

Summary Presentation on the

Local Agriculture First Policy

Regional Consultation & Validation Series

Purpose: To present the proposed market-access and procurement framework for stakeholder review, validation and technical recommendations.

Market Access

Procurement

Food Security

Validation

The Regional Market Challenge

Caribbean producers often face weak and inconsistent market access even where demand exists.



Import Dependency

High reliance on imported foods reduces resilience and limits local value capture.



Unstable Markets

Local producers may not have predictable access to institutional buyers.



Fragmented Supply

Production is often dispersed across small producers without aggregation.



Weak Logistics

Storage, cold chain, transport and distribution gaps affect reliability.



Limited Visibility

Buyers may not know what local or regional products are available.



Procurement Barriers

Requirements can be difficult for small and emerging producers to meet.

Core problem: Production alone will not transform agriculture unless producers can reliably reach markets.

Why the Policy Is Needed

The policy connects agricultural development to reliable demand, fair market access and public purchasing decisions.



- Create stronger and more predictable demand
- Improve access for local and regional producers
- Encourage investment in production
- Reduce avoidable import dependence
- Connect public purchasing with agricultural-development objectives

Policy Purpose and Scope

The Local Agriculture First Policy is a market-access and procurement framework, not a replacement for existing laws or programmes.

The policy seeks to increase the use of locally and regionally produced agricultural goods where they are available, competitively priced and able to meet required quality, safety and supply standards.

Supports

CARICOM 25 by 2025 + 5, food security, producer opportunity and stronger regional markets.

Complements

Existing procurement laws, food-safety systems, trade rules and agricultural-development programmes.

Requires

Phased implementation, quality safeguards, transparent processes and supply reliability.

Validation focus: Is the scope clear enough to guide implementation without overstating agreed commitments?

Core Policy Principles

The principles define how Local Agriculture First should be applied in practice.



Local & Regional Preference



Competitive Pricing



Reliable Supply



Phased Implementation



Regional Cooperation



Fair and Transparent Procurement



Quality and Food-Safety Compliance



Inclusive Producer Participation



Accountability and Monitoring

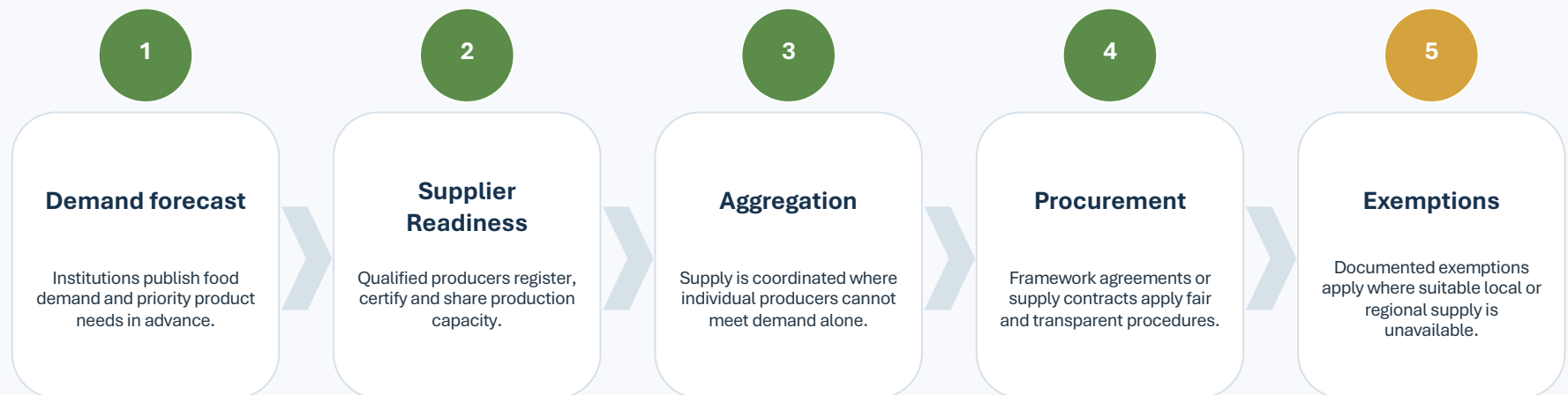


Complementarity with Existing Initiatives

Principle in Practice: Preference must be balanced with quality, reliability, transparency and value for money.

Proposed Procurement Framework

The framework turns local preference into a practical purchasing process.



Key policy choice: Establish realistic procurement targets and transparent exemptions while building supplier capacity.

Supplier Registration and Certification

The supplier system should protect standards while helping small and emerging producers qualify.

Supplier information captured

- National or regional supplier registry
- Basic eligibility requirements
- Food-safety and quality verification
- Production-capacity information
- Crop and product availability

Certification and support

- Pricing and delivery capacity
- Certification or phased compliance
- Technical support for producers
- Updated supplier records
- Clear routes for youth and small producers

Validation focus: How can standards be maintained without excluding small, youth-led and emerging producers?

Market Infrastructure and Aggregation

Procurement commitments require physical, digital and organizational systems that can move product reliably.



Aggregation Hubs

Coordinate volumes from multiple producers so institutions can buy reliably.



Packhouses

Support grading, sorting, cleaning and preparation for institutional buyers.



Cold Storage

Reduce spoilage and improve timing between harvest and delivery.



Transport & Distribution

Move products consistently across islands, districts and institutions.



Digital Ordering

Improve visibility of demand, availability and delivery schedules.



Producer Scheduling

Align planting and harvesting with procurement needs and supply contracts.

Implementation should be progressive: infrastructure needs will vary by Member State, product category and production capacity.

Policy Implication: Procurement targets must be matched with aggregation, storage, logistics and digital coordination.

Roles and Responsibilities

The policy depends on clear responsibilities across governments, producers, buyers, regional institutions and CAYAB.



Member States

Adapt policy to national systems; establish targets; identify priority institutions and products; monitor implementation.



Producers & Organizations

Register supply; meet quality and delivery standards; coordinate production; participate in training.



Public Institutions & Buyers

Forecast demand; apply transparent purchasing; report local and regional purchasing.



Regional Institutions & Partners

Provide technical assistance; support standards, data systems, financing and infrastructure.



CAYAB

Support youth engagement; gather implementation feedback; promote youth participation; assist monitoring and consultation.

Validation focus: Are the proposed roles realistic, and which institutions should lead each implementation function?

Monitoring, Transparency and Accountability

A Local Agriculture First approach must be measurable, transparent and reviewed over time.

Supplier Registry

Who is eligible and what they can supply

Procurement Dashboard

What institutions are buying locally and regionally

Annual Reports

Progress against targets and implementation barriers

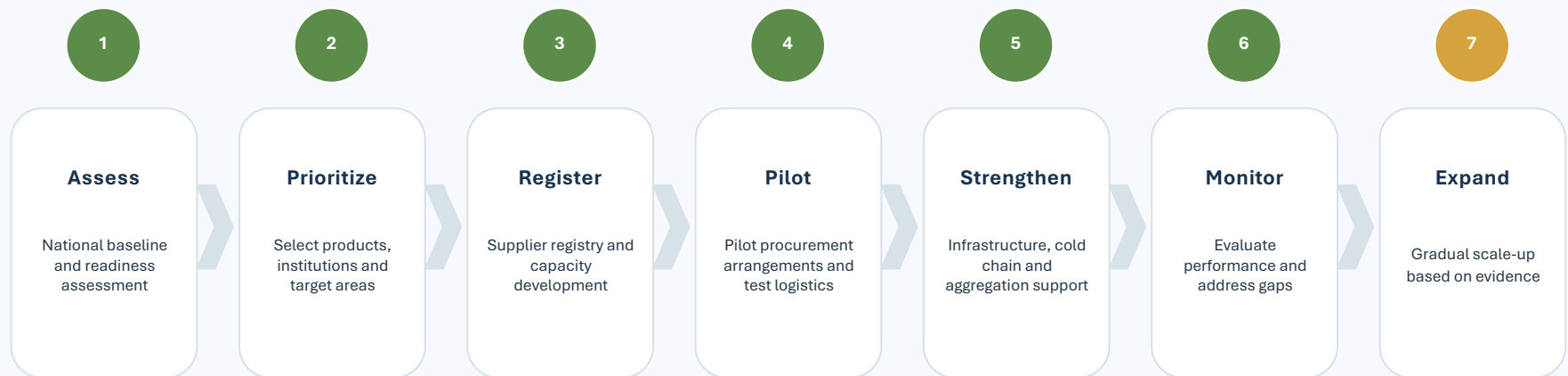
Policy Review

Adjustments based on evidence and stakeholder feedback

- Documented exemptions where suitable supply is unavailable
- Stakeholder feedback mechanisms for producers and buyers
- Periodic review to improve implementation and avoid unintended exclusion

Implementation Approach

The policy should be implemented progressively, based on national readiness, product availability and institutional capacity.



Targets, timelines and product categories should differ across Member States based on capacity and circumstances.

Areas for Stakeholder Validation

Feedback should focus on policy scope, implementation feasibility, safeguards and institutional responsibilities.

1 Is the purpose and scope of the policy clear?

3 How should “competitive pricing” be defined?

5 How can small and emerging producers be supported to qualify?

7 What infrastructure is required for implementation?

9 What monitoring and accountability arrangements are necessary?

2 Should the policy apply only to government procurement or wider institutional purchasing?

4 What quality, food-safety and supply standards should apply?

6 What procurement target or phased approach is practical?

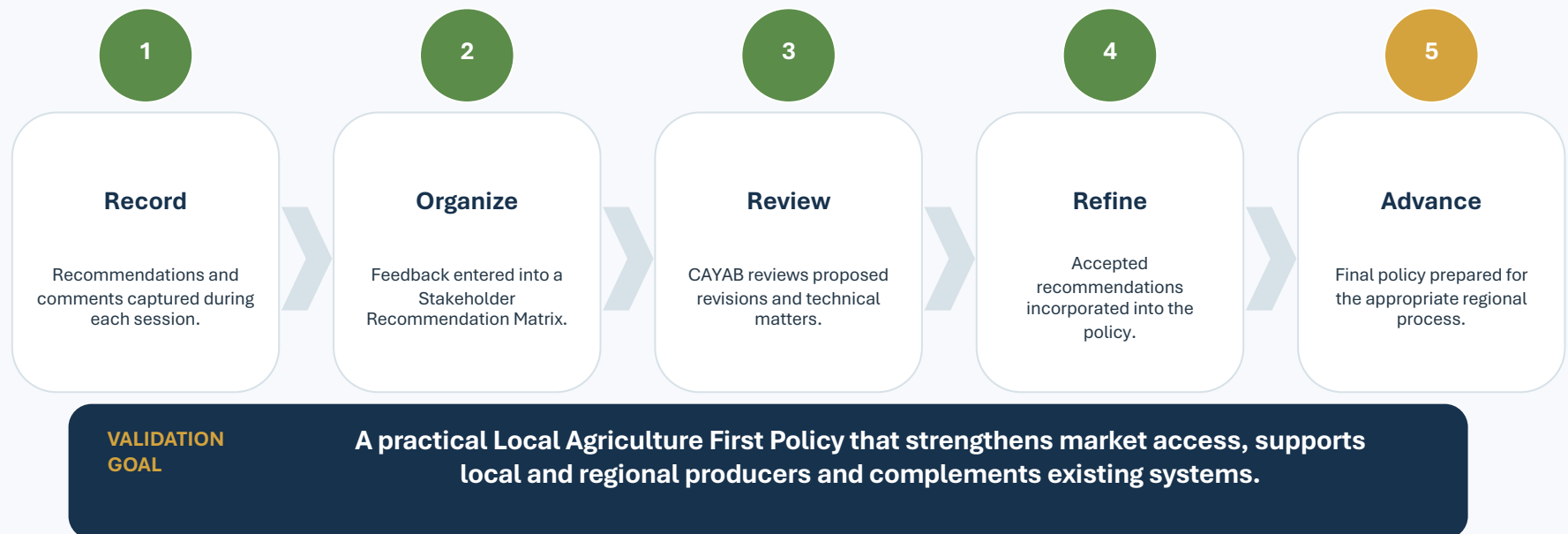
8 What roles should Member States, institutions, buyers and producers perform?

10 What changes should be made before the policy is finalized?

The goal is not endorsement by default; it is informed validation, revision and practical strengthening.

From Consultation to Refinement

Stakeholder input will be documented, reviewed and used to strengthen the policy before regional submission.



Thank you