

Selection Criteria for Concept Notes

20th Caribbean Week of Agriculture 27 September- 2 October 2026- Jamaica

Theme: The New FACE of Caribbean Food Systems

F – Food Security | A – Agribusiness Development | C – Climate-Smart Technologies | E – Export Expansion

The region remains committed to achieving the CARICOM “25 by 2025 + 5” targets through coordinated action, strategic investment, and policy alignment to transform Caribbean food systems. This document is a framework for reviewing and selecting concept notes submitted by national, regional and international CARICOM organizations for the hosting of technical sessions and events during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2026. It is intended to support a transparent, consistent, and strategic selection process that ensures the final programme reflects the Region’s priority areas.

1. Purpose

These criteria will be used to guide the assessment, scoring, and selection of concept notes for Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) 2026. The criteria are designed to ensure that selected proposals:

- Align with the 2026 CWA theme, The New FACE of Caribbean Food Systems;
- Reflect regional priorities for transformation of agri-food systems, resilience, and food and nutrition security;
- Support inclusion of women, youth, vulnerable groups, fisherfolk, and private sector actors;
- Generate practical outcomes, partnerships, policy recommendations, or investment opportunities.

2. Strategic Focus Areas

The main areas of focus for CWA 2026 will be centered around the following:

- **Food Security** - Strengthening resilient and sustainable food production systems across agriculture and fisheries to enhance regional food sovereignty and reduce import dependency;
- **Agribusiness Development** - Promoting inclusive agribusiness growth through targeted investments, with a strong emphasis on empowering women in agriculture, accommodating vulnerable groups and supporting youth-led enterprises across value chains;
- **Climate-Smart Technologies**- Advancing the adoption of climate-resilient and climate-smart production systems, integrating innovation and technology to mitigate climate risks and improve productivity;

- **Export Expansion** - Strengthening the global competitiveness of Caribbean agri-food products through enhanced quality and food safety systems, robust compliance with SPS requirements, and expanded market access to drive sustainable regional and international trade growth.

3. Recommended Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the Technical Review Committee in assessing concept notes which have been submitted by entities wishing to host side events and technical sessions during CWA 2026. Preference will be given to concept notes that contribute to one or more of the areas of strategic focus.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description	Assessment Points	Weight
1. Alignment with the CWA 2026 Theme – The New FACE of Caribbean Food Systems	The concept note should demonstrate a clear and direct connection to one or more dimensions of the FACE framework while contributing to transformational and practical solutions for Caribbean food systems.	☐ Food Security ▪ Enhances food and nutrition security, availability, access, or utilization of safe and nutritious food. ▪ Supports reduction of food import dependency and strengthens regional self-sufficiency. ▪ Addresses food safety, SPS measures, traceability, standards, inspection, surveillance, risk analysis, or regulatory compliance. ▪ Supports safe trade, consumer protection, market access, and resilient food control systems. ☐ Agribusiness Development ▪ Promotes enterprise growth and sustainable business expansion within the agriculture, fisheries, food manufacturing, or agro-processing sectors. ▪ Encourages value addition, agro-processing, product diversification, innovation, or commercialization of regional products and services. ▪ Supports entrepreneurship, MSME development, investment opportunities, financing access, or public-private partnerships. ▪ Strengthens value chains, market development, supply chain resilience, private sector participation, or regional and international market competitiveness. ☐ Climate-Smart Technologies and Sustainability ▪ Incorporates climate-smart agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, or resilient production systems that support adaptation to climate change. ▪ Promotes the use of digital technologies, innovation, renewable energy, precision agriculture, smart monitoring systems, or resource-efficient technologies.	35

Criteria	Description	Assessment Points	Weight
		- Supports climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction, environmental resilience, or sustainable management of natural resources. - Encourages sustainable land, water, coastal, marine, biodiversity, or ecosystem management practices that strengthen long-term food system sustainability. ☐ Export Expansion and Competitiveness - Supports export readiness through improved compliance with SPS measures, food safety systems, standards, certification, or regulatory requirements. - Promotes quality assurance, traceability, inspection systems, packaging, labeling, or value chain improvements that strengthen market confidence. - Enhances market access, trade facilitation, regional integration, or participation in regional and international export markets. - Strengthens the competitiveness, resilience, branding, or sustainability of Caribbean agri-food products and services in domestic and global markets.	
2. Relevance to Regional Priority Commodities	The concept note should support regional agricultural development priorities.	- Strengthens production, processing, trade, value addition, resilience, or market access for regional commodities. - Aligns with the CARICOM “25 by 2025 + 5” agenda and regional commodity development priorities.	12
3. Inclusion of Women, Youth, and Vulnerable Groups	Selected concepts should promote inclusive participation and equitable benefits.	- Supports women in agriculture, fisheries, and women-led enterprises. - Creates opportunities for youth, small producers, and fisherfolk. - Addresses barriers to leadership, finance, technology, and market access while supporting local agricultural development initiatives e.g. Local Agriculture First Policy promoted by the Youth Advisory Body.	10
4. Policy Relevance and Strategic Alignment	The concept note should support regional policy development, implementation, or harmonization relevant to Caribbean agriculture, fisheries, food safety, trade, and sustainable development.	- Supports regional or national policy priorities, frameworks, or strategies. - Encourages regulatory strengthening, harmonization, or institutional collaboration. - Contributes to evidence-based decision-making and regional development goals.	15

Criteria	Description	Assessment Points	Weight
5. Practicality, Expected Outcomes, and Long-Term Impact	Concept notes should lead to clear, realistic outcomes, practical follow-up actions, and long-term regional value beyond CWA 2026.	- Objectives are clear, realistic, and achievable within the CWA format. - Expected outputs, deliverables, recommendations, or implementation pathways are well defined. - Likely to generate actionable partnerships, investments, policy actions, knowledge exchange, or follow-up initiatives. - Demonstrates potential for sustainable regional impact, innovation, capacity development, or transformational benefits to Caribbean food systems.	10
6. Budget Allocation and Event Dissemination Readiness	Concept Notes should demonstrate financial readiness and a clear strategy for visibility, outreach, and dissemination during CWA 2026.	- Identifies secured or potential funding support for implementation or dissemination activities. - Includes a strategy for promotion, communication, stakeholder engagement, or media visibility during CWA. - Demonstrates readiness to support effective delivery and audience participation.	8
7. Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, and Regional Collaboration Value	The concept note should demonstrate the ability to promote innovation, facilitate regional knowledge exchange, strengthen partnerships, and encourage collaborative solutions that advance Caribbean food systems beyond CWA 2026.	- Promotes innovation, applied research, digital transformation, technology transfer, or innovative approaches relevant to Caribbean agriculture, fisheries, food systems, or trade. - Encourages regional knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices, lessons learned, technical expertise, or capacity-building among CARICOM Member States and stakeholders. - Supports collaboration among governments, private sector entities, regional organizations, academia, youth groups, producers, development partners, or civil society organizations. - Demonstrates potential to establish sustainable regional networks, partnerships, pilot initiatives, research collaboration, or cross-country cooperation that can continue beyond CWA 2026.	10
			100

3.1. Submission Deadline

Concept notes should be submitted to RegionalAgriculture@caricom.org by **30 June 2026**.

No late submissions will be accepted.

Only Concept Notes that meets the accepted threshold will be selected.