



Cooperative Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) of the Government of Suriname, the National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS) and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS)

Paramaribo, 11 March 2022 – Charting a path forward towards an innovative and competitive food and agri-food production sector in Suriname through strengthening regulatory oversight and better reliance on science in food decision-making.

A 5-year cooperative agreement was signed yesterday between the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) of the Government of Suriname, the National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS) and the [Global Food Regulatory Science Society \(GFORSS\)](#) with the overall objective to promote innovation and value-addition of the Food and Agri-food sector, through strengthening the capacity and developing the operational performance of Suriname’s food competent authorities and in particular the newly created National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS), as the primary food safety regulator in the country.

This agreement represents the culmination of discussions between these organizations which took place on the margin of the Food for Future Summit, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in late February 2022, where Suriname was represented by a high level delegation to attend and contribute to the Summit.

The [Global Food Regulatory Science Society \(GFORSS\)](#) is a non-for-profit organization based in Canada, with a global outreach, whose mission is to promote the development and adoption of food regulatory science supporting the enhancement of food control systems worldwide. GFORSS is contributing to various capacity building initiatives in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

With the development and implementation of this cooperative agreement, GFORSS would be initiating its contribution in the American Continent starting with Suriname and the Caribbean Region.

“Signing this agreement with the Global Food Regulatory Science Society, with its wide network of collaborations, translates the commitment of our Ministry and of our Government to harness the best expertise from around world, to contribute to the development of our food regulatory oversight in a manner that supports our production Sector. Gaining and maintaining new markets, requires positioning our products as innovative and achieving the highest standards of safety and quality.” Said **Parmanand Sewdien**, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of Suriname. “We aim to offer an abundant, safe and sustainable food supply, to ensure the best protection possible for our consumers and a bright future for our producers” added **Minister Sewdien**.

The agreement calls for the development of initiatives to help modernize Suriname’s food legislative and regulatory environment, to support the operationalization of NIVS, as Suriname’s primary food safety regulator and to support the development of innovation and “the adoption of of food processing technologies such that the agri-food production sector becomes more competitive, more sustainable ... while contributing to the reduction of food loss and greenhouse emissions”.

“Our food and agri-food production sector is as strong as the credibility of its food regulator”, declared Ms. **Parveen Amritpersad**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of NIVS. “We welcome this cooperative agreement and the momentum it creates in our journey towards building a robust food regulatory regime serving the Surinamese people and food production sector”, she added.

Background

- ❖ GFORSS is a not-for-profit organization hosted by the [Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform \(PARERA\)](#) of the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) at Laval University, in Quebec Canada.

The Society aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, that is, all disciplines applied in the context of developing, implementing, and evaluating food regulatory decisions including, but not limited to, food risk analysis and associated disciplines.

The Society's membership consists of scientists and regulators from food regulatory agencies at any level of government: state / provincial, national and international, including international organizations, scientists and professionals in any related food regulatory scientific discipline from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

- ❖ NIVS, or the National Institute of Food Safety Suriname, was created through the adoption by the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname on 18 December 2020 of the NIVS law, as the primary food safety regulator in Suriname to oversee the production system, including functions of standard setting, compliance verification and enforcement over domestically produced food, imports and exports.

Approved Quotes

- **Minister Parmanand Sewdien, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV):**

"Signing this agreement with the Global Food Regulatory Science Society, with its wide network of collaborations, translates the commitment of our Ministry and of our government to harness the best expertise from around world, to contribute to the development of our food regulatory oversight in a manner that supports our production Sector. Gaining and maintaining new markets, requires positioning our products as innovative and achieving the highest standards of safety and quality."

We aim to offer an abundant, safe and sustainable food supply, to ensure the best protection possible for our consumers and a bright future for our producers"

- **Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad, Chair of the Board of Trustees, National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS):**

"Our food and agri-food production sector is as strong as the credibility of its food regulator". "We welcome this cooperative agreement and the momentum it creates in our journey towards building a robust food regulatory regime serving the Surinamese people and food production sector."

- **Mrs Tania Lieuw-A-Soe, Chair of the Federation of Surinamese Agrarians of Suriname (FSA):**

"On behalf of the Federation of Surinamese Agrarians, in Suriname, I welcome the development of the collaboration between our food regulators and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society – GFORSS. We have a thriving food production sector in Suriname, which can reach higher levels of performance, accessing innovative technologies and reaching new markets. We are looking forward to the development of NIVS as a trusted and credible food regulator in Suriname, the Caribbean region and worldwide."

- **Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Professor Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Laval University, Quebec, Canada and President of the Board and Chief Operating Officer, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFORSS):**

"We are honored to develop this cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV) and the National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS) and to have the privilege to contribute to the modernization of Suriname's food regulatory environment. GFORSS is ready to mobilize the capacity of its experts and networks and will be looking to work with Surinamese peers to support NIVS in the design and implementation of its food regulatory functions, aiming to anchor decisions in science and evidence."

"Suriname has already a great experience in developing leading and innovative food regulators as demonstrated by the creation and deployment of the Fisheries Inspection Institute or VKI for the last 15 years. I am confident that the experience we will gain from the development of NIVS, leveraging the VKI experience, will serve not only Suriname but other regulators in the Caribbean and in many parts of the World".