

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between
The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)
And
The Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS)

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into by and between the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GForSS), hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Parties," for the purpose of fostering collaboration in the area of agri-food safety, regulatory science, risk assessment and capacity building within the CARICOM region.

This MoU aims to establish a framework of cooperation between the Parties to jointly support initiatives that promote scientific, regulatory, and operational advancements in food analyses and food safety systems, aligned with international best practices and standards.

2. Background

CAHFSA is mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government to coordinate and strengthen national and regional capabilities in agricultural health and food safety, including the development of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary systems to support trade and public health.

GForSS is an international, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing food regulatory science and strengthening capacities related to food safety and quality in alignment with Codex Alimentarius and other global standards.

Recognizing their shared interests, the Parties agree to collaborate on initiatives that promote regional harmonization, mutual technical support, and capacity building in agri-food systems and regulatory legislations.

3. Areas of Collaboration

The Parties agree to collaborate in the following areas:

A. Regulatory Science

- Provide expertise on Codex standards and international regulatory frameworks.
- Assist in drafting or reviewing regional regulatory guidelines and projects lead by Thematic Working Groups.
- Support regulatory systems across CARICOM states, especially for trade-sensitive areas.

B. Policy and Technical Harmonization

- Collaborate on the development of harmonized protocols, technical guidelines, and regulatory documents aligned with Codex and CARICOM frameworks.
- Provide technical input in the drafting of SOPs for inspection, sampling, testing, certification, and documentation.
- Provide the best international practice guidelines and validation support.
- Collaborate on harmonization of risk assessment methodologies.

C. Capacity Building

- Design and implement joint training programs and workshops targeting regulatory and laboratory professionals in CARICOM Member States.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and technical assistance as it pertains to Laboratory Capacity and Testing, Food Safety and Quality and Regulatory Systems and Policy.
- Support the development of regional training modules aligned with Codex standards and tailored to Caribbean realities.

D. Joint Research, Pilot Projects and Regional Demonstrations

- Co-lead research projects and facilitate collaboration on agri-food safety initiatives such as supply chain vulnerabilities, pre-clearance mechanisms, risk assessment, traceability, laboratory standards etc. for mutual recognition among Member States.
- Facilitate regional participation in international projects or funding calls.
- Jointly support pilot studies or demonstrations for projects in selected Member States to test and refine agri-food safety protocols and procedures.
- Provide scientific oversight and data analysis of pilot activities.

E. Mutual Representation, Policy Advocacy & Strategic Communication

- Support each other's participation in relevant regional and international events, conferences, and policy dialogues.
- Support CAHFSA's communication strategy through evidence-based advocacy materials.

- Co-author technical briefs, white papers, and policy recommendations where applicable.
- Participate in regional forums, Codex meetings, or advocacy missions as technical partners.
- Promote awareness of agri-food safety initiatives and regulatory science initiatives across the region.

4. Implementation and Coordination

Each Party shall designate a Focal Point responsible for coordinating activities under this MoU. The focal point for CAHFSA is the Food Safety Specialist who will also be a member of GFoRSS. The Focal Points will:

- Develop a joint work plan outlining priorities, responsibilities, timelines, and resources for agreed projects.
- Hold coordination meetings (virtual or in person) at least twice per year.
- Monitor progress and recommend adjustments to agreed activities.

5. Duration and Termination

This MoU shall enter into effect upon the signature of both Parties and shall remain in force for three (3) years, unless terminated earlier by either Party with written notice of at least ninety (90) days. The MoU may be renewed upon mutual agreement.

6. Funding

This MoU does not entail any financial obligation by either Party. Activities under this MoU shall be subject to the availability of resources and shall be jointly financed, co-funded through external sources, or funded separately, as mutually agreed in writing.

7. Confidentiality

The Parties shall ensure that all information shared in the course of this collaboration is treated with appropriate confidentiality, particularly any proprietary or sensitive data.

8. Amendments

This MoU may be amended by the mutual written agreement of the Parties.

9. Legal Status

This MoU is a non-binding agreement that expresses the intent of the Parties to collaborate. It does not constitute a legally enforceable commitment.

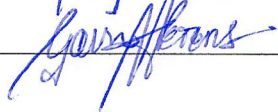
Signatures

For the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA):

Name: GAVIN MICHAEL PETERS

Title: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 30/06/2025

Signature: 

For the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS):

Name: Samuel Godefroy,

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 15 July 2025

Signature: 