



The Agricultural Sector Plans and Programs

*And its outlook for economic
Growth*

January 2013

Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Sector importance and expectations
- Some recent production trends
- Summary of on-going activities
- Challenges
- Future outlook – Where we are going and what is required?
- Conclusion



Introduction

- **In the past decade we have experienced a global economic crises which, together with other events, have had unprecedented effects on our ability to develop our economy**
- **The country has faced short-term challenges linked to an economic slowdown and its impact on well-being and the soundness of government budgets.**
- **The country has also faced long-term ones involving the need to ensure economic development and to use its potential as a provider of food, while making sure to preserve the natural resources**
- **All of this is taking place in a more insecure international environment due to the volatility of markets and the probable effects of climate change**
- **In short, all of this has threatened gains made in reducing poverty and unemployment and the ability to earn incomes and hence well-being for citizens**

- Increased demand for food grains for varying reasons have continued to increase food prices, as well as, growing demand for meat especially, in china and India.
- This includes increases in prices for Wheat, Corn and oils seeds and to some extent rice on the world market as a result these increasing demands as a result of:
 - Natural disasters, including droughts and floods
 - Rising energy prices and so, increased demand for Bio fuels

If this continues there is potential to:

- Exacerbate our balance of payment deficit
- Increase local food and feed prices
- Lead to further aggravation of the nation's current health status with respect to non-communicable diseases(NCD)
- Importantly, it opens opportunities for increased local food production, consumption and marketing through targeted production and marketing interventions.

Despite these Challenges....

- Development experiences provide undeniable **evidence** that a **strong and dynamic agriculture** sector is a **pre-requisite for sustainable development**.
- Agriculture is a key sector with the **widest spreading employment and income gains** and holds the key to economic growth.
- However, a strong and dynamic agriculture requires an enabling national environment based on **sound policy and strategies, entrepreneurship, innovation and technology development** driven by **science**.

Our Vision

To contribute to the goal of national sustainable development through the delivery of high quality developmental and regulatory services, which add value to the agricultural sector, and enhance the natural resource base.

We at the Ministry of Agriculture believe there is a **future for agriculture**. But not in the way it is currently conceptualised, practiced or supported.

A sound agricultural policy is a necessary but not sufficient condition.

Agriculture needs a fundamental and **radical change of attitudes and practices** in the entire agricultural community.

The Goal

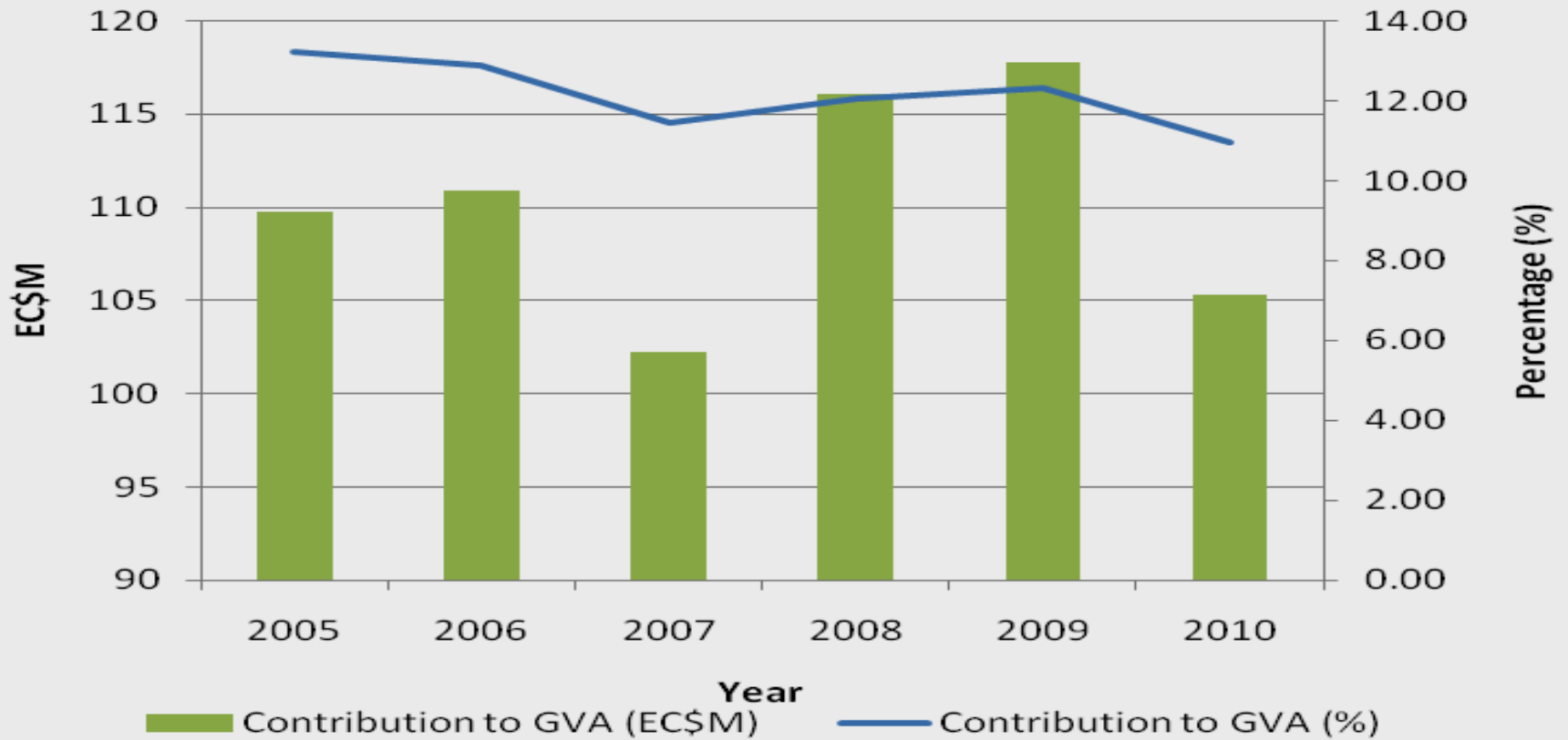
- To *sustain* the capacity for *broad-based* and *balanced* development of agriculture and natural resources
- This Implies....
 - *Environmental Sustainability*
 - *Competitiveness*
 - *Social equity*

Sector Importance and Expectations

- Contribute to national growth and development
- Provide foreign exchange earnings
- Provide Food and Nutrition Security
- Provide incomes for farm families and generate employment
- Provide primary commodities for export and agro-industry
- Integrate with other sectors for overall growth and development
- Allows for sustainable action to protect and conserve our biodiversity and the natural environment

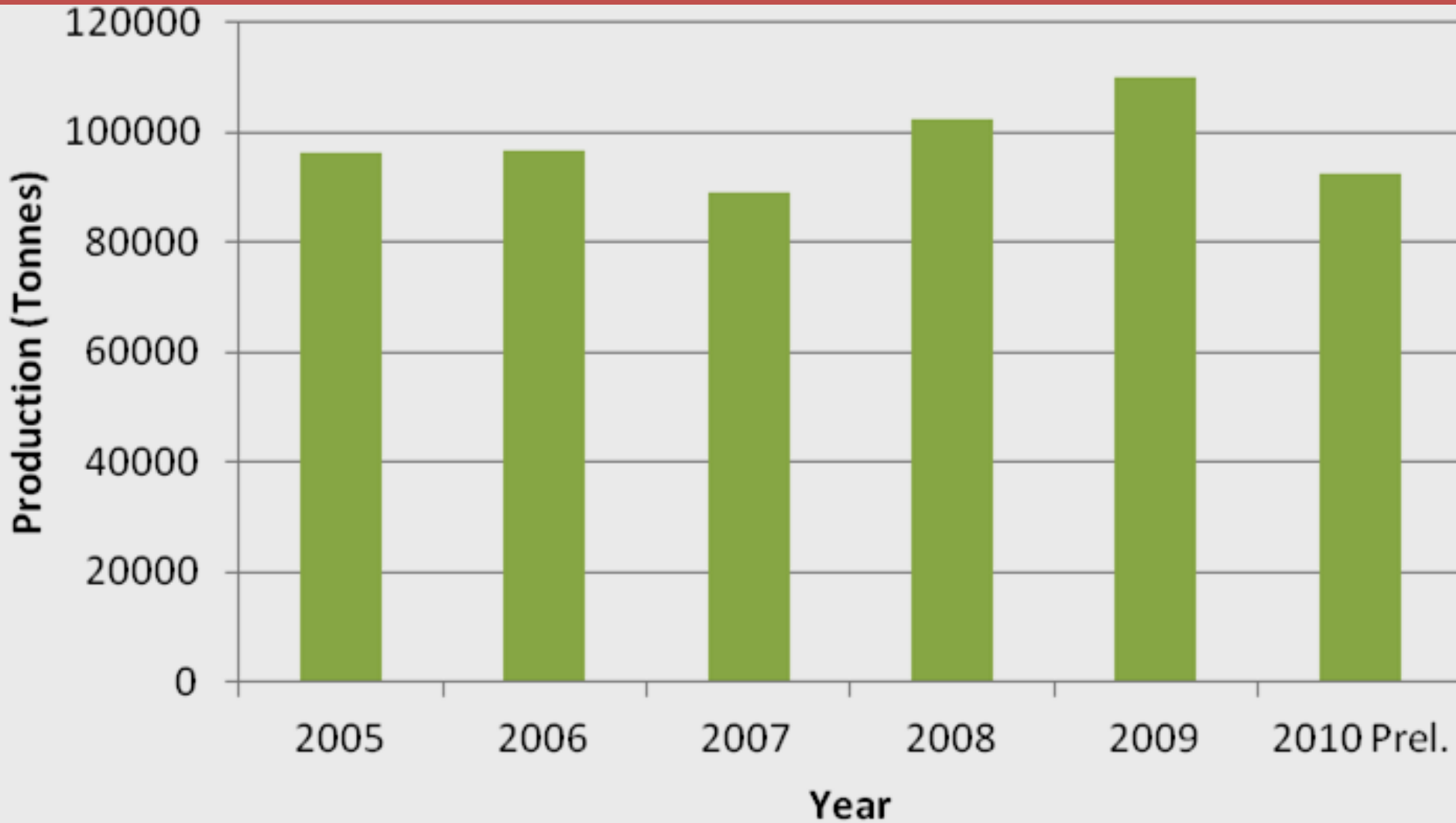


Agriculture's contribution to GVA: 2005-2010



Important contributor to the economy

Agricultural Production: 2005-2010



**15.8% reduction in production in 2010
(preliminary figures)**

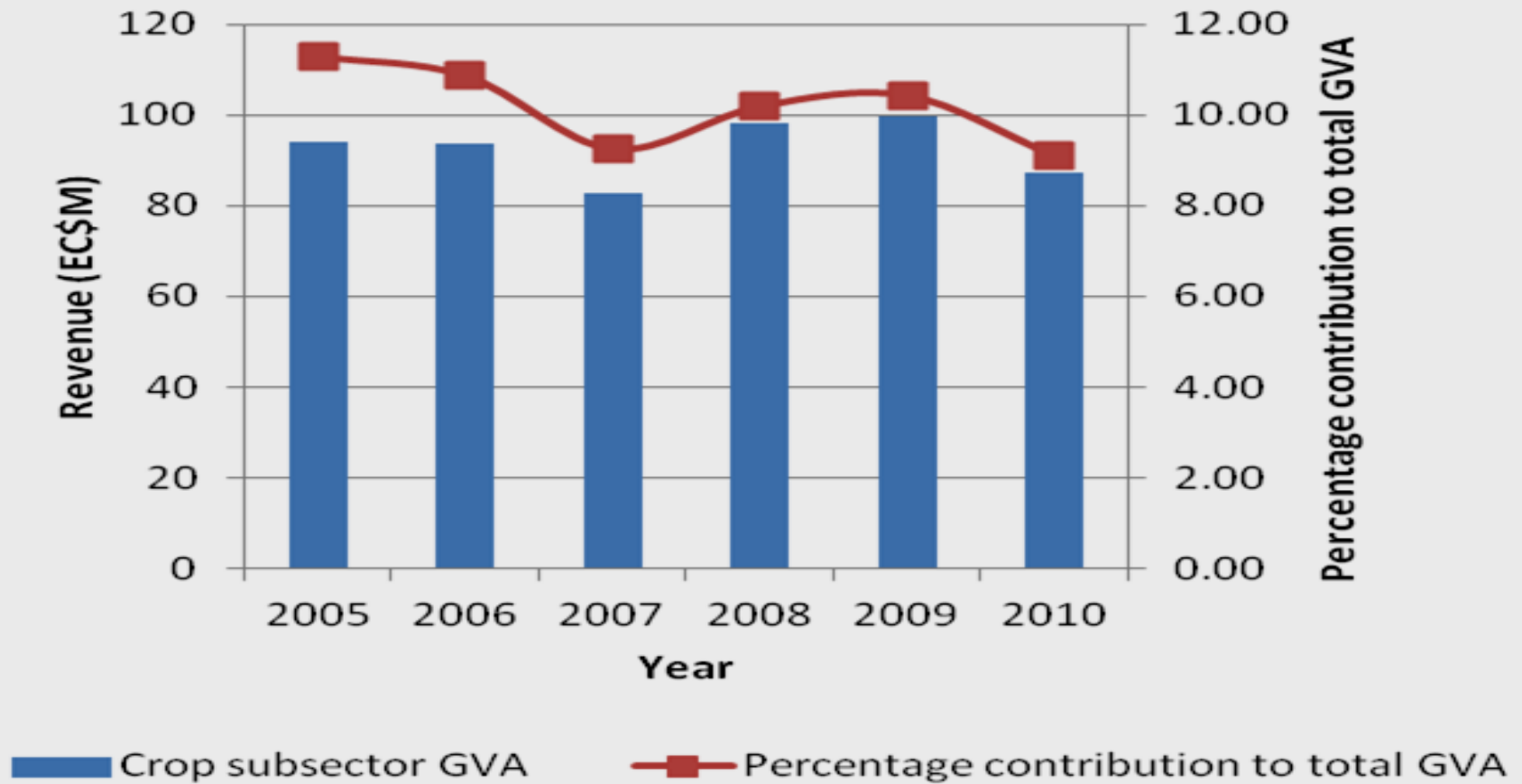
Some Recent Trends

A single banana fruit is shown hanging from a stem, positioned centrally in the upper half of the frame. The fruit is a mix of green and yellow, indicating it is not yet fully ripe. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a banana plantation or orchard.

CROPS

- **Declining market share for bananas**
- **Declining production, productivity and farmer base**
- **Increased exports of non-banana crops in recent past from dip in 2010**
- **Indicates a shift from bananas as the pillar**
- **Increased incidence of pest and diseases**

Crop Subsector GVA: 2005 - 2010



Contribution to GVA (GDP) declined in 2010

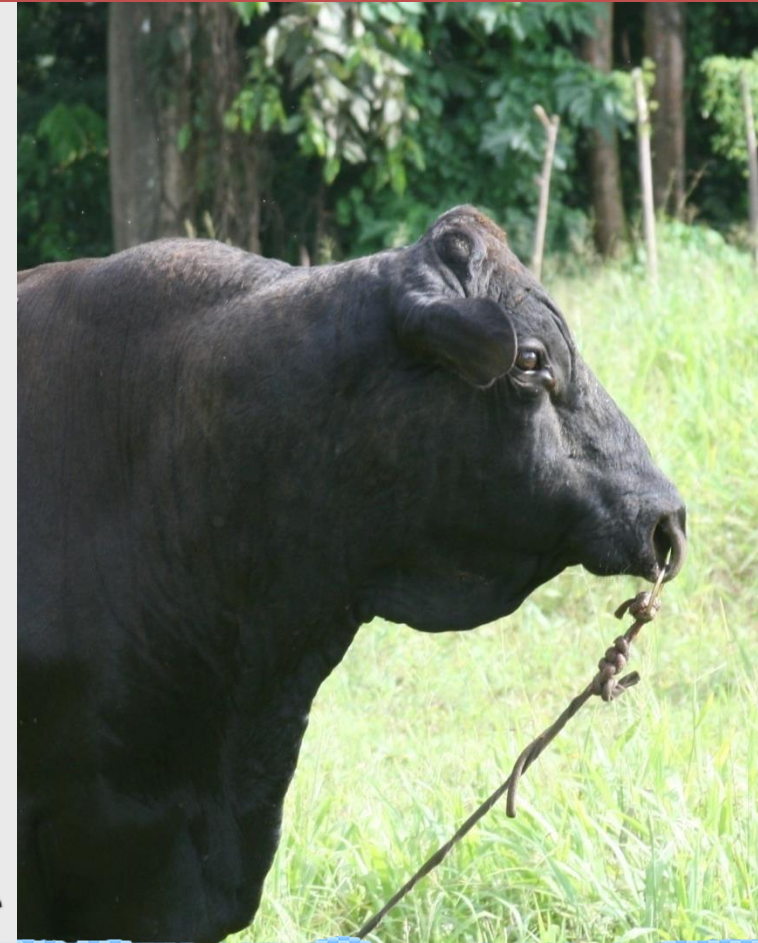
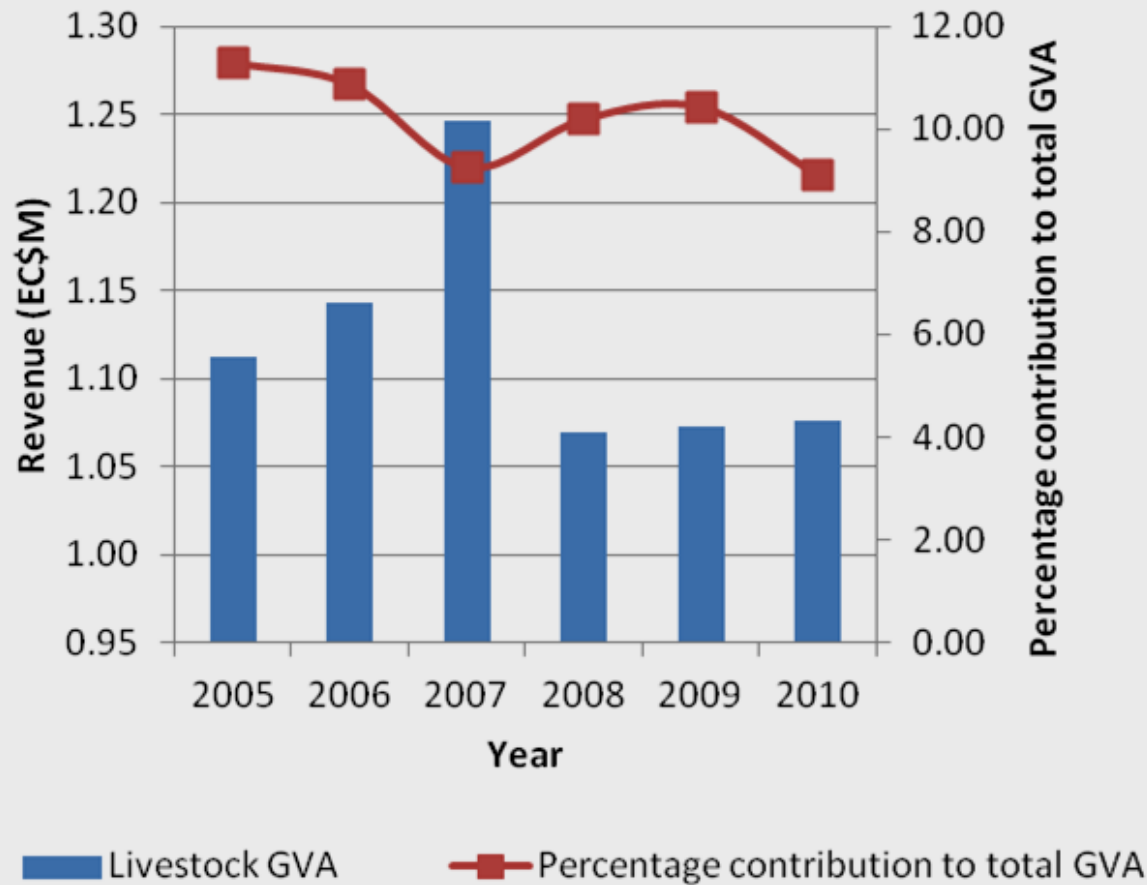


LIVESTOCK

Growth in the livestock sub-sector has not kept pace with demand for food of animal origin

The sub-sector is hence characterised by high imports and associated high outflow of much needed local funds

Livestock Contribution to GVA: 2005-2010



- Slight growth in its output in 2010
- Egg production in 2009 grew by 9.44 percent

Some encouraging initiatives and successes to build on....

- Increase in food and export crop production, especially through the implementation of the horticultural project: thousands of farmers benefitting
- Adoption of improved livestock production techniques: self sufficiency in egg production/fresh pork
- Availability of financial capital for farm investments
- Increase in fresh and processed exports
- Targeted actions on major pests and diseases
- New thrusts into targeted strategic crops
- Building resilience in the agriculture sector



Summary of Ongoing Activities



- Horticultural Project
- Cocoa Rehabilitation and Expansion Project
- Coffee Establishment
- Expansion of non-traditional and exotic crops
- Banana rehabilitation and expansion
- School Agriculture Programs

Summary of on-going activities

- **Citrus Certification program**
 - Plant propagation
 - Citrus Disease Diagnosis
 - Citrus scion rootstock performance research
- **Support to Horticulture**
- Livestock sub-sector and Central Livestock Farm
- Disaster Mitigation Program (FAO)
- Meeting of the Pesticide control board and the Pesticide Technical Committee

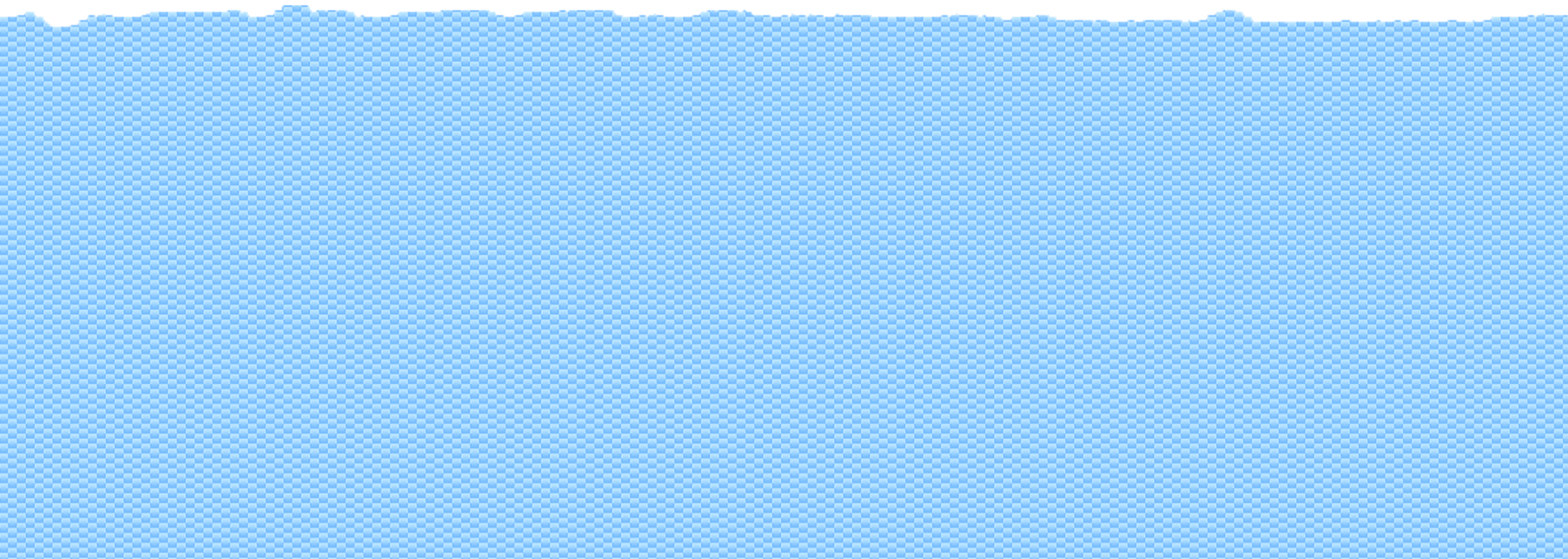
Summary of on-going activities

- **Plant Protection and Quarantine**
 - Black sigatoka Management
 - Black Sigatoka Resistant Varietal Trial
 - Citrus Greening Disease
 - Guava rust in bay leaf
 - Avocado Lace Bug (physalid control)
 - Palm Pest Complex
 - Fruit Fly Surveillance
 - Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Inquiry Point
- **Organic/Alternative Resource Agriculture**
- **Collaboration with all agencies** (Governmental and Non-Governmental, Regional and International agencies)
- **Disaster Mitigation Program (FAO)**

Summary of on-going activities

- **Livestock development Program**
 - Central livestock farm
 - Veterinary Epidemiology Project
 - Disease surveillance
 - The Molecular Laboratory with its increased capacities
- **Extension and Training**
 - Outreach Meetings and training points e.g. at Agricultural stations
Farmer Service Centers, farms and other areas
- **Agricultural Information, communication and training unit**
 - Continued collection
 - Library services
 - Public Awareness

Is that Enough?



Major challenges at the

- Institutional Level
- Legislative and Policy level
- Farmer/Farm/Production level
- Private Sector/Service Provision Level
- Market Place
- Global level
- And with risk associated with a changing climate, pest and diseases and praedial larceny

Essentially, we must focus on

- **Global actions (economic, political and trade related issues)**
- **Right policies and required strategies and actions**
- **Innovation and developing better production technologies through research**
- **Relevant information, knowledge delivery systems and supporting ICT mechanisms**
- **The effective demand of farm output but with means to deal with over production**
- **Distribution systems that are efficient**
- **Sustainability and resilience in the Agricultural Sector**



Outlook

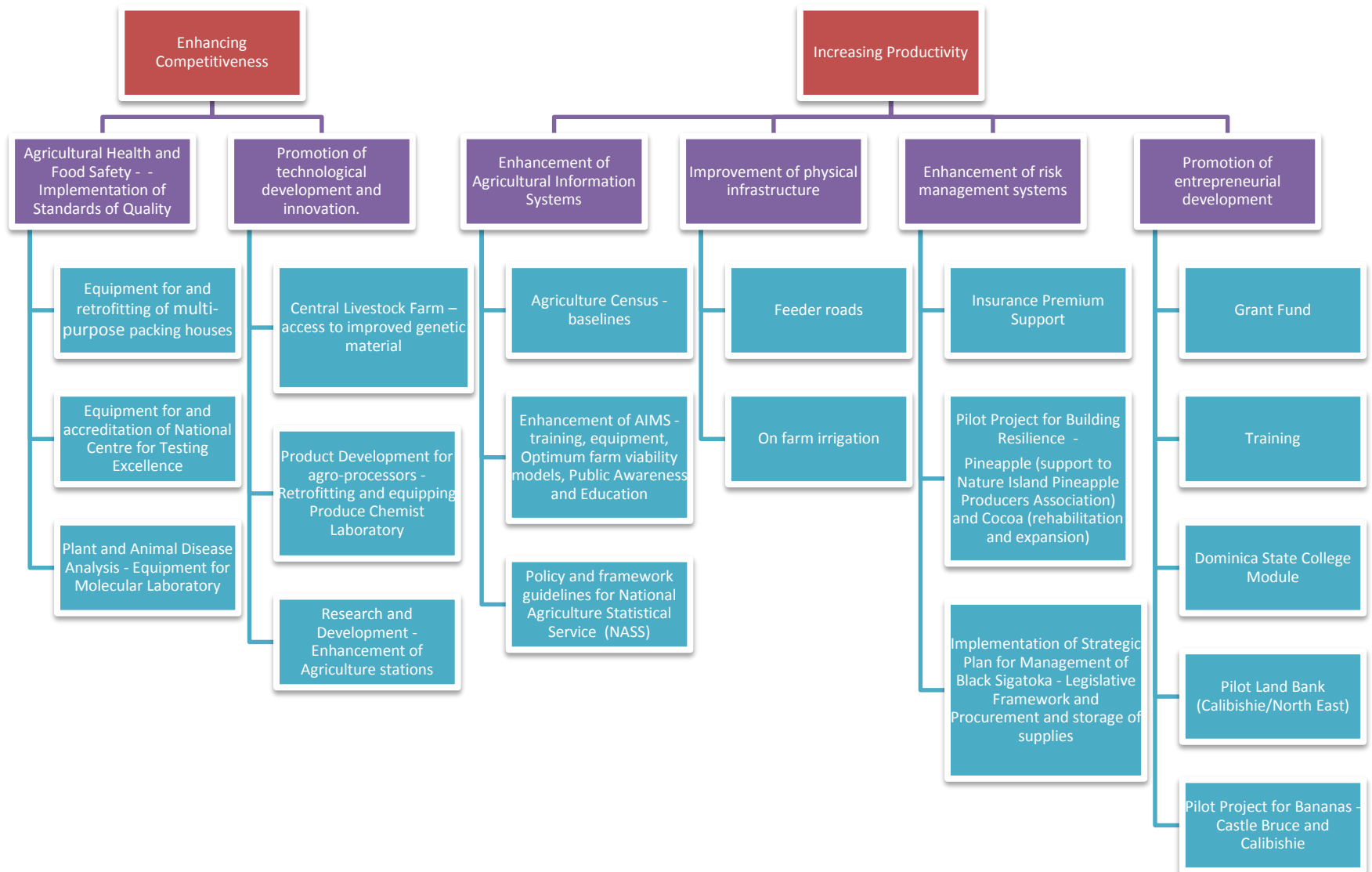
WITH THIS IMPORTANT TIIP!

- **Appropriate **T**echnologies**
- **Adequate supportive **I**nfrastructure**
- **Effective **I**nstitutional Support**
- **Appropriate **P**olicies**

BAM PROGRESS

- FINANCE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON MAY 9, 2013
- FIRST PROGRAM ESTIMATES WAS APPROVED ON JULY 14, 2013
- MARKS THE START OF IMPLEMENTATION
- TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ARE UP AND RUNNING

SCHEMATIC FOR BAM INTERVENTION



How? By.....

- **Building the right institutions with the required capacities**
- **Developing sustainable production systems**
- **Fostering agri-business and promoting value chains**
- **Innovating, conducting research and generating and diffusing required and appropriate technologies**
- **Supporting the professionalization of producers**
- **Managing risks, ensuring sustainability and building climate change resilience**



Institutional Development

- **Policy and legislative framework**
- **Human resource capacity**
- **Ensuring cross-sectorial integration and action**
- **Developing and maintaining sustainable ICT systems**
- **Develop mechanisms for planning, monitoring and evaluation**
- **‘Institutionalize’ key areas e.g. farm certification and GAP, praedial larceny, youth programs, etc**

Development of Sustainable Production Systems

- **FARMING SYSTEMS**
- **PRODUCTION PLANNING – A FOOD CROP PLAN**
- **FARMER SELECTION**
- **OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS**
- **Improved pest and disease surveillance and management, especially those of economic importance**
- **Improving availability and access to recommended inputs to producers**
- **Availability and access of certified/disease-free planting material**
- **The collection, management and use of reliable farmer/farm data for use at all levels**

Agri-business development and promotion of value chains

- **Creating the enabling environment for agri-business**
 - **Developing value chains along commodity lines**
 - **Systems, Protocols and Procedures**
- 

Innovation, Research and Development

- **Developing the necessary research and innovation framework**
- **Ensuring the utilization of participatory approaches**
- **Align technology development with appropriate transfer mechanisms**

Innovation, Research and Development

A close-up photograph of two ripe pomegranates hanging from a branch. The pomegranates are a mix of red and yellow, with some green leaves visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

- **Crop research**
- **Livestock research**
- **Production Systems**
- **Pest and Disease Field Research**
- **Cost of Production Analysis**

Supporting professionalization of producers

- **Farmer and Agri-business organizations**
 - The public sector to provide leadership in providing the enabling environment for the private sector to conduct business
 - Promotion of farmer and agri-business organizations with increased capacity-building and advocacy
 - Create a knowledge-intensive sector
 - Develop safety nets and schemes that assist farmers in retirement including crop insurance mechanisms against land speculators
 - Promote, develop and subscribe to new ways of doing business

Risk Management and Climate Change Resilience

- **Build partnerships for climate change**
- **Utilize adaptive mechanisms for climate variability by utilizing better crop varieties and livestock types**
- **Subscribing to programs and projects that provide opportunities**
- **Utilize better water and input use regimes and proper soil amelioration/conservation and better land management action**
- **Ensure planning and action to include best farm practices such as, pest and disease management and control, land use, soil management ...**
- **Mechanisms that provide for farm insurance, credit and financing and actions against praedial larceny**

Required Broad Action Areas

- Securing enough land for agricultural production
- Develop a National Food Production Plan
- Seek to develop existing/new crops with high comparative advantage and niche potential
- Vegetable Herbs and Spices
- Create greater efficiency in the Support to Horticulture Programme
- Expand Citrus with clear policy direction
- Collaborate for operationalization of the pack houses



- Agricultural Production and marketing Information data
- Agro-met data and improve monitoring of weather patterns
- National farm registry and develop appropriate incentive program
- Youth and women involvement
- Disaster Risk Management
- Formalize farm labour as a key factor of production





- Livestock development and associated activities
- Product development and agro-processing
- Infrastructural development
- Farm technology transfer and delivery systems
- Agricultural health and food safety
- Pest and disease management
- Plant and animal genetic material
- Building diagnostic capabilities

We need to look practically, at....

- **Stabilizing the banana sub-sector**
- **Formalizing labour regimes**
- **Building and strengthening farmer organizations**
- **Recruiting young and other new entrants to farming**
- **Crop and livestock production mix and systems**
- **Building necessary infrastructure**
- **Strengthening markets and delivery systems**
- **Value –addition and Agro-processing**
- **Transportation (land & sea)**
- **Suitable land for production**
- **Use of renewable energy**
- **Rehabilitating irrigation systems as production centers**
- **Increased linkages/networks nationally and externally**

We need to look practically, at....

- Determine **POLICY** and strategic direction for the sector, **PEOPLE** involved, **PLACE** of production and chain action and **PRODUCT**
- Increasing investments and funding
 - Successful implementation of BAM, PPCR and OECS Programs
- Collaboration among public sector agencies
- Collaboration with private sector, NGO's, Youth, women, farmers, students and community groups
- Risk Management, building resilience and sustainability
- Business Planning and corporate action
- Creating the enabling environment for doing business
- Redefine extension message action and delivery methods

In conclusion:

Building reliance, quality, safety and resilience in the domestic food system (**Food and Nutrition Security**)

Building diversity, productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship in value chain (**Competitiveness**)

Building resilience and securing the productivity of natural resources and the environment (**Environmental Sustainability**)



**WE INTEND TO BUILD
AGRICULTURAL PRIDE IN
THIS COUNTRY**

**The task is great, but we
will plough on!**





THANK YOU