

SESSION 2 - PARTICIPANT BRIEFING NOTE

Strengthening Local Markets

Tuesday, 18 August 2026 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Atlantic time | Virtual

SESSION FOCUS

Local procurement, supplier readiness, certification and market access.

Purpose

Test the LAFP's proposed procurement and market-access provisions and identify practical ways to create more dependable demand for Caribbean agricultural products.

Why this matters

Farmers and agrifood enterprises are more likely to invest and expand when they can see reliable demand, understand buyer requirements and compete through fair and transparent processes.

What the session will examine

- Institutional and public procurement as a source of predictable demand
- Supplier readiness, certification and proportionate standards
- Fair access for youth, small producers and cooperatives
- Buyer-supplier relationships, contracting and payment constraints

Questions participants will help answer

1. Which institutions and buyers should be prioritised?
2. What minimum supplier-readiness requirements are realistic and fair?
3. How can procurement systems avoid excluding youth and smaller producers?
4. What market barriers must be addressed alongside the policy?

How to prepare

- Consider the purchasing practices of schools, hospitals, hotels and other institutions.
- Identify the main reasons local producers struggle to supply formal buyers.
- Bring examples of procurement or market-access approaches that have worked.

What to expect

The 120-minute session includes opening remarks, a keynote address, a technical presentation, youth discussants, moderated regional discussion, validation questions and a summary of recommendations.

Participants may support a proposal, recommend a revision or identify an issue requiring further technical review.

CONSULTATION STATUS

The CAYAB Institutional Framework and Local Agriculture First Policy remain consultation proposals. Publication does not constitute formal adoption or approval.