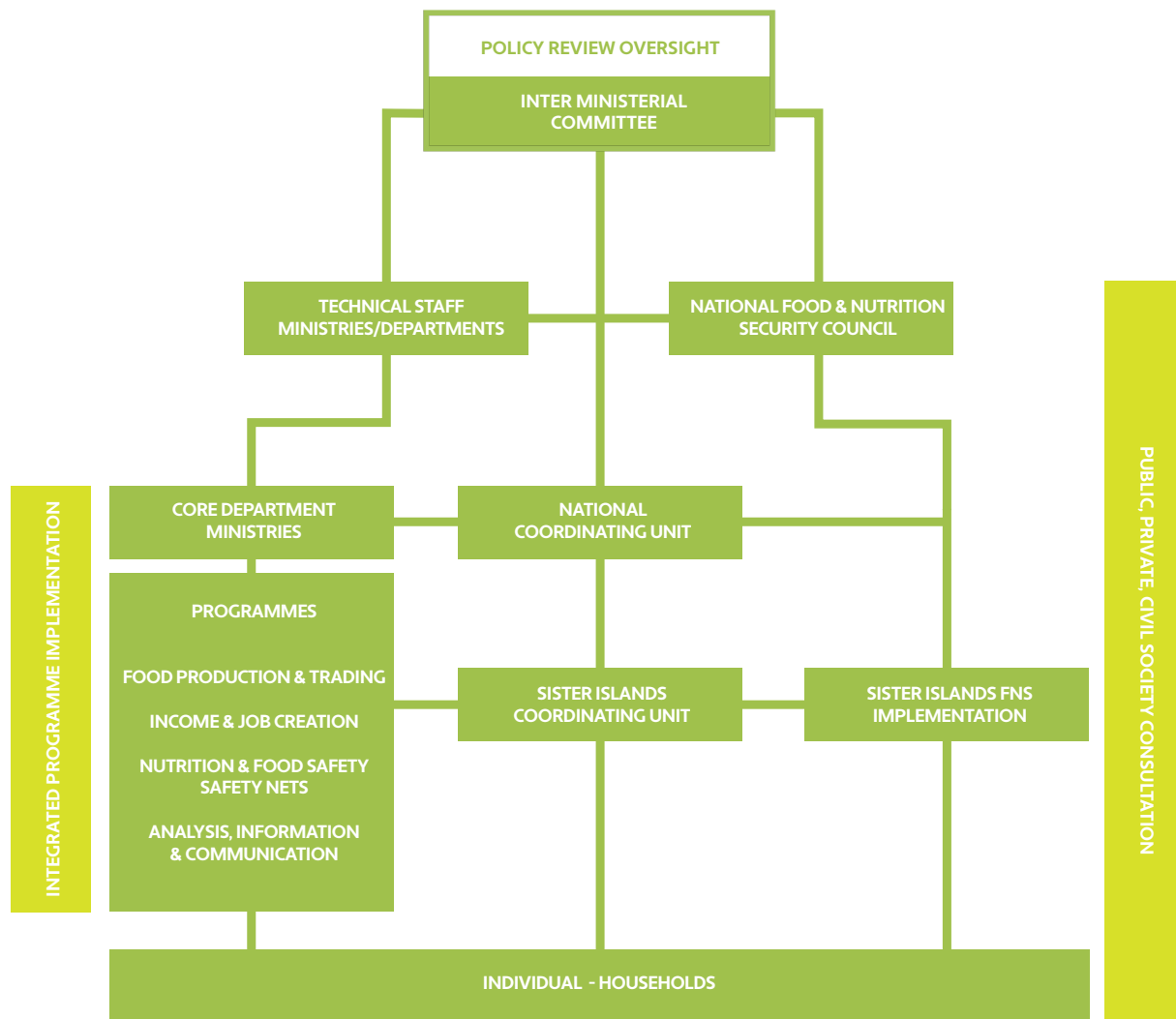


FIGURE 1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



4.3 MOBILISING CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Success in implementing the CIFNSP requires a clear understanding by all stakeholders of its goals and the means of achieving them. It is therefore critical to develop and implement an accompanying effective communications strategy to create the widest public awareness about the CIFNSP: its intended achievements and implementation arrangements. Special efforts should be made to reach the vulnerable – the food insecure and those suffering hunger and malnutrition, ensuring that they remain in the information loop.

Special networks must be established to inform and influence civil society and public sector partners, recruiting and maintaining their involvement in and readiness to take responsibility for aspects of implementation.

Areas of their possible engagement include:

- Participation in and technical contribution to monitoring and evaluation; dialogue on food and nutrition security issues, providing advice and feedback through the FNCS, and their active role in advocacy regarding food and nutrition security and the right to adequate food in the Cayman Islands.

In this regard, the opportunity will be taken to ensure that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are strengthened by providing support to capacity building.

4.4 THE WAY FORWARD

The policies, strategies and proposals for strengthening institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms outlined in the CIFNSP need to be widely discussed, agreed by Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly and eventually elaborated in an Action Plan. It then becomes a coherent, enabling framework for effectively coordinating national action in support of food and nutrition security in the Cayman Islands.



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and Nutrition
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A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation



**Ministry of Planning,
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