



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS***

ON

***AGENDA ITEM 26(a): AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION***

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE
OF THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Madam Chair,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We have long recognized the contribution of agriculture to sustainable development. We also recognize that a robust enabling framework is critical for the transformation of our agriculture sector, in order to prepare it to effectively confront systemic challenges at all levels. It is in this context that I deliver these brief remarks.

Madam Chair,

Jamaica's agriculture sector is a key driver of economic growth and development and remains the backbone of the rural economy. It is also an important contributor to GDP, employment, foreign exchange earnings, rural life, environmental sustainability and food security.

In addition to the COVID-19 fall-out, we remain challenged by chronic impediments such as lack of irrigation infrastructure and reliable water supplies, praedial larceny, transportation-related challenges and adverse weather conditions. In fact, in August 2021 tropical storms Grace and Ida caused significant loss of crops, livestock and farmlands, and extensive damage to road and other infrastructure.

Madam Chair,

Cognizant of the strong positive correlation between growth in the agriculture sector and growth in our economy, the Government prioritized a swift recovery plan for this sector.

One such initiative is our collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which resulted in funding support for a buy-back programme. This programme enabled us to purchase excess agricultural produce to store and redistribute through children's homes, communities under lockdown and domestic mobile farmers' markets. Through this, farmers had consistent access to reasonable markets, and consumers had a consistent supply of safe, cost-efficient food.

Madam Chair,

In order to mitigate the impact of persistent and emerging challenges to agricultural development, food security and nutrition, we have identified the following strategic imperatives to recover and build resilience:

- Investment in storage, distribution and irrigation;
- Diversification of crops;
- Improvement of land utilisation; and
- Deepening of domestic linkages with other sectors, including tourism.

Jamaica continues to implement policies with a view to making agriculture more sustainable, equitable and inclusive, especially for our youth and women.

Madam Chair,

On the domestic level, we are committed to transforming our food systems to fulfil the mandate in our National Development Plan – Vision 2030 - and to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its SDGS. In particular, we maintain focus on SDG 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Jamaica firmly believes that through sustainable food production systems and the implementation of resilient agricultural practices, we will be able to:

- Increase productivity and production;
- Help maintain ecosystems that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters; and
- Progressively improve land and soil quality.

As articulated at the 2021 UN Food Systems summit, Jamaica emphasizes that the transformation of global food systems should strike a balance among the following objectives:

- The capacity to increase food production levels and variety;
- Agricultural health and food safety;
- Nutritional diversity and quality; and;
- Equitable food standards that govern trade, and environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Thank you Madam Chair.