



Caribbean
Agricultural
Research and
Development Institute

CAYAB REGIONAL CONSULTATION & VALIDATION SERIES

Empowering Youth. Transforming Caribbean Agrifood.



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VIRTUAL SERIES



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REGIONAL CONSULTATION & VALIDATION SERIES

CAYAB Institutional Framework

Mandate • governance • representation • operations • accountability

SESSION 1 | 11 AUGUST 2026 | CONSULTATION DRAFT

Why institutional strengthening is needed

A stronger structure is required to convert youth participation into sustained regional contribution.

Clarity

Define CAYAB's mandate and its relationship with regional decision-making.

Representation

Create credible links between country-level youth stakeholders and regional processes.

Accountability

Set expectations for attendance, consultation, reporting and delivery.

Continuity

Preserve institutional memory and reduce disruption when members change.

CENTRAL QUESTION

Can CAYAB remain representative while becoming dependable, responsive and able to deliver?

What CAYAB is expected to do

Proposed mandate: a regional youth advisory and coordination mechanism for agriculture, food systems and agrifood transformation.

1	Advise	Provide youth-informed advice on regional policies, programmes and priorities.
2	Coordinate	Connect national youth voices and country experience with regional processes.
3	Advocate	Elevate youth constraints, opportunities and practical recommendations.
4	Support	Contribute to consultation, implementation, partnerships and follow-up.

What success should look like

Vision: young people recognized, organized and empowered as long-term partners in Caribbean agrifood transformation.

01

Representation

A credible mechanism for regional youth representation

02

Policy input

Structured youth advice on policy and implementation

03

Coordination

Links between national youth networks and regional institutions

04

Leadership

Young leaders capable of contributing to regional processes

05

Accountability

Clear responsibilities, reporting and follow-through

06

Partnerships

Collaboration that adds value without duplication

How CAYAB is organized

A practical structure must balance regional representation with effective leadership and delivery.

CAYAB PLENARY

Members and Country Representatives

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Policy & Advocacy

Technical review and
recommendations

Engagement & Communications

Outreach and youth mobilization

Implementation & Reporting

Workplans, follow-up and
documentation

DESIGN TEST

Is the structure representative enough to be credible—and simple enough to function?

Who is responsible for what

The framework must distinguish strategic leadership, member representation and technical delivery.

Executive leadership

- Set direction and convene meetings
- Represent CAYAB externally
- Approve workplans and major outputs
- Track decisions, risks and partnerships

Members / country representatives

- Participate consistently
- Consult national youth networks
- Bring country priorities forward
- Report back and lead assigned actions

Working groups / committees

- Advance technical tasks
- Prepare draft outputs
- Support consultations and events
- Document and monitor recommendations

How the institution should function

Simple operating standards convert a structure on paper into a dependable regional mechanism.

1	Meet	Regular meetings, attendance expectations and workplan reviews
2	Consult	Engage country networks before major positions are taken
3	Decide	Use consensus where possible and formal decisions where required
4	Record	Maintain minutes, decisions, action trackers and controlled documents
5	Report	Provide updates, recommendations and progress reports

DECISION POINT Confirm the minimum operating standards that should apply to every member.

Who must be represented

CAYAB should reflect Caribbean youth diversity while maintaining a manageable and accountable membership model.

01	Geographic	Member States and Associate Members	02	Sectoral	Farming, fisheries, agribusiness, research, policy and technology
03	Gender	Balanced representation and meaningful leadership opportunities	04	Community	Rural, Indigenous, vulnerable and underrepresented youth
05	Experience	Emerging leaders and experienced young professionals	06	Institutional	Links with ministries, youth bodies and regional partners

How CAYAB connects

CAYAB should serve as a connector between youth stakeholders and institutions already advancing regional agriculture.



CONNECTOR PRINCIPLE

Coordinate and channel youth input without duplicating existing mandates or programmes.

How credibility is maintained

Representation must be matched with transparent decisions, visible contribution and consistent follow-through.

- ✓ **Defined terms, eligibility and appointment processes**
- ✓ Attendance and participation expectations
- ✓ Country consultation and reporting responsibilities
- ✓ Decision records, minutes and action tracking
- ✓ Annual workplans and progress reporting
- ✓ Conflict-of-interest and ethical standards

Advisory Alumni Network

An advisory alumni layer can preserve institutional memory and mentorship without replacing active CAYAB members.

Core functions

- Mentor current members
- Provide institutional memory
- Advise on governance and policy
- Support consultations and transitions
- Assist partnerships and resource mobilization

Governance safeguards

- No automatic voting rights
- No displacement of active members
- Clear appointment and term rules
- Conflict-of-interest safeguards
- Advisory—not executive—authority

VALIDATION QUESTION

Would this mechanism strengthen continuity without weakening active-member authority?

What stakeholders are being asked to assess

Feedback should test whether the framework is clear, workable, representative and accountable.

01 Is the proposed mandate clear and appropriate?

02 Is the governance structure practical and workable?

03 Does membership provide balanced regional representation?

04 Are roles and responsibilities sufficiently defined?

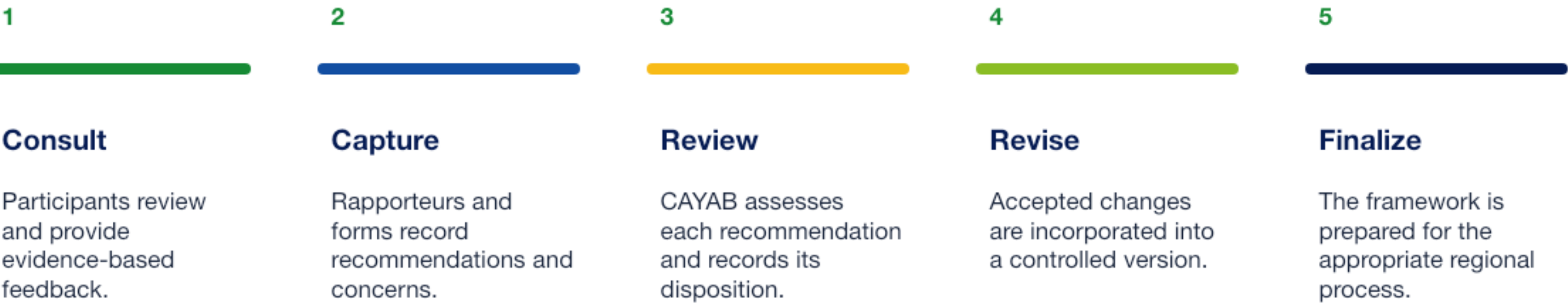
05 Are accountability and reporting arrangements strong enough?

06 How should CAYAB engage Member States, institutions and youth networks?

07 What changes are required before the framework is finalized?

How feedback becomes a final framework

Consultation findings will be documented, reviewed and incorporated before the framework advances for regional consideration.



VALIDATION GOAL

A clear, practical and regionally supported framework for structured youth participation.

Thank you

Consultation draft—not an adopted institutional framework.

This presentation supports regional consultation and validation. Stakeholder feedback will be documented, reviewed and incorporated before the framework advances for formal consideration.

This Consultation and Validation Series is an output of the project 'Supporting an enabling environment for enhanced youth participation in the CARICOM Agri-food system' being implemented by CARDI in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and CAYAB. The project is financed by the FAO Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU).